



## Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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### Minutes

**September 9, 2009**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, California 90012**

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#### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

##### **a. Comments from the Chair**

Ms. Terri Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. Ms. Nishimura welcomed members and guests, then invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Ms. Nishimura referred members and guests to the materials in their meeting packets for the following:

- An article published by The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. entitled *Learning through Play*. Ms. Nishimura invited members and guests to share articles of interest for inclusion in the meeting packets for future meetings.
- A summary of the Results of 2009 Check-up on Roundtable Procedures.

Ms. Nishimura introduced a plan to rejuvenate committees and encouraged all members to participate in at least one committee. The current and new committees are as follows:

#### Current Committees

- Joint Committee on Legislation – Mr. Adam Sonenshein represents Dr. Celia Ayala and serves as co-chair.
- Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) Review Committee – current members are Mr. Whit Hayslip, Ms. Arlene Rhine, and Ms. Ann Franzen.
- Public Relations Committee – current members are Ms. Nishimura, Ms. Maria Calix and Ms. Rhine

#### New Committees

- Joint Committee on the Centralized Eligibility List with the Child Care Planning Committee – Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu stated the purpose of this committee as looking at how to better help families connect with subsidized child care and development services as they become available. As such, it will be important to involve representatives from outside of the child care and development field.

- Policy Framework Implementation Committee(s) – This will be explored further at the October meeting. One suggestion is to tackle one objective at each Roundtable meeting.

Mr. Duane Dennis suggested reigniting the Committee on License Exempt Care. Mr. Dennis will consider taking the lead; he committed to contributing to the committee and advising the Board of Supervisors on the issue. He raised for consideration the question, “What is the role of government in support of this care?”

Ms. Malaske-Samu will bring a list of the proposed committees with brief descriptions to the October meeting.

#### **b. Introduction of Jacqueline White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer**

In late August, Ms. Jacqueline (“Jackie”) White assumed the role of Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Children and Families Well-Being Cluster. Ms. White brings a wealth of experience to this position garnered during her 30+ years with the County. Ms. Nishimura presented Ms. White with a binder containing background information on the Roundtable.

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu mentioned to Ms. White the Roundtable’s interest in tracking and recommending actions on federal legislation, particularly given that the current Administration is committed to making investments in high quality early care and education services. Ms. Malaske-Samu noted that the Roundtable may seek her assistance in pursuing actions on federal matters.

#### **c. Review of Minutes – July 15, 2009**

Ms. Nishimura extended a special thank you to Ms. Michele Sartell for documenting this full day meeting.

Dr. Celia Ayala made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Ms. Ann Franzen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. “PLAY FOR LIFE” CAMPAIGN – LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

Ms. Nishimura introduced Ms. Mika Yamamoto, member of the Roundtable and Special Assistant/Liaison with Unincorporated Areas with the County’s Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Yamamoto briefly shared information on the Department’s “Play for Life” Campaign. She distributed brightly colored folders containing buttons with catchy phrases, bookmarks and flyers. Basically, the campaign promotes all around wellness by highlighting the benefits of spending time outdoors exploring the environment. More items, including posters in English and Spanish, are available.

### **3. PREPARING CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR H1N1**

Ms. Nishimura introduced Mr. Michael Leighs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health External Relations and Communications Emergency Preparedness Liaison. Ms. Nishimura commented on the benefits of a crisis – or an impending crisis – in that it creates an opportunity to meet folks with whom you share a passion, yet work on issues from another perspective. The H1N1 flu is a case in point – the County’s Department of Public Health (DPH) is interested in reaching child development programs to prevent its spread. The Roundtable and Office of Child Care are

interested in providing accurate information to the child care and development field on the H1N1 virus.

Mr. Leighs provided an overview on the status of the virus and efforts underway to prepare for it. Referring to the flyer he distributed, Mr. Leigh noted that pandemic refers to the spread of the virus throughout the world, already reaching 150 countries. It took about five months to learn enough about the virus to dispel some concerns. The severity of the H1N1 is similar to seasonal flues. A seasonal flu kills about 36,000 people across the country each year. The spread of the H1N1 virus is more prevalent among children, particularly younger children while not having much of an impact among adults. This summer there were flu virus outbreaks in camps that resulted in sending children home. Interestingly, the virus is not spreading amongst the elderly population.

The DPH is treating the H1N1 virus as a strain of flu like any other. Preparedness includes outreach that stresses simple habits such as frequently washing hands, coughing/sneezing into one's elbow, and staying home when sick. Another component of preparedness will be vaccinations, although this effort is pending. Normal influenza vaccines are currently available. Initial doses of the vaccine for the H1N1 virus are expected to be ready by mid-October. Production will be ramped up for inoculations beginning with five priority groups: 1) children and young adults from six months to 24 years old; 2) caregivers of children under six months old; 3) pregnant women; 4) adults 24-64 years old with chronic medical conditions; and 5) health care providers. In Los Angeles County, there are over five million people in those categories. The DPH will reach the targeted populations through the normal channels, including physician offices, hospitals, and clinics. Schools are not a major focus due to the shrinking nursing staff. Outreach using public health nurses and offering "drive-through inoculations" will be targeted to the 20% of people without health insurance.

Additional comments:

- Tools for prevention targeted to child care and development programs are posted at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/schools](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/schools). The Office of Child Care Web site also has posted links to some of the materials and will add a direct link to the DPH site. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has developed a toolkit, which contains checklists for preparedness available through DPH's Web site.
- H1N1 is different than seasonal flues as it appears to be staying around.
- Current policy of the Los Angeles County child care and development employee centers is for persons who are sick to remain at home 24 hours after their fever is resolved, which is consistent with the DPH recommendation. Some employers are exploring other ways to conduct their work from home. Mr. Hayslip commented on the impact if protocols are not followed, including closing a center due to an outbreak, then paying healthy staff to stay home and not providing services to healthy children. On the other hand, staying home an extra day with a child means less likely to stay home longer.
- Thus far, it appears that two doses of inoculations with a four week gap between each will be required.

#### **4. JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION REPORT**

Ms. Nishimura welcomed Mr. Adam Sonenshein back from paternity leave, and then turned the meeting over to Ms. Michele Sartell to report on behalf of the Joint Committee on Legislation.

Ms. Sartell referred members to their meeting packets for copies of the following materials:

- Matrix of Legislation being Considered by the California State Legislature - 2009
- Bill Analysis: Early Learning Challenge Fund (H.R. 3221)
- Proposed State Legislative Agenda Items for 2010 Session: Child Care and Development/Federal Legislative Agenda Items for 2010-11 Session: Children and Family Services
- Public Policy Platform – FY 2010-11

**a. Update on State Legislation**

Ms. Sartell reported that of the 35 Assembly and Senate bills relating to child care and development being monitored by the Joint Committee on Legislation (Joint Committee) only nine are progressing through the legislative process. The remaining bills are likely to become two year bills or are dead. The Joint Committee does not have recommended positions on any bills at this time.

**b. Support for Federal Early Learning Challenge Grants**

On the other hand, the Joint Committee is suggesting that the Roundtable recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a “support” position on the Early Learning Challenge Fund, a component of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009 (H.R. 3221). This component of Federal legislation would establish two competitive grants – the Quality Pathways Grant and the Development Grant – as incentives to States to develop and implement high quality early learning systems for children from birth to five and their families. States that can demonstrate significant progress toward developing core elements of a high quality early learning system would be eligible for the Quality Pathways Grants, which may be awarded for up to five years and are renewable. Development Grants are available to states that can show a commitment to expanding and strengthening their early learning system, but need assistance in establishing a comprehensive, high quality early learning system. States that effectively use their Development Grants are eligible for Quality Pathways Grants after three years.

The Early Learning Challenge Fund promotes a comprehensive, high quality early learning system that contains, among others, the following elements:

- Early learning and development standards that include social and emotional, cognitive, and physical development domains, and approaches to learning that are developmentally appropriate,
- A quality rating and improvement system that builds upon licensing requirements, is implemented across different types of early learning settings, includes mechanisms for evaluating how programs are meeting the standards and progressively higher levels of quality, and contains outreach strategies to help parents understand child development and the quality rating in which their child is enrolled.
- Comprehensive plans for supporting professional preparation and ongoing development of an effective, well-compensated workforce, including a plan for education and training that is sustained, intensive, and classroom focused and leads to a credential or degree.
- Recognizes and responds to children at risk or with disabilities and other special needs, ensuring their full inclusion in the early learning program as well as connecting them and their families with health and social services as needed.

- Incorporates practices that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and meet the needs of dual language learners.

Ms. Sartell stated that this provision of the bill is consistent with current County policy – Federal and State. The County’s federal and state policy supports efforts to enhance the quality of child care and development services and ensure that all families have access to quality services, particularly low-income families. Furthermore, the bill promotes the development of a quality rating and improvement system that sets high standards and approaches for achieving a system for high quality, comprehensive child development services.

Ms. Rhine made a motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a position of support on the Early Learning Challenge Fund; Ms. Connie Russell seconded the motion. The motion was then opened for discussion.

Dr. Ayala suggested adding a reference to the efforts of Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) as well as STEP in the recommended position. Next, it was pointed out that the application for the Development Grant would need to be submitted by the State; local jurisdictions with efforts underway would not be eligible to apply. Concern was expressed regarding California’s readiness to compete; it is lagging behind other States as well as some local efforts. A support if amended position was considered with the suggestion that the bill be amended to allow local jurisdictions to apply for funds. Mr. Dennis commented on the ramifications of submitting a support if amended position on an important piece of federal legislation that is designed to comprehensively reform the field of child care and development across the country. A question was raised asking how a local jurisdiction would implement the comprehensive requirements of the Early Learning Challenge Fund separate from the State. One thought is to allow the effort to operate as a pilot of the State.

In the end the motion stood as entered, with the addition of a recommendation that the bill language be amended making States and local jurisdictions eligible for Development Grants. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Sartell will finalize the bill analysis for submission to the Chief Executive Office’s Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs Branch for review before it goes to the Board of Supervisors as a request for a pursuit of position.

Closing comments were offered. How to support the work of the State to prepare for the Fund, if the bill is passed, should be explored. In addition, it will be important to track how the State, if funded, implements its grant, especially given how American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for child care and development were allocated. Ms. Malaske-Samu suggested maximizing the potential for Los Angeles County to participate in the Early Learning Challenge Fund opportunity.

### **c. Providing Input to the County Legislative Agenda**

Ms. Sartell directed members to the document listing the proposed child care and development items to be included in the County’s State and Federal Legislative Agenda Items for 2010-11. Ms. Sartell reminded members that the child care and development items for the State agenda were revised last year into broad yet succinct statements around enhancing quality, developing and sustaining a professional workforce, ensuring the health and safety of children in licensed programs, providing adequate funding for low and moderate income families, expanding the supply, and focusing services on vulnerable populations of children and families. To support the items, a public policy platform with examples of proposed policy efforts was developed. For this year, the proposed revisions are minor and shaded in the draft document.

Dr. Ayala moved to accept the proposed State Legislative Agenda Items for the 2010-11 Session: Child Care and Development; the motion was seconded by Ms. Esther Torrez. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sartell next reviewed the items for the Federal agenda, which are fewer in number and are much broader in scope. Proposed revisions broaden the scope of the items, focusing on increasing funding streams, improving quality and access, and serving dual language learners.

Ms. Russell made a motion to accept the proposed Federal Legislative Agenda Items for the 2010-11: Children and Family Services; Ms. Sarah Younglove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dennis requested an analysis of the ARRA funds for child care and development that were allocated from the State to the County.

## **5. CHILD CARE QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEMS**

### **a. Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee**

Dr. Ayala referred members and guests to the schedule of Early Learning Quality Improvement Advisory Committee (ELQIS Advisory Committee) and Subcommittee meetings included in their meeting packets. The schedule lists the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Subcommittee. Dr. Ayala encouraged members and guests to participate at the meetings.

Dr. Ayala reported that the ELQIS Advisory Committee will be considering big ideas presented by the Subcommittees. Currently on the table is the consideration of requiring State license for child care at minimum, however it raises the question of what to do with license exempt care. Other considerations include the selection of measures of quality and assessors, the weighting of standards, and more. To that end, she urged for voices needed at the Subcommittee on Design Ideas for Licensing, Quality Rating and Improvement. The Subcommittee on Workforce and Professional Development and Quality Incentives is also critical. More information about the ELQIS Advisory Committee and Subcommittees is available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/sb1629committee.asp>.

Mr. Dennis encouraged inviting the California Department of Social Services to participate in conversations around license-exempt care.

### **b. Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) Update**

Ms. Helen Chavez reported that she is resuming emphasis on growing participation through outreach to 50 new programs. Efforts are focused on those that do not traditionally participate, such as faith-based programs and programs operated by community-based organizations and private entities. To facilitate efforts, Ms. Chavez is relying on informal networks and working with Board of Supervisors' staff.

Another activity underway is a review of current processes, updating materials, and translating the materials into Spanish. In addition, STEP is partnering with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to support trainings. STEP also is looking to partner with ongoing training efforts. As such, a second meeting to dialogue with key folks regarding training activities is scheduled for September 22, 2009 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education in Santa Fe Springs.

Ms. Chavez concluded her comments by addressing the need to focus on sustainability. STEP received funding from First 5 LA for the second year and a portion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. She raised the

importance of working with the ELQIS Advisory Committee and supporting the federal legislation containing the Early Learning Challenge Fund for long-term sustainability. Fee for service is an idea STEP is exploring; one group has already contacted STEP to ask if it could pay for services.

Mr. Hayslip announced that his staff at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) are thrilled and proud of their program ratings, mostly “4s” with some “3s”. He stated that STEP is accomplishing what he had hoped – programs are performing everyday at the level they performed when UCLA conducted their observations.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Ayala announced that LAUP will be holding a fundraiser – Dodger Night on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## **7. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

### **Commissioners Present:**

Dr. Celia Ayala  
Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Kathy House  
Ms. Charlotte Lee  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Ms. Esther Torrez  
Ms. Mika Yamamoto  
Ms. Ruth Yoon  
Ms. Sarah Younglove

### **Guests:**

Mr. Richard Cohen  
Ms. Elizabeth Diaz, City of Los Angeles Community Development Dept.  
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA/Early Developmental Screening & Identification  
Ms. Sandra Hong, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Mr. Michael Leighs, Department of Public Health  
Dr. Dianne Philibosian, California State University Northridge  
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool  
Mr. Steve Sturm, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Lena Ward, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Jacqueline White, Chief Executive Office, County of Los Angeles

### **Staff:**

Ms. Helen Chavez  
Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell  
Ms. Stephanie Yorizane