



CCCECE ShoutOut! Making Our Voice Heard on Critical Issues

December 10, 2012

Sent on Behalf of Joel Gordon, CCCECE President:

Folks,

November was a very busy time for CCCECE as we weighed in on different child development workforce issues at hearings and workshops. I wanted to take a moment to bring you up to date on our activities.

On November 9, Senator Susan Bonilla held hearings about streamlining California's child care system. This was, no doubt a precursor to what we anticipate will be another round of budget challenges in January. CCCECE presented a paper that outlined our major concerns and issues. That paper was then reworked for the November 19 workshop held by the Child Development Division to give input on the state's Quality Improvement Plan. Every three years the state reviews that plan and the programs they fund and determines how their quality improvement dollars will be spent. This is a huge issue for us as so many programs that we rely on are funded through this mechanism (Child Development Training Consortium, California Early Childhood Mentor Program, PITC Demonstration Sites, Curriculum Alignment Project, the Competencies Integration Project, etc.) Several of our members attended. Our goal that day was to support these vital programs, recommend refunding them, and put forward the idea that quality improvement dollars should be used to provide a different funding mechanism for our community college lab schools. We've attached that document and would appreciate any feedback you might have on it.

On November 15, Geri Mohler of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing requested from CCCECE a statement regarding the creation of a new Early Childhood Education Credential. This issue would be considered at an upcoming meeting and our input was needed. Unfortunately she needed the statement in less than ten days and the long Thanksgiving weekend was in the middle. Our board felt it was crucial that we respond even though we had not, up to that point taken a formal position on such a credential. However, the board felt it was essential that we respond and give input from our perspective. CCCECE catalysts Donna Rafanello and Cindy Stephens connected us with PEACH, an organization supported by LAUP/First 5 LA that had been developing ideas regarding early childhood workforce education. Board Secretary Patty Dilko arranged a conference call and at that point we were able to work with PEACH to develop a statement, calling for an age 0-8 credential that reflected all our views. Board Secretary Kate Williams Brown and Vice Presidents of Public Policy Sondra Moe Mary Jane Maguire-Fong all worked on the statement along with Dr. Jan Fish, the consultant to PEACH. Several others weighed in as well. As a result, a rather remarkable paper was delivered to Geri Mohler on time and presented to the committee considering this very important issue. We have attached that statement with this ShoutOut.

I am in awe of the collaboration, caring, and hard work that went into the production of these documents. Our membership really delivered on all of these issues.

As the holiday season is on all of us I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a great, wondrous time as your semester ends and you enjoy your winter break.

Joel Gordon, President CCCECE