



## Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**May 13, 2009**

**10:00 a.m. – noon**

**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 10:03 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

- Mr. Dennis, on behalf of the Roundtable, offered sympathies to Ann Franzen with the passing of her mother. The Roundtable presented her with a card.
- Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu, staff to the Roundtable, reflected on the Roundtable's history of interest and action relating to zoning issues as they impact child care and development programs. She acknowledged the work of Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff with the Office of Child Care, participation in Constructing Connections Los Angeles, which is administered by Public Counsel Law Center, and their recent notice that Los Angeles County has undertaken a review of its current zoning plan. Mr. Allen Hubsch, and a volunteer attorney with Public Counsel's Early Care and Education Law Project, has prepared recommendations to enhancing the County's General Plan as it relates to child care and development. Regional Planning is open to the recommendations, which build upon the current references.

##### **a. Review of Minutes**

- April 8, 2009

Minor grammatical and sentence structure changes were identified for correction. Ms. Arlene Rhine made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Ann Franzen seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

##### **b. Call for Nominating Committee Participants**

Mr. Dennis asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee puts forth candidates for the Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Dennis noted that his term as Chair of the Roundtable ends as of June 30, 2009. Ms. Rhine, Ms. Maria Calix and Ms. Connie Russell volunteered to serve.

**c. Feedback on the Step Reception**

Ms. Connie Russell reported on the STEP reception by reading a glowing e-mail from Mr. Nicholas Ippolito, Deputy to Supervisor Knabe. In addition, she referred members and guests to their meeting packets for a copy of a thank you letter from Supervisor Knabe.

**d. Update on the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee**

Dr. Celia Ayala referred members and guests to the handout listing the upcoming meetings of the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) included in their meeting packets. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Woodland located in Yolo County. In addition, four regional locations will connect live to the meeting through a videoconferencing process.

Dr. Ayala added that most of the work will be done through five subcommittees. The following subcommittees include initial questions on the attributes to be addressed for each area:

**Design ideas for licensing, quality rating, and improvement system:** What are the attributes for a system that licenses and/or rates programs in early learning as well as health and safety? What attributes are needed in the quality improvement process?

**Professional development and quality incentives:** What are the attributes of an effective professional development system for teachers, administrators, and support staff in early learning programs and services, including early learning for children with special needs and for dual language learner children? What are the attributes of incentives to support a high-quality early learning workforce?

**Engagement and outreach for families, practitioners/providers, public:** What are the attributes of effective engagement and outreach strategies for: families (reflecting California's demographics); program providers; and the public about high-quality early learning programs?

**Finance and Incentives; funding model aligned with quality rating scale:** What are the attributes of a funding model that rewards higher quality levels and includes current and new resources at the federal, state, local, and private levels? How could the early learning funding model better meet the needs of California children, particularly the needs of low-income children, children with special needs, and dual language learner children?

**Data Systems and Evaluation/Research:** What are the attributes of a data system that would effectively use data to coordinate and improve quality among public and private local, state, and federal early learning programs/providers? What are the attributes of systems to track information about program quality monitoring, technical assistance effectiveness, professional development levels and areas of specialization, and child outcomes including those for children with special needs and dual language learner children? What are the attributes of evaluation and/or research projects we would need to continuously improve the quality of early learning programs and monitor their effects on outcomes for children, and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the quality improvement system itself?

Dr. Ayala strongly encourages participation in the subcommittees, particularly from stakeholders in southern California given our large population of young children.

Lastly, Dr. Ayala mentioned some of the issues that the Advisory Committee began to discuss at the March meeting and are on the table for the June meeting. At the March meeting, discussion ensued with a proposal to broaden the age range to capture programs serving children from ages zero to eight. The discussion will continue at the June meeting along with other items of interest including Dual Language Learners, students at risk, and how to engage families.

## **2. CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK**

### **■ Implementation of the Child Care and Development Policy Framework**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu directed members and guests to their packets for the document, “Draft Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) Agencies – Child Care Resource and Referral, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Family Regional Offices”. The document is a matrix outlining the PIDP agencies, their leads, and geographic focus areas followed by the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency and DCFS Regional Administrator serving the area consistent with the PIDP agency. Ms. Malaske-Samu noted that she is still working on collecting information for El Centro del Pueblo. The document is intended to help facilitate building an infrastructure of communication among the agencies in the service to children and their families.

