



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: April 3, 2013
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: PACE Training Center
1254 Goodrich Boulevard
Commerce, CA

Members in Attendance: (21) Lisa Wilkin, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, Kathy Schreiner, Patricia Moreno, Gregory Uba, Nurhan Pirim, Kathleen Pompey, Truyen Tran for Atalaya Sergi, Joann Mejia Shalhoub, Darlene Cabrera, Jennifer Kuida, Sarah Soriano, Andrea Giese for Rachelle Pastor, Edilma Cavazos, Richard Cohen, Karla Howell, Veronica Sanchez for Judy Laureano, Pat Mendoza, Julie Taren, and Judy Sanchez

Guests and Alternates: Carol Hiestand, Sarah Mejia, Connie White, Diana Ramirez, Felicia Gomez Verdin, Adrienne Schoen Gunn, and Norma Garcia Rosales

Staff: Laura Escobedo and Jocelyn Tucker

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell, Chair, opened the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting at 12:21 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 6, 2013

Postponed to next meeting due to a lack of quorum.

III. Report from the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable)

Karla Howell reported that the Roundtable would be introducing a name change to better reflect the comprehensive nature of the field of early childhood as part of the revised ordinance authorizing the Roundtable. Members reviewed legislation related to child care and development; this will continue during the April meeting. The impact of sequestration was also discussed, with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start and Pediatric Therapy Network providing specifics.

IV. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo announced that the Los Angeles County Early Care and Education Bridge Fund was holding orientations for interested contractors on April 18 and 19, 2013. This fund was created by the California Community Foundation to assist child care and development contractors during periods of low cash flow. She announced the availability of the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds (TVTF) between contractors who may be under-earning or over-earning their state contracts. Any agency interested in either the Bridge Fund or the TVTF should contact Laura Escobedo.

V. Report from the Joint Committee on Legislation

Kathleen Pompey reported that the Joint Committee convened a special meeting of local stakeholders who may serve on the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) stakeholders group. The purpose of the CDSS group is to seek opportunities for streamlining and making other improvements to the current subsidized child care and development system. Notes and recommendations for streamlining the subsidized child care and development system that resulted from the special meeting is provided as a handout.

The Joint Committee is tracking a number of bills that may be of interest to Planning Committee members including: SB 192 (Liu), AB 364 (Calderon), AB 1187 (Mansoor), SB 528 (Yee), AB 273 (Rendon), AB 641 (Rendon), AB 290 (Alejo), and AB 1152 (Ammiano). All are described more completely on the weekly legislative matrix.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee is scheduled for April 22, 2013 from 12 – 2 p.m. at the DCFS office in Norwalk.

VI. Presentation and Discussion: Infant Input Session Related to AB 273 (Rendon)

Lisa Wilkin provide an overview of the challenges faced by providers of subsidized infant and toddler care, including the fact that the care for this age group costs more than the state currently provides through its contracts. Furthermore, the infant/toddler care is underwritten by revenue from the preschool portion of a program. This occurs in non-subsidized programs as well. In addition, state contractors have not had a cost of living adjustment (COLA) since 2007, while expenses have been increasing. AB 273 would supplement infant/toddler contracts by \$2,500 per year per child, which would be helpful, but requires that additional support services be provided.

Under the auspices of the Planning Committee all California Department of Education (CDE) contractors providing infant/toddler care were invited to meet and discuss this proposed legislation. A group of eight administrators agreed that the proposed supplement was insufficient to cover current operating deficits and provide the extra services. The group developed several recommendations, which included taking into consideration all of the supportive services currently provided in these programs as well as the true cost of the care. The discussion and recommendations were documented on a hand-out available at the meeting. The handout will be shared with the Board of the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA), a co-sponsor of the legislation, so that the concerns can be addressed. It was noted that the administrators of infant/toddler programs appreciated the opportunity to meet and would hope that regular convenings could be arranged.

VII. Presentation: Update on the California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan (CCELP)

Laura Escobedo shared that the draft plan is now available and the state has solicited input prior to the it's presentation to the Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC). She noted that the plan placed great emphasis on elements that if implemented would make California's early learning system more coherent and effective. Family engagement and family choice featured prominently, but supporting family choice means providing families with real choices, good service options and the information needed to select among them. The plan encompasses various populations, including expectant mothers, infant toddlers, preschool children, and early elementary school age children.

There are four key systems drivers, including:

- Access to high-quality early learning
- Program level continuous quality improvement
- A great early childhood workforce
- Family engagement

It was suggested that the Planning Committee work groups, if they have time, review the core recommendations and determine if there are any statements the Planning Committee wanted to share as part of public comment.

VIII. New Strategic Plan Work Groups

The newly formed work groups met in break-out sessions to identify co-chairs and select the strategies from the strategic plan that will be implemented first.

IX. Announcement and Public Comment

- Be Well Therapy is available to provide mental health services for young children and their families and to work with providers. Flyers were distributed.

- The invitation to attend Infant/Toddler Curriculum Guideline seminars in English or Spanish have gone out. They are filling up fast. However new ones may be added if there is interest.
- The Low-Income Investment Fund (LIIF) is seeking a Los Angeles County-based professional to staff the Early Care and Education Bridge Fund; job announcement provided.
- On April 22, Project ABC will offer Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) training for \$25. An announcement will be sent via e-mail.
- Día de los Niños is scheduled for April 27, 2013 at Belvedere Park in East Los Angeles.
- All are invited to “like” the Facebook page of Santa Monica College Early Childhood Education.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Joseph and seconded by Lisa Wilkin. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.