



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 11, 2008**

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

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

Mr. Dennis reminded members and guests of the Roundtable retreat scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Eaton Canyon located at 1750 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, 91107. This will be an important meeting as the Roundtable will be setting the direction for this body and the role of child care in Los Angeles County. Ms. Diane Philibosian has been secured to facilitate the meeting and assist with the write up of the results of the retreat. Office of Child Care staff will send out reminders to members and guests the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> and will follow-up with the agenda the last week of June. A number of County Department representatives have been invited to participate in the child care policy discussion, including Ms. Sarah Younglove of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Ms. Angela Carter and Mr. Harvey Kawasaki of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and Mr. Phil Ansel of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS).

Ms. Kathy House was asked to provide an update on the proposed changes with the County and Chief Executive Office (CEO), including plans for the Office of Child Care. Ms. House reported that Mr. William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer, is attending a retreat with Department heads today to finalize the County Strategic Plan. Mr. Fujioka's interest is to streamline operations and outline objectives to achieve children and families' well being. Ms. House stated that the status of the Office of Child Care is still under consideration, which has been informed by Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu's responses to lots of questions.

##### **b. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- May 14, 2008

Ms. Ann Franzen made a motion to approve the minutes; Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

## 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Arlene Rhine, reporting on behalf of the Nominating Committee that includes Ms. Maria Calix and Mr. Whit Hayslip, met via conference call on Monday, June 9, 2008. The members agreed to request that the current Chair and Vice Chair, Mr. Dennis and Ms. Connie Russell respectively, serve a second term. Office of Child Care staff posed the question and both members expressed a willingness to continue for an additional year. The Committee will present this slate for a vote at the Roundtable retreat on July 9, 2009. In addition to the Committee's slate, the Roundtable will accept nominations from the floor at the retreat. The floor was opened to nominations during the meeting and none were offered.

## 3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Robert Wiltse directed members to their meeting packets for a copy of the Policy Brief for May 2008 entitled *Governor's May Revision for 2008-09 Budget: Child Care and Development Services*. Mr. Wiltse reported that the Governor has maintained his proposed across-the-board cuts to child care and development services, including no growth and cost of living adjustment (COLA), reducing funds to the California School Age Education (Cal-SAFE) and After School Enrichment and Safety (ASES) programs, and reductions to Community Care Licensing resulting in unannounced visits to licensed child care centers and family child care homes to every seven years. With the May Revise, the Governor has also proposed to re-bench the Regional Market Rate (RMR) from the 85<sup>th</sup> to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of private pay rates for voucher-based programs based on the new RMR survey, postpone implementation of the new RMR to January 1, 2008, and conduct the RMR survey every two years rather than annually. In addition, he has proposed revising the family fee schedule downward and adjusting the family fee schedule for families newly eligible to receive or will continue to receive services under the new income eligibility limits so that families will be required to pay fees at lower and lower income levels.

The Assembly and Senate Budget Sub-committees have concluded their hearings. For the most part, the Sub-committees have rejected most of the Governor's proposed cuts and denied his proposal to cap the reimbursement rate to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of market rates and his proposal to reduce the threshold at which fees are charged to families. The Sub-committees also have discussed contract issues that have resulted in unspent appropriations and unearned contracts for child care and development services for income eligible families. The California Department of Education has been directed to explore options to overcome contracting barriers and allow for more efficient disbursement and transfer of available funds. To date, the Assembly Sub-committee 1 on Health and Human Services and Sub-committee No. 2 on Education Finance have "adopted placeholder trailer bill language to address the contracting issues and ease the administrative barriers."

Mr. Wiltse next provided updates on the three bills of interest to the Roundtable: AB 2759 (Jones), SB 1629 (Steinberg), and AB 2525 (Galgiani). Both AB 2759 and SB 1629 have passed their houses of origin. Currently AB 2759 is in the Senate Committee on Rules awaiting assignment to a policy committee. SB 1629 is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Committee on Education on June 18, 2008. Office of Child Care staff met with Scott Moore of Preschool California at his request while he was in Los Angeles for other business. Mr. Moore stated that he is on a "listening tour" to obtain feedback about the bill from stakeholders. The Office of Child Care relayed the concerns relating to the narrow focus on preschool and the Roundtable's recommendations for broadening the scope to convene a Commission to develop an early learning quality improvement system for child care and development programs (Title 5

as well as Title 22) serving children from birth through five years old. As such, the recommendation included adding Commission members who represent the full spectrum of child care and development programs for young children. Mr. Moore stated that Preschool California is committed to broadening its focus to becoming much more inclusive of the early years from birth through age five and would be advocating for amendments consistent with the Roundtable's and others recommendations.

As for AB 2759, Mr. Moore spoke to the advantages of allowing flexibility to contractors to adjust their programs to meet the needs of children and families. According to Mr. Moore, operators would be able to alter their state preschool programs from part-day to full-day programs. Even with the proposed revised State Reimbursement Rate (SRR) from 55 to 61.72 percent for part-day preschool, he speculates that programs, particularly in Los Angeles County, will opt to become full day to better serve families and fully enroll their programs. It was added that currently no one knows how much money is allocated to infant/toddler care, however the bill does require monitoring its use. Mr. Moore added that Preschool California supports a set aside for infants and toddlers as new money becomes available.

