



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: April 2, 2008
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: LACOE
9300 East Imperial Highway
Downey, CA 90242

Members in Attendance: (28) Kathleen Pompey, Lucy Fitzpatrick for Pamela Schmidt, Rocio Bach, Fran Chasen for Julie Taren, Joy Cyprian, Pamela Kwok, Ana Gallegos for Mary Helena Vasquez, Lisa Wilkin for Ancelma Sanchez, Roseanne Ghiazza for Corinne Sanchez, Peggy Sisson for Diane Philibosian, Holly Reynolds, Linda Cooper for Sherri Lewis, Patrice Wong, Laura Manson for Jenny Trickey, Cynthia Zarate for Angelica Solis, Nellie Rios Parra, Alejandra Guillen for Sandra Menendez, Randi Wolfe for Carolina Alvarez, Alan Guttman, Atalaya Sergi, Alicen Vera, Robert Wiltse, Beverly Morgan Sandoz, Sally Andersen for Rafael Lopez, and Jan Isenberg.

Guests and Alternates: Lucy Fitzpatrick, Peggy Sisson, Kathy Schreiner, Cecelia Lorraine Gutierrez, Lou Orr, Jane Lee Choe, Kim Woo, Susan Savage, Rosemary Olachea-Heaslip, and Elsa Leal.

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Ms. Reynolds read the opening statement.

II. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo announced that the Office of Child Care was able to successfully seek approval for our County lobbyist to provide testimony at the upcoming budget hearings in Sacramento related to the proposed cuts in California Department of Education (CDE) child care and development funding. The hearings will take place April 8 and 9, 2008.

On March 4, 2008, Supervisor Knabe brought a motion that the Chief Executive Office report back within 60 days with a recommendation for structuring child care policy that cuts across county departments as well as First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) and brings a more integrated focus to this critically important issue. In addition, legislative advocates in Sacramento are charged with exploring a possible legislative solution regarding the issue of retaining unspent child care dollars in Los Angeles County. The Office of Child Care is working on the first part of this motion and a forum is scheduled for April 23rd to develop appropriate ideas for how to improve the system of contracting and implementing state-contracted programs in order to better use the funds allocated. Fliers were made available at the meeting and sent out via e-mail.

III. Approval of Minutes for March 5, 2008

The Chair asked that the minutes from March 5, 2008 be reviewed. She called for changes or corrections to the minutes. There being no changes, the Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Dianne Philibosian and seconded by Pat Wong. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

IV. Review of the Rationale for Determining Priority Areas for New Funding

The Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Work Group has been collecting and reviewing data for the past few months to use in updating the list of zip codes that are priority 1 or priority 2 areas for future funding for CDE child care and development programs. Laura Escobedo explained the source of the data used including: number of children by age and by zip code in families with less than 75% of state median income; number of low-income children in working families and in non-working families; number of children by age and zip code currently served by CDE-contracted programs, Head Start, LAUP, and the Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Program (PKFLP).

Laura Escobedo explained that the age breakout numbers of children by zip codes are estimates based on aggregated data from the 2000 census and progressed by using the American Communities survey data for 2006. Service numbers are mixed; some of the numbers were by home zip code of the child (CDE data), and some were for the number of spaces available in a zip code (LAUP). Some data is a snapshot in time (CDE, April 2007) and some is current enrollment (Head Start). The result is that there are a few zip codes where the service numbers might actually exceed the numbers residing in the area. This is also possible because some children attend care in zip codes other than the one in which they reside.

She explained that data related to part-day preschool enrollment was analyzed separately from data related to full-day child care and development options; and that data for each age group was reviewed independently.

Alan Guttman, co-chair of the Work Group then explained the rules used to calculate the level of need for each zip code. Thresholds of need (numbers of eligible un-served children) were set for each program type and age group. These were based on the general population size and the feasibility of creating more care in any one area. Next, a filter for unmet need was determined, which is the percent of un-served children in any one area.

The results are:

	Priority 1		Priority 2	
	Threshold number	Percent Un-served	Threshold number	Percent Un-served
State Preschool	300	75% or more	300	50-74%
General/Infant	200	25% or more	100	25% or more
General/Preschool	300	50% or more	300	25-49%
General/School-age	500	50% or more	300	50% or more

The threshold number is based on a minimum of eligible children in the area in order to enroll a full classroom/group, knowing that not all eligible children will become enrolled. The percents were determined based on how likely it is that there are already large numbers of providers offering that type of care in an area. The higher the percent un-served requirement is, the more likely that the program is widely available and that some areas are close to saturation. The smaller the percent un-served is the likelihood that there are very few spaces/programs available.

The Work Group had not yet obtained the numbers of spaces available through the After-School Education and Safety Program (ASES) for school-age children. The number and percent un-served thresholds for school-age had taken into consideration that in some areas there would be many new ASES spaces, thus reducing the demand. Once ASES data is received, the Work Group will determine how and if to use it.

