



Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting

Members Present: Jennifer Bergquist, Maggie Flores, Yvon Frazier, Michelle Graham, Holly Harvan, Beth Hassenplug, Esther Herrera, Jennifer Macdonald, Beatriz Martinez, Katie Mervin, Eileen Monohan, Kim Ornelas, Gricela Reyes, Michelle Robertson- Vice Chair, Susan Walsh, Janelle Willis

Members Excused: Jacqui Banta, Artesia Carlon, Donna Barranco Fischer, Shelley Grand, Susan Walsh, Ralph Ybarra

Members Absent: Laura Capps, Maggie Flores, Caley Mark, Annette Muse, Guadalupe Perez, Serineh Vartani

Staff Present: Christian Patterson, Alejandra Montes, Yanise Montes Medina

Guests Present: Albert Najera (Kaplan), David Moon (Lakeshore), Lisa Nelley (United Way), Jeanette Hatfield (SBCEO), Karina Acosta (CR&R), Jesus Ruiz (CR&R), Cassie Centofranchi (Calm)

I. Call to Order & Welcome

II. Public Comment Period

No public comment

III. Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2026

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 11, 2026, by Beth Hassenplug motioned to approved minutes. Michelle Robertson seconded the motion. None were opposed. **MSC.**

IV. Committee Updates

9:04

a. Strategic Plan

The committee will meet again on Friday May 15th to continue review and revision of the Strategic Plan. This meeting has an open invitation to the council to attend. The meeting will be held via Zoom.

b. COAT- Communications, Outreach, Advocacy Team- No updates

c. Facilities-No updates

d. ICCAT - Inclusive Child Care Action Team

Holly Harvan share that the IEEEEP Grant will be sunseting in the next fiscal year. Holly also shared that she will be meeting with Licensing to continue the inclusive classroom education and support for LPAs.

e. UPK Support- No updates

V. Membership Update

Tiana Vargas, United Domestic Workers

Thesa Roepke brought up the possible conflict of interest about Tiana being an appointed union representative. Janelle suggested contacting CalHR to get more information.

Susan Walsh asked for clarification regarding the number of members required to make a quorum and if adding additional members would affect the minimum number required.





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Thesa motioned to table the issue until there is more research and bring the item back in September to vote, and Karina Acosta seconded. Janelle Willis and Esther Herrera were abstained from the vote. Thesa was curious to understand how members are distributed across the county. Jennifer Macdonald added that if an agency has many members, they could monopolize the vote. Jennifer suggested limiting the number of members an agency can have. Thesa commented on the importance of diversity in the council.

Beth Hassenplug added that there is a difference between a person attending a meeting as a member of the public and being a voting member.

Katie Mervin asked if this conversation has been sparked before by other membership applicants. Karina Acosta asked if other LPCs have had a Union member sitting in their council. Christian answered that he does not have knowledge of any. Karina noted a possible conflict of interest for programs with employees represented by United Domestic Workers. Holly suggested the benefits of having them on the table.

Christian will be taking their questions and concerns and sent an email to CalHR and SBCEO's legal team for further clarification.

VI. Facilities Master Plan and Toolkit Presentation

Eileen Monohan presented the final version of the Facilities Master Plan and accompanying Toolkit. The reports will be housed on the Santa Barbara Foundation website. These documents were created as a result of ARPA dollars allocated for child care. This report highlighted that many child care programs in the county are located in facilities that are over 50 years old. A goal for the county is to create 3,000 new licensed spaces by June 2030. This presentation will be emailed to the Council.

Questions and Comments:

Thesa suggested Eileen to add community colleges as partners in this work because they offer courses that could support child care expansion.

VII. CCPC Meeting Survey

All 9:52

Christian asked the group to please look at the meeting calendar provided marked with the suggested CCPC Meeting dates and answer the attached survey. The survey results will determine if other dates and times might work better.

VIII. Other Business/Announcements

All 9:55

Katie Mervin gave a Child Development Permit update. It is recommended that educators obtain a permit now at the highest level that they can. The ECE team at SBCEO will provide permit support throughout the fiscal year. More information will come.

Michelle Robertson stated that a First 5 Commission member is retiring. They have gotten very few applications to replace them. The dateline to apply is May 15th.





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Thesa Roepke shared information about a new Applied Behavioral Health pathway coming to Allan Hancock College. Thesa also shared updates to Common Course Numbers which may affect students' ability to find necessary courses. Community Colleges have been required to rename certain courses. This has made it more difficult to find certain courses since their names no longer align with the corresponding courses in certain subjects.

IX. Adjournment

Chair, Jennifer Macdonald, adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Vision Statement: We envision a community that values all children and their families.

Mission Statement: We lead and collaborate in planning, coordinating, and advocating for quality, affordable, accessible, early care and education for all children and families in Santa Barbara County.

Written materials relating to items on this agenda have been distributed to the Child Care Planning Council Steering Committee 72 hours before the meeting and are available for review by the public from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Child Care Planning Council Office located at the Hope Education Center, 3970 La Colina Road, Room 2, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Agendas and Minutes may also be found on the Child Care Planning Council website:

<https://www.sbceo.org/programs/ece/local-planning-council>.

