



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: February 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Public Counsel
610 South Ardmore Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Members in Attendance: (19) Rocio Bach, Ancelma Sanchez, Peggy Sisson, Diane Philibosian, Bobbie Edwards, Gay Macdonald, Atalaya Sergi, Pamela Kwok, Kim Kenner for Alan Guttman, Joy Cyprian, Wilma Kiel, Julie Taren, Carol Heistand for Kathleen Pompey, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Holly Reynolds, Nellie Rios Parra, Corrine Sanchez, Lucy Fitzpatrick, and Sylvia Parra

Guests and Alternates: Cecelia Gutierrez, Pam Schmidt, Ernesto Saldana, Jenny Paul Rappaport, Elaine Waldman

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and read the opening statement. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from the January 7, 2008 Meeting

The approval of the minutes from January 2009 was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

III. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo stated that Child Care Policy Framework was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Office of Child Care staff have started work on early care and education issues related to the most vulnerable children in the County, such as Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) clients.

IV. Review of Governor's Proposed Budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Laura Escobedo provided an overview of the proposed budget. Budget efforts under way will most likely encompass emergency measures in this fiscal year and the budget for 2009-10. New sources of revenue have been proposed such as an increase in the state sales tax, and a cut in the dependent credit. The governor has also proposed eliminating the state First 5 Commission and redirecting over half of those funds to other general fund purposes. He has proposed the same with the unallocated funds dedicated to the Mental Health Services Act. Both of these major changes would require voter approval since they are both the result of ballot measures. There is a reduction in CalWORKS Stages 2 and 3 funding based on lower case numbers projected prior to the economic meltdown. There is also a permanent reduction of \$55 million to the child care and development budget. An increase proposed for Community Care Licensing is to be used only for detecting unsuitable persons working in licensed facilities; and the cost of this increase will be born by an increase in licensing fees to centers and family child care homes.

There are some exciting proposals in the approved House version of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act including \$2 billion for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which would mean about \$200,000,000 for California and nearly \$70,000,000 for Los Angeles County. There is also a like amount for Head Start and Early Head Start. The House version also includes specific early care and education set asides in facilities. The Senate version contains an equal amount for the CCDF, but has allocated a lower amount for Head Start (\$1 billion) and has eliminated the facilities piece. Changes are occurring rapidly prior to a Senate vote. Next, a Conference Committee will work out the differences and release a revise version, which will mean more compromises. However, it appears that the CCDF funds will remain in a final version. It is not yet known how these dollars will be released and whether all or only some programs will receive increased funding.

V. Presentation: What is the Policy Agenda for Early Care and Education in California?

Ernesto Saldana, Los Angeles Field Director for Preschool California, stated that the mission of Preschool California is to increase preschool opportunities for all California children, but initially for those who need it most. Mr. Saldana stated that the organization has recently started to broaden its scope and message to include children 0-5 years, although preschool is still its primary focus. Preschool California, funded by the Packard Foundation as part of a 10 year strategy to promote universal preschool, recognizes the importance of aligning agendas. They have freely borrowed the phrase "learning begins at birth".

Staff work in local communities to raise the profile and urgency of preschool. They work with individuals to help coordinate local strategies with statewide strategies. Staff also work directly with policy makers and legislators, frequently taking them on field trips to visit local programs. Preschool California has also hosted conference calls to work on a federal strategy. Another endeavor is building new constituent support with groups such as business and K-12.

As far as a California Policy agenda is concerned, staff are working to introduce legislation that would positively change the infant factor that affects the Standard Reimbursement Rate. They are also monitoring the implementation of the Jones bill (AB 2759, Chapter 308) to reconfigure the California State Preschool Program.

Jenny Paul Rappaport is a staff person at the Advancement Project and is important in coordinating the many work groups formed through the Water Cooler. This process is an outgrowth of the lessons learned from the failure of Proposition 82. It recognizes that there needs to be a broad consensus on a policy agenda for California. It began about a year ago and there have been about five to six major meetings. Early on, work groups, focused on key areas, were formed. The areas of focus are: Revenue, Taxation, Proposition 98, and Sequencing/Priorities; Critical issues with the Existing System; Quality Rating and Improvement, Curriculum, and Tiered Reimbursement; Access Gap and Facilities; and Workforce Development and Certification. Each work group explores policy ideas and builds consensus prior to presentation to the full Water Cooler group. For example, the first work group is working on a scenario for allocation of new revenue proposing that $\frac{1}{3}$ go for quality infant and toddler care, $\frac{1}{3}$ for increasing access to preschool, and $\frac{1}{3}$ for quality activities. In Critical Issues, the work group is considering such things as the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) and Community Care Licensing. The Workforce Group is considering such ideas as eliminating two different certification systems (Title 22 and Title 5).

The Advancement Project coordinates this effort. Staffs from the Advancement Project are planning a trip to Washington D.C. to meet with members of the California Congressional Delegation; and are coordinating the Water Cooler Conference in Sacramento scheduled for March.

VI. Work Group Reports

Inclusion Work Group: Enhancing the information available on the Office of Child Care Web site and have been working with Healthy Cities to enhance their Web site as well.

School-age Work Group: Working with the California School Age Consortium (CalSac) in planning the statewide conference scheduled for October.

Qualifications & Compensation: Continuing to work on the survey for the model compensation scale.

VII. Announcements and Public Comment

Elaine Waldman from the Communicable Disease Unit of the Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update on the current salmonella outbreak in Los Angeles County and urged the group to help identify points of contact to conduct education related to pets in programs. At next month's meeting there will be a brief overview of the food handler training provided through the DPH.

The Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) Conference will be held on May 16, 2009 at the Glendale Presbyterian Church.

The South Central Training Consortium's conference will held April 17, 2009.

The Southern California Kindergarten Conference is scheduled for February in Pasadena.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bobbie Edwards and seconded by Wilma Kiel. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.