



December 8, 2025

2026 Chair City, City of Santa Rosa
Sonoma County Mayors & Councilmembers' Association
100 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa CA 95404
Attn: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk (scmcaclerk@gmail.com)

RE: Letter of Interest for Childcare Planning Council

Dear Ms. Berges:

Please accept my request for your support for my appointment to the Sonoma County Childcare Planning Council. I believe my four decades of experience as an Early Childhood Education Master Teacher in Petaluma uniquely qualifies me to serve on this important County committee. Over the years, I have witnessed—and helped implement—many positive changes in the field of childcare, consistently advocating for high-quality education for our youngest learners.

My career has allowed me to work within the full spectrum of childcare environments, including home-based childcare, City-run programs, non-profit organizations, and for-profit programs. I earned my Early Childhood Education Certificate from Santa Rosa Junior College and the State of California Office of Education in 1985, following many years as a licensed Sonoma County Childcare Home Provider. These experiences have provided me with a deep and well-rounded understanding of the needs, challenges, and opportunities within the childcare landscape.

I would appreciate the opportunity to contribute my knowledge and experience to future planning and decision-making in childcare across Sonoma County.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to submit my name as a prospective member of this committee. I respectfully ask for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 707-529-2487 or knau@cityofpetaluma.org .

Sincerely,

Karen Nau
Petaluma City Council Member
District 3

MAYOR / ALCALDE

Kevin McDonnell

COUNCILMEMBERS / MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO

Janice Cader Thompson, Dist. 1
John Shribbs, Dist. 2
Karen Nau, Dist. 3

Frank Quint, Dist. 4
Alex DeCarli, Dist. 5
Brian Barnacle, Dist. 6



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Mayor

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Vice Mayor

Samantha Rodriguez
Susan Hollingsworth Adams
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Councilmembers

Marcela Piedra
City Manager

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon
City Attorney

Cindy Bagley
Director of Community Services

Jamie Cannon
Director of Human Resources

Mark Hendersen
Interim Director of Public Works

Mario Landeros
Interim Director of Development Services

Sylvia Lopez Cuevas
City Clerk

Tim Mattos
Public Safety Director

Betsy Howze
Finance Director

2026 Chair City, City of Santa Rosa
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers' Association
100 Santa Rosa Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Attn: Lauren Berges, SCMCA Clerk
Via Email: scmcaclerk@gmail.com

Re: Childcare Planning Council Letter of Interest

Dear Sonoma County Association Board of Directors

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration for my appointment to the Childcare Planning Council as a representative of the association. I am deeply committed to advancing policies and practices that support the healthy development of children and families, and I believe my professional experience, education, and leadership align strongly with this role.

I have pursued studies in Early Childhood Education, which have grounded my work in developmentally appropriate practice, child-centered learning, and an understanding of the critical importance of the early years. Professionally, I have extensive hands-on experience as a caregiver, supporting young children and families in nurturing environments that promote social, emotional, and cognitive development.

In addition, I have worked with at-risk youth across multiple settings throughout the county, collaborated with special education departments to support children with diverse learning needs, and served within juvenile hall and juvenile justice environments. These experiences have provided me with a comprehensive perspective on how early childhood experiences, access to quality care, and early intervention can significantly influence long-term outcomes for children and families.

I currently serve as Chair of the Education Committee with CRPUSD, Sonoma State University, and the City of Cotati, where I collaborate with educators, administrators, and community stakeholders to support educational initiatives and advocate for inclusive, equitable learning opportunities. This leadership role has strengthened my ability to work collaboratively, engage in thoughtful planning, and support policies that benefit children at both the local and systems levels.

My background and values strongly align with the mission of the Child Care Planning Council of Sonoma County—to convene and inspire the community through collaboration, leadership, and advocacy to promote and plan for quality child care and development for the benefit of all

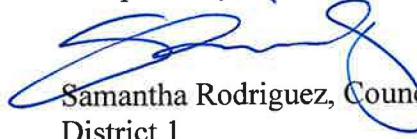
children, primarily birth to twelve, their families, and Sonoma County. I am particularly passionate about advancing equitable access to quality child care and ensuring that programs are responsive to the needs of diverse and vulnerable populations.

It would be an honor to serve on the Childcare Planning Council and to represent the association while working alongside community leaders to strengthen childcare systems and supports throughout our county.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued dedication to the well-being of children and families in our communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 707-899-3092 or by email at srodriguez@rpcity.org, if you have any questions or to discuss my request further.

Respectfully,



Samantha Rodriguez, Councilmember
District 1
City of Rohnert Park

cc:
Rohnert Park City Council



Stephen Zollman

City Councilmember

City of Sebastopol

7120 Bodega Avenue

Sebastopol, CA 95472

www.cityofsebastopol.org

January 2, 2026

2026 Chair City, City of Santa Rosa
Sonoma County Mayors' and Councilmembers'
Association
100 Santa Rosa Avenue,
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
ATTN: Lauren Berges, MCA Clerk

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Fellow Electeds:

Happy new year to all and I am excited to be submitting my letter of interest to continue serving as our Association's appointee to our county's Child Care Planning Council.

In May of 2025, I was honored to have completed my seventh year on this Council that serves the needs of our youngest and their families. I was appointed previously by a prior board of supervisor. During my time as the Association's appointee, I was elected to fill a partial term as co-chair and then was recently re-elected as chair elect. I was able to assist with bringing in Dr. Amy Carter to present about SCOE to the full body and then to bring in Liz DePrimo, the wonderful Child Care Planning Council coordinator, and Joanna Paun, a Petaluma School Board Member and our county's McKinney Vento coordinator, to talk about the alarmingly high and rapidly increasing numbers of our homeless and foster care youth to the Board members.

It would be an ongoing honor to continue representing our Association on the Child Care Planning Care Planning Council and continue to share the Council's work with the Association to continue to see how we can advance the Council's mission.

Representing and advocating for our youth has been an ongoing passion all of my life and the Council's work is deeply meaningful to me.

As always, If you have questions, please reach out. Thank you very much for you that you continue to do and for your consideration.

All Best,

signed

Stephen Zollman
Sebastopol Council Member
szollman@cityofsebastopol.org
cell 415-218-9835