



Proposed Agenda

November 12, 2014 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to Noon
 Conference Room 743 ♦ Hahn Hall of Administration
 500 W. Temple Street ♦ Los Angeles

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
10:00	1. Welcome and Introductions a. Comments from the Chair	Dora Jacildo Chair
10:10	2. Review of October Minutes	Dora Jacildo
10:15	3. Emerging Issues a. Local Application for QRIS Block Grant Funding b. California's Preschool Expansion Grant Application i. Los Angeles Unified School District c. First 5 LA Strategic Plan	Dawn Kurtz K. Malaske-Samu Maureen Diekmann Duane Dennis
11:00	4. Policy Framework for Child Care and Development a. Small Group Work ○ Restore and Expand Funding Task: Prepare questions for 12/10/14 meeting on the CCDBG reauthorization and regulations ○ Strengthen Policies on Eligibility & Access Task: Prepare for a conversation with CDE/ELSD ○ Maximize Access to Available Services Task: Resurrect the Vacancy Tracking Work Group ○ Prioritize Quality Task: What do CA State Preschool Programs need to reach QRIS ratings of 4 or higher? ○ Expand Family and Community Engagement Task: What is the message we want to take to other County Commissions? b. Reporting Out and Feedback	Sharoni Little Vice Chair Michele Sartell Dora Jacildo Maureen Diekmann Keesha Woods Dawn Kurtz Nina Sorkin Stacy Miller Sharoni Little Report-out by Group
11:45	5. Announcements and Public Comments	Members & Guests
12:00	6. Call to Adjourn	Dora Jacildo

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Champions For Our Children
www.First5LA.org

November 3, 2014

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Dora Jacildo
Chair
County of Los Angeles
Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
222 South Hill Street, 5th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Jacildo and Roundtable Members:

Thank you for the thoughtful letter you sent providing input and recommendations on First 5 LA's emerging strategies and activities for the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. We are currently finalizing the plan for final approval by the Board on November 13, 2014. After the approval, we will begin developing the more detailed implementation plan, consistent with Board policy direction and First 5 LA's fiscal realities. Many of the recommendations in your letter dovetail nicely with the work in this next phase and we want to share our initial thoughts on the recommendations made by the Roundtable. In the meantime, we wanted to share our initial responses to the Committee's recommendations:

- a. **Improved quality of ECE Services**
 - b. **Support implementation of a uniform Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) within LA County in order to build the evidence base to support advocacy and policy change**
1. Recommendation: First 5 LA work with the existing QRIS programs in Los Angeles County to examine which programmatic components exert the greatest impact on child outcomes and how those components can be readily measured. This work could be informed by the 15 other QRIS programs operating in California and the statewide evaluation of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge.

Through the joint research agenda between First 5 LA and LAUP, we are already working on a retrospective study of the relation between elements of quality (as measured by LAUP) and child outcomes (as measured through direct child assessments captured in the Universal Preschool Child Outcomes Study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.). This work will begin this year (FY14-15) and we anticipate sharing findings early in FY15-16. We look forward to working with the Roundtable on analyzing these and other findings to help build a solid evidence base to support QRIS advocacy and policy change.

2. Recommendation: First 5 LA work with the Office of Child Care and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to develop a coordinated strategy to inform parents, in and beyond Best Start communities, of the QRIS currently available.



The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan will build upon the existing QRIS infrastructure in Los Angeles County. First 5 LA is committed to working with the Office of Child Care and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to develop a coordinated strategy moving forward. As a component of our continued support of QRIS, as contemplated in First 5 LA's new Strategic Plan, First 5 LA seeks to improve the accessibility and availability of QRIS information for use by parents.

Given First 5 LA's interest in contributing to a comprehensive QRIS in Los Angeles County, Commission policy direction and First 5 LA's fiscal context, we are developing a geographically-focused approach which will enable us to:

- *test feasibility of reaching saturation in a given community*
- *test strategies to motivate providers to participate*
- *test strategies to inform/empower parents*
- *look at relationship between quality as captured by QRIS and kindergarten readiness as measured by a kindergarten readiness assessment*
- *link workforce registry with QRIS in a given community*

3. **Recommendation:** First 5 LA convene stakeholders to develop a multi-pronged advocacy strategy to sustain QRIS that provides reliable information on program quality, is relevant to parents and child care and development providers, and is cost effective to administer. This strategy should address private and public funders, including federal, state and local resources.

