



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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MEETING MINUTES

February 10, 2010

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. Terri Chew Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and extended a welcome to new member Carolyn Naylor and all participants. Ms. Nishimura noted that Ms. Naylor was nominated to the Roundtable by Supervisor Antonovich and the appointment was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 19, 2010. As a part of her introduction, Ms. Naylor shared that she was pleased to join the Roundtable, that she was recently retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District where she taught in the elementary grades and is currently working with student teachers at La Verne University. Members and guests introduced themselves.

a. Comments from the Chair

Ms. Nishimura informed members that due to a scheduling conflict in April, the Roundtable could either meet on the regular meeting date of April 14, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or meet on Thursday, April 15, 2010 from 10:00 to noon. **Following a brief discussion, the group agreed to meet on April 14, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Ms. Nishimura thanked Mika Yamamoto for reserving the Eaton Canyon Nature Center for the Policy Roundtable annual retreat on July 14, 2010. Members were encouraged to note the date on their calendars, reserving 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for the retreat.

b. Review of January 13, 2010 Minutes

Arlene Rhine offered the following a correction to the minutes:

- Ms. Arlene Rhine noted that A/S California State University Northridge Children's Center received a federal government CCAMPIS (Child Care Means Parents in School) grant to expand its Family Child Care Home Education Network (FCCHEN).

Ms. Rhine moved that the amended version of the January 13, 2010 minutes be adopted and Sarah Younglove offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

2. PRESENTATION ON CONSCIOUS DISCIPLINE

Holly Reynolds, Roundtable member and Director of the Fairplex Child Development Center, described the issues that sent her searching for a different way to deal with the challenging

behaviors that some young children present. Many of these behaviors have evolved in response to the violence that children are exposed to in their families, schools and communities. Holly shared an example of a three and a half year old boy who attended the Fairplex Child Development Center. Junior was always looking for a fight, would knock down block towers built by his peers, and would hit just about anyone.

On this particular day, a substitute teacher was working in the classroom. Following lunch, the teacher reminded Junior to clean his space at the table. Junior's response was to take a swing at the teacher and he managed to break her nose – blood was everywhere. Realizing that this must be upsetting to Junior, Holly attempted to speak with him. Junior told Holly – in no uncertain terms – to get out of his face.

Holly was unsettled by the whole situation and set out to find for new tools to teach children social skills. About a year later, she happened on a Conscious Discipline workshop at a California Association for the Education of Young Children conference. This approach made immediate sense to Holly and has been implemented at Fairplex.

Over the past two years, Fairplex staff mapped “aggressive incidents.” Within the first year of implementing the conscious discipline approach, aggressive incidents decreased by 74 percent. In addition, staff turnover has dropped significantly. The conscious discipline approach has provided a common goal and fostered a synergy among the staff.

A video on how Conscious Discipline was implemented in a Florida elementary school was presented. The following issues were raised in discussion:

Q What is the cost to implement Conscious Discipline?

A It depends on the resources that you have available. There are some free materials available on the Web site. There are books and a video set with a starter kit to purchase. Dr. Bailey also sponsors a week long Summer Institute, or 2-day workshops. Changing behaviors requires time and coaching....

Q What types of programs use Conscious Discipline?

A It is used in a variety of settings including; public schools, family therapy programs, college courses, child development programs, and faith-based organizations. It is extremely adaptable.

Q Is Conscious Discipline effective with children who have Attention Deficit Disorder, or mental health issues?

A Many of these children have difficulty managing behaviors. Conscious Discipline helps children manage their own behaviors, read other people's faces more effectively, and build communication skills. A few years ago, a national study reported the high rate of children expelled from child development program. Unfortunately, Junior arrived at Fairplex before Conscious Discipline was implemented and he was “expelled” from the program.

Q Have you published your results?

A We have not written on our experience. However, Fairplex is a lab school for the University of LA Verne and the University may develop an article.

Ms. Kathy House commented that she would forward information on Conscious Discipline to the Education Coordinating Council. She noted that Federal funding is expected for Promise

Neighborhoods, based on the Harlem Children’s Zone. Incorporating this approach into a proposal could make a project both more competitive and more successful.

3. WORK WITH THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Policy Framework Objective: Mobilize County departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care and development services into services aimed at 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self-sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu updated members on work underway with the Probation Department. The Office of Child Care and Los Angeles County Office of Education/Head Start program are developing a curriculum to train Juvenile Field Deputies on Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education. Michele Sartell is the Office of Child Care lead on this venture. The trainings will begin in late February, and continue through May.

