



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: January 9, 2013
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: LACOE Head Start
10100 Pioneer Boulevard
Santa Fe Springs, CA

Members in Attendance: (29) Lisa Wilkin, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, Beth Hodges, Judy Sanchez, Deborah Colman, Kathy Schreiner, Rosemary Melendez, Edilma Cavazos, Patricia Moreno, Gregory Uba, Nurhan Pirim, Kathleen Pompey, Jennifer Barraza, Ana Campos, Veronica Sanchez for Judy Laureano, Atalaya Sergi, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Sheila Hogan for Nikki Zomorodi, Ofelia Medina, Norma Amezcua, Tauheeda Karim for Rosemary Melendez, Michelle Morse, Dianne Philibosian, Diana Pinto, Julie Taren, Lena Ward, and Elaine Waldman for Alan Wu

Guests and Alternates: Ancelma Sanchez, Steve Erwin, Laura Coehlo, Diana Ramirez, Cynthia Norman, Rosa Valdes, Alex Himmel, and Nicola Edwards

Staff: Laura Escobedo, Helen Chavez and Helia Castellon

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell opened the meeting at 12:22 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

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

Karla Howell asked Judy Sanchez, who actually presented to the Roundtable, to recap the information shared about the implementation of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in Los Angeles County. This is the first of a four year transition for TK and school districts are in various stages of implementation from newly initiating it to expanding what previously had been available at numerous schools before legislation creating TK passed. TK uses credentialed teachers and integrates the preschool learning foundations. Effort is being made in some districts to connection with early care and education providers.

Karla Howell then reported that there is a new First 5 LA Executive Director, Kim Belshé, who is presenting to the Roundtable at its February meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2012

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes for December 5, 2012. The motion was made by Nurhan Pirim and seconded by Pat Mendoza. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

IV. Report from the Joint Committee on Legislation

Kathleen Pompey reported that none of the changes to the child care and development legislative agenda recommended by the Planning Committee or Roundtable were included by Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs in the final County Legislative Agenda submitted to the Board of Supervisors. So the portion of the County's State Legislative Agenda is the same as it was last year. The links to the Planning Committee and Roundtable's Public Policy Platform and County's State Legislative Agenda are available on the Office of Child Care website at www.childcare.lacounty.gov. The Governor will release his 2013-14 budget proposal tomorrow, January 10, 2013. The Joint Committee will review the proposed budget at its meeting scheduled for January 28, 2013 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. All are invited. The Joint Committee will also review any legislation proposed as of that date.

V. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo stated that the meeting schedule with locations for the remainder of the year had been sent via e-mail and copies were available on the back table. She also reminded members and guests that the ad hoc Strategic Planning Work Group met before the meeting and will continue to meet prior to the Planning Committee meeting to finalize the new Strategic Plan. An advisory committee to the Investing in Early Educators – Stipend Program (AB 212) will meet following the Planning Committee meeting to begin consideration of changes to the program's requirements.

VI. Presentation: Updates on Regional Early Care and Education Task Forces

Santa Monica – Julie Taren from the Santa Monica Early Care and Education Task Forces stated that the Task Force was established in 1980 for the purpose of enabling child care providers to advocate with the City. It was first involved with developing a master plan for child care and a child care policy. The Task Force made a conscious decision to remain as such rather than a commission so that its members could be more inclusive with a steering committee made up of the current chairs and representatives from key stakeholder groups, such as the school district, the local Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agency, and RAND corporation. Along with the ongoing policy and advocacy work, they have developed a provider/director work group to address the specific needs of this population and to encourage involvement among this group. Among the accomplishments and activities of the Task Force are: Kindergarten Information Night; obtaining and maintaining oversight over an early mental health grant; and input into development agreements with the City, which increase capacity and subsidies for child care. The Task Force may serve as the hub for the early care and education component of a new Cradle to Careers Initiative within the City. Key issues are sustainability and a need to interest younger professionals in local policy to create new leaders. There also is a new child development center under construction as a lab school for Santa Monica College and the Task Force is on the Planning Group. The Task Force is so much a part of the civic life that they are seen as the “go-to” group for anything related to child care.

Long Beach – Sarah Soriano relayed that the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee began in 1994 as a City initiated group to review the City Plan. It was administered out of the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, but is now an independent community committee. It has successfully obtained a number of grants that have enabled the committee to continue its work as well as take on special projects, such as: public policy and advocacy with the City and beyond; Parents as Leaders (PALs), which provides training enabling parents to advocate for their children; provides input into the City legislative agenda; Kindergarten Festivals, which are in their seventh year; creating a committee website through a grant from the California Community Foundation; and hosting town halls for parents, legislators, and more to discuss current legislative issues. Everyone who is connected to early care and education in Long Beach is around the Committee table. Sarah Soriano said that last year, during the Week of the Young Child, all providers and programs in Long Beach displayed large banners that stated “Children are educated here”. She thought this might be a good thing for all Planning Committee members to do this April.

