



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft

Head Start Policy Council

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

6:00 PM 500 Ellinwood Way, Pleasant Hill | 1203 West
10th St. Building D, Antioch | 300 S. 27th St,
Richmond | Zoom:
<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/82379230789> |
Meeting ID: 823 7923 0789

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Gabriela Garibay, Policy Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:17 PM

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

There were no public comments

3. Wellness Activity

All in attendance participated in a group stretching wellness activity

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

5. Parent Recognition of Staff

The following staff were recognized for going above and beyond in their work with the children and the families: Ms. Lillia Refes, Master Teacher at George Miller III; Ms. Emaly Karnsouvong, Associate Teacher at Crescent Park; Ms. Ana Araujo, Manager at George Miller Concord; Mr. Ruben Cardona, Assistant Manager at George Miller Concord; Ms. Lizette Romero, Family Advocate at Riverview, and Ms. Maria Buban, Master Teacher at Riverview were presented with a certificate to acknowledge their dedication to children and families.

6. ACTION: A review, discussion, and approval of the CSB Admission Priority-Selection Criteria for the 2026-2027 program year [26-1440](#)
- Attachments:** [2026-2027 CSB Admissions Priorities-Selection Criteria DRAFT](#)
[2026-2027 CSB Admissions Priorities-Selection Criteria DRAFT S](#)
- Ellen de Senna, Administrative Services Assistant III**, presented the CSB Admission Priority-Selection Criteria for the 2026-2027 program year to the Policy Council and requested approval.
- A motion to approve was completed by Kizmath Hemingway and seconded by Dalia Santana.**
- The motion passed with 24 votes in favor. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0
- Ayes: Montano, Hemingway, Hernandez, Mockoski, Velasquez, Santana, Botello, Perez, Magana, Sanders, Garcia, Hansen, Williams, Villalpando, Fayani, Muñoz, Ginochio, Garibay, Miller, Nieve, Areliz Calle, Nwankwo, Brown, Perez
7. ACTION: Review and Approval of March 18, 2026, Policy Council Minutes [26-1441](#)
- Attachments:** [Policy Council Meeting Minutes 3-18-2026 DRAFT](#)
- The Policy Council meeting minutes from March 15, 2026, were reviewed, and no corrections were noted.
- A motion to approve was completed by Norma Chayrez and seconded by Amy Mockoski.**
- The motion passed with 23 votes in favor. Nays: 0 Abstentions: 1
- Ayes: Montano, Hemingway, Hernandez, Mockoski, Velasquez, Santana, Botello, Magana, Sanders, Garcia, Hansen, Williams, Villalpando, Fayani, Muñoz, Ginochio, Garibay, Miller, Nieve, Areliz Calle, Nwankwo, Brown, Perez
- Abstentions: Perez
8. Administrative Reports (Program Updates, Program Reports, and Fiscal Reports) [26-1442](#)
- Attachments:** [Administrative Reports](#)
[Fiscal Reports](#)
- Sarah Reich, Director**, presented the Directors Report
- Christina Castle-Barber, Division Manager**, presented the Administrative Reports
- Darryl Davis, Administrative Services Assistant III**, presented the Fiscal Reports
9. Presentation: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Head Start Self-Assessment Report [26-1443](#)
- Attachments:** [Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Self-Assessment](#)
- Ayalew Lidete, Administrative Services Assistant III**, presented the Contra Costa County Community Assessment Results
10. Presentation: Parent Resiliency [26-1444](#)
- Gabby Vargas, Early Childhood Consultation Program Manager**, provided a presentation on Parent Resiliency, focusing on self care and an overview of signs of child abuse and neglect.

11. Presentation: Grow Stronger Together[26-1445](#)

Jennifer Kirby, Comprehensive Services Manager, Irene Figueroa, Comprehensive Services Manager, Marilyn Doss, Site Supervisor, and Carmen Smith, Site Supervisor, presented Grow Stronger Together to the Policy Council. This Nutrition Education presentation covered topics like “A persons relationship with food” and “rethinking one’s drink choices.”

12. Subcommittee Reports

There were no Subcommittee Updates

13. Site Reports

Fabienne Fayani, Los Arboles - reported that the preschool class got their new sand box along with new sand toys. The week of the young child is currently taking place, the children got to make smoothie bars and plant a peach tree. Princess Kirsten stopped by the center to do face painting. On 4/16/2026 a fire truck will be at the center and on Friday, the children will have water play and a teddy bear picnic.

Shanie Hansen, KinderCare LoneTree - reported that parents enjoyed the food boxes donated by Contra Costa Solano Food Bank. The center held a spring fling which included an egg hunt, a bunny, and prizes.

Raquel Magana, George Miller III - reported that the site celebrated the week of the young child. Activities included crazy hair day and planting plants for the classrooms. The site had good parent participation as well. Parents have also been encouraged to write letters to their children which the teachers will read to the children.

14. Announcements & Sparkle Space

Ana Araujo, Comprehensive Services Manager, provided the following announcements.

- Make Parenting a Pleasure session 9 is on 4-20-2026
- Next Meetings:
 - Program Services Subcommittee - 05/06/26 @ 5PM
 - Policy Council Executive Meeting - 05/06/2026 @ 6PM
 - Fiscal Subcommittee - 05/20/2026 @ 5PM
 - Policy Council Meeting - 05/20/2026 @ 6PM

15. Meeting Evaluation**Pluses:**

- 24 participants, great parent commitment and participation
- Informative meeting
- Lots of staff recognition
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Training was informative

Deltas:

None

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 20, 2026

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 3068 Grant St, Concord, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Ana Araujo

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