



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**June 9, 2010**

**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**

Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:08 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

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

Ms. Nishimura reminded members and guests of the Roundtable's annual all-day retreat scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Members were again encouraged to invite their respective Board members' Deputies to the retreat.

Ms. Nishimura reported that a number of members could not attend today's meeting due to conflicts – jury duty, events, travel. Next, she welcomed Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu as an official member of the Roundtable, representing the County's Chief Executive Office.

##### **b. Review of Minutes**

- **May 12, 2010**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes will be considered at the July retreat.

##### **c. Committee Reports**

- **Nominating Committee**

Ms. Arlene Rhine reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, including Ms. Connie Russell and Ms. Carolyn Naylor. The Nominating Committee accomplished its business via e-mail. Upon learning that Ms. Nishimura and Ms. Ruth Yoon are both willing to continue in the respective capacities of Chair and Vice Chair, and hearing no one else express interest in assuming these responsibilities, the Nominating Committee recommends a second term for the current officers. The slate will be presented at the Roundtable retreat on July 14, 2010 meeting when the vote will be taken. The Nominating Committee stated that they would like to hear from other persons interested in serving.

Ms. Malaske-Samu echoed Ms. Rhine's invitation and went further by asking for members interested in taking a leadership role to make it known for consideration in future years. In addition, she mentioned that other opportunities for taking leadership are likely to arise.

• **County Departments/Child Care and Development**

Mr. Duane Dennis announced that the Committee has scheduled its next meeting for Wednesday, June 23, 2010 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 758 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Members of the Committee include representatives from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Probation Department, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Education Coordinating Council (ECC), the Roundtable and community-based agencies. The Committee is implementing the Policy Framework by focusing in the children seen by County Departments to ensure that the neediest children receive the highest quality of child development services. Mr. Dennis commented that DPSS touches the largest number of children at risk and could benefit from quality services.

The last two meetings have focused on catching up among members. The next meeting will be devoted to preparing the Child Care Policy Framework update for the Roundtable retreat – accomplishments, ongoing challenges and next steps. Mr. Dennis spoke to the intersection between the private and public sector and the opportunities for enrolling children in child development programs. He recognized the work ahead, but cautioned against reinventing rather than building upon existing activities, while being cognizant of the state budget crisis. Ms. Ogawa spoke to the work underway between the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start and DCFS with respect to direct enrollments of children, the trainings with the Probation Department, and the DMH's interest in a countywide approach. LACOE Head Start also is working with DPSS. Multiple County Departments are trying to wrap their heads around the Strengthening Families Approach with some actual integration, using same language, and more.

Ms. Nishimura, referring to the First 5 LA Morning Report, asked members if they are aware of the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative, the formation of the committee - Los Angeles Promise Neighborhoods Public Sector Workgroup – and whether there might be a role for the Roundtable. There was some discussion on the purpose of the Initiative, its intended audience, and the role of early care and education. Nonprofits are likely to apply for funds; First 5 LA does not intend to apply. Some groups are considering applications with funding requests targeted to local community concerns. The Roundtable could contribute to the ad hoc committee discussions by addressing the importance of early care and education as a component of Promise Neighborhood proposals, but not as the lead. Ms. Malaske-Samu will explore with Ms. Kathy House and Dr. Carrie Miller of the ECC the suggestion that the Roundtable seek an appointment to the Workgroup.

**2. DRAFT POLICY FRAMEWORK UPDATE TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Ms. Malaske-Samu referred members and guests to the letter from Mr. William T Fujioka to the Board of Supervisors entitled "Third Status Report on the Child Care Policy Framework". Feedback on the letter is due to Ms. Malaske-Samu by June 10<sup>th</sup>; the letter needs to be delivered to the Board by June 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Malaske-Samu framed the update in relationship to advancing public policy. Attachments will include fact sheets on child care and development programs as well as one on the economic impact of the Governor's budget proposals for 2010-11.

Additionally, Office of Child Care staff participated in a meeting convened by the Child care Alliance of Los Angeles. One of the outcomes of the meeting is to develop fact sheets to address the impact of the proposed budget cuts to child care and development services and

supports, relating those impacts to the potential loss of jobs and what the cuts will mean to children and working families. The Office of Child Care is working with others to collect countywide data.

### **3. STEPS TO EXCELLENCE PROJECT (STEP) REPORT**

#### **• Examination of STEP Components and Related Costs**

Ms. Helen Chavez referred members and guests to the copy of her PowerPoint presentation, “STEP Pilot QRIS Budget Presentation”. She provided an overview of the budget for the four year pilot, which totals \$3.6 million. Ms. Chavez outlined the funding sources by fiscal year and provided a breakdown of STEP’s operational expenses. At the conclusion of her presentation, members and guests offered the following comments:

- Reframe administrative costs to better reflect the functions. Administrative costs should represent between five to ten percent of the total budget.
- Consider allocating resources to evaluation to determine the viability of the program and to identify the points of success. Ms. Chavez noted that STEP will be hosting focus groups with parents and providers, however the goal is to learn how best to communicate the rating information to parents. It was suggested that we also need to learn how the quality rating is helping parents make more informed choices, which addresses the original vision of STEP. The fourth year will look closely at sustainability of STEP and its value – does it actually help parents make choices. Added to the discussion, “evaluation is critical to the pilot moving forward”.
- Explore leveraging other resources, such as the Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies. One of the lessons learned is the importance of nurturing the pipeline of child development programs opting to participate in STEP. The challenge is limited staff resources.
- Look into foundation support to help with a fundraising plan, possibly under capacity building.