Consistent with Board direction, First 5 LA will emphasize strategies and activities that maximize impact through systems and policy change. The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan will include a comprehensive advocacy strategy to sustain and hopefully expand QRIS, which will include efforts to engage partners such as private and public funders at the federal, state and local levels. As we move forward with these efforts, and potentially others, we would seek involvement from important stakeholders such as the Roundtable.

c. Strengthen the professional development system for early care and education providers

1. **Recommendation:** First 5 LA disseminate research and data to inform and influence best practices in the preparation and professional development of persons working in early care and education programs in Los Angeles County and California.

First 5 LA is committed to conducting research and evaluation to inform and influence best practices. Most notably, First 5 LA is currently engaged in a contract with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. to conduct the Los Angeles Early Educators Advance (LA Advance) Evaluation, which is a mixed-methods longitudinal evaluation focused on First 5 LA's direct service professional development investments that are a part of the Los Angeles County Early Care and Education Workforce Consortium. The evaluation will examine the early educator characteristics, professional development strategies, actual professional development experiences, and professional development outcomes for participants. The study began in 2013 and is planned through 2017. Study findings will be disseminated publicly and there will be multiple presentations to the LA County Early Care and Education Workforce Consortium. First 5 LA is committed to strengthening and improving our dissemination efforts during the next strategic plan.

2. **Recommendation:** First 5 LA should convene representatives from the full range of ECE stakeholder in order to: 1) encourage cross-sector collaboration, 2) support collective advocacy and policy efforts, and 3) foster the establishment of a professional development system that effectively serves the full spectrum of the ECE workforce (i.e., licensed and license-exempt providers, center-based staff and family child care home providers, those who provide formal academic coursework and those who provide informal training and coaching).

Consistent with Board direction, First 5 LA will emphasize strategies and activities that maximize impact through systems and policy change. First 5 LA seeks to improve the systems that prepare and develop the skills of ECE providers. We recognize that in order to do this, we must engage ECE partners and stakeholders to work collectively. During implementation planning, we will determine First 5 LA's role to foster such collaboration. As we move forward with these efforts, and potentially others, we will seek involvement from important stakeholders such as the Roundtable.

3. **Recommendation:** Revise the Emerging Programmatic Strategy for this section to read “Strengthen the preparation and professional development system for early care and education providers.”

First 5 LA views the “professional development system” as inclusive of both the institutes of higher education as well as other training providers. We agree that the system should address the needs of the existing workforce as well as those preparing to enter the field. As we continue to develop our activities through implementation planning, we will outline work to impact the system and improve the quality of professional development provided through education and training for the ECE workforce.

d. How can the Strategic Plan contribute to building family-centered and integrated services in Los Angeles County?

1. **Recommendation:** Convene representatives of County Departments, school districts, community-based organizations and other stakeholders including Best Start community representation to explore opportunities and develop strategies for integrating the delivery of services at the community-based level and incorporating the Protective Factors as outcomes to assess impact.

First 5 LA agrees with the recommendation that we serve as a convener. We envision this work happening as a part of the work outlined under the Communities outcome within the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The proposed strategies that directly address this recommendation are:

- *Convene and create opportunities for collaboration among parents/caregivers, residents, organizations, and institutions across multiple sectors within the Best Start Communities to work together to achieve the core results of the Building Stronger Families Framework*
- *Convene parents and residents within the Best Start communities to build their knowledge and skills to utilize data to advocate for greater investment in and make informed decisions about utilization of ECE and health-related services and supports*
- *Convene local ECE and health-related service providers and organizations that serve the Best Start communities to build relationships, increase awareness of available services, and share learning and best practices about quality services and supports for families*

2. **Recommendation:** First 5 LA actively seek input from all County departments that impact children and families, including those not represented on the Commission when developing policies, considering service delivery system and research activities.

First 5 LA views the County departments as key partners in the success of the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. For example, under the Families outcome of our plan, First 5 LA will focus on partnering with County departments, particularly around the adoption of policies and practices that are proven effective in building family protective factors. We will continue to explore opportunities to partner with the County departments during our implementation planning.

We hope that the initial responses to your recommendations demonstrate our commitment to collaboration and learning. Should you have any questions or would like to discuss our responses further, please contact Jessica Kaczmarek, Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Implementation, by email at jkaczmarek@first5la.org or (213) 482-7552. We look forward to continuing to work with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development as we further develop and implement the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,



Kim Belshé
Executive Director

KB:kf,ao



Meeting Minutes • October 8, 2014

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

Chair Dora Jacildo opened the meeting at approximately 10:10 a.m., welcoming everyone and inviting members and guests to introduce themselves.

