



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: May 4, 2011

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location:

LA County Department of Public Works

900 South Fremont Avenue

Alhambra, CA 91803

**Members in Attendance:** (26) Lisa Wilkin, Ofelia Medina, Fiona Stewart, Bobbie Edwards, Elvie Matias for Leticia Colchado, Jeanette Magee, Patrice Wong, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Deborah Gatti, Joann Shalhoub Mejia, Peggy Sisson, Jenny Trickey, Joy Cyprian, Sam Kirk, John Berndt, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Dianne Philibosian, Atalaya Sergi, Mary Helen Vasquez, Ofelia Aguilar, Norma Amezcua, Fran Chasen for Richard Cohen, Andrea Joseph, and Holly Reynolds

**Guests and Alternates:** Ancelma Sanchez, Ritu Mahajan, Brittany Estrada, Vanessa Mendez, Patricia Salgado, Kathy Schreiner, Lou Orr, and Johanna Kichaven

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. She welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Chair read the opening statement.

II. Update on Best Start LA

Randi Wolfe, newly appointment Director of the Best Start LA initiative, provided context to the update of this place-based First 5 LA project by reminding the group that the state legislature had just passed a budget bill that claimed 50 percent of all First 5 Commission reserves. In the case of Los Angeles, that would be \$424 million. This has forced the commission to review the fund allocations made in the last year and will impact all programs, including Best Start. In, addition annual revenue has been decreasing from \$150 million to about \$80-90,000 per year. Best Start was originally allocated \$500,000,000 over five years; it will now receive about \$200,000,000 over four years.

After a hiatus early in the year, the community meetings in each of the 14 Best Start communities have started up again. The goal is to create a community partnership that will be the decision-making structure within each community. There are four major goals of the First 5 LA Strategic Plan: children born healthy, children have healthy weight, children are safe, and children are ready for school. The efforts in each of the Best Start communities will be framed by these goals, yet can address more specific issues in ten program categories, including early childhood education. In addition to starting up the community meetings again, there will be Academies focused on training parents/residents. There may be some funding available in the summer for 'jumpstart' projects determined by each community partnership. First 5 LA will serve as fiscal agent with each community partnership. Randi Wolfe may be reached at [www.beststartla.org](http://www.beststartla.org) or at (213) 482-7803.

III. Approval of Minutes from the April 6, 2011 meeting

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the April 6, 2011 minutes. Lisa Wilkin made the motion; the motion was seconded by Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with one abstention.**

IV. Report from the Office of Child Care: AB 212 Investing in Early Educators Program Update

Laura Escobedo provided data on Cycle 12, which will wrap up by June 30, 2011. There were 2,284 applications, of which 2,079 were from center-based staff and 205 (nine percent) representing individuals working in family child care homes. Of the 2,211 verifications that were sent to all eligible participants, 1,662 were returned and of those, 1,578 will receive stipends. This is less than last year's total of 1,930 stipends awarded. The stipend program budget was reduced by 22 percent for

2010-11, but because of the fewer number of eligible participants, we anticipate stipend payments similar to payments made in Cycle 11. One hundred five degree stipends will be awarded during Cycle 12, which is only 55 percent of what were awarded in the previous cycle.

V. The Southeast Cities Early Childhood Education (ECE) Task Force

Brittany Estrada with Alliance for Better Communities (ABC) described the establishment of a regional task force focused on the communities of Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, Maywood, Huntington Park, Vernon, and South Gate. This area was identified as having a tremendous unmet need for early care and education services. In addition, many families qualify for subsidized care but have not accessed it. ABC partners include Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), Public Counsel, and the Office of Child Care. A proposal to establish an ECE Task Force was presented to the Southeast Cities Schools Coalition, which approved the concept and has participated in the ECE Task Force. Since then, partners have outreached to residents, child care operators, city officials and other stakeholders. The first meeting was held in August 2010. The ECE Task Force is aligning its efforts with other community efforts such as Best Start LA for which ECE Task Force members have been doing community outreach.

The ECE Task Force has four primary goals: 1) Increase awareness of ECE among the many stakeholders; 2) Support initiatives and policies that increase the supply of ECE in the region; 3) Enhance the quality of ECE services and resources (i.e. Steps to Excellence Project (STEP)); and 4) Task Force sustainability. The Task Force hopes to impact the conditions in the Southeast cities in the following ways: 1) Connecting elected officials to the ECE community; 2) Improving the educational outcomes for children; 3) Informing elected officials of the ECE issues for the region; 4) Serving as a communication network for providers; and 5) Increasing the availability of ECE resources for families. Laura Escobedo stated that the impact of successful ECE task forces is tremendous (ex. Long Beach and Santa Monica), and that creating these task forces can be a strategy in achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan.

VI. Presentation: California Immunization Registry (CAIR)

Johanna Kickhaven of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health introduced the CAIR. There are over 1,000 sites using CAIR and over 2,000,000 child immunization records on file in CAIR. She encouraged all early childhood programs to participate by helping to promote CAIR with their colleagues and with the families in their programs/homes. The benefit to care providers is the ability to pull out a child's immunization record from the system when enrolling a child or updating a child's file. Parents must sign a release form to allow their information to be added. Training and access to CAIR is free to all child care providers and programs. The system is password protected and all information is handled confidentially. For more information, Johanna Kickhaven can be contacted at (213) 351-7490 or at [jkichhave@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:jkichhave@ph.lacounty.gov).

VII. Needs Assessment Data Update

Laura Escobedo explained that the data needed to update the needs assessment is being gathered or entered into the analysis spreadsheets. The work is being done by the Office of Child Care on behalf of the Planning Committee, LAUP, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start-State Preschool Programs. She hopes to have some preliminary reports to present to the Planning Committee by June and final reports in late summer.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

- Lisa Wilkin spoke to a legislative resolution introduced by Senator Price in support of Early Childhood Education. No support has been raised for the resolution. What role could the Planning Committee play? In addition, the issue of a 10 percent reduction to the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) is still in the second budget bill and there needs to be much greater

advocacy in order to stop it. She suggested those interested meet to go over strategy. Laura Escobedo explained how slow the County is in reviewing and approving positions so that the Planning Committee can act. This means that on these issues, each individual must act on his/her own.

- Fran Chasen stated that the Department of Developmental Services is holding public hearings on their plans to cut services in light of the budget proposals. One is scheduled to take place at the Ronald Reagan State building on May 5, 2011. There is a policy Forum in Carson; flyers were on the table.
- Members and interested others were reminded to submit their application for membership for 2011-12 by May 9, 2011. In addition, no nominations for Vice Chair had been received.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Sam Kirk made the motion; Carol Hiestand seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.