Ms. Malaske-Samu also reported that plans for the March 19, 2010 Strengthening Families Conference at the California Endowment are shaping up! This event will be co-sponsored by First 5 Los Angeles, the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Office of Child Care. Invitations will be distributed shortly.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. STEP Promotion and Public Awareness Committee

Ms. Rhine reported that the Committee met following the January 13, 2010 meeting. At that time, the group agreed a breakfast event would be too costly given our current resources. However, it is the Committee’s intent to promote STEP within local communities and local media. The Office of Child Care will be developing a press release, but assistance is needed to make personal contacts with different media sources.

The Committee had also hoped to collaborate with California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) at the April 8-10, 2010 conference in Long Beach. CAEYC was planning a reception for accredited programs and STEP programs. However, the reception plans have been stalled. Connie Russell researched cost of printing “STEP” ribbons that could be attached to the conference badge. The ribbons would serve as a way to acknowledge STEP programs at the event.

The group engaged in a short discussion on whether or not to print the ribbons and how to cover that cost. The decision was to print a limited number of ribbons and to cover the cost with donations from those Roundtable members who are willing and able to contribute.

Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that staff are targeting the release of the first STEP rating guide for April, to coincide with the Week/Month of the Young Child. Duane Dennis asked if a STEP update could be held in the near future. In the discussion that followed, the group agreed to include a STEP update on the March agenda. In addition, as part of the Roundtable’s contribution to the Month of the Young Children, the April meeting format will be modified to include a panel presentation on child care quality rating systems (QRIS). Speakers will be sought to address the impact of QRIS operating in other parts of the country, the California QRIS planning process, and lessons learned from STEP.

b. County Department Child Care Collaboration Committee

Members of this Committee will be setting a meeting date following the Roundtable meeting.

c. Joint Committee on Legislation Report

Policy Framework Objective: *Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.*

i. Federal Legislation

Mr. Adam Sonenshein presented the Joint Committee report using the attached PowerPoint on the President's Proposed Budget. He noted that the Early Learning Challenge Fund is a part of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act and unfortunately this bill has become mired in controversy related to the student loan industry.

Other provisions include increasing the Child Care Tax Credit for families earning up to \$115,000 and increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families with three or more children.

5. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

a. Child Care Planning Committee

Holly Reynolds, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee, reported on the successful implementation of the first Temporary, Voluntary Transfer of Funds. This process is intended to minimize the amount of unexpended funds that California Department of Education/Child Development Division contractors return to CDE each year. This first round resulted in one million dollars being transferred among local agencies.

Dr. McCroskey urged the Office of Child Care to prepare a concise (two page) report on this process.

b. First 5 LA Commission

Duane Dennis reported that the First 5 LA Commission is focused on two main issues:

- Where/how to responsibly invest its \$700 to \$800 million, and
- Governance of the Commission

The Commission is shifting from an initiative driven allocation process to a place-based approach. This clearly has implications for current and prospective grantees. These concerns are shared by a number of County departments who have received funding. Given how the State budget crisis is trickling down to counties and cities, the Commission's resources are increasingly important.

In addition, the Governor's Budget once again includes a proposal to divert First 5 funding from the State and local commissions, in order to plug holes in State departments.

Commission governance issues impact how Commissioners and staff relate to each other and how the interests of the Commissioners are to be managed. The challenge is to identify persons with content expertise – but no interest in potential funding. The alternative is to structure how those interests are addressed so that the process for securing funds is transparent and fair.

Dr. McCroskey noted that it is healthy for an organization to reflect on its processes and to seek ways to improve.

c. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Mr. Adam Sonenshein presented on behalf of LAUP and expressed the organization's regarding the Governor's proposal to divert funds from First 5 Commissions.

d. Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC)

Ms. Arlene Rhine reported that the annual conference of the California Association for the Education of Young Children will be held in Long Beach April 8 – 10, 2010. April 8 will be devoted to leadership and April 9 – 10 will be focused on classroom teachers and family child care providers. Ms. Rhine also mentioned the *Wonder of Learning -100 Languages of Children* exhibit currently on display in Santa Monica. A number of workshops on the Reggio approach to early education are being conducted in conjunction with the exhibit. More information can be secured at: reggioexhibitla@first-pres.net

6. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mr. Duane Dennis
Mr. Michael Gray
Kathy House
Ms. Charlotte Lee
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Ms. Carolyn Naylor
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura
Ms. Holly Reynolds
Ms. Arlene Rhine
Ms. Connie Russell
Ms. Esther Torrez
Ms. Mika Yamamoto
Ms. Sarah Younglove

Guests:

Ms. Leila Espinosa, UCLA CHCFC (EDSI)
Ms. Emily Harding Morric, UCLA, CICCQ
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, LAUP

Staff:

Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu