



## Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Avenue, Conference Room 743

Los Angeles, California 90012

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#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Duane Dennis, 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 Chair

Mr. Dennis reviewed the resource materials contained in members' meeting packets, including:

- Draft report by the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence, *Students First: Renewing Hope for California's Future*. The report proposes that the state phase in over three years a "standards based rating system that provides a quality rating for each preschool serving publicly subsidized students." It also proposes increased funding for preschool.
- Update from The Campaign for High Quality Learning Standards of California and the English Language Learners Preschool Coalition on the implementation of the Preschool Learning Foundations and survey.
- Fact sheet on low-income families compiled by the National Center for Children in Poverty.

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu also distributed copies of the Urban Counties Caucus Legislative Update (January 8, 2008) summarizing the Governor's State of the State address and his proposal for constitutional spending limits to resolve the budget deficit. In addition, Ms. Malaske-Samu shared information retrieved from Zero to Three's Web site ([www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)) on federal budget items that passed for Fiscal Year 2008. To date, no changes in funding have been proposed for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Head Start/Early Head Start, on the other hand, experienced a modest increase, then decrease resulting in a net loss. Reductions were also made to child welfare services.

##### b. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 12, 2007

Ms. Arlene made a motion to approve the minutes with correction in spelling of Ms. Doris Monterosso's name; Ms. Jan Isenberg seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously as corrected.

### **c. Agenda for February 2008 Meeting**

Mr. Dennis referred members to the draft handout proposing a possible structure for the conversation with Mr. William T Fujioka, the County's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), at the February meeting. An attempt has been made to balance time for the Roundtable to introduce itself and time for the Mr. Fujioka to talk. The handout includes an "ask" from the Roundtable to the CEO and one from him to the Roundtable. Mr. Dennis stated his hope that the February meeting would establish the framework for the County to consider the Roundtable's role in shaping early care and education policy issues while also supporting Mr. Fujioka's attention to the County goals as relating to child care and development, especially around children in the foster and probation systems. Ms. Helen Kleinberg of the Commission for Children and Families (the Commission) reported that the Commission is focusing their message on "families", given the number of families that interface with the county, usually when they are not functioning well. She added that child care and development should be at the front end as a means of prevention, particularly for young families with young children. Other comments are as follows:

- Invite Mr. Miguel Santana, recently appointed cluster leader over Children and Families Well-being, which includes the Service Integration Branch. Mr. Santana was Chief Deputy to Supervisor Gloria Molina.
- Mr. Fujioka will be provided with a packet of materials, including copies of *Major Funding Streams for Child Care and Development Program Operations in the County of Los Angeles – 2006-07* and *The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Los Angeles County*.
- Make connections to other initiatives, such as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and the homeless and prevention initiatives.
- Invite members of the Child Care Planning Committee and the Board of Supervisor Deputies. Mr. Santana will be asked to put the Roundtable meeting with Mr. Fujioka on the agenda for his meeting with the Children's Deputies scheduled for this month.
- Include in the packet of materials a list of major achievements/outcomes.
- Select two or three main "ask" items.

Ms. Malaske-Samu referred members to the draft document, *A Brief Guide to County-Related Bodies Addressing Children's Issues in Los Angeles County*, included in their packets. The document has been updated and is intended to provide an overview of the County bodies that advise the Board of Supervisors on issues pertaining to children, youth and their families. Ms. Malaske-Samu is asking each of the entities featured to review and sign off on the document. Also in development is a one-page review of the issues and trends in child development. Both documents are being prepared for the CEO.

## **2. UPDATE ON PLANNING FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION (PEI) SERVICES UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT**

Mr. Dennis introduced Ms. Helen Kleinberg, of the Commission for Children and Families (the Commission), as a true advocate for children. She has served as a member of the Commission since its establishment in 1984. Whenever Ms. Kleinberg is feeling beaten down by the system, she takes a drive past the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court and notes its child friendly features, many of which are the result of her work. Ms. Kleinberg represents the Commission as delegate in the planning for prevention and early intervention services to be implemented under the Mental Health Services Act. Ms. Kleinberg was asked "how can the Roundtable support the Commission's efforts to ensure that appropriate mental health services are available for young children and their families?"

Ms. Kleinberg stated that there is an extraordinary amount of ongoing money available for mental health services as a result of Proposition 63, which taxes the wealthy. The challenge is the enormous need for mental health dollars and the competition for these dollars by lots of groups. Ms. Kleinberg referred to the cumbersome and frustrating stakeholders' process for planning coordinated by the California

Department of Mental Health (DMH), which has entailed lots of very long meetings and participation by strong, well-trained advocates (many have a history with mental illness or family members of mentally ill individuals) for adult services. The question is how to advocate for children when there are no “built in” advocates. Fifty-one percent of the MHSA dollars at minimum are earmarked for children and their families; the population of children is defined as birth to 25 years old. Currently, there is no mechanism to bring folks together across the Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to address in a unified way all of the mental health needs of children.

Ms. Kleinberg threw out some ideas for using MHSA/PEI dollars and sees a role for child care and development programs. She also suggested opportunities for leveraging MHSA/PEI funds with other funding streams, for example the anticipated prevention monies. Ultimately, she is calling for a consistent vision for the birth to five populations and their families and a process that needs people committed to it to take this vision to all of the meetings occurring at the SPA level. The Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) has convened a PEI Task Force that meets on Thursdays.

Mr. Wiltse asked Ms. Kleinberg to speak to the process and her experience as a delegate. Ms. Kleinberg replied that the mental health system is accustomed to dealing with current advocacy groups, which generally represent adults with mental health concerns. The process is not child friendly, the meetings are huge, and only delegates can ask questions. Delegates representing organizations addressing the needs of children and families have sent staff who are not allowed to ask questions. As a children’s delegate, it is a challenge to be recognized because the leadership does not yet know “us”. Ms. Kleinberg urged the Roundtable to know the meeting dates at the SPAs and the Service Area Advisory Committees (SAACs) and attend. In addition, review the list of delegates and the populations they represent to ensure that the entire continuum of children are considered. She also referred for review a list of 119 programs able to work with families with mental health issues.

Ms. Malaske-Samu expressed the Roundtable’s commitment to work with the Commission on this issue and will dedicate staff time to it. She mentioned the draft vision that resulted from a meeting over the summer convened by the Child Care Planning Committee, which she will share with Ms. Kleinberg and others. Ms. Kleinberg said that the document needs to reach the County of Los Angeles DMH leadership so that it is incorporated into the County draft plan that will be submitted to the State DMH. DCFS has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 10, 2008 to discuss how to advocate for children and families in the child welfare system and will include representatives of the Los Angeles Police Department, County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, family preservation, and others.

Mr. Craig Lancaster reported briefly on the presentation by Dr. William Arroyo, Regional Medical Director of Children’s Systems of Care for the County of Los Angeles DMH, who stated that they need folks with expertise on children birth to five to participate in the planning meetings when convened.

Mr. Dennis concluded this portion of the meeting, echoing the importance of representation at meetings. He added that the Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP) found behavior problems the number one issue of concern for child care and development programs.

### **3. STEPS TO EXCELLENCE PROJECT (STEP) UPDATE**

Ms. Helen Chavez, STEP Project Coordinator, provided an update on STEP implementation in the following three areas: mini-grants, STEP training schedule, and quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors.

#### **a. Mini-grant Update**

Ms. Chavez reported that 145 STEP applications have been received to date and are being processed. A number of applicants have received clearances from the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (DSS/CCLD) that their licenses are in good standing. A small number had a civil penalty imposed (e.g. fine because fingerprints not on file). The licensing reviews were completed within three days of submission.

Of the 145 STEP applicants, 130 submitted mini-grant applications. Staff are currently scrutinizing the proposed budgets and narratives. Applicants could apply for up to \$5000 and were required to submit line item budgets and proof of costs. Ms. Chavez relayed that it will take approximately 10 weeks to process the mini-grant checks once approved. Mini-grant awards will be expedited to subsidized programs to meet the Fiscal Year deadline.

#### **b. STEP Training Schedule**

Ms. Chavez mentioned that among the strategies to keep up the momentum of STEP is to offer trainings. The Office of Child Care is working quickly to fully execute the training contracts. Recruitment is underway for two training cohorts on the Program for Infant/Toddler Care in Practice – one in the Florence/Firestone area and the other in Palmdale. The trainings are scheduled to begin by the end of January and will be held two Saturdays per month through the end of June 2008.

Trainings on the developmental screening tools conducted by the Child Development Institute are tentatively scheduled for February and March of 2008. Following the trainings, staff of the Child Development Institute will be available for on-site consultations.

#### **c. Quarterly Report to the Board of Supervisors**

Ms. Chavez referred members to their meeting packets for a copy of the memo to the Board of Supervisors. The memo provides a progress report on STEP.

### **4. PREVIEW OF UPDATED FUNDING STREAMS FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Michele Sartell, staff to the Office of Child Care, provided a brief overview of the final draft of *Major Funding Streams for Child Care and Development Program Operations in the County of Los Angeles – 2006-07*. She directed members to a copy of the PowerPoint presentation as well as the final draft report included in their meeting packets. She requested that the copies of the draft report be returned to her at the end of the meeting. As way of introduction, Ms. Sartell noted that this is an update to the report initiated and originally published by the Roundtable in January 2003. The current report reflects funding streams for fiscal year 2006-07 with a few exceptions (e.g. philanthropies). For more details on the presentation, see the PowerPoint presentation.

#### Comments:

- The report only reflects the funding streams for subsidized child care and development services; it does not reflect parent fees. Parent fees as a component of child care and development contributes to the overall economy and as such is captured in *The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Los Angeles County* to be released on January 14, 2008 (see Public Comments and Announcements below). A note will be added in the introduction that the Funding Streams report addresses the subsidized system.
- The report speaks to the need for political advocacy to support a subsidized system that is fully funded using public dollars. The need for subsidies will not go away and the private sector (i.e. philanthropies) is not willing to subsidize child care on a long-term basis.
- The report will help establish priorities and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

## 5. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

### a. Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)

The Planning Committee met on Saturday, January 5, 2007. Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff to the Planning Committee, presented *The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Los Angeles County* and, as mentioned previously, Dr. Arroyo provided an update on the MHSA/PEI. Mr. Lancaster relayed the consensus of Planning Committee to advocate for a comprehensive approach to early mental health that focuses on the very youngest children and also meets needs of parents and caregivers.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2008 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at The California Endowment in the Mojave Room located at 1000 North Alameda Street in Los Angeles.

### b. Children's Planning Council (CPC)

Mr. Dennis reported that the CPC continues planning for the future. The next meeting of the governance group is scheduled for January 18, 2007, after which Mr. Dennis expects to have a more complete report.

### c. First 5 LA

Ms. Evelyn Aleman, Manager of Government Affairs for First 5 LA, announced that she will be attending the Roundtable meetings regularly. She had nothing further to report. Ms. Malaske-Samu commented that Ms. Connie Russell's nomination to the Commission is in process. Ms. Kleinberg asked that her appreciation be passed on to Ms. Kate Sachnoff for her efforts relating to addressing the mental health needs of young children and their families, including her attendance at the last stakeholders meeting.

### d. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Ms. Elsa Leal, on Ms. Carolina Alvarez's behalf, relayed no updates.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Sheri Lewis reported that as of February 1, 2008 the new Trustline regulations go into effect for license-exempt child care providers who are not the aunt, uncle, or grandparent. New license-exempt providers serving families receiving child care subsidies will need to go through the Trustline process and no payments will be issued until the provider is cleared. A couple of implications were noted. If the provider begins caring for the child while pending the Trustline clearance, they will not receive payment if they are not cleared. This new process may also draw attention to length of time the clearances take - sometimes three months to one year – however one Roundtable member noted that the turn around time seems to be improving. Existing license-exempt providers or providers who have submitted their Trustline applications prior to February 1, 2008 will be grandfathered in and the new rules will not apply to them.
- The public presentation of *The Economic Impact of the Early Care and Education Industry in Los Angeles County* and *Early Care and Education Career Lattices in Los Angeles* is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2008 from 8:00 to 10 a.m. at The California Endowment. Among the special guests and presenters are: Mr. Jack Kyser, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation; Mr. Gary Mangiofoco, LAUP; Ms. Alicia Lara, United Way of Greater Los Angeles; Supervisors Don Knabe and Burke; and Ms. Valerie Zavala, KCET, as moderator.

**7. CALL TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Dennis adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Ms. Kathy House  
Ms. Jan Isenberg  
Mr. Craig Lancaster  
Ms. Sheri Lewis  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Mr. Robert Wiltse

**Guests:**

Ms. Leila Espinosa, UCLA/Early Developmental Screening and Intervention  
Ms. Sandra Hong, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Ms. Helen Kleinberg, Commission for Children and Families  
Ms. Elsa Leal, Los Angeles Universal Preschool  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council

**Staff:**

Ms. Helen Chavez  
Ms. Laura Escobedo  
Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell