



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: September 5, 2012
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: The California Endowment
1000 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Members in Attendance: (36) Lisa Wilkin, Karla Pleitez Howell, Andrea Joseph, Sandra Parvis, Ana Campos, Joanne Shalhoub Mejia, Beth Hodges, Dianne Philibosian, Terri Hess, Judy Sanchez, Deborah Colman, Pat Mendoza, Sarah Soriano, Fiona Stewart, Peter Huffaker, Gay Macdonald for Kathy Schreiner, Judy Laureano, Norma Amezcua, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Jennifer Barraza, Darlene Cabrera, Edilma Cavazos, Andrea Joseph, Jennifer Kuida, Rosemary Melendez, Patricia Moreno, Michelle Morse, Diana Pinto, Sarah Soriano, Gregory Uba, Nelli Walker, Lena Ward, Randi Wolfe, Alan Wu, Nikki Zomorodi and Nurhan Pirim

Guests and Alternates: Ancelma Sanchez, Pat Salgado, Rocio Bach, Jenny Trickey, Mariana Arellano-Renteria, Cynthia Sun, Tauheedau Karim, Ed Sudario, Steve Erwin, Robert Beck, Diana Ramirez, and Sheila Hogan

Staff: Laura Escobedo, Michele Sartell

I. Welcome and Introductions

Karla Howell, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2012

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes for June 6, 2012. The motion was made by Andrea Joseph and seconded by Lisa Wilkin. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with two abstentions.

III. Update from the Office of Child Care

The bridge loan/repayable grant fund mentioned at the June meeting was finally launched in July. Four agencies applied; two followed through with documentation and were awarded \$200,000 each to be repaid by the end of this fiscal year. The fund is meant to assist with cash flow when the state budget is late or when reimbursements are delayed. The initial funding of \$1,000,000 was provided by the California Community Foundation and then matched by funds from First 5 LA. This fund will be available throughout 2013 and can hopefully support more contractors in the transition between fiscal years.

IV. Consideration of a Name Change for the Child Care Planning Committee

The public policy debates this past year highlighted the continued lack of understanding about the fact that child care and child development are not intended to be two different types of services. Child care and development serves both the child's developmental needs and supports families. Given that the term child care seems to connote minimum care and no educational standards, many organizations are reconsidering the terminology they use. This includes the Office of Child Care and Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable). The Roundtable will take up the issue of a formal name change at its September meeting. The Planning Committee was asked if it wants to consider its own name in order to be more aligned with the Roundtable and to convey the fuller meaning of child care and development in its title. After some discussion, it was determined that a small ad hoc group would meet to discuss an option to be presented to the Planning Committee in the next few months.

V. Approval of Changes to the 2013 Child Care and Development Policy Platform

Michele Sartell explained that annually the Joint Committee on Legislation reviews the current policy agenda and recommends changes, which are then presented to the Planning Committee and the Roundtable for approval. The Planning Committee and Roundtable's child care policy platform document, comprised of numbered statements and bulleted explanations, is integrated into the County's policy agenda, however only the numbered statements are in the County's document. The bullet statements were crafted to provide clarity of the intent of each policy agenda statement. The policy agenda, once adopted by the Board, provides the platform for taking positions related to legislation and the budget.

There is a new item (Item 1) that was inserted to articulate a position supporting the alignment of early care and education with the California Department of Education as opposed to having partial funding devolve down to County welfare departments. This item provides the rationale for recommending that the Board of Supervisors oppose administrative restructuring and gives a green light to the County lobbyist to speak to this issue in Sacramento. Item 10, which deals with access to early care and education services for vulnerable populations, was discussed at length. While there were no changes to the numbered statement, there were three alternates for the bulleted explanation related to CalWORKS families. There was much discussion which included concepts of parental choice, quality for all children, cost limitations, etc.

The Chair asked the Planning Committee to consider the major changes individually. A motion was made to retain the original bulleted statement under Item 10; it was seconded by Judy Sanchez. The chair called for a hand vote. The motion failed 12 (for) to 18 (against).

Gregory Uba moved to approve the alternative bullet #2; it was seconded by Diane Philibosian. Following further discussion, the Chair called for a vote. The motion to approve Alternate #2 in place of the original bullet was approved 20 (for) to 3 (against) with 1 abstention.

The chair then called for a motion regarding the new item (#1). Peter Huffaker moved to approve the new Item 1; Lisa Wilkin seconded it. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with 1 abstention.

The changes approved by the Planning Committee will be forwarded as recommendations to the Roundtable, which will have final approval before the Public Policy Platform is forwarded to the Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs office.

VI. Introduction of New Members

The Chair asked each new member to introduce themselves and share what each considered to be their biggest issue at this time. The following are the responses:

- Food safety in child care facilities since younger children are very susceptible to food poisoning
- Need to continually be a voice for infants and toddlers
- Professional development and need to raise qualifications among teachers and providers
- Alignment of early care and education with the K-12 system
- Communicating importance of early care and education to those outside the field
- Funding to support quality services and professional development
- Taking a different approach in programs (funded and non-funded) to emphasize life skills
- Funding to ensure preschool is included in school district services
- Promoting access to professional development and preserving funding to pay for care
- Access to quality care in ALL communities
- More emphasis on parent engagement

- Our field is not mad enough yet to make a difference in policy
- Preserving and increasing funding for early care and education
- Connect with other agencies and other services to meet family needs

VII. Strategic Planning Update

Laura Escobedo provided an overview of the work that has been done to date. The timeline includes having a final draft that can be presented to the full Planning Committee for approval in January and to have the final endorsement of the Board and the Superintendent of Public Schools by June 2013.

Workgroups will continue to meet either before or after the regular Planning Committee meeting. A calendar will be sent out with the dates and times. Andrea Joseph was able to provide an update for the Workforce Work Group, which met just before the Planning Committee. Karla Howell urged members to continue their work with the Local Planning Council Role Work Group.

VIII. Public Comment and Announcements

- Laura Escobedo provided a notice of the upcoming California Comprehensive Early Learning Plan (CCELP) process, which includes a stakeholders meeting in October. The Planning Committee also will consider conducting its own stakeholder meeting to add to the input from the October meeting. To participate, individuals must register online at <http://glenpricegroup.com/ccelp>. An on-line survey is also available.
- LA Valley College is sponsoring two events featuring Barry Brazelton and Touchpoints: 1) a Friday event for early care and education leaders; and 2) a Saturday event for parents and teachers. For more information or to register, visit huffgf@lavc.edu.
- Ana Campos from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start announced that LACOE is leading an initiative to encourage fathers and other male relatives to become more involved in early childhood programs. Monday October 1, 2012 is "Take Your Child to Preschool Day". She passed out flyers and encouraged other programs to hold similar events at their locations. Materials related to holding an event can be obtained from LACOE by calling (562) 940-1770.
- The Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) is hosting a hot topic night on September 20, 2012 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. in West Los Angeles. The charge is \$15 and includes dinner. Flyers with registration information were made available.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Rachele Pastor and seconded by Lisa Wilkin. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.