



County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee



Background

The first local child care planning efforts were launched in 1991 as a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 2141 (Chapter 1187, Statutes of 1991), which created Local Child Care Planning Councils in each county. The Board of Supervisors authorized the convening of the County of Los Angeles Child Care and Development Block Grant Planning Council in response to the legislation. The Council's purpose was to establish priorities for the allocation of Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds (CCDBG). The Council held seven regional meetings involving over 400 individuals. These meetings resulted in a statement of priorities, which formed the basis for the distribution of millions of dollars in new child care funding for the region.

AB 2141 also authorized these local councils to determine local child care needs, and to prepare a Countywide child care plan. In July 1992, the Board of Supervisors delegated the responsibility for Countywide child care planning to the Council, through the Board-appointed Child Care Advisory Board. In response to this broader charge, the Council changed its name to the Child Care Planning Committee in January of 1993.

In 1997, AB 1542 (Chapter 270, Statutes of 1997) heralded the advent of welfare reform in California. While creating and defining California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), the legislation also strengthened and broadened the role of the local planning councils.

Mandates of AB 1542

- Establish priorities for State-funded child care and development services;
- Conduct a Countywide needs assessment at least once every five years;
- Conduct periodic reviews of child care programs funded by the Department of Education (CDE) and Department of Social Services to see if priorities are being met;
- Collaborate with child care providers, human service agencies, County departments, parent groups, and others to meet local child care needs;

- Design a system to consolidate local child care eligibility lists Countywide;
- Develop a comprehensive Countywide plan for child care; and
- Coordinate part-day Head Start and State Preschool programs with full-day child care.

Mission

The mission of the County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee is to engage parents, child care providers, allied organizations, community, and public agencies in collaborative planning efforts to improve the overall child care infrastructure of the County of Los Angeles, including the quality and continuity, affordability, and accessibility of child care and development services for all families.

The Child Care Planning Committee works collaboratively with other County planning groups, including:

- ✓ Policy Roundtable for Child Care
- ✓ Children's Planning Council
- ✓ First 5 LA Commission

The Office of Child Care, within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Administrative Office, County of Los Angeles, supports the work of the Child Care Planning Committee. Within this branch of County government, the Child Care Planning Committee is positioned to work with County departments, as well as the above-mentioned groups, to improve the lives of children and families in Los Angeles.

Meeting Schedule

The Child Care Planning Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., at various sites throughout the County. Two times each year, the regular business meeting is held at a community site in the evening or on a Saturday to facilitate the participation of parents and providers.

The public is welcome to attend all Child Care Planning Committee meetings and to participate in its Work Groups. Please contact the Office of Child Care to verify the date, location, and time of meetings, or visit the Web Site at: <http://cao.co.la.ca.us/ccp/default.htm>.

Accomplishments 1991-2003

- Conducted an assessment of Countywide child care supply in 1995 and in 1997. A more extensive assessment of supply and demand, as well as factors affecting availability, accessibility, and quality, was completed in 2000;
- Facilitated the successful implementation of the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Service's (DCFS) child care contract (1996), and co-hosted training with DCFS on providing care for children whose families are in the child welfare system (1997);
- Developed, produced, and distributed a quarterly publication, *Child Care Planning Report*, to over 2,000 Los Angeles County providers and community contacts (1992-2003). These publications are available at: <http://cao.co.la.ca.us/ccp/default.htm>;
- Worked with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services to increase the utilization of Aid to Families with Dependent Children-linked child care services, and in planning for welfare reform (1994-96);
- Developed formulas for determining high-need areas (zip codes) in the County of Los Angeles in order to establish priorities for allocation of new State or Federal child care subsidy funds (1991-2001);
- Drafted a comprehensive Strategic Plan based on the 2000 Needs Assessment, identifying outcomes and goals related to increased capacity, improved quality, enhanced qualifications and compensation for providers, increased accessibility and affordability, and improved systems of information and service to families and providers (2000-2002). The Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors in September 2003.
- Produced a guide for collaboration between Head Start, State Preschool, and other child care program types (2000);
- Conducted Countywide surveys on: 1) School District Sponsorship of Child Care (1995 and 1997), 2) City Sponsorship of Child Care (1995), 3) Employer-Related Child Care (1995 and 1997), 4) Exempt-Care Providers (1996), 5) Compensation of Child Care Center Personnel (1997 and 2002), and 6) Compensation of Family Child Care Personnel (2003);

- Developed and implemented a Centralized Eligibility List Pilot System to track families waiting for child care slots (2001-2003); and
- Distributed approximately \$8 million in stipends to qualified child development teachers through the AB 212 (Chapter 547, Statutes of 2000) "Investing in Early Educators" Stipend Program, in order to promote retention and to encourage more formal education among child development staff (2003-03).

Membership

There are 50 members, 10 from each of the required categories stipulated in AB 1542. Each of the five County Supervisors appoints one member from one of the categories to represent his/her district. Membership terms are three years, renewable each year. Each member may serve up to two, three-year terms. A Chair and Vice-Chair are elected to serve two-year terms.

The five membership categories are:

- **Parent Consumers** (or guardians) who are using child care or have used child care for their children within the past three years;
- **Child Care Providers**, both center-based, and family child care;
- **Community Representatives** from organizations or programs that advocate for child care services, provide funds for child care services, or serve populations that benefit from child care services, but do not contract with CDE to provide child care and development services;
- **Public Agency Representatives** from City, County, or local education agencies; and
- **Discretionary Members** who may represent any of the above categories, or may represent another type of stakeholder.

Contact Information

Office of Child Care
222 South Hill Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Web Site: <http://cao.co.la.ca.us/ccp/default.htm>

Laura Escobedo
Child Care Planning Coordinator
Telephone: (213) 974-4102
Fax: (213) 217-5106
E-mail: lescobed@cao.co.la.ca.us