Following introductions, Ms. Jacildo requested that members review the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting. Ms. Nina Sorokin moved acceptance of the minutes and Dr. Sharoni Little offered a second. Minutes were approved with Dr. Robert Gilchick and Ms. Karla Howell abstaining as they had not attended that meeting.

2. Review of the First 5 LA Strategic Plan

Ms. Jacildo introduced Ms. Teresa Nuno, Acting Chief of Programs and Planning with First 5 LA and Ms. Aimee Loya Owns, with the First 5 LA Strategic Planning Team, and thanked both for making the time to attend this meeting.

Ms. Nuno reported that First 5 LA staff was collecting feedback on the Strategic Plan through community meetings and participation in meetings such as the Roundtable and Child Care Planning Committee. This information is being used to refine strategies and priority outcomes.

She shared that the Child Care Planning Committee questioned the shift away from direct services. Given that revenues are declining, the Commissioners believe that an emphasis on policy is appropriate. The Planning Committee focused their discussion on the emerging programmatic strategies associated with early care and education outcome:

- Advocate for greater public investment in quality early care and education, with a focus on both infant/toddler care and preschool;
- Support implementation of a uniform Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) within Los Angeles County; and
- Advocate for high quality academic professional development for early care and education providers.

The Planning Committee also urged the Commission to stress the continuum of early learning – rather than referring to infant/toddler and preschool services. Ms. Nuno reported that their intent was to highlight the severe shortage of infant/toddler care.

Based on input shared at the September 24, 2014, First 5 LA Planning Committee meeting, the term “academic” was deleted from the phrase: academic professional development.” In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the term “professional development” is sometimes interpreted as training for persons who are employed and does not include academic or pre-service training. It was recommended that this language be changed to read, “Strengthen the preparation and professional development system for early care and education providers.”

Ms. Nuno suggested that it would be helpful if the Roundtable recommendations would be submitted prior to the Commission meeting on October 9, 2014. Ms. Malaske-Samu agreed to forward the recommendations prior to the Commission meeting.

Mr. Duane Dennis commented that he has been chairing the Commission's Planning Committee which has been responsible for the preparation of the Strategic Plan. Some of the decisions in the planning process have been made knowing that the Commission's revenues are declining from \$164 million to \$90 million in 2014. This reality has fueled the shift from direct service to an emphasis on policy. While the Commission is aware of the great need for infant/toddler care, it cannot ensure that all families needing this care have access. The Commission can, however, advocate for increased investment by both the public and private sectors. This shift from direct service to policy is a change.

Ms. Randi Wolfe complimented the Planning Committee and staff for the language changes incorporated into the plan following the Committee's meeting on September 24, 2014. Ms. Nuno responded that the process of refining is ongoing. She reminded the group that the Strategic Plan is defining priorities and strategies. It does not include the specific activities to be undertaken per each of the outcome areas.

Ms. Diekmann commented that she thought highlighting the need for infant/toddler care was appropriate.

a. Adding Value to the Planning Process

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey noted that while the Commission and the Roundtable use slightly different language, there is substantial alignment between the Strategic Plan and the Policy Framework. As described in the crosswalk between the two documents, both call for:

- Increasing public investments in early care and education services;
- Improving the service delivery system to meet the needs of vulnerable families;
- Supporting the implementation of a single QRIS in the County; and
- Promoting protective factors and the optimal development of children.

The Commission's intent to conduct pilot testing of parent engagement programs was particularly exciting to Dr. McCroskey. The process of pilot testing will require defining what is to be measured. Our initial attempt to measure Family Community Connections in the Step to Excellence Program appeared to set the bar too low.

Dr. McCroskey suggested that while the Strategic Plan focused certain activities in the Best Start Communities, by partnering with the Roundtable, some of those efforts could be extended more broadly. She reported that nearly 50 percent of the families with young children in Los Angeles County touch at county government each year.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Early care and education programs could be a through point or hub to support service integration.
- Shifting our focus from clinical to trauma informed care and from service integration to community care could bring us closer to prevention.

- The Best Start communities and Health Neighborhoods could provide the opportunity to go much deeper than is possible with a countywide approach to most any effort.
- The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) could be used to screen and identify children at risk for poor outcomes.
- Family engagement flows through each of the Strategic Plan's priority focus areas. Early Head Start and Head Start have developed effective engagement strategies to engage families and communities.
- Families beyond the Best Start communities need to be informed of the QRIS.
- Families using license exempt care also need information on quality indicators.

In closing this discussion, Ms. Jacildo directed members and guests to the following three questions:

1. What role could First 5 LA play in supporting the implementation of a uniform QRIS in Los Angeles County?
2. What role could First 5 LA play in promoting professional development for early care and education providers?
3. Does the Strategic Plan advance a family centered and integrated service infrastructure?

Participants broke into three groups and took approximately 30 minutes to respond to the three questions.

b. Reporting Out on Small Group Conversations

Upon reconvening, Dr. Little recorded responses from each of the discussion groups.

1. What role could First 5 LA play in supporting the implementation of a uniform QRIS in Los Angeles County?
 - a. Use research capacity to advance knowledge of which and how program components impact child outcomes;
 - b. Function as convener and advocate at the county, State and Federal levels to build consensus and shared advocacy for QRIS funding; and
 - c. Public information campaign to promote QRIS.
2. What role could First 5 LA play in promoting professional development for early care and education providers?
 - a. Disseminate research and data to inform and influence best practices in the preparation and professional development of persons working in early care and education programs in Los Angeles County and California.
 - b. Convene representatives from the full range of Early Childhood Education (ECE) stakeholders to encourage cross sector collaboration, support collective advocacy and policy efforts and foster the establishment of a professional development system that effectively serves the full spectrum of the ECE workforce.
3. Does the Strategic Plan advance a family centered and integrated service infrastructure?
 - a. First 5 LA could promote integrated services by convening representatives of County departments, school districts, community-based organizations, Best Start representatives, and other stakeholders to explore opportunities and

develop strategies for integrating the delivery of services at the community-based level and incorporating the Protective Factors as outcomes to assess impact.

- b. First 5 LA could actively seek input from all County departments that impact children and families, including those not represented on the Commission, when developing policies, considering service delivery systems and research activities.

3. Joint Legislative Committee Report

Ms. Diekmann reported that in September, the House and Senate reached agreement on the bill reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 (CCDBG). The House approved the bill in September, and it is scheduled for a vote in the Senate on November 13, 2014. A description of bill by the National Women's Law Center was included in the meeting materials. The bill will require a number of substantial changes, including but not limited to:

- Annual unannounced inspections of all licensed programs and one annual inspection of license exempt providers;
- At a minimum, children will be eligible for 12 months of care;
- States are to allocate at least seven percent of CCDBG funds for quality improvement activities during the first and second years, eight percent in the third and fourth years and nine percent in the fifth and subsequent years; and
- At least three percent of a State's allocation is to be used for quality improvement activities for infants and toddlers.

In California, CCDBG funds are administered by the State Department of Education. A new state plan will be required. Mr. Dennis reported that there is some interest in applying these changes to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) child care.

4. What Should We Be Thinking About and Doing?

Dr. Little directed members to the chart summarizing last month's responses to the questions "What should we be thinking about? What should we be doing?" She also encouraged members to submit their thoughts for this month.

5. Announcements and Public Comments

Jacquelyn Christensen, with LA Child Guidance Clinic, reported on a successful training with LAUP coaches on reflective practice.

Kathy Malaske-Samu announced that, with support of the Packard Foundation, an event was convened last evening, seeking input from license exempt providers on what they need to better serve the children in their care. The event was held at Magnolia Place.

Randi Wolfe inquired when more information would be available on CCDBG implementation. Ms. Malaske-Samu stated that either the November or December agendas would include this item, depending on when information becomes available.

Kate Sachoff reported that Robert Garcia, Mayor of Long Beach, has made a commitment to establishing universal preschool in the city.

Sam Chan stated that the Partnership for Early Childhood Investment was collaborating with LAUP and LA n Sync to host an Early Learning Forum on October 21, 2014, featuring U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

6. Call to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Members/Alternates

David Wong for Jeannette Aguirre, Los Angeles County Probation Department
Maria Calix, Second District
Sam Chan, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Laura Escobedo for Fran Chasen, So. CA Association for the Education of Young Children
Duane Dennis, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Maureen Diekmann, Los Angeles Unified School District
Robert Gilchick, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Karla Pleitez Howell, Child Care Planning Committee
Dora Jacildo, Fourth District
Sharoni Little, Second District
Dawn Kurtz, Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Kathleen Malaske-Samu, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Jacquelyn McCroskey, Third District
Joseph Matthews for Faith Parducho, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
Nurhan Pirim, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
Nina Sorkin, Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Family Services
Esther Torrez, First District
John Whitaker, Fifth District

72 percent of members/alternates were present.

