



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee  
Minutes: September 1, 2010  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

**Members in Attendance:** (38) Rocio Bach, Lisa Wilkin, Sam Kirk, Kathleen Pompey, Susan McCombs, Lashonna Goodman for Diane Philibosian, Vanessa Mendez for Mary Helen Vasquez, Ofelia Medina, Fiona Stewart, John Berndt, Bobbie Edwards, Deborah Gatti, Ofelia Aguilar, Andrea Joseph, Peter Huffaker for Kate Anderson, Mickie Allen, Norma Amezcua, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Claudine Avila for Grace Castro, Fran Chasen for Richard Cohen, Deborah Colman, Leticia Colchado, Diana Pinto for Adriana DeLaRosa, Jeanette Magee, Ann Oshiro, Adrienne Schoen Gunn, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia, Yolanda Bosch, Joy Cyprian, Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Holly Reynolds, Moises Roman, Judy Sanchez, Atalaya Sergi, Peggy Sisson, Emilio Sosa, and Tara Henriquez for Randi Wolfe

**Guests and Alternates:** Ancelma Sanchez, Edilma Serna, Lou Orr, Ritu Mahajan, Kathy Schreiner, Marion Siemon Burgeson, Brittany Estrada, Barb Holtwick, Elaine Waldman, Susan Glamuzina, Lilit Kazannyan, Marisela Carlos, Jeanette Valentine, Celeste Salinas, and Cathy Barraza

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:14 p.m. She welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Chair read the opening statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from the June 2, 2010 Meeting

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the September 1, 2010 minutes. Emilio Sosa moved to approve; Sam Kirk seconded. It was noted that one meeting participant was not listed in the minutes. An amendment to the motion was accepted and the Chair called for the vote. The motion to approve was passed with one abstention.**

III. Report from the Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo presented information on the annual self-review process. The self-review is a requirement of the California Department of Education (CDE) for all programs funded through the CDE, including the Local Planning Councils. A copy of the review process description was distributed to all in attendance. It was approved last year and designated three committees to conduct the review of specific sections and determine if the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) is in compliance with the requirements of the CDE. The findings of each group are compiled and will be presented to the full Planning Committee at the November meeting. If the Planning Committee approves the findings, the report will be sent to the County Chief Executive Office (CEO) for signature and submitted to the CDE by November 20, 2010.

Laura Escobedo then described the terrible difficulties suffered by many child development contractors because of the budget impasse, which has extended into three months. She stated that there are efforts to create a mechanism to provide short term loans for contractors, but that whatever is developed will not be available until next year. She provided the following statistics to describe the dire situation based on the responses of 38 contractors to an e-survey. Of those responding, 76% were center-based programs; the remainder was Family Child Care Home Education Networks or Alternative Payment

programs. Seventy percent (70%) indicated that they had closed sites, classrooms, furloughed staff, and delayed enrollment in order to manage without CDE funding. Most would have to completely stop all services by October 30<sup>th</sup> if the budget was not signed. As of the end of September, it is estimated that 3,800+ children and their parents have been impacted and 674 staff have been furloughed or had hours cut drastically. Alternative Payment Programs have delayed paying providers, which has put the care of between 11,000 and 15,000 children in jeopardy.

IV. Presentation: First 5 LA's Best Start Initiative

Jennifer Chheang and Marvin Espinosa provided a short video and then addressed the group. Best Start is a new First 5 LA investment in 14 communities. This is a place-based strategy selected by the First 5 LA Commission to better focus their funding efforts and determine actual outcomes in the selected communities. There are four major outcome areas for children 0-5: born healthy, maintain a healthy weight, safe from abuse and neglect, and ready for kindergarten. Selecting the 14 communities was a year long process based on indicators of need and the strengths and assets that the communities had to build on. The underlying premise is if you change the community, the context in which children are raised, you will change the development trajectory. Attendees were invited to register with First 5 LA to be notified of upcoming community meetings and to get involved in the development of community plans. First 5 LA will continue to fund some countywide investments as well as this new place-based strategy.

V. Work Group Break-outs

The following Work Groups held short sessions to begin their planning for activities in this program year: Access to Care/Centralized Eligibility List (CEL); Policy and Members; Quality; Funding and Priorities; and Inclusion. Three of the Work Groups - Policy and Membership, Funding and Priorities, and Quality - conducted the self-review using materials supplied by the Office of Child Care. Regular meeting schedules for all Work Groups will resume in November.

VI. Announcements and Public Comment

- Peter Huffaker referenced the State Budget impasse and reminded the group of Proposition 25, which is intended to enable the legislature to agree to a budget by the constitutional deadline (June 30<sup>th</sup>) by lowering the majority required to pass the budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. If this passes, it would eliminate the delays that have threatened the stability of our child care and development infrastructure.

He also stated that Child Care Results has been working to identify sources of short term funding to help bridge the gap between budgets for child development contractors. He urged any agencies present that were in need of operating funds to contact him about emergency loan possibilities.

- Kathleen Pompey announced the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) East Valley tour of schools scheduled for October 23, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. It includes a tour of four schools, many hands on activities and lunch.

VII. Adjournment

The chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Sam Kirk and seconded by Peggy Sisson. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.