Southeast Cities – Ofelia Medina of the Alliance for a Better Community shared the development of efforts of the newest regional group, the Southeast Early Care and Education Task Force, which began in 2008 with a focus on the cities of Bell, Bell Gardens, South Gate, Huntington Park, Vernon, Cudahy, and Maywood. The Task Force has been working to build relationships with elected officials and stakeholders in each of the cities mentioned as an attempt to identify a child care champion within each city. To date, the Task Force has facilitated the passage of City resolutions in Huntington Park, South Gate and Bell Gardens. Each city is asked to commit to specific actions that will positively impact the status of early care and education in their respective communities. The Task Force has been instrumental in integrating early care and education language into General

Plans Housing Elements and encouraging cities to review and revise their zoning and building and safety regulations. The Task Force encourages local involvement in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) redistricting plan and has created a brochure for parents and communities about the importance of early education and how to find early care and education providers within the southeast cities. In 2013, the Task Force will continue efforts to have City resolutions, including action items, strengthening connections to LAUSD, and initiating kindergarten fairs.

VII. Presentation: Update on the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC)

Helen Chavez from the Office of Child Care provided an update on STEP. Having adjusted the process for participating in STEP, staff are now looking at the possibility of expanding STEP beyond its current 16 communities. Any program or provider that is interested should contact Helen Chavez at hchavez@ceo.lacounty.gov. CLASS has been added to the standards matrix for centers, although STEP will still use the Adult Involvement Scale for family child care providers. Since the early care and education field is now invested in CLASS, this change is one step toward alignment with the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) system and RTT. STEP also has initiated coaching support through the R&Rs and a Peer Advisor Leader (PAL), which will draw upon experienced providers who have participated in STEP and have a rating of 3, 4 or 5 to work with new providers to STEP. This is an effort to nurture expertise from within the field. There are 100 programs and providers in the pipeline preparing for a STEP evaluation, and new outreach staff continue to recruit.

Alex Himmel from LAUP opened the presentation to RTT-ELC with an overview. The RTT Quality Rating and Improvement System pilot will focus on improving early learning settings to increase access to high quality care and education for children 0-5 years old in high need categories, which includes low income, English language learners, children with special needs, and children in Child Protective Services. The RTT-ELC pilot will extend until December 2015 and will involve 325 programs and providers. Each will be assessed twice and will receive coaching, training and technical assistance, and incentives. LAUP will be working with Head Start sites and some family child care homes; the Office of Child Care will work with all types of providers. While the CDE hopes to move toward an eventual statewide system, in Los Angeles the Office of Child Care and LAUP have committed to morphing into the quality rating and improvement system of each by the end of the RTT-ELC pilot so that there is one for all of Los Angeles County.

The current quality matrix was presented and both presenters spoke to the fact that there had been many changes since the first version was presented to the consortium participating in the RTT pilot. The expertise and experience of both STEP and LAUP have helped inform the version that will be implemented statewide. There are three core categories: Child Development and School Readiness; Teachers and Teaching; and Programs and Environment. Points are assigned to each scale separately and summed up for a final rating. Approximately a third of all classrooms on a site will be evaluated and the ratings among these will determine the rating for that site. All family child care homes will have on site evaluations. The matrix includes indicators related to child observations, developmental and health screenings, lead teacher/family child care qualifications, ratios and group sizes, and director qualifications (centers). CLASS and the Environment Rating Scales are used.

Both the Office of Child Care and LAUP will continue to provide periodic updates to the Planning Committee.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

- Elaine Waldman and Laura Coelho of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health provided information on the latest flu outbreaks. Elaine Waldman also noted the availability of the new photo-novela developed to educate children, parents and the community about the dangers of salmonella as transmitted by pet turtles. She has several boxes of 400 each that she would like to distribute to child care providers to share with staff, children and families. Training on this issue also is available for staff or parent groups.
- Lisa Wilkin reminded members and guests that the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) is holding a video conference/meeting on January 18, 2013 at the California Community Foundation. The meeting will focus on the Governor's 2013-14 budget proposals. Flyers were made available.
- Laura Escobedo referred to two of the meeting handouts developed for the purpose of supporting advocacy to maintain the child care and development system. She urged all present to draw from the documents as they prepare letters and statements, and visit legislators in the coming months.
- Deborah Coleman of Families In Schools announced the launch of the Preschool Million Dollar Word Challenge meant to encourage reading in the months of February and March. There will be \$50 certificates for each participating program. An e-mail announcement will be sent.
- Sarah Soriano announced the next Kindergarten Festival scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2013 in Long Beach.

IX. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Andrea Joseph and seconded by Sarah Soriano. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:114 p.m.