



Policy Council Planning Committee Meeting Agenda

April 8, 2025

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5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Call to order
3. Roll call and establish quorum (half plus one)
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Introduction of Guests
7. Public Forum
(The public wishing to address the PC Planning Committee may do so at this time; however, the Committee will take no action other than referring the item to staff for study and analysis.)
8. Presentation/Discussion Items
 - a. March Division/Program Monthly Report – Robert Espinosa Program Design and Management Administrator – **Informational Item**
9. Announcements
 - a. Next Meeting is on May 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
10. Meeting Adjourned

Committee Chairperson – Christopher Cuzul

Gabriela Rangel, Maria Worthy, Michelle Jara-Rangel & Rene Mayhorn Williams

Head Start / State Child Development

Rosa Guerrero, Administrative Analyst 661.336.5236 Ext. 2526

**Community Action Partnership of Kern Head Start/State Child Development
Policy Council Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 11, 2025

Audio Only: (213) 204-2374 Phone Conference ID: 259 197 7000 163

1. Welcome

Christopher Cuzul welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Call to Order

a. Christopher Cuzul called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

3. Roll Call and establish Quorum (half plus one)

a. Quorum was established.

b. Members Present: Christopher Cuzul, Gabriela Rangel, Michelle Jara-Rangel, Maria Worthy & Rene Mayhorn Williams

c. Members not present: None.

4. Approval of Agenda

a. Motion to approve the agenda dated March 11, 2025, was made by Gabriela Rangel; Maria Worthy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion to approve the minutes dated February 14, 2025, was made by Rene Mayhorn Williams; Gabriela Rangel, seconded. Motion carried.

6. Introduction of Guests

Guests in attendance tonight were Robert Espinosa, Program Design and Management Administrator; Jerry Meade, Assistant Director; Sylvia Ortega, Quality Assurance Administrator; Rosa Guerrero, Administrative Analyst; Leticia Villegas, Program Assistant, Translator; Myra Langer, Quality Assurance Manager; and Lisa Gonzales, Program Governance Coordinator.

7. Public Forum

(The public wishing to address the Policy Council Planning Committee may do so at this time; however, the Committee will take no action other than referring the item to staff for study and analysis.)
None

8. Presentation / Discussion Items

a. February Division/Program Monthly Report – Robert Espinosa, Program Design and Management Administrator – **Informational Item**

Robert presented the February Program Monthly report. The reportable monthly enrollment for Early Head Start was 740, putting the program at 98% of the target goal of 753. Head Start reported 936 of the funded enrollment putting the program at 100% of its target enrollment of 936. For diagnosed disabilities year to date, Early Head Start is at 32% of the annual progress; Head Start is at 10% of the annual progress. In the over income category (101% to 130% range) we are at 2%; for the over income range of 131% and above we are at 10%. The Home Visiting program reported 265 monthly enrollments with a total of 335 year-to-date of the total goal of 310 for the year.

The Central Kitchen prepared and provided a total of 58,199 meals. The Child and Adult Care Program (CACFP) delivered a total of 72,330 meals; 75% of those meals were served. Total community services and eligibility determination for Household Services was 104 with a year to date of 220.

For "Progress Towards our Goals" relating to Program Options, the Family Child Care partnership program contracted with six (6) Family Child Care Partnerships as of February 28, 2025, which is funded for 10 Head Start and 20 Early Head Start slots.

Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms have begun focusing on cognitive school readiness objectives. Program is using the Bags Guide for Early Head Start and implementing the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" Study for Head Start. On February 28, 2025, a recruitment event took place at East Bakersfield High School.

b. Kern and San Joaquin Counties Community Assessment Update 2024 – Rosa Guerrero, Administrative Analyst – Informational Item

Rosa presented the Kern County Community Assessment. She explained these assessments guide both Head Start and Early Head Start programs and reflect any weaknesses and strengths found in the community. In Kern County the most notable information is as follows:

