



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: March 6, 2013
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

Members in Attendance: (34) Lisa Wilkin, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, Beth Hodges, Kathy Schreiner, Rosemary Melendez, Patricia Moreno, Gregory Uba, Nurhan Pirim, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Jennifer Barraza, Lindsey Hanlon for Ana Campos, Atalaya Sergi, Joann Mejia Shalhoub, Nikki Zomorodi, Ofelia Medina, Norma Amezcua, Dianne Philibosian, Diana Pinto, Darlene Cabrera, Jennifer Kuida, Sarah Soriano, Fiona Stewart, Rachelle Pastor, Edilma Cavazos, Richard Cohen, Flor Perez for Debra Colman, Karla Howell, Veronica Sanchez for Judy Laureano, Pat Mendoza, Michelle Morse, Julie Taren, Lena Ward, and Elaine Waldman for Alan Wu

Guests and Alternates: Sheila Hogan, Ancelma Sanchez, Tauheeda Karim, Kathryn Edwards, Taylor Dudley, Tessa Charnofsky, Tahra Goraya, Christina Negrelli, Jenny Trickey, Cynthia Mendez, Peggy Sisson, Diana Ramirez, Nora Grania-Roselli, Steve Erwin, Melina Sanchez, Lloyd Kajikawa, Cyndi McCauley, Carolyn Wong, Holly Daasnes, Patricia Herrera, Norayma Cabot, and April Smith

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell, Chair, opened the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting at 12:06 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2013

The Chair called for a motion to approve the February 6, 2013 minutes. The motion was made by Lisa Wilkin and seconded by Sarah Soriano. The motion passed with two abstentions.

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

Karla Howell reported that Kim Belshé, the new Executive Director of First 5 LA, spoke to the Roundtable. Ms. Belshé described the process of evaluation that First 5 LA is undergoing as “listening, learning, and leading”. She and her staff are meeting with many stakeholders to hear what is working and what needs to be changed. She shared the limitations and challenges that First 5 LA faces, including diminishing revenues. She engaged in a dialogue with those attending the Roundtable meeting, which included some feedback on the Best Start initiative and the needs of early care and education in Los Angeles County.

IV. Report from the Joint Committee on Legislation

Greg Uba reported in Kathleen Pompey’s absence. He shared the latest legislative report matrix and indicated that the Joint Committee had prioritized newly introduced legislation by a 1, 2, or 3 or a watch designation. The Joint Committee will be tracking these as well as progress on the State budget.

V. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo introduced proposed changes to the Investing in Early Educators – Stipend Program (AB 212). An ad hoc work group met twice to consider changes proposed by staff due to changing conditions in the field and an interest in linking this program more closely to the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The proposed changes were: 1) to allow workers who do not yet hold a child development permit to participate in order to obtain the permit. Participation for

two years without the permit would be allowed; in the third year they must have the permit; and 2) to pilot, on a small scale, using the Stipend Program to support team training at specific child care and development centers. The content of the training would relate to QRIS standards. The Stipend Program would help underwrite the cost of the training or would pay for on-site follow-up with the staff after the training is completed. Examples of training that may be considered included the WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC), the Strengthening Families Approach, and the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS). While there is much work remaining to develop this pilot, staff wanted to get the approval of the Planning Committee to include the team training concept in the plan that is due to California Department of Education (CDE).

After discussion about what should be considered in developing the team training concept, the Chair called for a motion. Greg Uba moved to accept the proposed changes as outlined. Carol Hiestand seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with three abstentions.

The Planning Committee work groups will continue to be involved in further development of the team training approach.

VI. Approval of the Final Draft of the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan

Laura Escobedo said that the effort had taken 18 months and involved all the members and many other stakeholders. The Planning Committee had previously approved a five year period for the Plan as opposed to the 10 year period for the last plan. The Proposed Strategic Plan for 2013-18 has four main goals: Quality, Access, the Role of the Planning Committee, and Workforce. The focus of the Quality Goal is the QRIS effort being implemented in Los Angeles County through the Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) and Race To the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC). The Planning Committee will serve as the formal stakeholder group for RTT-ELC, a requirement of that initiative. The Quality Work Group will become the advisory group for QRIS efforts as issues, ideas, concerns arise. Once approved, the plan will be presented to the Superintendent of Public Schools and the Board of Supervisors for their endorsements.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the Final Draft Strategic Plan for 2013-18. Dianne Philibosian moved and Judy Sanchez seconded. The Chair called for the vote. The Motion passed with one abstention.

VII. Presentation: Public Policy Agendas

Representatives from several local and/or statewide organizations were invited to present the current public policy agendas of their respective organizations.

