



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: October 3, 2007

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

Location: Glendale USD
Board Room
233 N. Jackson Street
Glendale, CA 91206

Members in Attendance: (31) Sue Peter for Alice Murphy, Alicen Vera, Bobbie Edwards, Angelica Solis, Peggy Sisson for Dianne Philibosian, Ree Harris for Anita Tetrault, Atalaya Sergi, Carolina Alvarez, Roseanne Ghiazza for Corinne Sanchez, Joy Cyprian, Patrice Wong, Noreen Clarke, Nellie Rios Parra, Craig Lancaster, Lorraine Schrag, Ancelma Sanchez, Rosa Arevalo, Maria Rochart, Mary Helen Vasquez, Robert Wiltse, Karen Kaye, Kathleen Pompey, Pamela Kwok, Pamela Schmidt, Celeste Salinas for Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Marcella McKnight, Liz Diaz for Rafael Lopez, Susan Baxter, Kim Kenner for Alan Guttman, and Holly Reynolds.

Guests and Alternates: Randi Wolfe, Ana Gallegos, Lorraine Gutierrez, Yadira Sanchez, Judy Crawford, Kristen Lang, Karla Pleitez, Cecelia Ley, Allison Bajrachay, and Bunthy Prum.

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Craig Lancaster, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. He introduced himself and read the opening statement. He then asked those present to introduce themselves.

The Chair asked that the minutes from June 2007 and September 2007 be reviewed. He called for changes or corrections to the minutes for June 6, 2007. There being no changes, he called for a motion. It was moved by Pam Schmidt and seconded by Ancelma Sanchez to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed with no abstentions.

The Chair called for changes or corrections to the minutes for September 5, 2007. Atalaya Sergi requested that the name Jumpstart be corrected to reflect one word; Nellie Rios Parra noted three typos for correction. The Chair called for a motion. It was moved by Bobbie Edwards and seconded by Maria Rochart to approve the minutes from September 5, 2007 with the corrections. The motion passed with no abstentions.

II. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo, staff to the Planning Committee, stated that at the request of the Chair there will be a monthly report to the Planning Committee on activities within the Office of Child Care related to the work of the Planning Committee. This month's update focused on the completion of the Strategic Plan revision which would be brought before the Planning Committee at the November meeting. As part of the Strategic Plan revision, the Strategic Planning and Implementation and Needs Assessment Work Group developed an evaluation plan to track the progress of the Strategic Plan objectives. The Work Group is recommending that various other work groups take responsibility for implementing the evaluation activities and where appropriate activities to achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Matrices with specific Strategic Plan components related to the work of each work group have been sent out or shared with Planning Committee work groups/chairs.

III. Presentations from new members

Kathleen Pompey, Director of Broad Oaks Children's School at Whittier College and representative of the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) was introduced. Kathleen shared a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the history of SCAEYC and its role in the early childhood landscape. The mission of SCAEYC is: Nurturing the growth and development of early childhood leaders in Southern California and advocating for the highest quality in early childhood education for all young children.

The role of SCAEYC is:

- Connecting educators to share knowledge of early care and education (ECE) throughout a 50 year history;
- Advocating for children, families, and the ECE professionals providing essential services; and
- Providing leadership opportunities in order to grow ECE professionals.

SCAEYC is part of a larger National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which offers conferences and professional resources to ECE practitioners and develops informative and important position statements that are well respected throughout the country. The website is www.naeyc.org. SCAEYC is also affiliated with the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC). CAEYC offers many resources and supports to California practitioners. Its website is www.caeyc.org.

Kathleen finished by promoting the upcoming SCAEYC event at East Los Angeles College on October 20, 2007. It will feature speakers, workshops and a performance by Jose Luis Orozco.

IV. Presentation: "What Does Quality Cost?"

Laura Escobedo gave the presentation due to the fact that the Qualifications and Compensation Work Group chairs were unavailable. She stated that the budget information presented was the result of about 1½ years of effort by the Work Group to estimate the cost of meeting the standards as outlined in Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) quality rating scale. Only the top three steps were used in building the budgets.

Laura Escobedo began by listing the underlying assumptions for the figures that appear in the budgets:

- 1) The group determined to create two sets of budgets, one for infants and preschool and one for preschool only programs.
- 2) Each budget would be based on serving approximately 100 children.
- 3) There would be consistencies in the number of children per age in each budget scenario.
- 4) The programs operate full day, full year.
- 5) The Model Compensation Scale (MCS) was used to determine pay levels at each step.
- 6) Seventy-five percent of each budget would be for personnel costs, 7% for facilities, 12% for administration, and 8% for materials and supplies. This will vary from program to program in the real world, but the ratio of 75% to 25% is a sound one.

She reminded the group that each step reflects current standards already in use. For example Step 3 is reflective of Title 5 and Step 5 is based in NAEYC accreditation.

Cost factors specific to Step 3 include:

- ❖ Substitute hours only for vacation/sick leave.
- ❖ Only one staff person has training to work with children with disabilities and other special needs.
- ❖ Twelve hours per staff/ per year for staff meetings.
- ❖ Group sizes and ratios use Title 5 maximums.
- ❖ Teacher/Director qualifications use Title 5 minimums.
- ❖ At least 50% of health care coverage is paid.
- ❖ Pay rates are at bottom to mid-level of MCS.