In conclusion, Ms. Chavez commented that the goal for the meeting was to present the costs of STEP to date. Ms. Malaske-Samu added that STEP will be on the retreat agenda, with a focus on sustainability issues. In the meantime, she will speak with Ms. Janis Minton of the Atlas Family Foundation to begin exploring evaluation issues for discussion at the retreat or by the September meeting.

### **4. 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.*

Ms. Nishimura asked Mr. Adam Sonenshein to present key policy issues for the Roundtable’s consideration. Before turning the agenda over to Mr. Sonenshein, Ms. Malaske-Samu mentioned that a collaborative is forming to advocate preserving funding for child care and development programs. She also referred members to their packets on information about a rally around the proposed budget cuts scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2010.

#### **a. Governor’s May Revise and Alternative Proposals**

Mr. Sonenshein referred members and guests to their meeting packets for copies of the pursuit of position on state budget items. Due to a lack of quorum, Mr. Sonenshein asked members to

review the document, which outlines the Governor's proposals to reduce the allocations to child care and development services. For each item, the Joint Committee on Legislation offers a recommended position and, in some cases, thoughts for potential compromises. He added that the budget has moved to the newly appointed Conference Committee on Budget, which will hold hearings upon the call of the Chair, Senator Denise Ducheny. While the hearings are open to the public, the Committee will not be taking public testimony.

Ms. Malaske-Samu asked for a sense of where members might weigh in given the budget process and timelines and the Roundtable not scheduled to meet again until July. Ms. Charlotte Lee reported that the County has taken an oppose position to the cuts proposed to CalWORKs. She added that by eliminating CalWORKs, child care would be lost. Some members requested more time to carefully review the document, while in principle they would not disagree with the positions. One member suggested perhaps conducting a vote via e-mail, however there was a question of whether this would be in violation of the Brown Act. Ms. Malaske-Samu will consult with County Counsel about possibly sending the document to the Roundtable members and ask for responses.

#### **b. Proposed Licensing Inspection Protocols**

Mr. Sonenshein directed members and guests to their meeting packets for the summary of the proposed licensing protocols. In summary, the proposal Department of Social Services (DSS) Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) has put forth would increase the frequency of unannounced inspections of all child development centers to annually and all family child care homes to biennially. A new tool of key indicators would be used for each inspection, leading to a comprehensive inspection depending on the results of the program's performance on the key indicators. A ten percent increase in licensing application and annual fees would support the costs of the inspections. An area of controversy is the imposition of a fee for programs found out of compliance, which would not be refundable if the program were to win on appeal.

Mr. Sonenshein stated that the proposal has been put on hold during budget process, mostly due to concerns raised for other program types that fall under licensing.

Mr. Sonenshein also provided updates on two bills of interest to the Roundtable as follows:

- AB 2592 (Buchanan) would institute a quality rating system as established by the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee. The bill was recently amended to make its implementation a pilot program and contingent on the receipt of federal funds. The bill was approved by the Assembly and passed to the Senate.
- SB 1126 (Liu), which was designed to facilitate articulation of students in child development between the Community Colleges and the California State University and University of California Systems was held in the Senate's Committee on Appropriations. No more action will be taken on this bill as the deadline to move bills out of the house of origin has passed.

Mr. Sonenshein also thought worth mentioning is that for the first time in the last several years a bill that would change the required birth date for kindergarten entry has passed out of its house of origin. SB 1381 (Simitian) is now in the Assembly pending assignment to a committee. The bill proposes savings, half of which would transfer to the General Fund, while the remaining half would be allocated to preschool expansion. Mr. Sonenshein and Ms. Malaske-Samu spoke to the interest the state is taking in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)'s transitional kindergarten program for young children about to enter kindergarten. AB 1967 (Mendoza)

would have established a transition kindergarten program. The bill failed to pass out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Ms. Malaske-Samu will ask Ms. Ruth Yoon and Mr. Whit Hayslip to talk about LAUSD's program and the impact they expect on kindergarten and early care and education programs.

## 5. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

- The Office of Child Care will issue 1,927 stipend awards this month, bringing to a close Cycle 11 of the Investing in Early Educators Program. Two thirds of the Stipend Program participants completed six units. Graduation stipends will be awarded to 189 participants, of whom 68 earned Associate of Arts (AA) degrees, 93 earned Bachelor of Arts (BA) degrees, and 28 earned graduate degrees.
- Ms. Laura Escobedo is coordinating a second round of the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds between California Department of Education (CDE)-contracted agencies pending CDE's approval. This will result in retaining close to another one million dollars in Los Angeles County.

## 6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Michael Gray, upon being asked by another Roundtable member, announced the publication of his book, "What Men Don't Say", which is about the secrets men do not share and the struggles those secrets cause for entering into relationships and moving forward in their lives.

## 7. CALL TO ADJOURN

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

### Commissioners Present:

Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Michael Gray  
Ms. Charlotte Lee  
Ms. Carolyn Naylor  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Holly Reynolds  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Mika Yamamoto  
Ms. Sarah Younglove

### Guests:

Ms. Jennifer Cowan, First 5 LA  
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities  
Ms. Sandy Hong, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Education Coordinating Council  
Mr. Angelo Reyes, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

### Staff:

Ms. Helen Chavez  
Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell