



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee  
Minutes: December 1, 2010  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: The California Endowment  
1000 North Alameda Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Members in Attendance:** (35) Lisa Wilkin, Susan McCombs, Diane Philibosian, Mary Helen Vasquez, Ofelia Medina, Fiona Stewart, John Berndt, Bobbie Edwards, Deborah Gatti, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Richard Cohen, Leticia Colchado, Diana Pinto for Adriana DeLaRosa, Dawn Reid for Jeanette Magee, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia, Joy Cyprian, Celeste Salinas for Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Atalaya Sergi, Peggy Sisson, Michelle Morse, Karla Pleitez, Jenny Trickey, Julie Taren, Patrice Wong, Yolanda Bosch, Claudine Avila for Grace Castro, Deborah Colman, Sam Kirk, Gay Macdonald, Ann Oshiro, Kathleen Pompey, Judy Sanchez, Sarah Soriano, and Tara Enriquez for Randi Wolfe

**Guests and Alternates:** Ancelma Sanchez, Edilma Serna, Pam Schmidt, Brittany Estrada, Barb Holtwick, Ellen Deker, Anita Tetrault, Florence Nelson, Mary Hammer, Kathy Schreiner, Kate Sachnoff, Jonathan Shapiro and Aleece Kelly

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:14 p.m. She welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Chair read the opening statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from the November 3, 2010 Meeting

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the November 3, 2010 minutes. Yolanda Bosch moved to approve; Leticia Colchado seconded. The spelling of a name and the date were noted as corrections. The Chair called for the vote. The motion to approve as amended was passed with no abstentions.**

III. Report from the Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo informed the group that while six agencies had requested additional funds through the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds process, no agencies came forward to release funds. So no transfers were submitted to the California Department of Education (CDE). Other opportunities may occur in January and May of 2011.

The issue of emergency funding to assist CDE contractors when State budgets are delayed remains despite the passage of Proposition 25, which allows the legislature to pass a budget with a simple majority. The Office of Child Care is working with others to develop a fund to address this issue. Conversations with key organizations will continue.

Laura Escobedo provided a brief update on the CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care situation and invited Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) members to add information. Pam Schmidt of Public Counsel described the course of the lawsuit, which was settled with requirements that CDE contractors screen families to determine what they may continue to be eligible for and their preferences in CDE-funded program types. Alternative Payment (AP) Program agency staff are required to hold a lottery for Stage 3 families to determine which children will be enrolled in the few openings that are available at this time. This is complicated for Los Angeles county as there are many contractors offering services in more than one Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) area and there are thousands of families involved. Patti Oblath reported that it appears Stage 3 families are not responding to the latest invitations for assistance, possibly because they have been

bombarded with announcements since mid-October. Leticia Colchado of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) reported on the limited availability of Diversion assistance for child care. Her staff are working with the R&R/AP Program agencies to screen Stage 3 families who have not used up their 60 months on CalWORKS and could be eligible to return to Stage 2 to receive child care. Yolanda Bosch reported that the First 5 LA commission approved funds to be transferred to DPSS for distribution to the AP Program agencies to underwrite the child care for children 0-5 through the end of January. These funds are being processed within DPSS. Delaying enrollments to wait for the lottery may impede earning full contracts.

IV. Approval to Change Amount of Stipend for Family Child Care and Parent Members  
JoAnn Shaloub Mejia reported that because of the 50 percent cut in the Local Planning Council contract for the Planning Committee, the Membership and Policies Work Group has recommended a reduction in the amount of the stipend that is offered to family child care (FCC) providers and parent members for attending meetings. The recommendation is to reduce the stipend by half from \$50 to \$25 for parent members and from \$75 to \$37.50 for FCC members.

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Policies and Membership Work Group. The motion was made by Lisa Wilkin and seconded by Yolanda Bosch. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.**

V. Presentation on California Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Final Report

Laura Escobedo began by providing an overview of the system which is a set of standards, graduated by level of quality, to assess and improve early learning and care programs. The purpose of such a system in California is to link child outcomes with quality improvements in order to positively impact school readiness and reduce the achievement gap in school. The proposed QRIS is a five tier block system that describes standards at the third tier as comparable to Title V standards and at tier five reflective of national accreditation and/or Head Start standards. The plan is to implement the QRIS over five years, starting with a three year pilot in selected communities. Participation will be voluntary with incentives at first and then required participation by all CDE-funded programs. Eventually all licensed programs and providers will be involved. Standardized measurement tools will be used: Program/Business Administration Scale (PAS/BAS); Environmental Rating Scales (ERS); Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS); and Program Assessment Rating Scales (PARS). The pilots will test use of the standardized tools, the frequency of the evaluations, and appropriateness of self versus outside reviews. They will also look at the feasibility of forming local collaboratives to expand resources and incorporating current funding streams.

The rating scale is comprised of five elements: ratios and group sizes, teaching and learning, family involvement, staff education and training, and program leadership. Examples from each of the elements and for each tier were provided. Integration of the infant/toddler and preschool foundations and curriculum frameworks, as well as the teacher competencies developed by the CDE figure prominently in the design of the standards. There is still debate about how much formal education should be required even though the final standards require a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree at the fifth tier.

Unresolved issues and recommendations include:

- Developing a common definition for “toddler”
- Increasing licensing visits

- Developing a California specific early childhood education rating tool that combines all aspects
- Aligning Title 22 requirements related to family communication for both centers and FCCs
- Ensuring training for 0-3 staff is as vigorous as for preschool staff
- Revising and aligning the early childhood education permit matrix and Title 22 requirements with common course of study as proposed in the QRIS report.
- Increasing access to coursework

VI. Discussion: Developing a Map of Quality Resources

This year the Planning Committee will begin a process to identify all the training and technical assistance (TA) resources available that align with the proposed standards in the California QRIS. This is in anticipation of the eventual implementation of a statewide QRIS. The creation of a “map” of training and TA will allow us to identify gaps and overlaps and areas that need to be enhanced in order to be responsive to the needs of all programs and providers attempting to improve the quality of their services. The effort will be focused in the Quality Work Group and will be facilitated by Richard Cohen.

Richard Cohen led a discussion about this activity and elicited ideas that should be considered in mapping these types of resources. The current approach is to develop a survey that could be completed by any group offering training or TA related to meeting the standards of the newly designed QRIS. Suggestions for consideration were noted and will be incorporated into the work of the Quality Work Group. Meeting attendees were asked to contact Richard Cohen at [Cohen.Richard@gmail.com](mailto:Cohen.Richard@gmail.com) or Laura Escobedo.

VII. Presentation: A Policy Agenda for 0-3 Year Olds

Florence Nelson, Senior Policy Analyst for Zero to Three, presented the policy agenda. Florence Nelson provided an overview of the Zero to Three mission and organization. She reviewed commonly accepted concepts: how children feel is as important as how they think or what they are taught; there is greater return on investment when made early on; and very little investment of public dollars is directed at children 0 to 2 years old. She shared Zero to Three’s vision, which includes statements on: infant/toddler health and ability to thrive; readiness to succeed in kindergarten and beyond; access to effective training and support for all parents and caregivers; access to more intensive services for those who need them; systems are in place to ensure services are available at the earliest opportunity when needed; birth to three programs are part of a seamless continuum of early learning supports; funding is available to ensure effective and appropriate services for all families; and the political will exists to expand, rather than erode, policies that support the vision.

There are five policy areas:

- Funding and Regulatory Reform
- Access to Quality
- Family Support and Engagement
- Data
- Early Learning Systems Building

Under each area, Zero to Three has developed short and long term objectives as well as looking at immediate opportunities to effect policy or services, such as the QRIS implementation. Florence Nelson asked those in attendance for their reaction to the statements and elicited some input. She invited people to sign up to be part of an ongoing work group which will focus on infant/toddler policies.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

- Barbara Holtwick of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) reminded everyone about the salmonella and pertussis prevention programs. DPH personnel can train individuals who can then present the information to parent or teacher groups. She invited people to sign up for the trainings.
- Karla Pleitez announced the Capacity Development Work Group meeting scheduled from 10:00 to 12 p.m. on December 6, 2010 at Public Counsel.
- Fran Chasen stated that the Infant Development Association (IDA) is conducting a survey to measure the impact of the cutbacks to the Early Start program. The survey may be accessed from the IDA Web site at [www.ida.cal.org](http://www.ida.cal.org).
- Lisa Wilkin requested the Planning Committee to review the new transition kindergarten legislation and consider the implications.
- Joy Cyprian announced that she had flyers for a rotating tree stand that could be used to display children's work. It was invented by a family child care provider.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Yolanda Bosch moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.