



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: December 2, 2006

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

Location: LACOE

12836 Clark Avenue

Downey, CA 90242

Members in Attendance: (19) Jan Isenberg, Peggy Sisson, Susan Baxter, Pamela Schmidt, Corinne Sanchez, Marie Poulsen for Noreen Clarke-Sheehan, Carolina Alvarez, Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Alan Guttman, Wilma Kiel, Carlene Davis, Lorraine Schrag, Rocio Bach, Debbie McBee, Diane Philobosian, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Wendy Tseng, Grace Castro for Sandra Dennis, and Linda Cooper for Sheri Lewis.

Guests and Alternates: Roseann Ghiazza, Nancy Gutierrez, Tomeka Adams, Saira Hernandez, Veronica Obregon, Sonia Avalos.

Staff: Laura Escobedo. Michele Sartell

I. Welcome and Introductions

Peggy Sisson, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves and then read the opening statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2006

There was no quorum. The approval of the minutes for November 1, 2006 will be carried over to the next meeting.

III. Information on California Department of Education (CDE) Funding for Child Care and Development

Laura Escobedo presented information about the current contracts for care administered within Los Angeles County. She presented a spreadsheet with the total dollar amounts by program type for each Service Planning Area (SPA). She noted that the number of children indicated was calculated based on contract amounts per child/per day and the number of days of service. It is possible that there are more children served because some programs over enroll in order to ensure earning the full maximum reimbursable amount per their contracts. Distribution by SPA area also involved some calculations since some agencies administer programs in several SPAs (i.e. DCFS) and it was not possible to interview all the contractors directly. As more information on funds and service areas become available, the spreadsheets will be updated. One adjustment suggested was to add the number of estimated eligible children by SPA.

Laura Escobedo also informed the group that five contractors were no longer providing services in Los Angeles County. These include three agencies with general center-based contracts, including infant/toddler care; one with State Preschool services; and one with Latchkey services. The total in lost service was over \$2,000,000. She was informed by Greg Hudson of CDE that the process for reallocating these funds is to issue new Request for Proposals (RFPs). The RFP will request operators to provide services in the same geographic areas as the former operators. Unfortunately, because CDE staff are so involved with the Pre-kindergarten and Family Literacy Program (AB172) RFP, they have not gotten around to issuing an RFP for these funds. Fundamentally, the funds will remain in Los Angeles County, but we may not have the services for a while.

IV. Presentation: The Child Care Needs of Teen Parents

Nancy Guttierrez, a Cal-SAFE Coordinator for Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) began the presentation by talking about the hundreds of teen parents currently assisted in the LAUSD Cal-SAFE (California School Age Families Education) program. She stated that these teen parents can access child care at four high school campuses where there are child development programs operated specifically for the teen parent; or be referred to Resource and Referral and work with the Coordinator to find a suitable child care placement. This is not always successful and the lack of care often impedes the teen parent. Nancy introduced two colleagues who also work directly with the teens, Sonia Avalos

and Veronica Obregon. They mentioned that approximately 120 children are currently cared for at the Cal-SAFE child care centers housed at school campuses. An additional campus center is being planned, but funding is not available yet. They stated that most referrals regarding complications in the teens' programs have to do with child care. Nearly all the teens have children who are ages 0-2 years old. They know from experience that the longer girls stay out of school after having a baby, the less likely they will finish. Currently, 70% of teen parents drop out of school, 30% complete their GED or diploma; but only 1.5% go on to complete college.

They estimate that there are probably about 3000 live births to teens enrolled in the LAUSD system. Currently Cal-SAFE cannot serve them all. They stated that only a small percentage of the teens served are also eligible for CAL-Learn. Ms. Gutierrez recommended advocating to make teen parent status a risk factor which would give these parents priority to state-subsidized child care. LAUSD is also open to developing partnerships with other groups that may be able to serve this same population.

Linda Cooper, alternate for Sheri Lewis, provided an overview of the CAL-Learn program. She stated that any pregnant or parenting teen residing in the home of a CAL WORKS recipient must participate in Cal-Learn activities. There are financial incentives for continuing in school and progressing toward a diploma; and penalties for failing to progress or to report school results. The teens must maintain a 2.0 grade point average. The Cal-Learn support services are provided through a contract with four Adolescent Family Life Programs. The teen parents are eligible for child care through Stage 1 and go through the same process as the adults in obtaining the child care. However, Linda Cooper stated that if the senior parent is available, that is the first child care option for the family. In 2005-06 there were over 2,400 teen parents participating in Cal-Learn.

V. Information on the Pre-Kindergarten and Family Literacy Program RFP

Laura Escobedo pointed out the handouts related to the RFP: 1) website at CDE where information and the RFP can be downloaded; and 2) a description of the AB 172 program compared with State Preschool. She also shared that the Office of Child Care has posted a list of all schools in Los Angeles County with API scores in the bottom three deciles on the website at www.lacountychildcare.org. The Planning Committee is interested in tracking the implementation of this new program throughout the County.

VI. Work group Updates

Capacity Development: Carlene Davis

Carlene explained that there have been some priority changes based on the input from the group in our Strategic Planning process that appear to alter the plan for the work group. In addition, the work group was working on issues and projects that are actually being handled by other groups, such as the model budgets being developed by the Qualifications and Compensation Work Group. Finally, one of the objectives in the Strategic Plan dealing with the development of a system of technical assistance for the development of facilities is being handled through the Constructing Connections project. She stated that the Capacity Work Group would be phased out temporarily until it became clear what the next steps were for this area. She recommended further discussions with the Constructing Connections group and discussions related to sustainability with the entire Planning Committee related to the continuation of the functions under Constructing Connections.

Joint Legislation Committee: Michele Sartell

Michele stated that the next meeting would be the 4th Monday in January, 2007. The Committee would like input from the Planning Committee related to the advocacy issues it should take up in the New Year.

Inclusion Work Group: Michele Sartell

The next meeting will be December 18, 2006 at The California Endowment. The group is working on cost estimates for the model budgets related to the Quality Rating Scale.

School-age Work Group: Susan Baxter

The Work group met on November 28, 2006 with a number of representatives from various entities providing school-age care in the County. The group discussed tracking the implementation of the ASES (Prop 49) funding and its impact and developing a school-age collaborative for the County. The group will connect with the LACOE Region 11 school-age support team. A next meeting will be determined later.

Qualifications and Compensation: Wilma Kiel

Last month this group met with the First 5 LA Workforce Initiative consultants and had a good discussion around the answers to these questions: "What do we want child development teachers to know?" "What do we want them to be able to do?" Wilma Kiel was able to attend a Southern regional meeting of the California Community Colleges Early Childhood Education (CCCECE) group. This group is working on an alignment project for early childhood coursework throughout the College system. Wilma reported that many of the ideas we had developed on our lists came through clearly in the discussions at the CCCECE gathering. This work group will meet immediately after the adjournment.

VII. Announcements or Comments

There were no announcements or comments

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:00 p.m.