Guests

Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center
Jacquelyn Christensen, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Lorena Gallardo Gomez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
Teresa Nuno, First 5 LA
Aimee Loya Owens, First 5 LA
Kate Sachoff, AdvoKate Consulting
Cheri Thomas, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Randi Wolfe

PRCCD MINUTES 10.8.14

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Quality Rating and Improvement Block Grant

Update to the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
November 12, 2014



OVERVIEW OF THE QRIS BLOCK GRANT

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- **Authority:** SB-858 Education Finance: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill 2014-15
- **Action:** Award funds to local consortia for support of local “early learning quality rating and improvement system” (QRIS) to increase number of low-income children in high-quality preschool programs
- **Intent:** Increase the reimbursement rates of high quality California State Preschool Programs (CSPPs)

Quality Rating and Improvement (QRIS) Block Grant

Page 3

- QRIS will be used to determine “high quality” CSPPs
- High quality = a QRIS score of 4 or 5
- At this point, there are only a limited number of CSPPs that have been rated and scored at a 4 or higher.

QRIS Block Grant

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How does the QRIS Block Grant differ from Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) QRIS?

- Funds are targeted to CSPPs and FCCHENs
- 80% of funds are to be used to “support CSPPs rated at 4 or above”
- Local Consortia must have a Local Education Agency or CSPP to accept the funds

QRIS Block Grant vs. RTT-ELC QRIS

Page 5

- Funds Available = \$50 M per year statewide
- Funds awarded per CSPP spaces per County
- CSPP spaces in CA = 186,709
- CSPP spaces in LAC = 51,172 or 28% of total

QRIS Block Grant: County Allocations

Page 6

• CSPP spaces in LAC = 51,172

- 28% of all CSPP spaces in California

• Potential allocation to LAC = \$13.8 M

- Assessment & Access \$ 2.7 M
- Quality Rewards \$11 M

QRIS Block Grant – LA Co.

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Priority I:

- Counties and Regions with QRIS Action Plans on file with the CDE, and
- Who are implementing the Quality Continuum Framework (QCF) and Tiered Rating Matrix (TRM)

Priority II:

- Counties and Regions with a QRIS that incorporated the QCF and implements the TRM using the Implementation Guide

Applying for QRIS Block Grant

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Applications are expected to address:

- How the Quality Continuum Framework will be implemented
- Setting ambitious yet achievable targets for CSPPs to reach tier 4
- The development of an action plan
- A description of how funds will be used to:
 - Increase CSPPs in tiers 4 and 5
 - Support CSPPs at tier 4 or higher

Applying for QRIS Block Grant Funds

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Task	Timeframe
Release the RFA	Fall 2014
Letter of Intent	Two weeks later
Funding Amounts	One week later
Priority I Applications Due	Two weeks later
Priority II Applications Due	Four weeks later
Reading, scoring, interviewing	Dec/Jan/Feb
Appeals	Dec/Jan/Feb
Awards	Jan/Feb/March

QRIS Block Grant Timeline

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LOCAL ISSUES

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- The Office of Child Care and LAUP are engaged in planning to submit a single application
 - LA County Office of Education will be approached to serve as fiscal agent to accept the funds
 - There are a limited number of CSPPs or Family Child Care Home Education Network participants in LA County that have been rated at 4 or higher
- LA County Application for QRIS Block Grant**
- Page 12

Of the 662 CSPP sites in LA County:

- 119 CSPPs are in RTT (78 in OCC, 41 in LAUP)
- 41 CSPPs have been rated
 - LAUP rated 27 CPSSs, 2 at 2, 25 at 3
 - OCC rated 14 CSPPs, 2 at 3, 12 at 4

QRIS Block Grant: Potential CSPPs

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- There are 21 Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHEN) operating in Los Angeles County.
- A total of 564 family child care homes are participating in those networks.
- 33 FCCHEN participants are enrolled in the OCC RTT program and 2 are enrolled in STEP.
- LAUP is currently researching FCCHEN participants in both their RTT program and LAUP Network.

QRIS Block Grant: Potential FCCHEN Participants

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- Application will include activities that:
 - Support and improve quality: 80% of funds
 - Assess quality and access: 20% of funds
- Priority: to support CSPPs at tier 4 or higher
- Include FCCHENs that provide CSPP services

QRIS Block Grant: Use of Funds

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QRIS Block Grant applications will require sign-offs from the following:

- Local Education Agency(ies)
- First 5 county commission
- Postsecondary education institution
- Local Planning Council
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

QRIS Block Grant: Local Sign-offs

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- We will update the Roundtable as more information becomes available.
- We look forward to your support of this collaborative effort.