There are an estimated 68,000 children that are zero to five in Kern County; approximately 60% are in the zero to two group. About half are female (49%) are (51%) are male. In the language category almost 45.2% of the children ages 5 and older spoke a language other than English. Most of the children are Spanish speaking. Unemployment figures for March 2023 increased about 2% compared to 2022. Approximately eighteen percent of Kern County residents live in poverty, which is higher than both the state and national average. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development states that families who pay more than 30% of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. Based on the 2022 American Community Survey, 26.2% of all Kern County homeowners with a mortgage paid 35% or more of their household income on housing. Renters paid a higher percentage of their income on housing, with almost half of the renters spending 45% or more of their household income on rent. Substandard housing is also common in Kern County. An assessment conducted in 2013-2023 shows 54% of housing in the county is substandard depending on the cities and areas. Maricopa and California City rank as the cities with the highest percentage of substandard housing. Transportation also poses challenges in Kern County, particularly in rural areas.

Data regarding barriers to mental health care access was also discussed. There are 59 psychiatric hospitals in Bakersfield with 10 mental health facilities and three of those accepting patients for hospital treatment. This limited access to care and the low ratio of professionals also affects those seeking treatment for substance use disorders. For educational attainment in 2022, 12.9% of people ages 25 and older in Kern County had less than a 9th grade education, 11.8% has between 9th and 12th graded without out a diploma, 27.5% were high school graduates (or equivalent); 22.3% pf the residents had some college experience without a degree; 11.4% had a bachelor's degree and 5.7% had a Graduate or Professional degree.

According to the Kern County PIR, more than 1,236 parents of Head Start and Early Head Start are employed or active military duty. Some additional information regarding English as a second language states that among Head Start and Early Head Start in Kern County, 29% of residents spoke another language at home.

When analyzing health data, asthma, obesity and diabetes are the top three categories that affect the health of children. Currently 77% are asthmatic; 44% of children ages 11 to 14 are considered overweight and 3.5% of children discharged from hospitals in the County were diagnosed with diabetes.

Access to health care was also found to be limited. The ratio of patients per primary care physician remains high, making it difficult for people to access care when needed. Kern County residents also face challenges obtaining dental care. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation reports that there are 2,080 residents for every dentist. Data for Head Start/Early Head Start in Kern County shows that while

99% of participants have a dental home, only 94% of Early Head Start and 87% of Head Start participants had completed a professional dental examination.

Expectant mothers also face a variety of challenges. Rosa provided the percentages of the hardships that pregnant women experience during childhood. Noteworthy, 30.5% reported being food insecure, 22% did not gain adequate weight and an additional 45% gained excessive weight. Of the children in Kern County, ages zero to five, approximately 31% live in poverty and are Head Start income eligible. An estimated 84% of impoverished children live in ZIP codes where Head Start and Early Head Start centers are located.

In 2023 there was an estimated 1,948 people living in homelessness. This is a 23% increase from 2020, and this number is expected to increase. Families with children accounted for 3% of the homeless population, constituted almost 6%. County wide 85% of homeless families with children and 69% of single adults were unsheltered.

Rates in foster care were even between 2013 and 2018. Additionally, a total of 22,091 children K through 12 had a disability. The most prevalent ones were learning disabilities, speech or language impairment and autism.

The number of children enrolled in the Head Start Program based on ZIP codes in the community were also added. The data also shows there is a high demand for childcare and early education services. CAPK's Head Start Program provides services and programs that positively impact low-income children ages 0-5 years and their families. Income limits for eligibility to enroll are set by federal poverty guidelines. By looking at the number of children eligible for the Head Start Program in Kern County, approximately 19,000, only 13,000 slots are available throughout the County.

Demand for childcare services remains high in Kern County, but unfortunately available childcare slots remain low. Factors such as limited childcare providers, a decrease in the number of licensed childcare family homes, and a childcare workforce shortage have made it more difficult for parents to access care. Many children are looked after by relatives, such as grandparents or uncles, due to the convenience and familiarity with these caretakers. Additionally, Transitional Kindergarten programs compete with Head Start for eligible children, leading to a greater level of unmet need for children from zero to three, especially in rural areas.