On another item for implementation, Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that since last year’s retreat, there have been early discussions with First 5 LA around communicating with CalWORKs clients about quality child care and development. First 5 LA is interested in conducting an information campaign to help CalWORKs families understand quality and child development services. Ms. Leanne Negron of First 5 LA emphasized that the work is exploratory with a scientific, focused approach that includes pursuing data and research to help shape a plan that will be piloted at the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) office located in Norwalk. Norwalk was selected based on a recommendation by Supervisor Knabe. In addition, the City of Norwalk administers an Alternative Payment Program. Ms. Charlotte Lee of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) added that it will be important to capture meaningful outcome data that shows the actual impact on how families select child care and development services. Ms. Malaske-Samu will propose meeting dates to continue this work.

Mr. Dennis added a backdrop to this effort. He reported that 65 to 70% of CalWORKs Stage 1 child care clients use license-exempt care. There are no regulatory compliance requirements for license-exempt providers, much less requirements to provide quality services for a population of children most in need of quality child care and development.

## **3. IDENTIFYING COMMUNITIES WITH UNMET CHILD CARE NEEDS: A REPORT FROM THE CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff to the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), presented a PowerPoint on the proposed 2009-10 Priority Areas for CDE Funding. Refer to the PowerPoint for an overview of the local planning councils’ (e.g. Planning Committee) role for setting the priorities for General Child Care and State Preschool. A Public Hearing on the revised priorities is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### **4. UPDATE ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT FUNDING UNDER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**

Mr. Dennis welcomed the presenters convened to present on areas of the ARRA. He especially welcomed Ms. Sarah Younglove from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Ms. Fran Chasen, representing the Infant Development Association and the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC). Ms. Malaske-Samu kicked off the presentations by referring members and guests to the document she prepared for the meeting entitled “Summary of Expanded Services for Young Children under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)”. The document lists each of the programs with significant investments in child care and development services and, as that information is available, the California and Los Angeles County Allocations and how the money may be spent.

##### **a. Child Care and Development Block Grant**

Ms. Michele Sartell referred members to their packets for a copy of the document, “California Department of Education Proposal - Child Care and Development Block Grant – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus Funds”. The California Department of Education (CDE) will receive a total of \$220,273,864 in CCDBG funds for child development services over two years, to be spent in equal amounts. The document outlines proposed spending for the first year and is organized under direct services, program quality activities, and infant/toddler earmark, consistent with the ARRA requirements.

In reference to significant investments to the Alternative Payment (AP) Programs for expanding child care and development services to children and families currently not served, Mr. Dennis remarked that there needs to be a plan to ensure that the money is used efficiently and expeditiously. He reported challenges to enrolling families from the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL). Those families with highest priority tend to be the most transient. As example, Mr. Dennis relayed that when they received AP dollars in January, they made 5,600 contacts to enroll 200 families. Planning will be critical to prepare for the stimulus funds; Mr. Dennis stated that the APs are willing work with the Office of Child Care.

The investment in Inclusion Behavior Specialists was also noted as having some semblance of the Special Needs Advisory Project. However, the mechanism for actually delivering the services is unclear. Ms. Malaske-Samu mentioned an e-mail she sent to CDE asking for clarity on this proposal.

Ms. Sartell closed by remarking that the President’s 2010 budget proposes no new funding for the CCDBG, while he has proposed new investments in other early education programs. CCDBG is currently funding at \$2,127,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

##### **b. Head Start and Early Head Start**

Ms. Sarah Younglove of Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start added that Head Start actually will take a cut in funding for 2009-10 due to the large influx of investment dollars.

Ms. Younglove reported that the first round of dollars received for Head Start Programs provided for cost of living adjustments (COLA) and quality improvements. Discussions are underway with school districts to ensure that the COLAs are implemented. The COLAs will become part of the Head Start program budgets. The remaining Head Start funds will be allocated on a competitive basis as follows:

ARRA of 2009 Head Start Expansion: Funding under this grant will support expanding Early Head Start and Head Start Program to enroll more children and create additional teaching positions. Applications are due June 23, 2009 and will be initially evaluated by non-federal reviewers to assign scores based on set criteria. Next, the applications are submitted to the headquarters located in Washington, D.C. where it will be decided how moneys will be allocated nationally. According to Ms. Younglove, the process is extremely competitive; California is not guaranteed an assigned allotment even though California's share would be \$12,004,005. In total, an estimated \$102 million dollars is available for approximately 200 awardees. The ceiling on individual awards is \$5 million per budget period; the expected average award amount will be \$500,000 per budget period.

One month ago, LACOE convened Los Angeles County grantees to discuss a collaborative rather than competitive approach. Ms Younglove reported that bottom line it is competitive. She further stated that based on a community survey conducted by LACOE, not many families are eligible for Head Start (7,000), however approximate 80,000 families are eligible for Early Head Start. She added that while there is competition among the grantees in Los Angeles County, the competition is fierce across county. Of the funds, two percent of the award amount may be used for training and technical assistance. Ms. Younglove was asked if there are plans for adding Head Start in homeless shelters. Ms. Younglove answered that there is no coordinated planning occurring at this time, however the application may address the need of this population for Head Start Services for this population. Ms. Younglove stated that there is a model developed by Andrew Cuomo for including Head Start services in environments serving homeless families in White Plains, New York. She relayed that there have been discussions on how to recreate the model conceptually in Los Angeles County. She also mentioned foster children as another area of concern. She stated that every successful application will have a "hook" that distinguishes it from the competition.

