

Executive Committee
Monterey County Children's Council
June 7, 2018
60 Garden Court, Suite 350, Monterey, CA

Executive Committee Members Present: Nancy Kotowski, ∞ Elliott Robinson ∞ Katy Castagna

Others Present: Clare Margason ∞ Mayra Perez-Diaz ∞ Megan Kennedy-Chouane ∞ Henry Espinoza ∞ Cynthia Nelson-Holmsky

Welcome

Kotowski called meeting to order at 9:16am.

Mayra Perez-Diaz was introduced to the team as the new MCCC Coordinator for 2017-2018

Henry Espinoza was introduced as the Acting Director of DSS

Administrative Items

Robinson moved to approve the Minutes of June, Castagna seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Information/Discussion:

- I. Summary of 2017-2018 MCCC General Assembly Meetings
 - a. All present read through a summary of the 2017-2018 GA meetings. These notes were taken from the meeting minutes.
 - b. General reflections were that the 2017-2018 year was much more engaging in nature. Councilmembers seemed more engaged than in years past. One issue was that Council members forgot what happened at the meeting before. How do we fold in the cross-cutting topics from one meeting into future meetings? This goes for the initiative presentations as well.
 - c. Robinson stated that MCCC did a good job of focusing on our two initiatives of Bright Beginnings and Bright Futures. Our effort and focus on those areas were consistent and led to a deeper connection. There is still more work to do to harness the energy of our members, but this has been a good start.
 - d. Kotowski commented on the need to harness the energy of the MCCC members and connect them to a specific aspect of the Cradle to Career pathway and focusing their energy explicitly. Each member must figure out for themselves where they connect.
 - e. Kennedy-Chouane agreed that this is a great opportunity to build upon the momentum that was started over the past year.
 - f. Holmsky agreed with this, but also voiced that for some agencies it might be difficult for them to figure out where they fit in, or where their work relates. This is similar to a recommendation that came out of the June GA meeting where members talked about an "intersection map;" members could actually map out where their agency fits in and/or connects. After that map is done, the next step would be to identify roles/responsibilities/commitments etc..for each member and their organization to take on for the year.

- g. Espinosa agreed that a mapping exercise would be helpful for MCCC. Not only for agencies to identify where they connect, but also to build connection among the membership and becoming better at welcoming new or outside agencies into this work. Kotowski brought up the point that we have to make sure we take what is created in meetings and turn it into something meaningful e.g. action teams, working groups, staying updated etc... Kennedy-Chouane explained that they had great success in this with the ECD advisory group.
- h. Castagna wonders what it would be like to incorporate each goal area into the agendas. MCCC members would be given “homework” to come prepared to share how their agency connects (primary, secondary and tertiary connections) to each goal area. Kotowski thought this would help members feel like they really belong and that they truly are carrying out the MCCC mission.
- i. Kennedy-Chouane stated that it can be good to distinguish the difference between expectations of individual members, as their organizations, and the Children’s Council as a whole.
- j. Margason shared that some members voiced throughout the year that they struggled with bringing the information/content/work etc... from MCCC meetings back to their colleagues in a meaningful and engaging ways. Perhaps there is room for Council members to share best practices during meetings. Talking points could also potentially be handed out at each meeting.
- k. Kotowski proposed laying out the Bright Futures continuum with the three key developmental assets underlying it. Perhaps we could link the MCCC membership to the various advisory groups for the Bright Futures advisory groups. Holmsky explained that the educators are involved as well of some other members, but the majority are not involved.
- l. Castagna asked the question: does the MCCC involvement around the continuum bolster their work and help them achieve their goals. Holmsky responded that she isn’t sure. What feels right is that under the collective impact model, we are using the resources that are already available and helping them align. However, with specific agencies or sectors, such as public defenders, she doesn’t know exactly how or if they align.
- m. Espinoza – key gaps identified and presented to MCCC and then they can collectively think about where/how they can address those gaps.
- n. Guss talked about data zone and the capacity for all agencies to enter into data sharing agreements. All members seemed to agree that shared data and tracking would be very beneficial and motivating for MCCC members.
- o. Holmsky – at the same time we ask members to identify how if the connect, is there also actionable work that MCCC can do as a Council? How can we work within BB and BF to encourage collective action within the Council? For example, universal preschool. Could the Council lift that up or endorse it and move it forward?
- p. Kennedy-Chouane also brought up the policy arena and how MCCC can be a voice for children in policymaking. This could also be true around sustainable funding and mobilize resources.
- q. Guss – landscape analysis needs to be conducted. Service providers – where do they serve etc... Of all the entities and the 24 school districts, where are they

