

CCDAA'S SRR GRASSROOTS CAMPAIGN

Goal: To create a ground swell of support/demand in legislative districts for a statutory provision which requires that Title V centers be reimbursed at a fixed rate (Standard Reimbursement Rate) no less than the Regional Market Rate paid to Title 22 centers in their locations.

Rationale: Title 22 sets forth the State's minimum health and safety standards for all child care centers licensed by the State (Department of Social Services). Title V sets forth all the program and personnel standards for child development centers contracting with the State Department of Education (CDE). The CDE requires that all centers meet BOTH Title 22 and Title V standards.

Title V standards are designed to prepare children for school success. These centers are required to measure the children's progress using the CDE's Desired Results system. Necessarily, the expenses of a Title V center are much higher than those of the typical Title 22-only center.

The Campaign: CCDAA will immediately commence a campaign to generate local support for this statutory provision. The State will be divided into appropriate areas (counties, school districts) with members assigned responsibilities for specific local campaigns. The campaign will have CCDAA members, colleagues, staff and friends:

- Write "there's a problem" letters-to-the-editor of the local papers
- Contact and encourage newspaper editorial boards to write supportive editorials (background packets will be provided to the editorial boards)
- Boards of supervisor resolutions will be sought (background packets will be provided to the supervisors), beginning with one or two supervisor champions.
- City council resolutions will be sought (background packets will be provided to the councilpersons), beginning with one or two councilmember champions.
- First Five commission resolutions will be sought (background packets will be provided to the commissioners), beginning with one or two commissioner champions.
- Local Planning Council resolutions will be sought (background packets will be provided to the commissioners), beginning with one or two commissioner champions.

- School board resolutions will be sought (background packets will be provided to the board members), beginning with one or two board members.
- Support letters will be sought from superintendents of County Offices of Education, local unions, community-based groups, parents, schools which receive the center's children, local law enforcement, etc.

CCDAA will support the local campaign by providing background materials and sample resolutions. Each local effort shall identify specific centers by name which have closed or are likely to close because of this problem. We need to "bring the problem home."

CCDAA members will send all resolutions and support letters to the State Board and the Board will ensure that they are immediately transmitted to all legislators in each district or "catchment area."

All resolutions and support letters will be compiled into a "book of resolutions" to be used in legislative and gubernatorial advocacy in Sacramento. A goal will be set to obtain enough resolutions and letters to create impetus for bill resolution by February 2005. The State Board will track the progress of the campaign.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Relative to the Funding of Child Development Centers

WHEREAS, Title V of the Education Code sets forth all the program and personnel standards for child development centers contracting with the State Department of Education to serve low-income families of California, and

WHEREAS, Title V child development centers have demonstrated positive outcomes in preparing Contra Costa County's low-income children for success in school and measure their progress through the State's Desired Results system, and

WHEREAS, the performance standards for these child development centers far exceed the minimum health and safety standards required by the State for licensure, and

WHEREAS, child development centers meeting Title V program standards are reimbursed by the State with a flat rate which today meets approximately 69.8% of the real costs of care in our county, which includes rapidly rising insurance, utility, transportation, health, building and maintenance costs, and

WHEREAS, child care centers not meeting these high quality standards are reimbursed by higher regional rates which reflect actual market costs and many Title V child development centers are considering terminating their high quality programs, just to survive, to be paid more money for a lesser program, and

WHEREAS, because of this reimbursement inequity, Martinez Early Childhood Center of Martinez is seriously considering closing their center and terminating their contract with the State Department of Education, and other contractors (possibly the county programs?) are closing classrooms and reducing contracts because of the inability to hire qualified staff,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,

- ❖ Recognizes the value and contribution of Title V child development centers to the citizens and schools of this county and recognizes the serious inequity in the fiscal support for such centers, and

- ❖ Supports an effort to add a statutory requirement that any Title V child development centers in this county shall never be reimbursed at a lower rate than a minimum health and safety (Title 22) child care center in this county, and
- ❖ Encourages the legislative delegation of this county to seek an appropriate remedy for this problem in Sacramento and calls upon the Governor of California to provide the appropriate funding in his FY 2005-06 Budget Proposal.

Resolution signed by: _____

Date: _____

Recorded: _____

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent here (take from draft resolution above)

Sec. 2. Section 8265 of the Education Code is amended to read,

8265. (a) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall implement a plan that establishes reasonable standards and assigned reimbursement rates, which vary with the length of the program year and the hours of service.

Parent fees shall be used to pay reasonable and necessary costs for providing additional services.

When establishing standards and assigned reimbursement rates, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall confer with applicant agencies.

The reimbursement system, including standards and rates, shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction may establish any regulations he or she deems advisable concerning conditions of service and hours of enrollment for children in the programs.

(b) ~~The~~ *Except as provided in subsection (g), the* standard reimbursement rate shall be three thousand five hundred twenty-three dollars (\$3,523) per unit of average daily enrollment for a 250-day year, increased by the cost-of-living adjustment granted by the Legislature beginning July 1, 1980.

(c) The plan shall require agencies having an assigned reimbursement rate above the current year standard reimbursement rate to reduce costs on an incremental basis to achieve the standard reimbursement rate.

(d) The plan shall provide for adjusting reimbursement on a case-by-case basis, in order to maintain service levels for agencies currently at a rate less than the standard reimbursement rate. Assigned reimbursement rates shall be increased only on the basis of one or more of the following:

- (1) Loss of program resources from other sources.
- (2) Need of an agency to pay the same child care rates as those

prevailing in the local community.

(3) Increased costs directly attributable to new or different regulations.

(4) Documented increased costs necessary to maintain the prior year's level of service and ensure the continuation of threatened programs.

Child care agencies funded at the lowest rates shall be given first priority for increases.

(e) The plan shall provide for expansion of child development programs at no more than the standard reimbursement rate for that fiscal year.

(f) The Superintendent of Public Instruction may reduce the percentage of reduction for any public agency:

- (1) Which is currently serving more than 400 children; or
- (2) Which has in effect a collective bargaining agreement; or
- (3) For which other extenuating circumstances apply as determined by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(g) In no case shall a child development program funded pursuant to this section be reimbursed less than a child care program which only meets minimum health and safety standards pursuant to Title 22 and is reimbursed by the regional market rate.