Michelle Jara-Rangel inquired about the time frame used to update the data as years for data shown varied. Rosa explained that although some data may not be current, it is still provided in the assessment until new data is available. The most recent information available is derived from the most recent agency community assessment which obtains information from 2022. Updated data will be available upon the next comprehensive community needs assessment.

Michelle also inquired about the most recent PIR data as data reflected in the needs assessment reflects 22-23 program year. It was determined information from the 23-24 PIR be included. Michelle also suggested replacing substance abuse with substance use disorder in the document. Upon inquiring about program's ability to include information about diversity, equity and inclusion, Jerry stated that information will be removed upon notice from the Office of Head Start. Michelle also noted that the percentage of warehouse workers may increase due to an increase of new warehouses, especially in Shafter.

Additionally, Michelle noted updates to Head Start program locations listed in the document, as well as incorporating "Head Start Program" to reflect both Head Start and Early Head Start in the documents. Michelle noted comments for the Kern Community Assessment will also apply to the San Joaquin Community Assessment.

Rosa proceeded to share information on the 2025 San Joaquin Community. San Joaquin has a smaller population than Kern County in the zero to two age range. Population trends for San Joaquin increased overall but decreased for ages zero to five, which was also consistent with Kern County. Information on race and ethnicity was also shared. Unemployment rates slightly increased by one

percent. Twelve percent of San Joaquin residents live in poverty and like Kern County a lot of residents spend more than 30% of their income on housing. For English as a second language, 40% of the population spoke a language other than English at home. Health information was also similar to that of Kern County with asthma, diabetes, and obesity ranking the highest.

Almost 12,000 children ages zero to five are age and income eligible for Head Start services. Homelessness in San Joaquin increased from 12% to 13%. Just like Kern County, grandparents and family members are also taking the role of caretakers for children in preschool age. We also see disparities among foster care children in San Joaquin County, with 6.5% of children in foster care in 2018.

9. Announcements

The next meeting is on April 8, 2025, at 5:30pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.

**Community Action Partnership of Kern
Monthly Report 2025**

Month	March-25	Program/Work Unit		Head Start Preschool & Early Head Start		
Division/Director	Head Start/State Child Development Division/ Yolanda Gonzales		Program Design and Management Administrator	Robert Espinosa		
Reporting Period	March 1, 2025 - March 31, 2025					
Program Description						
Head Start provides high-quality, early childhood education to children ages zero to five years old through part-day, full-day, and home-based options. The program has a holistic approach, not only addressing the needs of the child but teaching parents to become advocates and skilled providers for their children through its Parent Policy Council and Family Engagement programs. CAPK offers Head Start and Early Head Start services throughout Kern and San Joaquin counties.						
Early Head Start (ages 0-3) (FNPI 2a, 2b, 2c, 2c.1,2d, SRV 2b, 7a)	Month	Target	Annual Goal	Annual Progress		
Reportable/Funded Enrollment	749	753	753	99%		
Disabilities	248 (YTD)	10%	10%	35%		
Over Income 101%-130% (up to 35%)	24	n/a	n/a	3%		
Over Income 131% and up (up to 10%)	61	n/a	n/a	8%		
Head Start Preschool (ages 3-5) (FNPI 2a, 2b, 2c, 2c.1,2d,SRV 2b, 7a)	Month	Target	Annual Goal	Annual Progress		
Reportable/Funded Enrollment	936	936	936	100%		
Disabilities	103 (YTD)	10%	10%	11%		
Over Income 101%-130% (up to 35%)	22	n/a	n/a	2%		
Over Income 131% and up (up to 10%)	82	n/a	n/a	8%		
Home Visiting Program (SRV 2cc, 7a)	Monthly	Year-To- Date	Annual Goal (Contract Limit 310)	Annual Progress (Calendar)	Annual Progress (Program Year)	
Enrollment	271	355	298	76%	119%	
Central Kitchen	Total Meals Delivered		Breakfast	Lunch	Snack	
Meals and Snacks	64,137		23,843	19,039	21,235	
Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (Note: The data represents information from February 2025)	Total Meals Delivered		Meals Allocated (CACFP/HS)	# of Meals Served	% of Meals Served	
Meals and Snacks (SRV 5ii)	69,776		48,397/21,379	53,525	77%	
Household Services	Month	YTD				
Eligibility Determination (SRV 7b) (January 2025-December 2025)	233	453				
Total Community Services	233	453				
Explanation (Over/Under Goal Progress)						
For March 2025, we have met our goals with our full-enrollment initiative. This is the third consecutive month reaching the benchmark set by the Office of Head Start. Direct service staffing (teaching staff) continues to trend in a positive direction.						

