



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: November 3, 2010
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Members in Attendance: (29) Lisa Wilkin, Susan McCombs, Diane Philibosian, Mary Helen Vasquez, Ofelia Medina, Fiona Stewart, John Berndt, Bobbie Edwards, Deborah Gatti, Andrea Joseph, Mickie Allen, Rachelle Pastor Arizmendi, Richard Cohen, Nurhan Pirim for Leticia Colchado, Adriana DeLaRosa, Jeanette Magee, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia, Joy Cyprian, Pat Mendoza, Patti Oblath, Atalaya Sergi, Peggy Sisson, Emilio Sosa, Michelle Morse, Karla Pleitez, Jenny Trickey, Julie Taren, Patrice Wong, and Catherine Scott

Guests and Alternates: Lashonna Goodman, Ancelma Sanchez, Edilma Serna, Ritu Mahajan, Pam Schmidt, Brittany Estrada, Barb Holtwick, Elaine Waldman, and Marisela Carlos

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:13 p.m. She welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Chair read the opening statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from the October 6, 2010 Meeting

The Chair called for a motion to approve the October 6, 2010 minutes. Lisa Wilkin moved to approve; Peggy Sisson seconded. The Chair called for the vote. The motion was passed with one abstention.

III. Report from the Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo announced the start of a formal survey of all subsidized child care and development centers by the Los Angeles County Early Care and Education Data Collaborative. (ECE Data Collaborative) whose partners are: Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), and the Office of Child Care for the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee). This is the first time such a survey has been done. It will provide definitive data on how much subsidized care exists and where it is located. This will enable all three collaborative partners to better estimate where there are gaps in services and report the gaps in a more uniform, consistent way. Surveys will be sent via e-mail by each partner: LACOE will distribute to all Head Start grantees, LAUP will distribute to LAUP contractors, and the Office of Child Care will distribute to all California Department of Education (CDE) contractors who are not also LAUP or Head Start providers. Surveys are due by December 1, 2010. Results will be shared in the spring. The ECE Data Collaborative intends to develop a Web site that allows individuals and groups to access the data.

IV. Approval of the Local Planning Council (LPC) Self-review for 2009-10

Bobbie Edwards, Chair, reviewed the process for the self-review and listed the key dimensions. She stated that our Planning Committee was compliant with all dimensions. It was suggested that the Planning Committee conduct a survey of its members and participants at the end of each program year and that the results of that survey be included in the Self-review.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the findings of the 2009-10 Self-review. The motion was made by Dianne Philibosian and seconded by Catherine Scott. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed without abstentions.

V. Report and Discussion of the Approved State Budget for 2010-11

Laura Escobedo referred to the policy brief prepared by Michele Sartell of the Office of Child Care detailing impacts to child care and development included in the approved budget. She noted that there were several reductions in funding and policy changes and described three: 1) the elimination of funding from the CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care program, which could affect about 17,000 children in Los Angeles County whose parents are off of welfare and are working; 2) the 50 percent reduction in funding for local planning councils, which will seriously impact many counties' capacity to plan, build capacity, and leverage funding outside of the CDE for child care and development; and 3) the five percent of maximum reimbursable amount (MRA) limit on child development contractors reserve accounts. Many contractors rely on their built up reserves to operate when the state budget is delayed or to repair or expand facilities.

Many groups have advocated for reinstatement of the Stage 3 program. The State legislature asked County First 5 commissions to provide funding until the legislature could convene to pass a bill reinstating the program. However, First 5 funds can only serve children 0-5 years old, which is about 40 percent of all the Stage 3 children. Pam Schmidt of Public Counsel reported on the lawsuit filed in Alameda County that resulted in the judge issuing a temporary restraining order through November 4, 2010 so that families have care until then. A hearing is set for November 4th when the judge will determine if a preliminary injunction is appropriate. This could effectively extend the life of the program until CDE could meet the conditions that were the basis of the lawsuit. In the meantime Alternative Payment (AP) Program agencies have worked diligently to notify their Stage 3 families that program funding was terminated and they would have to get on their local Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) to access any other subsidy or find care alternatives. Because of the court case, they had to rush to notify parents of the short extension. Following the court's decision, there will be more communication requirements.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) was asked about families returning to CalWORKS or requesting diversion services in order to access child care support. Nurhan Pirim stated that DPSS was still researching this idea in terms of how the regulations and the time limits for both CalWORKS (60 months) support and for child care support in Stage 2 (24 months) may apply.

VI. Presentation: South Central Los Angeles Ministry Project (LAMP)

Adriana DeLaRosa, new member and director of the South Central LAMP, provided a short history of the LAMP and its mission. LAMP was founded after the 1992 riots by a group of Catholic nuns from area churches who wanted to use their skills to help the South Central community. They determined that there was a tremendous need for services for immigrant families who experience extreme isolation, language barriers, domestic violence, child abuse, and high school drop-out rates. The project started providing English Language instruction for parents and parenting skills training. The mission of LAMP is to help parents develop and strengthen their skills and relationship with their children. The project now provides services for infants, toddlers and preschool-age children along with their parents. Family advocates work with each individual family to help them set goals and connect with the supports they need to achieve those goals. They deal with domestic violence, immigration, tenant's rights, and other issues that are barriers to having a healthy, secure family. LAMP is located at 48th and Central Avenue and serves approximately 100 families each year.

VII. Prioritization of Activities Funded through CDE's Quality Improvement Plan

Members and participants at each table were given lists of the activities CDE has funded in its Quality Improvement Plan in past years, which include projects that may have been cut or reduced in the 2010-11 budget. Table groups were encouraged to discuss each item listed and then each individual marked his or her own priority review sheet. Laura Escobedo will compile results and forward them to CDE. Although this level of input had not been requested, it would be important for

CDE to know that local planning councils are a good venue to vet the value of the Quality Improvement investments made each year.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

- Richard Cohen relayed that the National Child Study is looking for families in 14 Los Angeles county zip codes to be included in a 20 year study involving 100,000 children across the country. UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities is the local partner. While the research study will be long and intrusive, there are substantial incentives for the families that participate. The focus of the study is looking at health and development. More information will be sent.
- Barbara Holtwick of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reminded everyone about flu season and urged everyone to get a flu shot in order to protect themselves and others, especially infants under six months old who are too young to vaccinate and are therefore very vulnerable.
- Peggy Sisson announced the Pasadena Early Childhood Education Math and Science Institute scheduled for March 24-25, 2011 at the Pasadena Convention Center. More information will be available next month.
- WestEd: Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers is holding new training on the Infant/Toddler Foundations. A flyer with dates and locations is available.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Dianne Philibosian and seconded by Peggy Sisson. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.