



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11, 2009**

**10:00 a.m. – noon**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**500 West Temple Avenue, Conference Room 739**

**Los Angeles, California 90012**

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#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Connie Russell, Vice Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

##### **a. Comments from the Vice Chair**

Ms. Russell mentioned that since the last meeting, Ms. Maria Calix suffered the loss of her sister. She extended heart felt condolences to Ms. Calix and asked members to sign the card.

Ms. Russell noted the full agenda. As such, an adjustment has been made to the agenda to allow Mr. Whit Hayslip to present plans underway at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in the Early Childhood Education Division.

Mr. Hayslip relayed that Mr. Cortines, LAUSD Superintendent, requested a plan for the Early Childhood Education Division (ECED). Mr. Hayslip reported that the ECED planning process has staff examining how their services are matched with community needs. Among the issues being addressed in the plan are as follows:

- Examining the location of licensed spaces
- Addressing family needs for full-day services versus part-day services
- Enrolling families from the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) to fill spaces
- Leveraging resources for training and professional development of the workforce
- Building partnerships between the elementary schools and early care and education programs with a focus on articulation and transition
- Bringing comprehensive services, including those offered on school sites, to the early care and education program sites
- Strengthening parent engagement
- Meeting the needs of dual language learners - Mr. Hayslip noted that the ECED has a plan they have been implementing in this area in partnership with the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN)
- Enhancing the program curriculum
- Ensuring compliance with licensing, particularly relating to children's rights - According to Mr. Hayslip, LAUSD has been cited with numerous children's rights violations in which teachers were reported to scream at the children, grab them by the nape of their collars, leave children in time out for extended periods of time, and retaliate by, for instance, responding in kind to a child who kicks or pushes them. As a result, the Department of

Social Services/Community Care Licensing Division has required LAUSD to develop a systemic plan for implementation to meet compliance. ECED has worked with Behavior Services at LAUSD to adapt the school-wide discipline plan to ECED, calling it the “culture of caring” plan. The culture of caring plan entails reflective processes at each center that looks beyond children’s behavior to the overall development, progress and needs of each child. A memo on this plan is being prepared for the School Board, which Mr. Hayslip will share with Roundtable once it is final.

Mr. Hayslip noted that the ECED is also following the legal and administrative channels when a child is mistreated by a staff member.

Mr. Hayslip also reported on his trip to New Jersey with the California Delegation sponsored by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The 25 person delegation comprised of legislators, advocates, philanthropists, and state officials visited statewide preschool programs located in some of the 31 poorest school districts. The six hour per day programs serve three and four year old children. In some programs, 90% of the children access wrap around services for a full day. The Abbott Preschool Program was one of the outcomes of a 20 year court case heard by a judge familiar with the advantages of poor children participating in high quality preschool programs. The state program is notable for: using a mixed delivery system that involves the school district contracting with Head Start and community programs; allocating \$12,000 per child per year; maintaining classroom sizes of 15; requiring Bachelor degrees and early childhood education credentials of their teachers; and requiring each district to have a Parent and Community Involvement Specialist. When asked about the most important aspects of the program, representatives of the Abbott Preschool Program mentioned teacher certification and class size. Mr. Hayslip added that the state has a contract with a research center at Rutgers State University to study the long-term impact of preschool on children’s progress.

Mr. Hayslip concluded that the trip was inspirational and a good connecting piece for the legislators and most of the state officials. However, some state officials expressed hesitance implementing such a model in California due to the costs. On a related note, Mr. Hayslip heard that it is highly unlikely the state will use the economic recovery funds to raise the State Reimbursement Rates (SRRs).

*Additional information on the Abbott Preschool Program can be found at the following address:*  
<http://www.clasp.org/ChildCareAndEarlyEducation/NewJerseyAbbott.pdf>.

#### **b. Review of Minutes**

- January 14, 2009

At the February meeting, Ms. Arlene Rhine made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Terri Nishimura seconded the motion. Approval of the minutes was tabled to the March meeting due to lack of a quorum. Ms. Rhine and Ms. Nishimura moved and seconded “untabling” the original motions; the minutes were approved unanimously.

- February 11, 2009

Ms. Maria Calix made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Arlene Rhine seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

## 2. UPDATE ON THE PREVENTION INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Ms. Russell welcomed Mr. Harvey Kawasaki, Regional Administrator with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), back to the Roundtable meeting with an update on the Department of Children and Family Services' Prevention Initiative Demonstration Projects (PIDP).

Mr. Kawasaki distributed three documents, including a fact sheet on the Los Angeles County PIDP, a matrix entitled 'PIDP Agency Project Data through December 2008' and the Executive Summary of the report, *Midcourse Lessons Learned from Los Angeles County Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP): Early Successes, Partnerships, and the Challenges that Lie Ahead*. Mr. Kawasaki then provided a brief history and overview of the PIDP, which are outlined on the fact sheet. In summary, in February 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved the \$5 million one year child abuse and neglect prevention project to be led by community-based providers located in each of the eight Service Planning Areas. The PIDP is consistent with the DCFS three goals for children: improved safety, reduced placement outside their home, and increased permanence.

Each of the PIDP lead agencies have developed strategies to tackle three theories of change that address protective factors:

1. Increase social and community connections of families
2. Strengthen family economic success
3. Expand networks of support for families by leveraging opportunities and resources

Mr. Kawasaki emphasized that PIDP is specifically designed to build partnerships, create strategies and leverage dollars to better meet the needs of families and therefore reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Mr. Kawasaki reported that PIDP is half way through its first year, remarking that there is likely to be a second year of funding. Referring to the handout, he highlighted the community impacts that include increasing the number of partnerships in the networks and the trainings and social networking activities held as opportunities to leverage additional resources and build community empowerment. The Executive Summary delineates early successes and challenges for the next six months.

Speaking on the relevance to the Roundtable, Mr. Kawasaki reported that work is underway to ensure that early care and education is represented in the network. The Office of Child Care and the Education Coordinating Council are providing support to this effort. In addition, Mr. Kawasaki relayed that they are looking at the resources of other County Departments and areas relating to prevention they may address. Lastly, he mentioned stimulus program work occurring in the Services Integration Branch that may serve as an additional resource. Currently, they are trying to figure out how best to bring representatives of these areas to the table.

Mr. Kawasaki added that evaluations are being conducted across strategies and administration of program. The county initially invested \$250,000 towards evaluation, and then First 5 LA more than matched the investment by augmenting the funds for evaluation. Five universities are conducting the evaluations, building upon existing research.

Some discussion ensued around sharing best practices other initiatives into the PIDP efforts, such as the linkages program and First 5 LA initiatives including family literacy, partnerships for

families, and school readiness. It was pointed out that each of these initiatives has its own network. The challenge is how to make the connections and use other networks without overwhelming folks. Lastly, the economic stimulus monies for workforce development were raised as an important resource to access and requiring more attention.

### **3. UPDATE ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

#### **a. Implementation of the Child Care Policy Framework**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu referred members and guests to the Status Report on Implementation of the Child Care Policy Framework included in their meeting packets. She reported that Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff with the Office of Child Care, recently made a presentation to the PIDP representatives. Efforts were made to shape the presentation to those least familiar with the child care and development system. The focus of the presentation, in part, was on how to make the LACEL work for families by encouraging agencies to take on case management approach to help manage families on list. One agency has already requested a longer session on how to access the LACEL and use child care and development services.

It was suggested that it would be helpful to have conversation with PIDP representatives on how to make connections to child care and development services and their experiences to date with accessing child care and development services. Ms. Malaske-Samu answered that some of this work is underway. A form has been distributed asking specific questions about how people are currently engaged with the child care and development system.

Lastly, there was discussion on mapping efforts underway and augmenting the mapping that has been conducted on behalf of PIDP with mapping done by other programs, such as the child care resource and referral agencies, Los Angeles Universal Preschool, and more.

#### **b. Report on Employee Child Care Issues Related to Access and Quality**

Also included in the meeting packets is a draft copy of the Executive Summary of the document, *Employee Child Care Services: Quality, Affordability, and Access*. Ms. Malaske-Samu highlighted a few items in the report. The first is the comparison of monthly fees for the center-based child development service. The county program rates are probably low in comparison to the market, signifying the need to look at fees and finding ways to increase the rates to meet the cost of enhanced quality while concurrently exploring how to help families meet the costs. Secondly, Ms. Malaske-Samu spoke to the impact that the county's contribution has made to employee participation in the Dependent Care Spending Account (DCSA) beginning in 2008. The County committed \$10 million per year for two years to help pay for employees' child care costs. Families receive on a sliding scale based on income a contribution of up to \$375 per month to their DCSA. The County is in its second year of providing the benefit; there is no plan to date regarding the benefit beyond two years.

With respect to quality, Ms. Malaske-Samu is working with programs on keeping their fees as low as possible while also achieving and maintaining high quality. Programs are required to meet Title 22 and become accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) within two years. The document contains a table illustrating the comparison between Title 22, Title 5 and NAEYC of teacher qualifications. According to Ms. Malaske-Samu, most of the programs are accredited, however are not meeting current standards. She is recommending that all centers have staff qualifications that meet Title 5 requirements.

Attached to the Executive Summary is a list of research that has informed the child care and development field.

Once complete, the Executive Summary will be reviewed by Ms. Kathy House, then Mr. Miguel Santana before it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors as a memo. It is expected that the Board Deputies will review the document in full.

#### **4. UPDATE ON STEPS TO EXCELLENCE PROJECT (STEP) CELEBRATION**

Ms. Calix announced that the Week of the Young Child breakfast reception is scheduled for April 14, 2009 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting. STEP has drafted invitations and the program. Ms. Nishimura added that Supervisor Don Knabe will make opening remarks and Ms. Sandy Banks, columnist with the Los Angeles Times, will present the keynote address. BP is underwriting the event. Attendance is expected to peak near 100; Ms. Nishimura encouraged all of the Roundtable members to attend. There will be photos opportunities by district of STEP participants with their respective Supervisor or the Supervisor's staff member.

Ms. Calix and Ms. Nishimura outlined ways that Roundtable members can help with the event as follows:

- Make follow-up calls the week before the event
- Welcome guests and work the sign in table
- Donate items to the provider "goodie bags"
- Provide bilingual assistance the day of the event for the Spanish and Asian press

#### **5. JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION REPORT**

##### **a. Federal Update**

Ms. Michele Sartell cited the California Budget Project's (CBP) analysis of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), *What Does the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Mean for California?* (March 9, 2009). The ARRA was signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009. Now the work has begun to develop implementation guidelines, which for child care and development has been complicated lacking a Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Governor Sebelius of Kansas is the President's choice as the next Secretary; she now must complete the confirmation process. Pending the federal increases in funds for child care and development services, the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) in late February sent a program survey form to its contracted programs requesting information on their current programs and their ability to serve additional children in order to assess local need for additional funding in fiscal years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Ms. Sartell highlighted four program areas outlined in the CBP analysis, noting that other program areas also may be of interest due to their direct impacts on families. (Zero to Three report, *Early Care and Education Provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (February 13, 2009) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children matrix, *Final Conference Agreement: American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (February 19, 2009) served as the source for the budget breakdowns.)

- Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG): Of the \$2 billion in child care for low-income working families, \$255.2 million is targeted for quality improvements, of which \$93.6 is specifically for improving the quality of infant and toddler care.  
**California's Estimate:** \$220.8 million
- Head Start/Early Head Start: \$1 billion of the \$2.1 billion allocation will be awarded according to the current formula. The remaining \$1.1 billion will be awarded on a competitive basis for the expansion of Early Head Start.  
**California's Estimate:** \$82 million +
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): Provides \$12.2 billion to states and school districts for special education. \$500 million is dedicated to IDEA Part C for infants and toddlers and \$400 million for IDEA Section 619 Preschool.  
**California Estimate:** \$1.3 billion to serve 677,000 special education students
- Title I: \$13 billion in supplemental grants to help schools serve low-income students. States are expected to use some of the funds for early childhood programs serving children from zero to five years old.  
**California Estimate:** \$1.5 billion

Directing members to a copy of the handout, *President Obama's FY 2010 Budget: A New Direction for Women and Families* prepared by the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), Ms. Sartell relayed that President Obama released his outline for the Fiscal Year 2010 budget. According to the NWLC report, the budget outline makes the case for long-term investments in early care and education, characterizing the funding through the ARRA as a "down payment" on his commitment. Specifically, the budget outline for early care and education suggests: increases in funding to child nutrition programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program; additional resources for zero to five systems that also address informing parents about program options and quality; mandatory funds to states for the Nurse-Home Visitation Program; and funds for a new initiative, Promise Neighborhoods, designed to improve academic achievement and life outcomes in high poverty areas.

#### **b. California State Budgets for 2008-09 and 2009-10**

Ms. Sartell again directed members and guests to their packets for the copy of the policy brief, *Governor Signs Budget Bills: Impact on Child Care and Development Services*, prepared for the Roundtable. Directing members to Table A, Ms. Sartell pointed out that the 2008-09 budget for child care and development programs was hit with a mid-year reduction totaling \$97 million. The Regional Market Rate (RMR) was kept at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, however based on 2005 RMR survey.

In addition to signing bills relating to the 2008-09 budget year, the Governor signed the 2009-10 Budget Bill, which gives small increases to child care and development programs. Included in the budget language is a reduction in the RMR to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile based on the 2007 RMR survey effective July 1, 2009. In addition to changing the RMR, the budget makes changes to the family fee schedule. Both the RMR and family fee changes are likely to be taken up during the spring budget hearings.

### **c. Locally Sponsored Bills**

Members and guests were directed to their packets for the matrix of legislation introduced for consideration by the Assembly and Senate. She then turned the meeting over to Adam Sonenshein of Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) and Richard Cohen, representing the Los Angeles County Education Foundation, to discuss bills that their respective organizations are sponsoring.

Mr. Sonenshein presented AB 495 (Davis), directing members and guests to the synopsis contained in the legislative matrix. He described the genesis as resulting from meetings with representatives from the Speaker's office, Education Committee staff, and legislative staff regarding the underutilization of funding. LAUP was hearing from them that the unspent/unearned funds seem to indicate a lack of need. LAUP considers the collection and posting of data on the California Department of Education (CDE) Web site a simple and cost efficient way to demonstrate need. While the focus of the bill is on the supply and demand for preschool services, they see this as the anchor for making data available on children from zero to five. Mr. Sonenshein add that LAUP is not suggesting that CDE conduct additional surveys if the data is already available, but to make it more accessible. LAUP is beginning to seek support for the bill. In addition, they are working with the bill's author on amendments, such as expanding the scope to include children from zero to five years old.

Discussion followed regarding existing sources of data on supply and demand, recognizing that fluctuations occur based on community need, particularly in family child care. In response to questions of cost, Mr. Sonenshein relayed that they have been told to keep costs below \$5000; if costs go up, LAUP will need to rethink their strategy and scale. It was commented that the information on supply and demand is there, however the issues may be whether it is readily accessible.

Mr. Cohen, representing the Los Angeles County Education Foundation (LACEF), presented SB 244 (Wright), beginning with a request for feedback. LACEF wants to know: What is positive about the bill? Where does it lack clarity? Who will oppose? Who will support? He invited comments by e-mail at [cohen.richard@gmail.com](mailto:cohen.richard@gmail.com).

