

Meeting Agenda - September 10, 2014

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
10:00	1. Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incorporating Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Our Agendas • Identifying Hot Topics b. Maintaining Our Focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Framework for Child Care and Development • County Strategic Plan 	Dora Jacildo Chair
10:15	2. Clarifying the Basics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who Are We? <p>The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) is composed of twenty-five members appointed by the Board of Supervisors representing a range of disciplines, County departments, and professional and community organizations.</p> b. Why Are We Here? <p>The collective expertise of the Roundtable members provides a unique lens to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine issues impacting early care and education and the well-being of young children and their families in Los Angeles County, and • Develop recommendations related to access, affordability and quality of early care and education services. c. What Is Our Charge? <p>The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development builds and strengthens early care and education by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement.</p> 	Sharoni Little Dora Jacildo

Time	Agenda Item	Lead
	d. How Is Our Work Relevant to the Board of Supervisors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas under the direct authority of the Board of Supervisors • Areas where the Board of Supervisor can assert influence e. Informing the Board of Our Work f. Opportunities to Align our Work: DMH Health Neighborhoods	Sam Chan
10:50	3. Approval of July 9, 2014 Minutes Action Item	Dora Jacildo
11:00	4. Legislative Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close of Session • Recommendations for the Public Policy Platform for First Year of 2015-16 Legislative Session Action Item 	Maureen Diekmann Michele Sartell
11:40	5. What Should We Be Thinking About? What Should We Be Doing?	Sharoni Little
11:50	6. Announcements and Public Comment	
12:00	7. Adjourn	Dora Jacildo

Health Neighborhoods



Kathleen Kerrigan, RN, LCSW
Mental Health Clinical Program Manager III
Office of Integrated Care – Clinical Operations
County of Los Angeles-Department of Mental Health



Health Neighborhoods

- **Community Change Model***
 - Achieve community health and wellness
 - Address social determinants of health
 - Community-driven, focused on policy and system change
- **What are the social determinants of health?*****

The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. These circumstances are shaped by the distribution of money, power and resources at global, national and local levels.

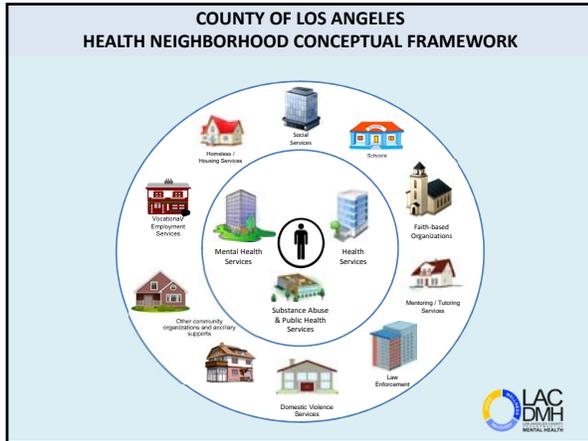
*Health Neighborhoods, Summary of Workgroups Sessions, Rigoberto Rodriguez, 2013
** World Health Organization, 2012



Health Neighborhoods

- **Service Delivery Model**
 - Improve **access** through integrated mental health, health, substance abuse and public health services
 - Improve **quality** of services through coordination
 - **Contain costs** through effective communication among providers





Health Neighborhood Goals

- Provide safe and effective services
- Provide services that take into consideration the unique needs, values and cultures of those served
- Improve access to care – make it easier and more timely
- Improve care coordination – get providers talking to each other and avoid doing the same thing over and over

LAC DMH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

Health Neighborhood Goals

- Improve quality of care
- Improve satisfaction of the community
- Decrease unnecessary costs

Ultimate goal is to improve the health and well-being of Los Angeles County residents

LAC DMH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH

Our Goals

- Our responsibility is to build upon existing relationships to improve access to and coordination of care among treatment providers.
- Examples of these groups include:
 - The California Endowment
 - Best Start/First 5
 - Other existing collaborations/relationships



Five Pilot Health Neighborhoods

- Service Area 1 – Lancaster
- Service Area 2 – Pacoima
- Service Area 4 – Boyle Heights
- Service Area 6 – MLK/Watts/Willowbrook
- Service Area 8 – Central Long Beach



Next Steps

1. Bring together health, mental health, public health and substance abuse providers and services in each neighborhood that cover all ages from prenatal to older adults.
2. Improve these partnerships based on community input. Help providers refer to each other, conduct screenings, and become educated on what services are offered across all specialty areas.



