



**SAN MATEO COUNTY CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
ACCESS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**November 15, 2021
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

CCPC Members Present: Karen Pace, Christine Padilla (Chair), Liz Scully, Christine Thorsteinson
Members of the Public: Pamela Campos, Alyson Suzuki
CCPC Staff/Minutes: Sarah Kinahan

1. Call to Order

Christine Padilla called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Action to adopt a resolution finding that, as a result of continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency, meeting in person for the Child Care Partnership Council's Access Committee would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

MOTION: THORSTEINSON/ SECOND: PACE
AYES: Unanimous
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

3. Action to set the agenda for November 15, 2021, and Approval of the Minutes for the September 20, 2021 meeting

MOTION: THORSTEINSON/ SECOND: PACE
AYES: Pamela Campos, Karen Pace, Christine Padilla, Liz Scully, Christine Thorsteinson
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: Alyson Suzuki

4. Welcome, Introductions and Check-in

Christine invited everyone to introduce themselves and provide updates.

Karen shared that All Five is adding 14 new preschool spaces soon by taking over a classroom formerly used by Family Connections, a program that has relocated to a different school site. All Five is also on track to open their new buildings in January 2022.

5. Update on Open and Closed Facilities

Sarah provided the following data on facilities that have closed and opened during the pandemic:

- Approximately **85%** of our 805 licensed programs are **open** and they are facing **increased costs and decreased enrollment**. **67** programs have **permanently closed** since last March.
- Pre-pandemic shortage of 20,000 spaces; A 15% loss = another 6,000 spaces.
- 22 new licenses and 6 pending since pandemic.



The group asked for more detailed data on any trends in closures, looking at the size of programs, geography, and type of program. They would also like to know how many of the new licenses were for family child care versus centers.

Alyson offered to follow up with Community Care Licensing to see if they can share the results of their exit survey for closed providers.

There is a need to conduct another provider survey to understand the challenges that providers are currently facing, such as staff vacancies, affordability of care for families, and marketing supports programs may need. It was theorized that programs have low enrollment due to not having enough staff to operate at full capacity and continued lower interest from parents.

6. Discussion of Universal Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten

Sarah reviewed SB 130, the legislation that expands Transitional Kindergarten. She also shared that SMCOE has an internal workgroup made up of Instructional Services, Business Services, HR, County Counsel, and Early Learning that will be providing technical assistance and information to school superintendents. SMCOE will also form an Early Learning team dedicated to this topic.

The group identified a need for a centralized webpage to share information about TK with the early learning and care field and to gather and respond to their questions. The questions from the field can also be channeled back to the state. The website should also include a “contact us” feature and a flow chart of different funding sources. The group was concerned that there is not enough guidance to ensure consistency of TK implementation across cities/districts, making planning hard for providers who operate in multiple cities/counties. The group also felt that information on TK needed to be shared specifically with parents and we need to understand what they are looking for in an early learning program.

There is more data needed to understand if spaces vacated by 4-year-olds moving to TK can be adequately filled by 3-year-olds. Need more funding to help parents afford preschool. It may not be feasible for Family Child Care homes to do wrap-around care for TK and older children. The group was also concerned about the developmental appropriateness of school-based settings for 4-year-olds especially related to group sizes, and whether family engagement practices in preschool will be sustained in TK. Having consistency in the screening and assessment tools used in preschool and TK would help.

It would be helpful to compare salaries of PreK teachers to paraeducators and TK/K. Concern that providers will leave family child care and centers to work for districts to earn higher wages.

7. Hot Topics

Liz shared that she has created a Facebook page for Family Child Care Providers in San Mateo County.

Liz provided an update on efforts in South San Francisco to get an initiative on the ballot in 2022 to provide universal preschool for all SSF residents paid for through new corporate taxes.

8. Adjournment

Christine adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

**The next CCPC Access Committee meeting is
Monday, January 24, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.**