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## September 2023

### Head Start

Our Head Start program applied to be part of a Community of Practice offered by Head Start Region 9 and we received notification that we were accepted! The Community of Practice is focused on supporting the school readiness and success of young African American boys. Required team members include the Program Director, Education Manager and Program Coach. We also will include a Teacher, Family Engagement Manager and a Parent on our team. Through this Community of Practice we will gather input from administrators, teachers, families, staff, and the community to guide implementation of a culturally responsive, strength-based program. We will collect data to identify potential disparities and needs of African American boys and families, as well as support and sustain programmatic changes related to program policies, practices and goals.

Community Care Licensing has been visiting all of our locations for our annual unannounced visits. These visits culminated with a visit to our Lemen site the last week of September and we are happy to report no findings.

### Quality Programs

We held a distribution event for family childcare providers on September 6 from 5:00 to 7:00. We distributed art supplies, socks, diapers, COVID tests, masks, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes and backpacks to 23 childcare providers. These providers previously attended a professional development session offered through the Davis Art Center focused on incorporating art activities into their at home childcare program. We are happy to partner with our community agencies to bring information and resources to our childcare community.

Program staff attended the California Childcare Coordinators Association meeting for three days of legislative updates, policy changes and regional planning

opportunities. Key takeaways included regional rate reform, restructuring of family fees, compensating providers based on cost of care versus market rate, as well as the extension of hold harmless on enrollment/attendance until June 30, 2025.