



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes – June 6, 2012
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: PACE Head Start Training Center
1254 Goodrich Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Members in Attendance: (26) Ancelma Sanchez for Lisa Wilkin, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Peggy Sisson, Karla Pleitez Howell, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, John Berndt, Joanne Shalhoub Mejia, Deborah Gatti, Julie Taren, Rocio Bach, Dianne Philibosian, Adrienne Schoen Gunn, Terri Hess for Tara Henriquez, Judy Sanchez, Atalaya Sergi, Deborah Coleman, Pat Mendoza, Sarah Soriano, Jenny Trickey, Fiona Stewart for Eileen Friscia, Peter Huffaker, Ofelia Medina, Gay Macdonald for Kathy Schreiner, Patti Oblath, and Ann Oshiro

Guests and Alternates: Nadia Varela, Lorena Gallardo Gomez, Leora Riley, and Pat Salgado

Staff: Laura Escobedo, Michele Sartell and Helen Chavez

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2012

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes for May 2, 2012. The motion was made by Pat Mendoza and seconded by Adrienne Schoen Gunn. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

III. Update from the Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo said there is a real possibility of a loan/repayable grant fund available to California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) contractors by the end of June. It is meant to assist with cash flow when the state budget is late or when reimbursements are delayed. Loan amounts will be capped and the time period for repayment is short. Initial funding is provided by the California Community Foundation, which is working with staff from First 5 LA in the hopes of expanding the fund. Once approvals are completed, more specific information about eligibility will become available.

IV. Update on the Proposed State Budget Development

Laura Escobedo provided a brief overview of changes in the May Revise Budget proposal, which is still presenting cuts of \$400 million from the total Child Development Budget. The May revise:

1. Rescinds the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) cut to half day State Preschool; increases spaces statewide by 15,000 by using funds taken from the proposed Transitional Kindergarten implementation.
2. Retains minimum work requirements but allows for two years of school or job training.
3. Continues restructuring child care and development by bifurcating the half preschool from all other programs. Preschool would remain in Prop 98; all other programs, including quality projects, would be administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and locally by county welfare offices. Local welfare offices may contract with center-based (i.e. current Title V operators) for three years and then all funding would be vouchers.
4. Reduces payments to providers through Stages 1, 2 and 3 and the Alternative Payment (AP) Program to 40 percent of Regional Market Rates (RMR) based on the 2005 RMR study. The study, however, did not calculate 40 percent, so the Department of Finance (DOF) is only estimating savings. The Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) network estimated that payments at the 50 percent level of RMR would mean average reductions in payments of

\$225 per month for infants in centers, \$228 less for preschoolers in centers, and \$135 and \$97 respectively less for family child care providers. This amounts to 14 to 31 percent of current monthly reimbursement levels.

5. Continues the 10 percent reduction to the SRR for Title V funded centers.
6. Continues the lowered income eligibility level of 200 percent of federal poverty level (61 percent of the State Median Income (SMI)).

Due to the effort of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) to propose a recommended position through the Policy Roundtable for Child Care that the Board of Supervisors oppose the administrative restructuring, the issue was taken up by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' Office, Second District. The Supervisor brought a motion directly before the Board to recommend that CDE retain the programs, but that CDE be directed to explore all possible changes to streamline and improve the current system. The motion passed unanimously and was touted in Sacramento. It could have a great impact on the ultimate outcome of the proposal.

V. Approval of the 2012-13 Membership and Election of Officers

JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia presented the recommended roster of members for 2012-13. She explained that the Second Supervisorial District was in process of selecting a representative and may select someone from among the proposed membership, in which case the Membership and Policies Work Group has identified a first alternate to fill any gap due to the Second District's choice.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the recommended roster. Peggy Sisson moved and Deborah Gatti seconded. The motion was approved without abstentions.

JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia presented the nomination for Chair, Karla Pleitez Howell, and asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Peggy Sisson moved to close the nominations; was seconded by Dianne Philibosian. Adrienne Schoen Gunn moved to approve the nomination; the motion was seconded by Sarah Soriano. The vote was taken and Karla Howell was elected to serve as Chair for the next two years.

JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia presented the nomination for Vice Chair, Andrea Joseph, who would serve for one year. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Dianne Philibosian moved to close nominations; was seconded by Peggy Sisson. A motion to approve the nomination was made by Sarah Soriano and seconded by Ofelia Medina. The vote was taken and Andrea Joseph was elected to serve as Vice Chair for the next year.

VI. Presentation: The Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Consortium

Terri Hess, Director of Workforce and Professional Development at Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), spoke of the many partners involved in the largest ECE workforce project in the country. Along with LAUP, partners include many two and four year colleges, the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP), R&Rs, and the County Office of Education. It is funded by First 5 LA and includes the following projects:

Workforce Initiative Projects – creates an ECE pipeline beginning with high school students, taking them through two year and then four year colleges toward degrees.

ASPIRE – provides a stipend/incentive for ECE personnel to continue their education.

Gateways – provides a coordinated series of training to ECE providers and both quality and career coaching.

ECE Professional Learning Communities Project – prepares elementary school principals and Transitional Kindergarten teachers for providing developmentally appropriate programs and connects them to ECE programs in each school's community.

STEP – provides a quality rating and improvement to county centers/providers and links participants with R&R coaching.

PEACH – aims to create a Bachelor of Arts program and credential in ECE, establish a Ph.D. or Ed.D. in ECE leadership, and create ECE trainers' certification criteria.

ECE Registry Pilot Project – establishes a statewide data collection and tracking system for the ECE workforce.

Three additional projects funded by First 5 LA are working with the Consortium. They include: Project Vistas which supports continuing college education for Spanish-speaking and Mandarin-speaking providers; ECE Works, which will coordinate a public information campaign targeting businesses to create more support for better compensation policies for ECE; and the ZERO TO THREE Competencies Project aimed at identifying, promulgating, and supporting integration of competencies related to working with children 0-3 years old across service sectors.

For more information about the Consortium or any of its projects, contact Terri Hess at thess@laup.net.

VII. Strategic Planning Work Groups

Laura Escobedo directed the break out into separate work groups to continue evolving the new strategic plan. She asked the group facilitators to review the new worksheets as they contained the comments, questions and suggestions from the full group discussion in May.

VIII. Announcements

Public Counsel is hosting two events in June. The first is a quarterly meeting of the Constructing Connections Collaborative on June 21, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and featuring a presentation by Professor Ed Avol of the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. Professor Avol will present on "Air Quality in Los Angeles and Its Impact on Children and Implications for Child Care". Flyers are available and will be sent from the Office of Child Care.

The second event is a statewide webinar on land use issues affecting the development of ECE facilities. The webinar is scheduled for June 29, 2012 at 10:00 am. Flyers are available and will be sent from the Office of Child Care.

Peter Huffaker shared some of the election outcomes highlighting candidates that were supported by the CSEE group.

The University of California Los Angeles is seeking an experienced director to fill a newly opened position. Job announcements are available.

Adrienne Schoen Gunn noted that because of new safety regulations, old cribs can no longer be used.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Peter Huffaker and seconded by Sarah Soriano. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.