There was discussion about the use of the priorities and some suggestions for factors that may be considered in future priority setting. In general, there were no objections or alternative recommendations to the rationale used by the Work Group. Next steps include finalizing the priority selections and holding a public hearing on April 23rd at the Department of Public Works in Alhambra from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., then both the Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Public Schools must approve the change in priorities before the final report is submitted to CDE and published on their Web site.

V. Work Group Updates

Membership and Policies: Jan Isenberg reminded members to submit their applications for the coming year. She said that announcements had gone out to all school districts and she hoped that members would share the membership application with interested groups and individuals. She noted that nomination forms for the Chair and Vice Chair were made available and that nominations should be submitted to the Office of Child Care before May 7, 2008.

Qualifications and Compensation: Randi Wolfe stated that the work group had updated material in the Careers Packets and that these would be reprinted. The Work Group is reviewing the Economic Impact Report and plans to assist in the implementation of the recommendations related to the career and wage lattice. There will also be a study to develop a model wage scale for directors.

Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning: Update provided as part of the meeting agenda on setting priority areas for CDE funding.

School-age: Laura Escobedo stated that the Work Group is reviewing best practices and statements of quality to develop a generic quality standards guide that can be used by any school-age program.

Constructing Connections (Capacity development): Pam Schmidt of Public Counsel reported that the project had assisted in the development of 400 new center spaces over a six month period. The project is planning a Planners' Summit for October 2008, which will be focused in integrating child care into local plans and developments. A land use report has been completed which details the barriers to developing child care. There is a lender's roundtable planned to assist in increasing the capital available for facilities. The Collaborative meeting is open to all and will be held on May 12, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Public Counsel.

Access to Quality Care: Pam Schmidt reported that the group was looking at ways to assist in getting more families into subsidized care including collapsing the ranks used by CDE contractors and creating a script for contractors to use with parents they cannot assist so that families could begin to advocate for themselves.

Joint Committee on Legislation: Pat Wong reported that the Committee is reviewing legislation and prioritizing it based on level of interest and relationship to the Strategic Plan. The group meets the fourth Monday of each month from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Department of Children and Family Services located at 12440 East Imperial Highway in Norwalk.

Inclusive Child Care: Julie Taren reported that the Work Group is working on objectives from the Strategic Plan including integration of Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP) services into standard child care resource and referral activities. Pathways will conduct a survey of the 10 agencies. The Work Group is also tracking the planning for the Prevention and Early Intervention component of MHSA and is hoping to promote an early childhood focus group.

VI. Presentation on LINK

Kimberly Woo, MPH, is the coordinator for the Orange and Los Angeles County Regional Immunization Network (LINK). She provided an overview of what the network is and how the LINK data-base functions. It is a Web-based system that can be accessed by many types of providers having, or needing to review, immunization information for individual children, including child care programs and providers. Interested providers and staff can be trained to use the system and be given access to it. The system currently has over a million records and over 600 agencies using it. The system can display the current immunization data on a child and also print out a blue or yellow report for files. The plan is to ensure that all children in Los Angeles County have their immunization records in the system, unless the family opts out. To be able to use the LINK database, an agency needs a computer, printer and internet connection. Someone on staff must

sign a use agreement and attend training. The Web site is www.immunizelink.org. Kimberly Woo can be reached at kiwoo@ph.lacounty.gov.

VII. Public Announcements and Comments

Teach for America is recruiting new placement sites for 2008-09. The expected pay for the teachers is approximately \$21 per hour for full-time, nine month assignments. Contact Allison Bajarcharya at (310) 425-5825.

The Office of Child Care and AB 212 will be sponsoring training on Desired Results Developmental Profiles-Revised (DRDP-R) on April 19, April 26 and May 17, 2008. The training is being offered by a consortium of the Los Angeles Community Colleges and will focus on using the DRDP results. Training sites are East Los Angeles College and Los Angeles City College. Fliers will be sent to all members.

The California Quality Rating and Improvement System Mobilization Summit co-sponsored by the Orange County United Way, Policy Roundtable for Child Care's Steps to Excellence Project (STEP), the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) is planned for June 16, 2008 in Orange County. Check the CAEYC Web site for details: www.caeyc.org.

On June 17th, the Infant Development Association (IDA) is hosting Victor Bernstein who will present on developing relationships at Harbor Regional Center. Fliers are on the back table.

Lou Orr reminded the group that the CAEYC conference is being held at the Long Beach Convention Center this week. On Friday April 4th, Lakeshore will host tours of its child care facility in Carson. Let him know if you want to be included.

Jane Lee Choe announced that Wyeth would have a booth at the CAEYC conference and urged all to visit for more supplies and materials useful in the classroom.

Peggy Sisson was congratulated on completing her Master Degree and thesis this spring.

VIII. Adjournment

The Chair asked for a call to adjourn. Julie Taren moved to adjourn and Jan Isenberg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.