



## Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: March 7, 2007

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

**Members in Attendance:** (28) Layla Abou-Taleb, Julie Taren for Fran Chasen, Bobbie Edwards, Pamela Kwok, Peggy Sisson, Pamela Schmidt, Roseann Ghiazza for Corinne Sanchez, Dianne Philibosian, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Anita Tetrault, Jenny Trickey, JoEllen Tullis, Patrice Wong, Carolina Alvarez, Noreen Clarke Sheehan, Sandra Dennis, Alan Guttman, Pat Mendoza, SP Andrade for Nellie Rios Parra, Susan Baxter, Leticia Lara, Craig Lancaster, Sheri Lewis, Sue Peter for Alice Murphy, Ancelma Sanchez, Adelina Sorokin, Wendy Tseng, and Sandra Menendez.

**Guests and Alternates:** Celeste Salinas, Jazmin Chavarria, Lisa Wilkin, Joy Cyprian, Marcella McKnight, Lucy Fitzpatrick, Joy Green, Kathy Schreiner.

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Peggy Sisson, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) opened the meeting at 12:16 p.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves, then read the opening statement.

### II. Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2007

**The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2007 meeting. Bobbie Edwards moved to approve; her motion was seconded by Carolina Alvarez. The Chair asked if there were changes to the minutes. There were no additions or corrections. The Chair called for a vote to approve the minutes. The motion was passed with no abstentions.**

### III. Introduction of New Community Care Licensing Advocate

Peggy Sisson introduced Holly Daasnes who has just been appointed as the new Southern California Community Care Licensing Advocate. Her role is to serve as the liaison between California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (DSS, CCLD) and providers, families, and communities. Holly Daasnes reminded the group that before the major budget revisions, there were 14 advocates throughout California. Now there are only two. Her region includes all the counties south of San Luis Obispo. She hopes to be able to attend the Planning Committee meetings regularly. More information can be found on the website at [www.cclld.ca.gov](http://www.cclld.ca.gov).

### IV. Membership Recruitment for 2007-08

JoAnn Mejia-Shalhoub stated that it was time again to begin the process of membership recruitment and renewal. Each current member who would like to continue must complete an application. She encouraged those present to share the applications with anyone who may be interested in participating; and if you are a member who has served a full term, to find an appropriate replacement. She reminded the group that even though an applicant may not be selected to serve on the Planning Committee, he/she can attend and participate since the meetings are open and the workgroups include anyone who is interested in participating. JoAnn Mejia-Shalhoub also stated that the Membership Workgroup would be looking at participation levels when they reviewed renewal applications. The deadline for turning in an application is Friday, May 4, 2007.

### V. The 2006 Needs Assessment

Laura Escobedo presented the findings from the 2006 needs assessment. She stated that the biggest change was in the increased use of family child care. In 2004, the needs assessment indicated there were about 49,000 surplus family child care spaces. In 2006, there were actually family child care

shortages in some communities and much reduced surpluses in others. Nearly 21% of families with infants were likely to use family child care in 2006; in 2004 this rate of use was only 13%. Families with preschool children increased their use to 13% (from 7% in 2004) and families with school-age were likely to use family child care 6.7% in 2006, up from 3.7% in 2004. Overall, there were small declines in the use of license-exempt care, except in the case of infants. Use of center-based care declined for all age groups. This is very likely a result of a decrease in supply compared with potential demand.

There appear to be multiple reasons for the shifts in the rates of use of license-exempt, center-based and family child care. Among them are various demographic and market pressures: a decrease in unemployment, a decline in CalWORKS caseloads with many new families in the workforce; increased number of infants and toddlers, and more families with infants are in the workforce; an increased percent of families with preschoolers in the workforce; public awareness campaigns about the importance of preschool; the importance of having constructive opportunities for children after school; and the push for academic improvement among school-age children.

Despite an increase in center-based spaces, the increase did not keep up with the bigger increase in the numbers of children looking for center care. Families had to look at alternatives since spaces in centers were very limited. Because of the new awareness about school-readiness and the push to raise academic achievement, families were looking for something other than babysitting.

In addition to the demographic pressures, there have also been changes in capacity and in training and support. There was a reduction in the number of center-based spaces available for after-school. While there was an increase in licensed preschool spaces, most were for half-day programs. There appear to be shifts within many family child care homes, which meant that there were fewer spaces for infants since many family child care homes had increased the number of preschool children they served. However, because of the previous surplus, this fact did not inhibit the increased use of family child care by families with infants.