Lastly, Mr. Wiltse reported that AB 2525 never made it past the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Ms. Malaske-Samu added that the Office of Child Care is working with Ms. Victoria Evers of Intergovernmental Relations regarding taking positions on the bills. Ms. Evers is preparing a pursuit of position, particularly with SB 1629, for submission to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Malaske-Samu relayed that the Roundtable's concerns with SB 1629 are consistent with others, including the Child Care Law Center and the California Child Care Coordinators Association. They also are advocating for a more comprehensive approach to planning that addresses the needs of all young children from birth through five years old. She is encouraged as a result of the meeting with Mr. Moore in that Preschool California is on board with the concerns and willing to advocate for further amendments to broaden the scope to develop an Early Learning Quality Improvement System for programs serving children from birth through five years old.

Mr. Dennis announced that the Alternative Payment (AP) programs will not be paying for subsidized child care as of August 20, 2008 if the State Budget is not signed. In the past when signing the budget has been delayed, the APs have used lines of credit to continuing paying for child care. This is no longer an option. Payments for CalWORKs Stages 1 and 2 will continue as federal will not be interrupted. Mr. Dennis continued that child care providers will need to decide whether they will continue to care for children on the promise of later payments or not serve children and families. Letters are being sent to providers regarding payments and include information on how to advocate with state legislators. In addition, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (Alliance) is preparing a press release and materials for the Board Deputies. Mr. Robert Wiltse relayed that DCFS will continue to reimburse for child care services to their clients.

Mr. Dennis next raised the issue of the Governor's proposed reductions to the Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) that would result in unannounced visits to licensed child care and development programs dropping from every five years to every seven years. Mr. Dennis framed the issue as gross negligence, noting that a child from ages birth to five could be enrolled in a program and never be seen by CCLD. He further noted that under the current system of visits every five years, California ranks at 47 out of 50 states for ensuring the health and safety of children in licensed child care programs. In addition, State licensing is out of synch with universal preschool and quality rating systems, especially when it

sets the base for a quality rating system. Mr. Dennis requested that a letter be prepared from the Roundtable to the Board of Supervisors urging action to ensure no further reductions to CCLD and restoring it to previous frequency. Dr. McCroskey suggested including language relating to licensing in the policy statement as well as fighting via advocacy efforts for a strong licensing system to ensure the health and safety of children in child care and development programs. Ms. Malaske-Samu added that the bulk of child care programs are not participating in Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) or California Department of Education (CDE)-contracted programs; for many licensed child care programs, the floor also serves as the ceiling.

#### **4. REVIEW AND COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Mr. Dennis directed members to the draft Policy on Child Development Services in Los Angeles County, which was sent electronically to members on Friday, June 6, 2008. The materials reflect statements made by Supervisor Knabe's at the March 3, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Members and guests offered the following comments:

- Page 1, **County Clients**, first bullet: Strengthen to include references and citations to longitudinal studies (i.e. Perry Preschool, Chicago Child Parent Study Centers) that reflect the outcomes resulting from children participating in high quality child care and development programs. The research demonstrating that participation in high quality program can prevent families from coming into contact with the system in the first place should be compelling to the Board of Supervisors.
- **County Clients:** Add the contributions of school districts, which operate Head Start, State Preschool, and school age.
- Page 1, **County Clients**, second bullet: Ms. Sheri Lewis will offer edits to better reflect CalWORKs families' eligibility, requirements and participation in child care. She mentioned that there are parents not engaged in work activities who are legitimately exempt. She added that certain conditions must be met to receive a child care subsidy, therefore the subsidy is not an entitlement. Detail to help support her edits will be reflected in the endnotes.
- **Introduction:** Add stronger statements upfront regarding the target population, i.e. children from birth through 12 years old and children with special needs and other disabilities.
- **Introduction:** Frame purpose of creating a child care policy. Speak to the fragmentation and disconnection of the child care system in Los Angeles County. Include information on the number of providers, the source of funding directly from state, and lack of coordination. Address the inconsistencies between the government and the nonprofit sectors.
- Page 2, **Recommendations, Item 3:** List what we are doing with the information, why we are doing it, and the expected outcomes. Ms. Malaske-Samu referred to item 5. The suggestion is to move item 5 to where item 3 is and put item 3 under it. Dr. McCroskey added that the Education Coordinating Council (ECC) is making progress in item 3; the ECC already knows some things about what the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Probation and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) are doing, which should be acknowledged. Mr. Dennis answered that there is no entity that brings all information

together regarding analysis, thinking and strategy. This document can show the baseline and how to build upon it, starting with compiling existing reports and tracking progress in a regular way. The ECC makes regular reports that include accomplished work to the Board of Supervisors.

- Page 3, **Recommendations, Item 4:** This is the action, developing a coordinated umbrella structure to which everyone feeds. Requires information to be shared across departments.

Mr. Dennis, as an example, reported that the Alliance has begun discussions with DCFS and has learned that about 70 percent of DCFS families are eligible for CalWORKs and CalWORKs child care. Efforts to connect eligible families with CalWORKs would ease the burden on DCFS child care and ensure that more families are being served and resources leveraged more efficiently. Dr. McCroskey offered another example that would address the child care and development needs of undocumented children in the DCFS system. The Roundtable is in a position to serve as the leader for convening folks to have conversations and facilitate actions to meet the child care and development needs of families. Ms. Terry Ogawa pointed out that the ECC was established four years ago and is due to sunset in another year. The Roundtable has expertise and is therefore the body that can continue making connections and facilitating participation and coordination among County bodies and others, including LAUP, the Alliance, Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs), and more. Item 4 is the first action; it is the place for creating specific goals, then strategies to achieve goals.

- **Child Development Service Sector (i.e. problem statement):** Address amount of dollars allocated to child care and development in Los Angeles County going unused and children going unserved, therefore not receiving quality care. Justifies need to enhance collaboration so no dollar goes back to state and every child that can be served is served.
- **Introduction:** The child care policy should be broader than county and county agencies and include outside agencies and organizations, such as the R&Rs. In addition, provide a landscape of County residents, reflecting the diversity of populations, cultures and languages.
- Consider additional language that articulates the parental role based on parent interest and right to be involved in decisions affecting their child(ren).

Ms. Malaske-Samu summarized her next steps for preparing the next draft of the child care policy. The recommendations will begin with items 1 and 2, followed by item 4. Specifically, she will:

- Add why and why now in the first part of the introduction and include the ages of children to be addressed for child care and development services.
- Beef up the first bullet under **Statement of Need/County Clients** by stating the specific impacts of participation in high quality early care and education programs as demonstrated by the research.
- Clarify the language in the second bullet pertaining the DPSS administered CalWORKs program.
- Articulate clearly the three recommendations – 1, 2 and 4.
- Add school districts to **Statement of Need/County Clients**. Ms. Ogawa will speak with Carrie Miller regarding work the ECC has engaged in with the school district superintendents.

In addition, Ms. Malaske-Samu will add a timeframe for reporting back to the Board of Supervisors and frame it as an evolving document that is informed also by County Departments, cluster meetings, and community stakeholders.

Mr. Dennis acknowledged that other groups are addressing child care and development policy and should feed information to the Roundtable. He mentioned the Alliance as being concerned about the connection between government and the nonprofit sectors to ensure that as many children needing it are enrolled in care and money is used efficiently. He encouraged other members and guests to also think about strategies for facilitating relationships among service sectors that ultimately connect families with child care and development programs. He also reminded members that Supervisor Knabe is looking to the Roundtable for a legislative agenda that ensures funds coming to Los Angeles County serve families and money is not returned to state while children go unserved.

Ms. Malaske-Samu will have a next draft to members for review by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12th. She requests feedback be provided immediately as she needs to submit the document to the CEO by the close of Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. COLLEAGE AGENCY REPORTS**

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

Ms. Holly Reynolds announced that WestEd has released the final draft of the newly established Infant/Toddler Learning Foundations, which was presented at the Planning Committee's June meeting). She mentioned that WestEd has developed a well-crafted video piece as a learning tool designed to help improve quality. The School Age Quality Work Group presented the school age quality guidelines, which will be available on the Office of Child Care Web site soon and distributed to school districts with school age programs.

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

Mr. Dennis deferred to Ms. Jan Isenberg and Ms. Elizabeth Diaz. The CPC membership considered recommendations relating to its governance structure. A couple of items of interest: The CPC voted to retain the current composition and size of its membership at 51 members; the CPC struck language from the recommendation that would have allowed the CPC to approve its own budget. Ms. Diaz stated that the CPC can recommend the budget, however it is up to membership to approve it.

### **c. First 5 LA**

Ms. Connie Russell reported that First 5 LA is considering its strategic plan for the next five years.

### **d. Los Angeles Universal Preschool**

Ms. Elsa Leal reported on behalf of Dr. Celia Ayala. LAUP has hosted and/or sponsored a couple of recent events with activities and workshops for children and their families. LAUP will be presenting for approval their 2008-09 scope of work, business plan and budget amount to First 5 LA tomorrow, June 12, 2008. LAUP proposes to serve 10,500 children this upcoming fiscal year.

**e. New Directions Task Force**

The New Directions Task Force will meet next month to discuss the results of the County's strategic planning. The New Directions Task Force/Interagency Operations Group (IOG) has a retreat planned for next month at which time they will focus on how their work supports the County direction.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**7. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Maria Calix  
Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Ms. Kathy House  
Ms. Jan Isenberg  
Ms. Sheri Lewis  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Holly Reynolds  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Mr. Robert Wiltse  
Ms. Ruth Yoon

**Guests:**

Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center  
Ms. Elizabeth Diaz, City of Los Angeles Commission on Children, Youth and Their Families  
Ms. Leila Espinosa, UCLA/Early Developmental Screening and Intervention  
Ms. Lauren Hernandez, Board of Supervisors, District 1  
Ms. Sandy Hong, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Elsa Leal, Los Angeles Universal Preschool  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council

**Staff:**

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