



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes - August 31, 2011
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: First 5 LA
750 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Members in Attendance: (32) Lisa Wilkin, Eileen Friscia, Bobbie Edwards, Leticia Colchado, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Deborah Gatti, Peggy Sisson, Pat Mendoza, Dianne Philibosian, Atalaya Sergi, Mary Helen Vasquez, Maria Barron for Norma Amezcua, Deborah Colman, Karla Pleitez Howell, Judy Sanchez, Terri Hess for Tara Henriquez, Julie Taren, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Patrice Wong, Claudine Avila, Joy Cyprian, Peter Huffaker, Sarah Soriano, Yolanda Bosch, Andrea Joseph, Sam Kirk, Michelle Morse, Sandra Parvis, Ricardo Rivera, Adrienne Schoen Gunn, Kathy Schreiner, and Philip Chaio

Guests and Alternates: Ancelma Sanchez, Lloyd Kajikawa, Florence Nelson, Melina Sanchez, Ellen Cervantes, Ben Phan, Melinda Felice, April Morris, Aileen CamCam, and Pam Schmidt

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, opened the meeting at 9:08 a.m. and read the opening statement. She welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share one thing they did during the summer. The Chair introduced Kai Kaiser, facilitator for the beginning of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) strategic planning process.

II. Overview of Current Strategic Plan and Preliminary Needs Assessment Report

The group was presented with an overview of the current Strategic Plan (2003-13), including accomplishments, ongoing efforts and areas where no progress has been made. Between 2003 and 2011, the Planning Committee:

- Initiated the establishment of a quality rating system for Los Angeles County (Steps to Excellence Project (STEP)).
- Developed and disseminated model compensation scales for early care and education classroom personnel and for early care and education directors/managers.
- Supported Constructing Connections LA, which has successfully reduced zoning barriers related to developing child care facilities in some cities and has helped some general plans to include more permissive language related to child care and development.
- Through its resource and referral partners, has seen more coordinated and available training for family child care providers.
- Completed and distributed the results of the Economic Impact Study, which has been widely used in advocating for additional investments in early care and education.
- Implemented a parent education campaign to increase access to subsidized child care and development services.

Some activities are ongoing such as: promoting the integration of early developmental screening into child care and development programs, using all available data to encourage increased public investments, supporting a more cohesive and coordinated system of training and certification, and establishing connections between early care and education services and early intervention, health and mental services.

There were areas where no progress is evident or where the planning committee could not act or identify community partners to work on certain objectives. Included are: expansion of school-age care on elementary campuses, linking quality ratings with higher levels of compensation, increasing

teacher qualifications in Title 22 and Title 5, and increasing the participation of employers in addressing the child development needs of their employees.

Preliminary data was reported for three different groups: children of working parents at all income levels, children of working parents at 75 percent or less of State Median Income, and low income three and four year olds in homes with at least one parent at home. Each group was compared to the available child care and development services available and appropriate to that specific population. Results indicated the shortfall or surplus in spaces or the numbers of children who were likely served or left un-served. Preliminary findings indicate a large shortfall in family child care spaces, particularly for infants and toddlers, as well as a shortage in centers for infants and toddler and for school-age children. While there is still not enough half-day preschool care where it is needed, Los Angeles County is able to serve 70 percent of the population of low income three and four year olds with current programs. The case for children in low-income working families is not as rosy as only 50 percent of all eligible children can be served with current resources.

III. Appreciative Inquiry Process

Kai Kaiser from WestEd led the group in a process to share what is happening for children, families and providers now. She asked smaller table groups to reflect on the larger conversation from the viewpoint of what caught our attention (most intrigued, interested, or inspired). While the participants were still in small groups, she asked them to envision the future in Los Angeles County ten years from now. Each group placed two of their “visions” on the board at the front and then added some additional items that were considered important. As a whole, participants began to cluster the vision statements into like categories. After much discussion, the consensus was that there were three over-arching categories - Quality, Integration/Collaboration, and Access/Availability - that would incorporate all of the visions and that many of the visions were related even if not laid out in the same category.

IV. Next Steps

Laura Escobedo explained that the three categories would determine the work groups that would be formed to flesh out the strategic plan. The October meeting would include training on the use of the Logic Model as a process to help each work group. She asked members to consider volunteering to facilitate one of the work groups during the program year. Karla Pleitez Howell has already volunteered to do so for one of the groups. It was also suggested that each group identify two other participants to assist the facilitator. Proceedings will be sent out to all members with the results of today’s planning session.

V. Announcements

- Terri Hess from Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) announced the recruitment of participants for the ASPIRE (Cares+) stipend program for those not eligible for the Investing in Early Educators – Stipend Program (AB 212). She also reminded the group of the open position for Workforce Initiative Manager.
- Andrea Joseph from the California Children’s Academy announced openings in her subsidized program. She will forward an announcement that can be sent via e-mail.
- Deborah Colman from Families In Schools announced a position opening for a community advocate.

VI. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.