QRIS Block Grant – More to Come!

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Social Policy Report Brief

How Abuse and Neglect Affect Children's Minds and Bodies



The Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) is an international, interdisciplinary organization of scientists, established in 1933 by the National Academy of Sciences.

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Why Does This Matter?

More than 676,000 children in the United States are abused and neglected annually, and 1,500 die as a result. Maltreatment harms children's mental health and academic achievement, and increases their risk for chronic diseases of aging. In addition to the human costs, the estimated costs of this maltreatment—billions of dollars annually—have raised calls for better understanding of how maltreatment harms children and more effective approaches to prevention and treatment. New studies on the neurobiological science of maltreatment show that child abuse and neglect alter children's biological systems, including brain development.

Policy and Practice Implications

Research suggests that the period from birth to age 3 is a critical window for identifying families at risk for abuse and neglect, and treating child victims using evidence-based practices. Efforts should focus on:

- Including universal mental health screening in U.S. Child Protective Services evaluations and access to evidence-based behavioral therapies paired with appropriate psychiatric assessments
- Preventing emergence of maltreatment through programs proven effective in the community; examples include the Nurse-Family Partnership, the Safe Environment for Every Kid program, and the Positive Parenting Program, or Triple P

Because the adverse effects of maltreatment can become biologically embedded early in children's development, efforts to treat child abuse and neglect should be renewed and expanded.

This brief summarizes a longer report. The full report and references are available online at www.srcd.org under *Social Policy Report* on the Publications tab.

Policy and Practice Implications (continued)

- Preventing recurrence of maltreatment; though this has proven more difficult than prevention, some success at reducing recidivism among parents has been seen with multiple referrals to U.S. Child Protective Services using Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Offering coordinated systems of care for children and families in the child welfare system, including comprehensive mental and physical health care, with caseworkers, pediatricians, and psychologists working as teams
- Treating victims of maltreatment with evidence-based approaches specific to those who have experienced trauma; such interventions can include the judicious use of psychotropic medications

What the Research Says

- Children are at greatest risk of victimization before age 3, a time of rapid brain development.
- Abused or neglected children are at greater risk for poor health in adulthood, including chronic aging diseases like diabetes, cancer, and heart and lung disease, than nonmaltreated children.
- Abuse and neglect are “toxic stressors”—chronic, uncontrollable events resulting in strong, frequent, or prolonged activation of the body’s stress-management systems.
- Exposure to toxic stress early in development shapes how three integrated systems work: the immune system (which protects against disease), the neuro-endocrine system (which releases hormones to control bodily functions), and the central nervous system (which is comprised of the brain and spinal cord).
- Researchers are beginning to understand how the chronicity, severity, and timing of maltreatment shape the functions of these systems. Researchers can now examine the effects of interventions on helping children regain normal psychobiological functioning.
- Few maltreatment-prevention programs that have been proven effective have been scaled up to work in communities. Evidence is limited on the effectiveness of programs that prevent recurrence of maltreatment.

Facts at a Glance

- U.S. Child Protective Services agencies receive more than 3 million reports of abuse and neglect annually. Some 60% to 65% of these reports are investigated, and approximately 20% of investigations identify at least one child as a victim of abuse or neglect.
- Repeated occurrences of abuse and neglect are seen among families involved in the child welfare system, and approximately 40% of families re-enter the system within five years.
- In a nationally representative sample of children involved with the U.S. child welfare system, between 18% and 22% had significant emotional and behavioral problems as reported by parents, teachers, or other youth, compared to 8% of children in the general population.
- In a given year, new cases of maltreatment are estimated to cost \$80 billion to \$124 billion for medical and mental health services, lost productivity, and crime. Most of this is paid for by taxpayers.
- The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act defines child abuse and neglect as, at minimum, “Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.”

This brief summarizes a longer *Social Policy Report* by Sara R. Jaffee, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and Reader in Gene-Environment Interplay at King’s College London, and Cindy W. Christian, Chair, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and Professor of Pediatrics at The Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The *Social Policy Report* is based on the proceedings of an expert panel meeting convened by the Administration of Children, Youth, and Families, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in partnership with the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development within the National Institutes of Health, DHHS.

The *Social Policy Report* is published quarterly. See the Policy & Media tab at www.srcd.org for recent issues.

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