ARRA of 2009 Early Head Start Expansion: This grant award will support the enrollment of an additional 55,000 children in Early Head Start programs and create new teaching positions. The application is due July 9, 2009. The application process for these funds is also competitive and while California's allotment has been estimated at \$58,943,000, there is no guarantee that the full allotment will be awarded to agencies in California. The ceiling for individual awards is \$5 million, with the average project award estimated at \$965,000 per budget period for approximately 600 awardees.

LACOE has hit the ground running. Five delegate agencies are doing Early Head Start, of which four have indicated they could expand their home-based services. LACOE issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to partner, and only Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) responded. Ms. Younglove expressed her hope that Los Angeles County will be recognized as a city and county of need, however, she noted that we are competing with other large cities and rural areas who are also facing high needs. Mr. Whit Hayslip acknowledged the partnership that is requiring LAUSD to look at how it is maximizing its resources and leveraging funds.

#### Member and Guest Comments:

- Is there an option for Head Start to collaborate with non-Head Start programs? LACOE currently contracts with local agencies. For the application, it is looking at how many hooks they can apply based on the application criteria. Collaboration would be a hook – coordinating with other monies, addressing vulnerable populations, and leveraging/maximizing funds.

- Ms. Charlotte Lee offered to provide data on the number of CalWORKs children who are homeless by age categories. DPSS knows the number of families; she thinks they could isolate the number of families with young children.
- Two percent is allowed for training and technical development, with an emphasis on new staff. One idea has been to create a training and certification plan for teachers who have received pink slips to allow for employment in child care and development with an interest in working with infants and toddlers.

**c. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**

- Part B Preschool

Mr. Whit Hayslip relayed that the funding for Part B Preschool is confusing. He specifically focused on LAUSD, providing a bit of history including the statement special education does not pay for itself. As such, only about half of the available ARRA funds will be spent on new preschoolers, while the remaining half will be applied to the encroachment of costs on the LAUSD's general funds. Mr Hayslip added that a portion of the funds will be used this summer to conduct health screenings and early identification and intervention.

Mr. Hayslip also added that he does not anticipate schools using Title I funding for early care and education. He suggested advocating for a set-aside specifically for early care and education.

- Part C Early Intervention Program

Ms. Fran Chasen supported Mr. Hayslip's idea and referred members and guests to the Web site of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for their dedicated page on ARRA and items relating to Title I.

Ms. Chasen reported that the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) applies directly to the federal government for \$53 to 54 billion in grant funds. DDS works in partnership with the CDE on providing services with the funds, with DDS spending approximately 20 cents on the dollar. Approximately half of the awarded funds are claimed through a purchase of service contract. ARRA funds for Part C are likely to reduce the State's expenditure of general funds with no real expansion taking place.

Ms. Chasen added that the DDS has submitted to the California legislature a package of 15 cost containment proposals. Included in that set of proposals, are changes that would result in the elimination of services for children under three years old deemed at risk of a developmental disability. Regional Centers are now in the process of reducing service hours, eliminating children from their program, and cutting back on services in order to survive. Ms. Chasen raised concerns about their accountability and lack of transparency

In closing the presentation, Ms. Malaske-Samu will correct the handout summarizing the funding allocations under ARRA and send to members and guests to help track how funds are actually reaching children and families in Los Angeles County.

On another item, Dr. McCroskey mentioned that there is interest in convening a countywide data collaborative. She proposed this group come together under the purview of Roundtable. Ms. Malaske-Samu will convene a group to help plan and make it a discussion item at the

retreat. She added that there are lots of items for the agenda. She will propose a framework for the retreat at the June meeting.

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

Mr. Adam Sonnenshein, before presenting his report, mentioned the President's proposal for the Early Learning Challenge Fund, which would help states with the development of quality rating and improvement systems.

Reporting on behalf of the Joint Committee, Mr. Adam Sonnenshein referred members to the list of bills currently under consideration by the California legislature. He mentioned three bills of interest to the Joint Committee and the Roundtable: AB 932 (Torlackson), AB 495 (Davis) and SB 244 (Wright).

AB 932 (Torlackson) would amend current law pertaining to the Child Care Facilities Revolving Fund (Revolving Fund), which provides capital financing to child care and development contractors. If passed, the bill would align the Revolving Fund with the child care financial intermediary program (e.g. Financial Intermediary) to achieve efficiencies and enhance the capital financing expertise of the CDE staff. In brief, alignment with the Financial Intermediary would provide the desperately needed expertise in financing and capital expansion to increase the availability of funding for renovation, expansion and construction of child care and development facilities and mitigate the underutilization of these funds. The bill is co-sponsored by the California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) and the Low Income Investment Fund. The bill was last amended on April 27, 2009 and is currently scheduled for a hearing in Assembly Appropriations on May 13, 2009.

AB 495 (Davis), sponsored by Los Angeles Universal Preschool, was recently amended on April 22, 2009. If passed, the bill would require the CDE to post on a section of their Web site data on the number of preschool age children and number of preschool spaces on a state and county-by-county basis. The California Child Care Portfolio published by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network would serve as the source of the data. CDE would be required to update the data whenever the Portfolio is updated.

SB 244 (Wright) is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Education Foundation. It would amend various sections of the Education and Welfare and Institutions Codes to ensure that birth to five year old children who are in the foster care system, are at risk of abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation, are in relative care, and were recently adopted, are homeless, or have a parent who is in the foster care or juvenile justice system receive priority for child care and development services. Mr. Sonnenshein relayed that Ms. Terry Ogawa and Mr. Richard Cohen attended the April meeting of the Joint Committee at which they provided an overview of the bill, including what it would accomplish on behalf of the most vulnerable children and families. After a brief discussion of the bill, the Joint Committee agreed to the merits of the bill. As such, they suggested that the Roundtable forward to the Board of Supervisors a recommended position of support.

In closing on the bills, Mr. Sonnenshein relayed that the Joint Committee is continuing to study all of the bills and is in the process of assigning "levels of interest" with a "1" as highest and "3" as lowest. While those bills indicated as a "watch" are of interest and worthy of tracking, it seemed premature to assign them a ranking at this time. And, last of all, Mr. Sonnenshein announced that on May 14, 2009 the Governor plans to release two versions of the May Revise in response to two possible scenarios based on whether the ballot initiatives pass.

Lastly, Mr. Sonnenshein provided a brief overview of budget concerns relating to the Cal-SAFE (California School-Age Families Education) Program by referring members to the materials including in their meeting packets. For background, Cal-SAFE is a high school based program that provides pregnant and parenting teens with academic and support services. Some Cal-SAFE programs provide on-site child care and development programs. The recent budget deal made 15% across the board reductions to 53 K-14 categorical programs. Enabling legislation gave local school administrators flexibility in the use of funding for lowest tier programs. Cal-SAFE is in the lowest tier, therefore subject to the local flexibility funding option and its related standards waiver. Referring to a table listing school districts with Cal-SAFE programs, some districts have already decided to drop their Cal-SAFE programs, while others are considering dropping the programs.

The California Child Development Administrators Association (CCDAA) has prepared advocacy materials to promote saving these essential services to pregnant and parenting teens. The materials, including a sample letter, are included in the materials. CCDAA has launched a letter-writing campaign to selected legislators and the members of the State Legislators Women's Caucus. The Joint Committee on Legislation proposes that the Roundtable recommend actions to advocate on behalf of preserving the Cal-SAFE programs.

Discussion:

It was noted that there is marked opposition to SB 244 in northern California. CCDAA has taken a support if amended due to none of the families addressed in the bill would need to demonstrate income eligibility. Mr. Dennis stated that the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles is unlikely to support the bill due to this issue. The Roundtable recommended tabling the bill for a fuller discussion at the June meeting. With respect to the Cal-SAFE programs, the Roundtable agreed to move forward with a letter supporting preserving the program.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- CAEYC and Preschool California are co-sponsoring Early Learning Advocacy Day in Sacramento on June 9, 2009. More information is available at [www.preschoolcalifornia.org](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org) or <http://www.caeyc.org>.
- California Head Start Association has launched a search for a new Executive Director. The complete job announcement and application instructions are available at <http://caheadstart.org/CHSAExecutiveDirectorProfile.pdf>.

**7. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Dr. Celia C. Ayala  
Ms. Maria Calix  
Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Charlotte Lee  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Ms. Esther Torrez

**Guests:**

Ms. Fran Chasen, Infant Development Association/CAEYC  
Mr. John Berndt, LACOE Head Start  
Ms. Emily Harding-Morick, UCLA CICCQ  
Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Leanne Negron, First 5 LA  
Ms. Terry Ogawa  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA  
Mr. Adam Sonnenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool  
Mr. Steve Sturm, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Cristina Torres, UCLA EDSI Project  
Ms. Sarah Younglove, LACOE Head Start

**Staff:**

Ms. Laura Escobedo  
Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell

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