Mr. Cohen stated that the concept is based on research on outcomes for children at risk and applying the research to the priority list for subsidized child care. The idea is to take groups of children with the likelihood of less positive outcomes and give them higher priority on the LACEL. The groups of children identified for high priority include: children in the foster system, children at risk, children formerly in the foster system and recently adopted, homeless children, children in relative care, and children with a parent in the foster system, on probation, on parole, or in a correctional or residential treatment facility. The bill would accomplish four things: 1) ensure eligibility and put the targeted children at the top of the list; 2) allow for continuous enrollment; 3) require an interagency group to monitor at county level; and 4) establish a multi-agency stakeholder committee to make recommendations to the legislature on improving and integrating services. Mr. Cohen will forward the fact sheet to Ms. Malaske-Samu once it becomes available for distribution to Roundtable members.

### **d. Ballot Measures**

Ms. Sartell reported that the Governor signed a number of other budget bills, including six proposed ballot initiatives. Of most interest to the Roundtable are Propositions 1D and 1E, which if passed will respectively redirect funds from the First 5 Commissions to health and

human services (1D) and redirect funds from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Managed Mental Health. Another bill signed by the Governor schedules the statewide special election for May 19, 2009 with the six measures due to go before the voters. Copies of the Legislative Analyst's Office analyses of both ballot measures were include in the meeting packets.

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey distributed a copy of a handout prepared by First 5 LA entitled "Responses to Frequently Asked Questions from First 5 LA Grantees and Contractors". Dr. McCroskey stated that if the ballot measures are passed, First 5 will take a much deeper hit than the MHSA. She described the funding hits as twofold: eliminating First 5 California's reserve balance of at least \$275 million up to \$340 million; and reducing funds over five years to the local commissions by \$268 million annually. The impact to First 5 LA would be significantly larger, reducing its funding by an estimated 61 percent in fiscal year 2009-01 and 67 percent in fiscal year 2013-14. More facts regarding local impacts are summarized in the handout and Dr. McCroskey encouraged everyone to carefully read the budget bill, which gives details to a certain extent on how the money shall be spent. Dr. McCroskey closed by requesting help informing others of the ballot measure.

Mr. Sonenshein announced that the LAUP Board voted to oppose the measure. He added that there is a Web site, Vote No on Proposition 1D, at [www.noonproposition1d.com](http://www.noonproposition1d.com).

Mr. Howard Jacobs of First 5 LA stated that the LAO has inaccurately reported the First 5 balances that have gone unspent. He suggested passing on that message. The Sacramento Bee has reported early polling, showing a relatively small percent of voters in favor of the measure.

Ms. Victoria Evers of the Chief Executive Office's Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IGA) relayed that her office is responsible for preparing analyses on the ballot initiatives for the Board. The analyses will include information on who supports and opposes the measures for information purposes. She added that in some cases the Board will let IGA know they plan to take a position. IGA will seek input from the Departments on the impact of the initiatives and clear the analyses with the Clusters before completed in final. It was mentioned by a Roundtable member that Sheriff Baca has voiced his opposition to 1D.

## **6. COLLEAGE AGENCY REPORTS**

Postponed to next meeting.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

## **8. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Dr. Celia Ayala  
Ms. Maria Calix  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Kathy House  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Holly Reynolds  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell

**Guests:**

Mr. John Berndt, Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center  
Dr. Richard Cohen, Los Angeles County Education Foundation  
Ms. Vickie Evers, IGA/Chief Executive Office  
Mr. Howard Jacobs, First 5 LA  
Mr. Harvey Kawasaki, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Education Coordinating Council  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA  
Mr. Adam Sonnenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool  
Mr. Steve Sturm, Department of Children and Family Services

**Staff:**

Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell