



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

222 South Hill Street, Fifth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: (213) 974-4103 • Fax: (213) 217-5106 • [www.lacountychildcare.org](http://www.lacountychildcare.org)

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 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**

Ms. Connie Russell, Vice 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. Review of Minutes**

- July 9, 2008

Postponed to October meeting.

##### **b. Annual Check-up**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu asked members to complete the form, Annual Check-up on Roundtable Procedures, included in their meeting packets and return it to her at the end of the meeting or by mail.

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

Ms. Malaske-Samu provided the STEP report on behalf of Ms. Helen Chavez. She referred members to the Monthly Status Report for August 1 to August 31, 2008. The report is in the format used by First 5 LA and reflects the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008.

Ms. Malaske-Samu added that over 600 early educators working in family child care homes and centers have attended STEP-sponsored trainings held throughout county. Training topics for 2007-08 included:

- Child Development Screening Tools
- Desired Results Developmental Profile – R
- Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale
- Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale
- Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale
- Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect
- Program for Infant/Toddler Care
- Supporting Language, Literacy and Learning of Dual Language Learners

STEP staff are working on the training calendar for 2008-09.

Mr. Whit Hayslip expressed his thanks to STEP for allowing his assessment team to participate in the training on the Child Development Screening Tools. He added that it is important for both early educators and the referring system to know the tools and how to use the information learned from the screenings.

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

### **a. Legislative Update**

Mr. Robert Wiltse gave a brief update on pending legislation of interest to the Roundtable and the status of legislators reaching agreement on a State budget. Beginning with legislation, the two bills of interest, AB 2759 (Jones) and SB 1629 (Steinberg), have been enrolled and are ready for placement on the Governor's Desk. AB 2769 (Jones) is the preschool reform bill and SB 1629 (Steinberg) would establish the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee. Mr. Wiltse directed members to their meeting packets for the matrix, *Legislation Being Considered by the California Legislature*, to review a summary of the bills.

Next, Mr. Wiltse reported that the State is into Day 71 of a late budget. The Governor and the Democrats budget proposals have lacked the votes needed. The Republicans alternative budget proposal was released at the end of last week, but failed to obtain enough votes. In the meantime, programs funded with State monies are grappling with how to pay their bills, or even survive.

Mr. Wiltse also let members know that as follow up to the June meeting, included in their meeting packets are copies of the County Pursuit of Position on a Budget Item-Reduction of Random Licensing Inspections and a letter from the Roundtable to the Board of Supervisors urging them to advocate on this issue.

### **b. Adoption of State Legislative Platform Recommendations**

Mr. Wiltse introduced the document listing the child care and development items for inclusion in the County's State Legislative Agenda for the First Year of the FY 2008-09 Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wiltse noted that, with guidance from Ms. Victoria Evers of Intergovernmental Relations, the agenda items have been slimmed down so that the items are brief, yet broad enough to allow the Roundtable flexibility to recommend formal positions on bills relating to child care and development. Mr. Wiltse then referred members to the attached draft Public Policy Platform for FY 2008-09, which supports the recommendations by providing examples of efforts that may be addressed by proposed legislation and/or State budget during the 2008-09 Legislative Session.

Ms. Arlene Rhine presented a motion to approve the State Legislative Agenda Recommendations; the motion was seconded by Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Malaske-Samu thanked the Joint Committee on Legislation for streamlining the agenda items while maintaining the detail of the issues in the Public Policy Platform document. She also thanked Ms. Evers for her support to the Joint Committee in this effort.

### **3. PROPOSED CHILD CARE POLICY**

#### **a. Policy Document**

Ms. Malaske-Samu distributed the latest iteration of the draft Child Care and Development Services Strategic Plan for Los Angeles County. The current version reflects input Mr. Miguel Santana, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and his desire to put responsibility for what he is referring to as a strategic plan (rather than policy) to a group that can be held accountable for it. Accordingly, Mr. Santana is shifting responsibility for the plan from the Roundtable to the Office of Child Care as the lead.

Most of the latest edits are under Action Steps – Opportunities for Leadership on page six. Based on feedback from Roundtable members, Ms. Malaske-Samu added a section on Partnerships, stating that the Office of Child Care will not come anywhere near meeting the goals of the plan without community partners. Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey interjected, sharing her thoughts on the county's structural transition and its relationship to the shaping of the plan. In essence, the effort to create a child care policy, which has evolved into a plan, raises questions about the role of the Roundtable with respect to crafting policy and making policy recommendations to the Board of Supervisors per County Ordinance. In addition, it raises questions about the role of the Child Care Planning Committee, which operates as the state mandated Local Planning Council and therefore responsible for local planning. It was further noted that the County does not have a direct connection to child care and development, while it does have other systems that do connect directly to county residents.

Further discussion ensued about the role of the Roundtable, the Planning Committee and some of the entities represented on the Roundtable (e.g. Los Angeles Unified School District). The following next steps were recommended as a result of the discussion:

- Address the role (and policy implications of the roles) of the Roundtable and the Planning Committee and why those roles remain important
- Strengthen the case and articulate the practical reasons for coordinating with community stakeholders around early childhood education as well as existing county bodies working on child care
- Address complexity of tasks
- Hold conversations with each of impacted Department representatives to discuss the specific; maybe they can help shape, address objectives that can be woven into their current activities; identify items that County Departments can undertake
- Vet the document with the members of the Child Well-being Cluster prior to and at cluster meeting.
- Speak with all five Supervisorial Districts to discuss their priorities and facilitate their support
- Provide clarity on what asking in relationship to endorsement of the document
- Examine implications of implementing the action steps in relationship to required authorities, policy decisions, funding, legislation, etc.
- Invite Mr. Santana to the October or November meeting to discuss his perspective on the role of the Roundtable under the new County structure and his vision for the work outlined in the Plan

No action on this item was taken given the conversations. Ms. Malaske-Samu will continue working on the document and the proposed next steps.

**b. Endorsements**

See above section. More clarification is needed regarding the purpose and expectations of the endorsements.

**4. COLLEAGE AGENCY REPORTS**

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

Ms. Laura Escobedo, staff to the Planning Committee, reported on behalf of Ms. Holly Reynolds. The Planning Committee launched its new program year this month. Ms. Escobedo relayed that in keeping with the Planning Committee's charge for implementing the Strategic Plan, the Strategic Plan Work Group is meeting with each of the Planning Committee Work Groups to ensure that everyone is on track with implementation goals.

**b. Commission for Children and Families**

Ms. Ann Franzen relayed that the Commission for Children and Families has identified obesity as an issue of concern for children in the child welfare system. The Commission is promoting physical activity as well as improved and nutritious meals, including in child care and development settings and schools. Ms. Franzen will bring handouts to the next meeting.

**c. First 5 LA**

Ms. Connie Russell relayed that First 5 LA is engaged in strategic planning for the next five years.

**d. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)**

Dr. Celia Ayala's report touched on four areas: 1) LAUP has launched a massive enrollment campaign in multiple languages; 2) staff are working with First 5 LA in relationship to its new contract, which is performance-based with indicators that can be documented; 3) the Power of Preschool (PoP), funded by First 5 California, service area has been expanded to serve 61 zip codes. PoP targets programs in attendance areas of elementary schools with base Academic Performance Index decile scores of 1, 2 or 3. PoP includes support and training to the staff of the targeted programs; 4) LAUP is looking at curriculum crosswalk opportunities, encompassing what children are taught, the materials and tools that are used for teaching children, and ongoing professional development for staff to ensure that children are developmentally ready, willing and able to learn upon entering kindergarten.

In addition, LAUP is hosting a Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting facilitated by Dr. Karen Hill Scott to present community feedback, share progress and discuss the future of universal preschool in Los Angeles County. The event is scheduled for Friday, October 3, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Cathedral of Our Lady of Angeles.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Michele Sartell announced that the Child Care Planning Committee and Office of Child Care have launched Cycle 10 of the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program. Instructions and applications are available on the Web site at [www.childcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.childcare.lacounty.gov).

Ms. Sandra Hong of the UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality (CICCCQ) distributed the Research Brief, *Latino Families Value Early Education*, which is a summary of a study conducted by CICCCQ with funding from First 5 LA and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Ms. Hong mentioned that the findings reflect in-depth interviews with Latino mothers, talking about their perceptions of preschool and the barriers for accessing services. More than 90 percent of mothers believe their children should attend some sort of preschool before Kindergarten. Some of the barriers identified included wait lists, not understanding the requirements, and lack of information about early care and education readily available for families. The mothers suggested clearer information regarding eligibility requirements, eliminating waiting lists, and more information available in Spanish, among others.

Ms. Lisa Wilkin announced that Labor Day marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first center opening to serve Los Angeles County employees. The Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles is planning a celebration. Further information is forthcoming.

## 6. CALL TO ADJOURN

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

### Commissioners Present:

Dr. Celia Ayala  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Sheri Lewis  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Mr. Robert Wiltse

### Guests:

Ms. Evelyn Aleman, First 5 LA  
Ms. Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Information Services  
Mr. John Berndt, LACOE Head Start  
Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center  
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities  
Ms. Victoria Evers, CEO Intergovernmental Relations  
Ms. Sandra Hong, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Leanne Negron, First 5 LA  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA  
Ms. Wendy Tait, Second District, Board of Supervisors  
Ms. Lisa Wilkin, Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles

### Staff:

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