**Community Action Partnership of Kern
Monthly Report 2025**

	Progress Towards Goal
Goal: School Readiness	Objective : The program will develop a dual-language framework and will strengthen the ability of staff to work with dual-language learners. Progress: Home language identified through questionnaire upon child's assessment. Discussions are had with parents, dual language staff available, and therapists and parents are eager to accommodate and learn home language.
Program Description	
1. A letter was received from the Office of Head Start stating the Focus Area 1 review will commence on the week of May 5, 2025. 2. The Head Start Program finalized the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle study some of our centers had "WOW" experiences, as outlined in the lesson plan, by having children visit the recycle center with their family. We are now transitioning to the Sign study. 3. The Early Head Start Program is exploring the "bags" guide as outlined through Creative Curriculum, as they implement the cognition school readiness goal. 4. Child assessments will be finalized in April and a parent conference will be taking place shortly thereafter. 5. On March 1, 2025, the Family Engagement team attended the California City Resource Fair to help promote Head Start and help build our enrollment waitlist. Additionally, on said date, Head Start staff participated in the following recruitment events: Bakersfield City School District PJ Run, California City Spread the Love Winter Health Check-In, and the Hall Ambulance 60th Anniversary event in Arvin. 6. On March 4, 2025, Read Across America commenced. 7. On March 7, 2025, the ReadyRosie Family Workshop was offered at the Rosmanond Center. The team presented "Ready for Kindergarten", and families learned how to plan family routines and habits, building blocks of kindergarten readiness, fine and gross motor skills, social emotional development, and how to play meaningful games that help build skills to be ready for kindergarten. 8. On March 13, 2025, Enrollment and Attendance staff conducted outreach in Arvin, Delano, and Shafter to enhance enrollment and expand the waitlist. 9. On March 15, 2025, Head Start staff participated in the Superheroes Super Health Fair in Lamont. 10. On March 19, 2025, Dr. Kirk conducted training with staff. He discussed information about ignoring negative behaviors and praising positive behaviors, stating that attention is more important to a child. Dr. Kirk also spoke about the left brain and the right brain and how our right brain is stuck in the past to how we were raised by our parents. 11. On March 20, 2025, Dr. Kirk conducted training with parents at the Delano center. He provided techniques they can implement with children, such as being in proximity and speaking at eye level, using a firm voice with two- or three-word instructions, ignoring negative behaviors, and praising the appropriate behaviors. Also, discussed was the importance of sharing concerns with parents in hopes of opening referrals and getting children evaluated. Staff present shared information on Autism services around town. 12. On March 21, 2025, the Nutrition team and other departments collaborated to plan for the Nutrition Advisory Committee Meeting in May 2025. 13. On March 24, 2025, a ReadyRosie workshop was conducted at the Delano center where families learned the characteristics of attentive listening skills and inattentive listening skills and how parents can plan on how they can show their children that they are listening. The listening skills learned in the workshop helped parents understand the benefits, such as: how we can be more aware of the perspectives around us as well as our own experiences, how it can reduce anxiety and depression in children, and how it can help children build relationships. 14. On March 27, 2025, Enrollment and Attendance staff participated in the Affordable Housing even in Wasco. 15. On March 28, 2025, Enrollment and Attendance staff participated in the GROW Academy Health & Wellness Fair in Shafter.	