Finally, the training offered through the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) as well as television programs such as "A Place of Our Own" seem to have helped change public perception of family child care and have enabled more providers to become better able to market their services and address the needs of school-age children. Laura Escobedo told the Planning Committee that the data is available on the website: <http://gismap.cao.co.la.ca.us/childcare>

The Findings of the 2006 Needs Assessment are as follows:

1. Increase use of Family Child Care. The recommendations are to continue the training and support described in the 2004 Needs Assessment since it appears to have had positive results.
2. The development of licensed center care has not kept up with demand. Among several recommendations are to increase the funding for full-day care to stimulate development and to support the Constructing Connections project.
3. Preschool is the only age-group that experienced increases in center-based and family child care. Since this is a currently targeted group, advocate for more full-day options to address both child and family needs.
4. There are differences among the Service Planning Areas (SPA). The Planning Committee should provide the needs assessment data to each SPA Council and meet with any task force within a SPA looking at issues related to early childhood.
5. There continues to be a high use of license-exempt care in the County. The recommendations are to encourage more training for these providers to improve quality and to help connect the children in license-exempt care to part-day preschool programs so that they have the opportunity of preschool without having to forgo the full-day care their families need.

## VI. Approval of Letter to Mayor Villaraigosa

The Planning Committee reviewed the draft letter and recommended changes in language referencing children 0-3, deleting “programs and providers” in the section on license-exempt care and re-ordering the bullets on page 3. Laura Escobedo explained that the letter still required approval from the County, but that the Planning Committee approval would ensure it would be ready when the green light was given. **The Chair called for a motion to approve the letter. Noreen Clarke Sheehan moved to approve the letter with amendments; it was seconded by Sandra Dennis. The motion passed with no abstentions.**

## VII. LAO Report on Quality Rating Systems for California

The Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) has just issued a report on the various ways that California can institute a Quality Rating System (QRS) for all licensed facilities in the state. The proposals are based on using the current Community Care Licensing system. There are four options:

- Improve access to current licensing data
- Establish ratings based on safety/regulation records
- Establish ratings that include additional self-reported data such as ratios
- Establish ratings based on all the above and include reviews by trained assessors

There are currently 58,000 licensed facilities in the state; approximately 25% are in Los Angeles County. Currently the information on these facilities is difficult to access and the licensing data alone does not define quality. It is recognized that having information about the qualifications of a facility is important to families, to policy makers, and to the providers themselves who wish to meet expectations.

**Option 1:** Communicate existing licensing information on the internet with easy to understand description of how and when facilities are inspected, what a violation means, etc. Estimated cost to do this is \$400,000.

**Option 2:** Establish a rating system based on licensing records in which a letter or star would be assigned based on the number of violations over a period of time. Estimated costs would be \$2-11.5 million to set up and \$400,000 to maintain.

**Option 3 Basic:** Establish a rating system that builds on the previous one but adds a paper review of group sizes, staff qualifications, and ratios. These other indicators would be self-reported and CCLD would audit a percent per year by making on site visits. Estimated costs would be \$2-11.5 million with \$2.8 million in ongoing costs.

**Option 3 Plus:** Would include all of the above and add onsite assessments done by trained assessors. Estimated costs would be \$2.5-12 million and \$13 million to maintain.

The LAO is recommending that the state begin by posting data on the internet and then move toward Option 3 Basic. Considerations include: planning time and pilot testing in a few regions; technical and financial assistance through use of currently funded programs such as the training Consortium, R&Rs, AB 212 Retention initiatives, and use of other quality funds. If the ratings would be used to determine reimbursement, then they must be fairly applied; and it may be necessary to require providers to pay fees toward the cost of the assessment.

## VII. Announcements or Comments

**Inclusion Work Group:** Continuing to look at how to integrate inclusion into the STEP documents.

**School-age Work Group:** Continuing to work with the Regional Support Team for after school programs at LACOE. Decided to undertake a workforce initiative related to school-age programs as well as monitoring the expansion of After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) for quality issues and impact on current programs.

**Joint Legislation Committee:** Will meet on March 26 at DCFS in Norwalk.

**Strategic Planning Work Group:** Wrapping up the final report for the Needs Assessment and continuing its review of the Strategic Plan. The Work Group has decided to look at an interactive Web site for displaying the Strategic Plan revision.

The new Preschool Learning Foundations are out in limited distribution. Public discussion sessions lead by the California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN) are being scheduled in April and May. It is important to comment before they are presented at Public Hearings.

Vibha Pathak, a graduate student currently working with the Office of Child Care, has offered to work with a limited number of programs serving children with special needs. She can assist with appropriate activities, program modifications, and ways to improve the comfort and impact on staff. You can e-mail her at [vpathak@usc.edu](mailto:vpathak@usc.edu).

Patrice Wong, on behalf of the Long Beach community wanted to publicly thank Kathy Malaske-Samu for her presentation at their conference over the weekend. The presentation was well received.

#### VIII. Adjournment

**The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Pam Schmidt and seconded by Alan Guttman. The Chair called for a vote to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.**