



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: May 7, 2008

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Lakeshore Learning, Inc.
2695 East Dominguez Street
Carson, CA 90895

Members in Attendance: (27) Carol Hiestand for 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, Patrice Wong, Jenny Trickey, Nellie Rios Parra, Sandra Menendez, Randi Wolfe for Carolina Alvarez, Alan Guttman, Atalaya Sergi, Alicen Vera, Sarah Soriano for Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Wendy Tseng for Ngoc P. Dang, Holly Daasnes, Bobbie Edwards, Wilma Kiel, Pat Mendoza, Marcella McKnight, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia for Sylvia Parra, and Patti Oblath.

Guests and Alternates: Kathy Schreiner, Lou Orr, John Vera, Ruby Duran, and Susan Savage.

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 12:16 p.m. in the Chair's absence. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Ms. Edwards read the opening statement.

II. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo announced the California Quality Rating and Improvement System Mobilization Summit scheduled for June 16, 2008 in Orange County. The Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) is co-sponsoring the summit with the United Way of Orange County and the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC). Flyers are available on the sign-in table. Ms. Escobedo called attention to the quarterly report on STEP, which is sent to the Board of Supervisors and details how many providers and programs are participating.

III. Review of the Results from the Forum on California Department of Education (CDE) Funding

Laura Escobedo provided an overview of the Forum held on April 23, 2008. The attending group was small, yet included knowledgeable CDE-contracted program representatives. The Forum opened with a presentation on unearned funds and the many reasons that contractors have difficulty in fully utilizing all the funding allocated for Los Angeles County services. The discussion centered on four topics: contracting issues, regulations, demographics, and the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL).

Ideas to resolve the difficulties related to the use unearned funds were generated as follows:

- Move to grant-based funding instead of reimbursements based on child per days of enrollment
- Change the definition of "need" in the regulations to allow more flexibility in attendance
- Allow contractors to carry over unused funds into the next fiscal year
- Certify families once per year, not every time something changes
- Increase the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR)
- Allow multi-year funding
- Change system of ranking eligibility by collapsing ranks; ranks 1 through 10 as a new rank 1
- Eliminate the arbitrary age cutoffs for many programs to allow for individual needs
- Require income documentation to register on CEL
- Allow Local Planning Council to advise on issuing Request for Proposals (RFPs) for relinquished contracts
- Increase number of CDE staff to handle contract issuance and RFPs.
- Allow contractors to retain some parent fees above the earned MRA to be used for quality improvements
- Pro-rate contract funds during start-up years

Attendees were asked to identify those ideas that were the most important to them. Each participant was given five green dots and asked to indicate their preferences by placing dots on one or more of the ideas described above. The tally of these preferences will be used in the report to the Board of Supervisors and will be shared with the Planning Committee.

IV. Approval of Minutes for April 4, 2008

The Vice Chair asked that the minutes from April 4, 2008 be reviewed. She called for changes or corrections to the minutes. There being no changes, the Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Pat Mendoza and seconded by Alicen Vera. The Vice Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

V. Approval of Recommended Zip Code Priorities for Future Funding from California Department of Education (CDE)

Laura Escobedo reported on the public hearing held on April 23, 2008 to allow public input into the priority recommendations coming out of the Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning Work Group. She stated that while few people attended the hearing, those that came were knowledgeable and articulate. Due to the feedback from those attending, the Work Group agreed to add a third level of priorities to the recommendations. The consensus was that this would better describe the breadth and diversity of need in Los Angeles County.

Alan Guttman, co-chair of the Work Group presented the final recommendations based on input from the public hearing. He referred to the draft statements of priorities for State Preschool and for General Child Care programs for explanations of the thresholds used to determine the zip code priorities. He stated that some of the ideas coming from the public hearing could not be implemented this year, but may be considered in future years, i.e. setting different number thresholds for each Service Planning Area.

Following discussion, the Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the General Child Care priorities as presented. Peggy Sisson made the motion. It was seconded by Fran Chasen. The Vice Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

The Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the State Preschool Priorities as presented. A motion was made by Lisa Wilkin and seconded by Fran Chasen. The Vice Chair called for the vote. The motion passed without abstentions.

The priority statements will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and the Superintendent of Public Schools for approval. The final report is submitted to CDE and will be published on their Web site.

VI. Announcements and Public Comment

Bobbie Edwards thanked Lou Orr for hosting the Planning Committee at the Lakeshore facility.

Roseanne Ghiazza announced the opening of the El Proyecto Child Development Center on May 16, 2008. She invited the Planning Committee members to attend and passed out the invitations.

Wilma Kiel announced that the South Central Consortium was developing a Web site: www.southcentraltrainingandreserachconsortium.org.

Lisa Wilkin and Alan Guttman shared their experiences as participants in a focus group coordinated by CDE to review the curriculum framework related to the Preschool Foundations. Only one group was held in Southern California with 16 - 20 providers. Ms. Wilkin and Mr. Guttman felt it was an open, productive session, and included a diverse group of participants. There was great unanimity of opinion among the participants as to what was important in early education for very young children. Participants asked why the curriculum developed by Sonoma State through a contract with CDE was not made available to providers since it had received excellent reviews.

VIII. Adjournment

The Vice Chair asked for a call to adjourn. Alan Guttman moved to adjourn and Nellie Rios Parra seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1: 48 p.m.