ZERO TO THREE: Tahra Goraya, Director of Western Office, reported that ZERO TO THREE is working to create baby champions who can speak to the comprehensive needs of the 0-3 population in many arenas. Specifically, the organization is focused on:

1. Preserving infant/toddler spaces in subsidized care through AB 273 (Rendon), which would increase funding and address the need for services.
2. Meeting the training needs of social workers who work with vulnerable infants and toddlers and their families.
3. Preserving the California School Age Families Education (Cal-SAFE) program in California.

ZERO TO THREE's federal agenda is available on their website at www.zerotothree.org. The organization will be monitoring the impacts of sequestration from a social justice perspective.

Children Now: Melina Sanchez spoke of the Children's Movement, a pro-kid platform for all issues for children 0-18 years. Specifically the organization is focused on:

1. Restoring the reductions to the State child care and development budget.
2. Retaining the child care and development system in the CDE.
3. Engaging policymakers on the quality issues with information about RTT-ELC and promoting the new Desired Results Developmental Profile: School Readiness (DRDP-SR) tool, which can help create alignment between preschool, transitional kindergarten and kindergarten.
4. Promoting developmental screenings through regulatory changes to reimbursement policies in the Affordable Care Act.
5. Expanding home visitation opportunities through federal funding.
6. Exploring funding for early mental health services through a tax on ammunition.

California Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Network: Fiona Stewart of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles presented on behalf of the California Child Care R&R Network, which is focused on promoting family economic stability by improving access to child care and development, especially for infant/toddlers. Specifically the organization's efforts include:

1. Greater access to R&R services to improve families' choices.
2. Accessible/affordable child care, which means supporting current providers to maintain a comprehensive and strong infrastructure and funding to meet the needs.
3. Reasonable family fees.
4. Restoration of funding to the child care and development budget.
5. Promote the connection between early education and child care and that quality is important.

California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA): Lisa Wilkin presented a platform developed through a consensus of statewide organizations. Specifically the platform includes:

1. Retain child care and development in the CDE.
2. Achieve a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for CDE programs; the lack of a COLA has resulted in an effective 10 percent decrease in operating funds.
3. Preserve Cal-SAFE.
4. Fully fund CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care.
5. Repeal family fees for State Preschool.
6. Use current market rates in determining reimbursements and current State Median Income (SMI) in determining family income eligibility.
7. Put child care and development programs back into the Prop 98 guarantee.
8. Maintain the state's investments in quality supports for child care and development.
9. Restore the \$1 billion in reductions to the child care and development system.
10. Support legislation that would increase the reimbursements for infant/toddler care (AB 273 (Rendon)).

First 5 LA: Tessa Charnofsky of the Public Policy division at First 5 LA stated that the Commission's policy agenda does not vary from year to year since it is based on the four primary goals and 10 strategies articulated in their Strategic Plan. There are also 30 grantees receiving about \$18 million to conduct policy and advocacy activities within the scope of the Strategic Plan. Other specific issues that First 5 LA is reviewing include:

1. Opposing sequestration.
2. Working with the LA Compact to support separate funding for Cal-SAFE.
3. AB 273 (Rendon), which would require higher reimbursement and more services for infant/toddler care.
4. AB 290 (Alejo), which would require nutrition training for licensed providers.

VIII. Membership Recruitment for 2013-14

JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia reminded current members to reapply and to seek out potential new members. The deadline for application submission is May 9, 2013.

IX. Announcements and Public Comment

- Karla Howell announced the first of several webinars that Public Counsel was conducting for child care programs and providers. The topic, Child Abuse Reporting, is scheduled for April 18, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Julie Taren stated that the City of Santa Monica was participating in the National Mayor's Challenge. The city is developing a well-being index to use in gauging the effects of city environment and supports. There is an opportunity to support Santa Monica by voting in the Huffington Post Challenge. The deadline is today and it may help the city win the \$5 million from the Bloomberg Foundation to implement its well-being index.
- Elaine Waldman spoke of the necessity for anyone born between 1945 and 1965 to get a one-time test for Hepatitis C, which is a public health concern.
- Taylor Dudley with the Alliance for Children's Rights stated that the organization is looking at access to child care and development among foster care children. She would like to speak to anyone with experience working with foster children and child care and development.
- Ancelma Sanchez announced a Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) event at the Central Library in downtown Los Angeles for March 23, 2013. It will be a workshop on getting children to read. Also on April 13th is a seminar on leadership for early childhood professionals at East LA College.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Pompey and seconded by Ofelia Medina. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.