Cost factors specific to Step 4 include:

- ❖ Lead teachers have master teacher permits, all assistants have associate permits, and director has a program director permit.
- ❖ Hourly pay rates are at midlevel on MCS.
- ❖ At least one staff person per class has training to work with children with disabilities and other special needs.

- ❖ 18 hours per staff per year for staff meetings.
- ❖ Paid planning time for lead teachers.
- ❖ At least 60% of health care coverage is paid.
- ❖ Some group sizes are smaller.

Cost factors specific to Step 5 include:

- ❖ Lead teachers have Bachelor of Arts degrees, other staff have teacher permits, and director has a Master of Arts or program director permit.
- ❖ Hourly pay rates at the upper end of MCS.
- ❖ All staff have training to work with children with disabilities and other special needs.
- ❖ At least 70% of health care coverage is paid; benefits include retirement contribution of 2% per month.
- ❖ Group sizes/ratios meet NAEYC standards; some are larger or smaller than Step 4.
- ❖ Substitute hours include paid release time.
- ❖ Paid release time for professional development activities (6 hours per year per staff).
- ❖ Paid release time to provide professional development (lead staff only at 6 hours per year).

She then presented the total program costs by the three Steps and by program type, e.g. infants and preschool (combination program) or preschool only. Each budget was then broken out by a cost per day per child. Finally, the daily costs were compared to the daily reimbursement rates through the California Department of Education (CDE). The results are:

Infants/Toddlers

- Step 3 = \$72/day Step 4 = \$82/day Step 5 = \$69/day
- CDE/SRR¹ = \$46.56/day (2006)
- CDE/RMR² = \$59.58/day

Preschool

- Step 3 = \$41/\$39 Step 4 = \$42/day Step 5 = \$50/day
- CDE/SRR = \$30.04 (2006)
- CDE/RMR = \$43.27

These results demonstrate that quality does cost more, but in some cases not that much more. For example, moving from Step 3 to Step 4 for a preschool program might only mean \$1 per day more per child. Secondly, Step 5 of the combination program is actually less per child because the group sizes and ratios are less restrictive, although the teacher qualifications are higher. Finally, current public subsidies for care are clearly not adequate to meet higher quality standards.

The Planning Committee congratulated the Work Group for its hard work and successful product. Members wanted to know how this information would be used. Since there is much current concern over Standard Reimbursement Rates (SRRs) for CDE-contracted programs, these budgets could be used for advocacy to increase funding. The Work group may take a look at this.

V. Update on California Preschool Learning Foundations

Craig Lancaster stated that staff had not been able to identify a presenter who was available. He said that the proposed Preschool Learning Foundations are of great interest to us all because of the potential impact on what happens in the classrooms. He called attention to a meeting handout which contains two opposing position statements: one from the California Head Start Association supporting implementation of the standards, and the other from the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees asking for a delay so that all input from the field can be integrated into the final product.

¹ SRR = Standard Reimbursement Rate.

² RMR = Regional Market Rate.

CDE has made statements that the Preschool Learning Foundations are awaiting approval by Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Education, before being released. Staff of the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) were told that the Preschool Learning Foundations would not be released yet. Angelica Solis shared that the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board would be considering a motion at its meeting this week related to the Preschool Learning Foundations. WestEd: The Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) has been developing the Infant/Toddler Foundations, guidelines and the Desired Results evaluation tool. Bobbie Edwards said that the response to the Preschool Learning Foundations had been overwhelming and the state is required to develop a written response to each comment or recommendation. This might mean that the CDE change the Preschool Learning Foundation or that they have to write a rationale why they are not changing it.

The Planning Committee will continue to monitor the development and implementation of the Preschool Learning Foundations.

VI. Work Group Meeting Announcements

Robert Wiltse, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Legislation announced the next meeting scheduled for October 22nd, from 12 - 2 p.m. at the Department of Children and Family Services - 12440 Imperial Highway, Room 539, Norwalk.

Susan Baxter, Co-chair of the School-age Work Group announced the first meeting of the year on October 23rd, from 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Office of Child Care - 222 South Hill Street, 5th Floor, Los Angeles. The Work Group will review the recommended components of the revised Strategic Plan to develop its work plan.

Bobbie Edwards and Randi Wolfe are the new Co-Chairs for the Qualifications and Compensation Work Group. The Work Group will meet immediately after the Planning Committee meeting and will look at its plan of action beyond the work done on the quality budgets.

Maria Rochart, new Co-chair for the Policies and Procedure Work Group stated they will meet as needed. They will be planning the membership recruitment process beginning early in the New Year.

The Strategic Planning and Implementation and Needs Assessment Work group will meet at 3:30 p.m. on October 17th at the Office of Child Care.

VII. Announcements or Comments

PITC is recruiting family child care providers and centers to participate in an historic national study of quality and child outcomes over the next two years. The providers and centers must not have received PITC training before. Contact Bobbie Edwards.

Pam Schmidt announced that Public Counsel is the new fiscal agent for Constructing Connections, Los Angeles. The first meeting will be held on October 9th, at 10 a.m. at Public Counsel – 610 South Ardmore Avenue, Los Angeles.

Nellie Rios Parra from Lennox School District wanted to thank the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program for the reports that were sent out detailing the amount of money staff have received through the Stipend Program. It was very much appreciated.

VIII. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Nellie Rios Parra and seconded by Bobbie Edwards. The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.