



MEETING SUMMARY FORM

Please fill out the following form as best you can. All information identified as public information will be summarized and published on the *Plan Santa Barbara* website (www.YouPlanSB.org).

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Meeting Date: August 8, 2007

Plan Santa Barbara representative(s): Peggy Burbank, Adam Nares

Host Organization: CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

Number of Participants: 16

Please take a moment to summarize the meeting. What were the overall themes? What issues arose? What concerns did the participants express?

The overall theme was provision of child care facilities within the City of Santa Barbara.

Issues:

- People can't find child care in the city and are traveling to Goleta. People are driving unnecessarily to get to/from child care.
- The most queries for child care are for infants and toddlers. For example, the UCSB child care center for infant and toddlers has 150 children on its waiting list.
- Large family child care homes (up to 14 children) are leaving the area and are not being replaced
- There used to be 145 family child care providers on the South Coast; now there are only 89.
- The reasons for this are in part the cost in time and money for city permits and the amount of paperwork (e.g. blueprints) required which is intimidating, especially for those not fluent in English.
- Also the rising costs of buying or renting space as well as operating the home.

Solutions proposed:

Make it easier to establish child care homes in the city.

- Simplify the regulations and process for getting permits. The State already regulates child care providers; why does the City need to do this as well?
- Child care regulations need to be more specific. Good examples of simplified permitting processes are Lompoc and City of Santa Maria. Both only require an over-the counter form to be completed, compliance with State requirements, and a minor application fee.
- Simplify and reduce costs, or eliminate the process to convert from a small child care home (up to 8 children) to a large family child care home (up to 14 children).

Facilitate the provision of child care facilities.

- Evaluate need for child care facilities along with review of new residential development. Require the provision of child care facilities for every N residential units or N square feet of commercial development.
- In new multifamily projects, designate certain units to be residences for family child care providers so the units are constructed to suit the use and comply with requirements. This would greatly reduce the price of setting up business for the operators, and would address both housing and child care.
- Take a regional view of child care needs since so many families are commuting from Ventura and Santa Maria.

The Child Care Planning Council also provided written comments at the meeting which are attached below.

**“Plan Santa Barbara”
Input from Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council
August 8, 2007**

High Quality child care benefits children, families, employers, schools, the community and our future. \$1 spent for preschool saves \$7 or more in the future.

- More licensed child care spaces are needed
In Santa Barbara¹
 - There are an estimated 1174 infants, 1989 2-5 year olds and 4533 6-12 year olds needing child care (US Census)
 - In October 2006 there were 108 licensed spaces in child care centers for infants and toddlers, and 1264 for preschoolers. There were 500 spaces in licensed family child care homes. (Community Care Licensing)
 - **If all the family child care spaces were devoted to infants and preschoolers there would still be a deficit of 1291 licensed child care spaces for children 0-5 years old.**
 - There are 4 children needing child care for every licensed space.

Recommendation: we encourage the City of Santa Barbara to support increased numbers of child care spaces by ensuring that the development process is simple and inexpensive.

Recommendation: we encourage the City of Santa Barbara to support additional high quality after-school child care and youth programs that are affordable and accessible for all children from Kindergarten through Junior High School.

- Child Care contributes to the economic base of the community
 - Across California, the licensed child care industry generates over \$5.4 billion in gross receipts, or revenues per year. This puts the licensed child care industry on par with California’s major agricultural sectors².
 - It is estimated that there are between 250 and 300 child care providers working in the City of Santa Barbara

Recommendation: we encourage the City of Santa Barbara to support continued participation in the child care workforce by supporting low cost housing for early care and education employees

¹ Zip codes 93101, 93103, 93105, 93109

² The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in California, June 2001

- The cost of high quality licensed child care is beyond the means of many families
In Santa Barbara³
 - Licensed center based care for children 0-5 costs more than \$220 per week (\$222 for 0-2 year olds, \$224 for 2-5 years)
 - Care for infants in family child care homes averages \$185 per week
 - Care for preschoolers in family child care homes averages \$165 per week

Recommendation: we encourage the City of Santa Barbara to support additional subsidized child care by investigating all possible sources of funding for tuition support and by creating a child care subsidy fund.

- There is not enough workforce, affordable and low-income housing in the city. This makes it difficult not only for families, but for family child care providers on whom we rely to provide child care to our workers.
 - The number of family child care providers in the city continues to drop each year, by 7% from 2006 to 2007.
 - Building stand-alone child care centers is costly, and difficult to permit
- Access to high quality child care near home or work is necessary for working families
 - Time and resources are wasted when families must travel long distances to their child care provider en route to their work.
 - Public transportation can not only reduce the number of cars in the city, but can make child care accessible to many parents, if routes are aligned.

Recommendation: we encourage the City of Santa Barbara to support inclusion of child care facilities (family child care and centers) in housing developments and at transportation hubs, and to continue to support frequent and low cost public transportation within the city.

³ Zip codes 93101, 93103, 93105, 93109