



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes - February 1, 2012 Location:

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

Los Angeles County Child Support Services

5500 South Eastern Avenue

Commerce, CA 90040

**Members in Attendance:** (27) Ofelia Aguilar, Ancelma Sanchez for Lisa Wilkin, Eileen Friscia, Kathleen Pompey, Lloyd Kajikawa for Peggy Sisson, Karla Pleitez Howell, Judy Sanchez, Tara Henriquez, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Patrice Wong, Kate Andersen for Peter Huffaker, Sarah Soriano, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, Kathy Schreiner, John Berndt, Joanne Shalhoub Mejia, Jenny Trickey, Ann Oshiro, Deborah Gatti, Pat Mendoza, Julie Taren, Mary Helen Vasquez, Rocio Bach, Sam Kirk, Ricardo Rivera, and Emilio Sosa

**Guests and Alternates:** Carol Hiestand, Vanessa Mendez, Emily Aguilar, Florence Nelson, Elaine Waldman, Barb Holtwick, Maria Palazzolo, Veronica Torres, and Sarah Mejia

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo, Helen Chavez and Michele Sartell

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:13 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 4, 2012

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes for January 4, 2012. The motion was made by Andrea Joseph and seconded by Jenny Trickey. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed without abstentions.**

III. Update from the Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo provided an update on the approval of the Needs Assessment and Priorities. A public hearing was held on January 11, 2012 and several recommendations were incorporated into the final report. The letter to the Board of Supervisors (the Board) and the reports are in process through the Service Integration Branch and the Chief Executive Office. It is expected to come before the Board at the end of February.

The Office of Child Care, as the administrator of the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP), is a member of the consortia included in the California proposal for the Early Learning Challenge Grant. Staff from the Office of Child Care have attended two meetings with California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) personnel to discuss the state plan and how it is to be implemented locally. More information on specifics related to funding and implementation will be available at future meetings.

IV. Presentation on the Governor's 2012-13 Budget Proposal

Laura Escobedo provided an overview of the policy implications of the Governor's 2012-13 budget proposal. The Governor's vision is to reduce the State's role in providing human services including shrinking income supports and other related services for low-income adults and children: CalWORKs, In Home Support Services, Healthy Families/Medi-Cal, and child care and development. His budget proposal resurrects past issues and divisions:

- Child Care v Child Development
- Work Support v Early Education
- Minimal Regulation v Quality Standards
- Welfare v Non-Welfare

- Short term solutions vs. Long Term Impact

The implications for the child care and development infrastructure are that child care and development services will be an adjunct to welfare only and that the administration of all programs, except part-day State Preschool, would be through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and then local administration through the county welfare departments. There would be less funding and a smaller scope to the services.

Specific proposed budget items would reduce funding as follows:

- Change in eligibility so that fewer families will be eligible for services,
- Use of federal work requirements for all programs except part-day State Preschool, and
- Lower the income ceiling to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (equivalent to 61 percent of the Standard Median Income (SMI)) and use the 2010 SMI, which is lower than the SMI used currently.

Nearly 300,000 children ages zero to 12 will no longer be eligible for any subsidy for child care. Moreover, parents whose need is based on their attending college or job training will have little to no access to subsidized programs for child care.

The proposed budget would reduce reimbursement levels for voucher program providers to 50 percent of the 2009 Regional Market Rate (RMR) ceilings, which would be approximately 10 to 12 percent lower than current rates. The Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) would also be reduced by 10 percent from \$34.38 per day to \$30.94 per day for full day and from \$21.97 per day to \$19.77 per day for part-day State Preschool.

The Governor proposes to restructure the child care and development system in 2013-14 by designating CDSS as the lead agency for federal Child Development Block Grant funds, including quality set aside funds. He proposes to collapse the Alternative Payment Program and CalWORKs Child Care Stages 1, 2, and 3 into a single voucher program and convert current center-based programs (except part-day State Preschool) to voucher-based.

Possible implications for quality child care and development:

- Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) certifies eligibility for all families
- Low income working parents (non-Calworks) would receive the lowest priority for care
- Title 5 center funds would be converted to voucher dollars; Title 5 standards would no longer apply except for part-day State Preschool
- DPSS may not have to use all the funding for child care (single allocation)
- Parent appeals would have to be handled through the administrative law processes
- CDSS may keep the quality funding at the state level and allocate funding toward Community Care Licensing

#### V. Breakouts for Strategic Planning

Those in attendance divided into four reconfigured groups: Quality, Access, Role of Planning Committee, and Workforce. The groups were charged with reviewing goals and beginning to build on these with strategies.

VI. Announcements

Karla Pleitez Howell announced a seminar on Employment Law Issues scheduled for February 24, 2012 at Public Counsel. All child care employers are welcome. For more information, call 213.385.2977.

Staff from the Zimmer Children's Museum informed the group of the field trips available through the museum for early care and education programs. Flyers were on the back table.

Elaine Waldman from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health stated that the Norovirus is going around and brought flyers to alert people and inform them of prevention practices.

Kate Andersen reminded the group of the Californians for Early Education reception on February 16, 2012.

VII. Adjournment

Karla Howell, Chair, called for a motion to adjourn. Mary Helen Vasquez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Andrea Joseph. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.