Next Steps (cont.)

3. Reaching out to the community, listening to their input, and expanding these partnerships to include the following:
- Social Service Agencies
 - Faith-based Community
 - Housing Authority
 - Academic Community
 - Local organizations



Next Steps (cont.)

4. Strengthening partnerships in each neighborhood so that they can cover all ages, are culturally competent, and meet the specific needs of the community.



In Conclusion

Questions & Answers

Thank you for your participation!





**Annual Retreat – July 9, 2014
Eaton Canyon Nature Center**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dora Jacildo called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Ms. Jacildo thanked everyone for their participation and to the Department of Parks and Recreation for making the meeting space available to the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable). She also acknowledged the very informative posters presented by 211 LA County on their Developmental Screening and Care Coordination Project, the Department of Public Health's Choose Health LA – Child Care Initiative, and the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) and UCLA. The UCLA poster provides data on the Office of Child Care's RTT-ELC pilot.

Following self-introductions by members and guests, Dr. Sharoni Little reviewed the agenda for the day. In planning the retreat agenda, the Working Group sought to incorporate topics suggested by members while also ensuring time for dialogue among the membership. Unfortunately, the retreat date conflicted with vacations and set meetings for the Board deputies. However, the invitations have triggered the scheduling of meetings with some of the deputies.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Jacildo directed members to the June minutes in their packets. Ms. Terri Nishimura moved the approval of the minutes and Ms. Maria Calix offered a second to the motion. Mr. Nurhan Pirim, Mr. Duane Dennis and Ms. Jacildo abstained as they did not attend the June 11, 2014 meeting. All other members in attendance voted in support of the motion and the minutes were approved.

3. Election of Officers

On behalf of the Nominating Committee including Dr. Jennifer Hottenroth, Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu and Ms. Nishimura, Ms. Nishimura presented the slate of officers for 2014-15. She noted the Committee was gratified that Ms. Jacildo and Dr. Little had agreed to another term of Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Ms. Nishimura asked for nominations from the floor. None were offered. Mr. Dennis offered a motion to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendation for Chair and Vice Chair. Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey offered a second. The vote was unanimous in support of Ms. Jacildo continuing as Chair and Dr. Little as Vice-Chair.

4. Reflections on 2013-14

In opening this portion of the agenda, Dr. Little led members and guests through an exercise, identifying common interests of the group beyond the obvious commitment to services for children and families. Following the exercise, participants broke into small groups to consider the following process and content questions:

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- Does the Roundtable meeting process work for you and your organization? How can we improve?
- Over the past year, which issues were most important to you and your organization? Which issues did we miss or not address adequately?

Each group reported out briefly. The following summarizes the discussions of the five small groups.

Group 1

Meeting Format:

- Agendas are packed. More time is needed for emerging issues and for members, representing various perspectives, to engage in deeper conversations of issues.
- There is a need to balance the time devoted to presentations versus the time for participants to engage in discussion. What is needed per mandates or needs of membership?
- Moving to a three hour meeting may be beneficial, allowing time for the “co-creative process”.
- What are the early care and education interests/intersects of County departments? What value could the Roundtable add to these interests?
- Food could contribute to a more nurturing atmosphere.

Concerns:

- Sometimes people hold back on conversations to keep the agenda moving.
- Content is valuable – the challenge is managing time, not overloading the agenda with items, and allowing time for discussion.
- Are County departments connected to the Roundtable’s public policy work on budget and legislative issues?
- How do current events, such as unaccompanied minors, get addressed?
- There may be an overabundance of meeting materials – could we become more electronically connected?
- How is information from the Roundtable shared within County departments and participating organizations? How do we create two-way communication and tap into the synergy of other groups and organizations?

Group 2

Likes:

- Meetings start and end on time.
- Agenda and minutes are available in advance.
- Valuable information, such as the legislative updates, are shared.

Improvements Needed:

- Build in time for open discussion, strategic planning, networking, processing/implementing shared resources.
- Conduct “mini” mid-year half day retreat.
- Lack of follow-up on major county initiatives i.e. Strengthening Families.
- Information/resources are not always shared post meetings.
- Opportunities for collaboration i.e. Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative.

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Group 3

Format:

- Agenda and time allocated.
- Inclusive.
- Recommendations:
 - Clarify status of pending items
 - Clarify how to add items to the agenda
 - