



POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE

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MINUTES

April 11, 2007

9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration – Conference Room 743
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Matt Rezvani, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

a. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Rezvani announced that he will be calling for the formation of a Nominating Committee at the May meeting. He noted that Mr. Robert Wiltse and he had enjoyed an extra year as Chair and Vice-chair respectively – but that new faces will be needed to remain in compliance with the Roundtable by laws. Mr. Rezvani asked that members with an interest in serving as Chair or Vice-Chair contact either him or Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu, staff to the Roundtable, with any questions on time commitments, etc. He added that leadership will be very important to guide the implementation of Steps to Excellence Program (STEP).

Mr. Rezvani then reported that staff are researching locations for the July 11, 2007 annual retreat, including:

- Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey;
- Descanso Gardens in La Cañada-Flintridge;
- The California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles; and
- Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena

Members did not express a preference on any particular site. Mr. John Wicker offered to assist with possible park and recreation sites.

b. Review of March Minutes

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and adopted without opposition on a motion by Ms. Arlene Rhine and seconded by Ms. Peggy Sisson.

2. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

a. Request to Oppose SB 893

Mr. Wiltse noted that at a previous meeting, concern was raised regarding SB 893. This bill would reallocate all funding now directed to State and County First 5 Commissions to be used as additional match for the Federal State Children's Health Insurance Program, thereby expanding the Healthy Families Program. Mr. Rezvani commented that, under State and

County First 5 Commissions, these funds are used to support an array of services, not just health insurance.

Mr. Wiltse reported that the Board of Supervisors had voted on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, to oppose this bill, making it possible for the Roundtable to take a similar action. The CAO's analysis of the bill was included in member materials.

Ms. Arlene Rhine moved that the Roundtable oppose SB 893 and Ms. Connie Russell offered a second. The motion passed with no opposition and one abstention.

b. Request to Support SB 680

Mr. Wiltse presented the Legislative Committee Report, including a request for support of SB 680. Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas is the author of this bill, which states the intent of the legislature to continue funding child care resource and referral agencies to provide enhanced referrals to families whose children have special needs, provide training and technical assistance to child care providers to appropriately serve those with special needs, and make information about legal obligations and rights available to child care providers and parents. Ms. Sheri Lewis asked if the County had or was considering taking a sponsorship role on this bill. Ms. Malaske-Samu responded that the Fourth District was preparing a motion calling for Board support of the bill, but she was not sure when the motion would be heard. (Later in the meeting, Ms. Victoria Evers confirmed that the motion would be heard on April 17, 2007.)

Hearing no further questions, Ms. Sisson moved that the Roundtable recommend that the Board of Supervisors support SB 680. Ms. Rhine offered a second and the motion passed with one abstention.

3. PLANNING FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Rezvani introduced Dr. Sam Chan with the Los Angeles County Mental Health Department (DMH).

Dr. Chan opened his presentation by noting that as a result of the November 2004 passage of Proposition 63, a one percent income tax is now imposed on Californians with personal income in excess of \$1 million. This tax is used to fund increased mental health services and systems transformation. While the debate continues as to the appropriateness of funding basic mental health services through the initiative process, these funds have made it possible to launch the first expansion of mental health services in years.

Planning for the first phase of funding made available under Proposition 63 now referred to as the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), began three years ago. The initial phase was intended to support the expansion of services to those most in need. The planning process became extremely complicated and time consuming. Learning from that experience, planning for the second phase on Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) is going to be significantly more streamlined and accelerated.

Dr. Chan noted that MHSA funds account for only one percent of the DMH budget. Yet these funds are spearheading a very different approach to delivering mental health services, including an emphasis on increased access, cultural competence, collaboration and integration with communities, and a reduction in of out-of-home and institutional care. Many in DMH and the

existing mental health community are struggling to implement these accelerating transformation efforts that require significant system changes, unique skill sets and experiences, as well as infrastructure resources and unmet workforce needs that are extremely challenging.

A planning session or “Stakeholder Workshop”, sponsored by the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) and the State Department of Mental Health, is scheduled for Friday, April 13, 2007, at the Mission Inn in Riverside. Recognizing that 50 percent of all lifetime mental health disorders start by age 14, and 75 percent start by age 24, the MHSOAC has approved a Policy Direction that requires counties to dedicate at least 51 percent of the PEI funds to children, youth and young adults between the ages of 0 to 25 (small counties are excluded from this requirement). However, United Advocates for Children and Families has recommended that all counties allocate 75 percent of their PEI funding for children and youth programs.

Among the priority populations designated in the PEI plan requirements are:

- Underserved cultural populations
- Individuals experiencing onset of serious psychiatric illness
- Children/youth in stressed families
- Trauma-exposed individuals
- Children/youth at risk for school failure
- Children and youth at risk of juvenile justice involvement

Key community mental health needs also address stigma and discrimination and suicide risk.

In Los Angeles County, Dr. Bill Arroyo (Medical Director of the Children’s Bureau, DMH) will be leading the PEI planning process on behalf of DMH. Formal planning for PEI will begin July 2007, with the final plan scheduled to be submitted to the State Department of Mental Health by November; following the completion of State reviews and ultimate plan approval, implementation is expected to begin in January 2008. The focus of Los Angeles County Planning efforts will be at the Service Planning Area (SPA) level. Defining “stakeholders” for the planning process will be challenging. The intent will be to identify appropriate representatives and strategic partners from multiple stakeholder interests that can plan and design for the new vision of mental health services within a relatively short period of time. While the MHSA funds are not sufficient to meet the vast mental health service needs of the County, they have the potential to leverage additional funds and spark new collaborations. Dr. Chan referred to the Healthier Communities, Stronger Families, and Thriving Children (HST) prevention planning currently underway and involving a variety of County departments and community stakeholders. This type of collaboration could evolve into a system of shared funding, where the players are not competing but developing a continuum of needed and effective services.

Dr. Chan commented that the current workforce is unable to provide adequate culturally appropriate PEI mental health services to young children and their families. Additional investments must be made to develop this workforce. Ms. Terry Ogawa reported that there is a significant disconnect between the early childhood and mental health communities. In an attempt to bridge that gap, a variety of groups are meeting around various issues, but there is no coordination. Dr. Chan responded that planning for the PEI portion of the MHSA might serve that purpose and noted, as an example, that the Special Needs Advisory Project staff from the child care resource and referral agencies are attending the DMH ICARE Network meetings. He also agreed that representatives from multiple agencies and organizations focusing on the

needs of young children and families who continue to meet in various SPA-based and countywide collaboratives will need to participate more strategically in the PEI planning process.

Ms. Nancy Carter raised the issue of System Navigators. Dr. Chan suggested that an innovative approach to System Navigators would be to apply MHSA funding to identify and formally support a network of System Navigators from the various systems (e.g., Regional Centers, Health Services, LAUSD and other school districts, Early Care and Education) who might also have backgrounds and/or expertise in the mental health system and could more effectively navigate across systems to facilitate access to needed resources while also identifying key institutional barriers and policy issues requiring priority attention.

In closing his remarks, Dr. Chan noted that he would report back to the Roundtable in May, updating the group on State and local PEI planning. Mr. Rezvani expressed the Roundtable's appreciation to Dr. Chan.

4. PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EDUCATION AND PREPAREDNESS FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS

Mr. Rezvani introduced Ms. Aizita Magana with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health).

Ms. Magana opened her presentation by stating that her purpose was to share information – not fear - on planning for an influenza (flu) pandemic and to establish a partnership with the Roundtable so that accurate information on this issue could be broadly disseminated to child care centers and family child care homes. A copy of Ms. Magana's PowerPoint presentation is attached. The following is a very brief summary of the key points raised by Ms. Magana:

- Persons with the flu are contagious up to two days prior to experiencing symptoms.
- Getting a flu shot, even if you are healthy, limits your ability to infect others who may be more vulnerable.
- Flu is spread through contact with large droplet transmission.
- The best form of prevention is to wash your hands frequently, using soap and warm water.
- Pandemics are like earthquakes – they are going to happen, but preparedness can limit the negative impacts.

5. STEP UPDATE

Ms. Malaske-Samu announced that the second monthly report on STEP planning would be delivered to the Board of Supervisors that afternoon (April 11, 2007). This report includes an invitation to each Supervisor to attend the June 22, 2007 kick-off event at The California Endowment, an update on proposed use of one-time only training funds from the California Department of Education, and presentations made on STEP. Copies will be distributed to Roundtable members.

6. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

Ms. Carolina Alvarez reported that the Los Angeles Universal Preschool Expo is scheduled for September 7 and 8, 2007 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. CALL TO ADJOURN

Mr. Rezvani adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Commissioners present:

Carolina Alvarez
Nancy Carter
Jan Isenberg
Sheri Lewis
Joan McGowan
Matt Rezvani
Arlene Rhine

Guests:

Cecilia C. Ayala
Terry Ogawa
Randi Wolf
Sam Chan, Ph.D., Mental Health
Aizita Magana, Public Health

Staff:

Kathleen Malaske-Samu

