



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2008

10:00 a.m. – noon

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Avenue, Conference Room 743

Los Angeles, California 90012

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Duane Dennis, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

a. Review of Minutes

- October 8, 2008

Ms. Arlene Rhine offered a correction to the minutes regarding the motion to approve the Child Care Policy Framework. Ms. Kathy House moved and Ms. Rhine seconded the motion.

Ms. Jan Isenberg made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with one abstention.

2. UPDATE ON THE CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Mr. Dennis announced that the Education Coordinating Council endorsed the Child Care Policy Framework at their meeting on October 30, 2008.
- The Office of Child Care convened a meeting of local stakeholders to identify legislative remedies to maximize child development contracts. There surfaced a number of complicated issues, which are being compiled for distribution at a later date. The group will reconvene in December.

Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff with the Office of Child Care, mentioned that there is a great deal of interest in this issue as evidenced by the attendance at the meeting. The meeting started with a list of options. Mr. Nick Ippolito then asked for a recommendation of something big, concrete and that could really make a difference. Other participants responded that there is no one big item, rather lots of little things that altogether could lead to significant change. Ideas discussed at the meeting included raising that Standard Reimbursement Rate for infants and toddlers, allowing child care and development programs to retain collected parent fees, allowing for Los Angeles County to collect unearned funds for reallocation to provide more care, or a “cap and trade strategy”, which would allow agencies not likely to use their full reimbursable amounts by loaning to another agency that could expend the funds and provide services. The funds would then revert back to original agency the following

year. It was noted that a clearinghouse would be needed to track this last recommendation. In conclusion, Ms. Escobedo relayed that the participants will test the ideas with their respective constituencies. In the meantime, folks also will be tracking carefully the impact of AB 2759 (Jones). Lastly, the group agreed that maybe next year will be the time to pursue legislation.

3. PREVENTION INITIATIVE DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS (PIDP)

Mr. Dennis reminded members of early conversations on the Prevention Initiative Demonstration Projects (PIDP), which were interrupted by efforts to develop the policy framework. Now is the time to catch up on the projects overall and hear about the exciting work underway in Service Planning Area 4.

Mr. Dennis asked Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth of the Department of Children and Family Services to kick off the presentations by providing an overview of the PIDP.

a. Update from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Ms. Hottenroth stated that PIDP is in its fifth month of implementation by eight lead agencies. The Board of Supervisors approved extending PIDP to the end of June 2009 to allow for 12 full months of implementation. DCFS is working with the Office of Child Care, Head Start and Los Angeles Unified School District by looking at early care and education as a protective factor strategy for children and families connected with child welfare and is promoting this with the lead agencies. The first peer learning meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008 and will focus on early care and education as a primary strategy for prevention. Mr. Steve Sturm of the Education Unit at DCFS added that the PIDP is designed to help families through primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. Families at low risk (secondary) will be referred to outside agencies; families entering the system (tertiary) have multiple areas of need that will be addressed.

b. Service Planning Area (SPA) 4 – PIDP Lead Agency: Children’s Bureau

Mr. Dennis next introduced Mr. Alex Morales, Executive Director of the Children’s Bureau and one of the forces behind Magnolia Place. Mr. Morales referenced three strong lead agencies – Children’s Bureau, Children’s Institute, Inc. and El Centro del Pueblo – working with a network of community-based organizations that are implementing neighborhood strategies that will dramatically impact success in education and health and the quality of parenting, ultimately taking the edge off of poverty that does so much damage to families.

Mr. Morales emphasized that their work is a community capacity building strategy that relies on protective factors or resiliency systems, an approach promoted by the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and considers the role of early care and education integral to preventing child abuse and neglect. Mr. Morales distributed a fact sheet entitled *Magnolia Place Community Initiative and the Magnolia Place Network*. He referred to the five resiliency systems listed in the document, which relate to personal resiliency, knowledge of nurturing parenting, social support of friends, the availability of services, and the social-emotional competence of children. The goal is to establish protective factors and resiliency into the community as well as in the family and therefore change outcomes of large numbers of children and families and relieve the deeper end services required by DCFS.

Mr. Morales ended his opening comments by stating that Magnolia Place is surrounded by 30 other community-based organizations, some in the building and some in community. He mentioned its relationship with the County's Chief Executive Office and county departments with which they are weaving other services. They want to integrate child care and development services with their other components as well. In addition, they have received broad support from leading foundations and supporters, including \$22 million to launch. Lastly, they are pursuing advocacy efforts as well.

Mr. Morales introduced Ms. Licha Drake who offered some additional comments. Among her remarks, Ms. Drake added that the Children's Bureau and its partners are exploring how to incorporate early care and education into the community efforts.

c. Children's Institute, Inc.: A PIDP Partner

Children's Institute is a partner in the SPA 4 project. Mr. Dennis thanked Mr. Ken Louria for joining the Roundtable and asked him to comment. Mr. Louria expressed his excitement for the initiative, which he described as a departure from how business has been conducted in the past in relationship with DCFS. He continued that the PIDP is the first initiative that attacks the root causes of child abuse – social isolation, stress relating to financial issues, among other issues. Their primary strategy for attacking the root causes is through community organizing using a relationship-based approach. Organizations are going into the community to ask residents about their assets, gifts, talents. In essence, the residents are directing the approaches.

Mr. Lauria is also excited about their primary financial strategies that include helping low-income families apply for the Earned Income Credit, which will add approximately \$1,600 – 1,800 to their pockets. They are establishing volunteer tax sites to help residents file taxes and participate in financial workshops as well as serve as an entry point for other services.

Additional comments were then provided by Mr. Morales. Magnolia Place hosts a large preschool with the capacity to serve 100 children. The preschool is using multiple approaches to impact the early success of children and their families. One program element - the parent enrichment program – involves parents attending the program with their children multiple times per week for many hours where they are learning from early childhood teacher and building relationships with the support staff. Another model – the parent cooperative – involves parents participating 20 percent of the time caring for their own and other children. A third model operates much like a Head Start. Mr. Morales stated that this work is challenging with respect to navigating the funding streams, each with their own sets of regulations. To date, Children's Bureau has relied on philanthropy to support its programs. Recently, they were awarded a California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) for an on-site State Preschool in the amount of \$400,000. While they are recruiting families and expect to fill their preschool program, which will operate part-day, their program is designed for families who come on their own for help. The idea is to make the program work from the standpoint of the family, rather than that of the organization.

Mr. Dennis thanked the speakers and commented on the novel idea of implementing a parent-driven framework. He offered the Roundtable as a source of support and encouraged the programs to work closely with Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. In response, Mr. Morales relayed that plans are underway to bring Crystal Stairs and Pathways together to develop strategies for participating in the integrated approach. In addition, First 5 LA is helping with a training support system for license exempt providers. Ms. Sachnoff mentioned the Best Start, which is piloting a program in the same community, that is an overlays with the work of

the PIDP and includes home visits with mothers and visits new mothers shortly after delivery at the local hospital to offer services and more.

4. JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION REPORT

a. State Budget Impact on Child Care and Development

Ms. Victoria Evers, staff with the Chief Executive Office Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO/IGR), provided a brief report on the Special Session called shortly after the election by Governor Schwarzenegger because of the \$11.2 billion shortfall this year. She reminded members that budget trailer bill language signed by the Governor requires CDE to work towards fully utilizing child development funds, however this effort may be impacted by the budget shortfall. Ms. Evers is currently analyzing the proposed changes in the budget; however her initial read is that the Governor is proposing shifting out unallocated child care and development funds (\$55 million) and reducing CalWORKs Stage 2 and 3 child care programs (\$27 million and \$15 million respectively) based on revised estimates for lower anticipated caseloads.

In addition to changes in the child care and development funds, the Governor has reintroduced proposals that include reductions to CalWORKs programs. Among his proposed reductions is eliminating the safety net for child only cases for immigrant families. The IGR is studying the impacts of the proposed reductions on Los Angeles County services and will soon report to the Board of Supervisors. Complicating the analysis is the Governor's package of proposals to stimulate the economy and raise revenues, including raising and broadening the sales tax, which is anticipated to result in both revenues and costs to the county. Ms. Evers added that the Governor will introduce his proposed budget for 2009-10 in less than two months. Adding to the mix and with respect to the Special Session, the current legislature is in office until the end of month November and new members will be on board in early December. Approximately one third of the Assembly will experience turnover, while about half of the Senate will be new.

In conclusion, Mr. Dennis added that a new administration will be in Washington come January 2009.

b. Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for High Quality Child Care

Mr. Dennis introduced the above-referenced federal policy agenda for high quality child care by noting that the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) will be up for reauthorization this year. He encouraged the Roundtable to consider signing on to the policy agenda, developed by a coalition of national and state advocacy organizations representing child care and development. This document sets forth a comprehensive agenda for high quality child care and development and, as such, has the potential to influence an increase in the amount of funds for the CCDBG and therefore the amount of dollars allocated to states. Mr. Dennis provided a brief overview of the work that went into developing the document and what this could mean for child care and development, and then turned to Ms. Michele Sartell to provide a more in-depth overview.

Ms. Sartell further introduced the shared federal agenda or blueprint for the future of child care, developed by 10 national and state organizations including the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), Children's Project, Early Care and Education Consortium, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Council

of La Raza, National Women's Law Center, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and Zero to Three. The agenda was presented for the Roundtable's consideration to sign on as a supporter to the comprehensive agenda. Ms. Sartell mentioned that the agenda provides the Roundtable with a framework to approach federal issues relating to high quality child care and development, including a strong regulatory system to ensure the health and safety of children, enhancing the quality of child care and development programs including establishing statewide quality rating and improvement systems, improving and expanding infant and toddler care, expanding research and technical assistance, ensuring an adequate supply of facilities, improving services to families with limited English language proficiency and children with disabilities and other special needs, and improving the Dependent Care Tax Credit.

Ms. Rhine made a motion for the Roundtable to sign on in support of the federal agenda; the motion was seconded by Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Escobedo commented on the movement in early care and education advocacy to bring about comprehensive rather than small changes to the field.

5. COLLEAGE AGENCY REPORTS

a. Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)

Ms. Escobedo reported that the Planning Committee is moving forward with its review the of strategic plan implementation. Work Groups are addressing access, quality and workforce issues.

b. Commission for Children and Families

Ms. Ann Franzen relayed that the Commission is working with groups around two of its priority issues: obesity and asthma in young children through high school years. She added that their approach to involve the faith-based community in its work has resulted in two visitation centers opening at churches in the South Bay. The visitation centers are designed to allow visits between children under DCFS jurisdiction and their parents.

c. First 5 LA

Ms. Connie Russell and Dr. McCroskey deferred to Ms. Kate Sachnoff for the report. The Commission will meet on Thursday afternoon, November 13, 2008. As of January 2009, the Commission will welcome Supervisor Don Knabe as its chair. First 5 LA released its Early Care and Education Workforce Policy Project RFQ (Request for Qualifications). First 5 LA is seeking consultants for a six year process of addressing policy solutions to workforce issues. The RFQ is building momentum of people who may potentially participate in policy discussions. Work should begin in January/February 2009. Ms. Sachnoff added that First 5 LA, in the meantime, is tracking current workforce activities that they plan to bring to the discussions. Dr. McCroskey added that the Commission meeting scheduled for tomorrow includes an agenda item that is the next step in planning process for the 2009-14 Strategic Plan due in June 2009. The item asks for approval of the goal statements and priority measures. Ms. Sachnoff also mentioned that the Commission will be asked to approve the grant applicants for the capacity building and policy and advocacy projects.

d. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Mr. Adam Sonenshein reported that LAUP has welcomed two new board members: Cathy Gott, appointed by Supervisor Antonovich, has a particular interest in autism issues; and Ana Valdez, who brings a wealth of experience working in the public and private sector and on behalf of underserved populations. Mr. Sonenshein added that LAUP will soon celebrate grand openings of five new preschools throughout the Baldwin Park Unified School District.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ms. Escobedo announced that there is a call for names to potentially serve on the Early Childhood Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (SB 1629 (Steinberg)). Advocacy groups are filtering names. Mr. Dennis reported that the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles will be putting forth a name.
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and the Service Area Advisory Councils (SAACs) have been co-hosting the Service Area Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)/Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Community Forums. The Community Forums calendar and registration forms for the remaining forums are included in members' meeting packets. Representatives on behalf of early care and education and birth to five are encouraged to attend the forums. Information about the forums is also at <http://dmh.lacounty.info/MHSA/plans/peires.html>. Registration for the Community Forums is available online at http://www.regonline.com/LA_DMH_PEI_FORUMS.

7. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 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. Arlene Rhine
Ms. Connie Russell
Ms. Mika Yamamoto

Guests:

Ms. Senat Admessu, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Ms. Licha Drake, Children's Bureau
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Early Developmental Screening Initiative
Ms. Victoria Evers, LAC CEO/IGR
Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services
Mr. Ken Louria, Children's Institute, Inc.
Mr. Alex Morales, Children's Bureau
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Mr. Steve Sturm, Department of Children and Family Services

Staff:

Ms. Laura Escobedo
Ms. Michele Sartell