serving and where do the gaps exist? Some schools and districts have resources centers and liaisons, some don't.

- r. Kennedy-Chouane brought up the example of the executive order that we are expecting to come out soon. And we know it will affect all immigrant families in Monterey County. Kotowski agreed that this would be powerful, but acknowledged that it would take significant time for each Council member to go back to their organizations and get them to sign off on a public statement or letter.
- s. Guss asked the question: are we looking for an area where we can issue a public statement, or are we looking for an area where each member can take specific action in their community/network?
- t. Holmsky replied that in regard to the work done around youth, the focus is really on referrals and trainings for youth programs around how to make warm referrals. This came naturally out of MCCC last year. Two parts to it. 1. Inventory and geo-mapping of youth programs. 2. Referral and identification training for participating organizations.
- u. Kotowski thought it would be a good idea to bring a proposal around the referral, prevention, identification, triage and services. Council can endorse and support this project.

II. General Assembly Recommendations for 2018-2019

- a. At the last GA meeting in June, MCCC members brainstormed recommendations around the following questions:
 - i. What recommendations do you have for how the Children's Council can engage in Bright Beginnings to advance the mission?
 - ii. What recommendations do you have for how the Children's Council can engage in Bright Futures to advance the mission?
 - iii. What recommendations do you have for the Children's Council engagement in these initiatives for the MCCC for the 2018-2019 fiscal year?
 - iv. What relevant cross-cutting topics that you would like to hear more about as we work to advance our mission and the two priority initiatives?

III. Bright Beginnings: Engagement with Children's Council for 2018-2019 /Bright Futures: Engagement with Children's Council for 2018-2019

- a. Visual of strategies and highlight most relevant, then present a variety of different ways to be involved. BB is working on developing this for each Council member.
- b. Bright Futures could use the same format and can also present how members are already involved. Goals 3, 6, and 7 can be presented in conjunction with the specific strategies and projects that relate to those goals. Goal 5 (YC) can't do this yet because it is still being developed, and MCCC has been deeply involved in that process. Because this would be a lot of information to cover in one meeting, Holmsky deferred to the suggestion that Castagna had about doing a deep dive into each goal area at each meeting.
- c. Kotowski agreed and put forth the idea that maybe for the August meeting – give an overview of the Goals and what we will be doing over the 2018-2019 year.

The Council can give immediate feedback on where they fit but think more deeply on it and participate in deep dives on each goal throughout the year.

- IV. Relevant Cross-cutting Topics for 2018-2019 MCCC General Assembly Community Presentations
 - a. Council agreed to make time in each meeting for presentations on cross-cutting topics. These will include topics such as housing, immigration etc....
 - b. There should also be space for follow-ups on specific projects and strategies that are presented to the Council or that the Council is involved in.
- V. Find new time/date for 2018-2019 Executive Committee Meetings
 - a. Meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the Month from 8am-9am at MCOE.

General Assembly Agenda Setting

- I. Action Items:
 - a. Approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Monterey County Children's Council meeting
 - b. Adoption of proposed framework for Bright Beginnings and Bright Futures initiatives for 2018-2019 – 30 mins
 - c. Approve MCCC focus project for 2018-2019: Youth Referral, Prevention, Identification and Triage – 10 mins

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm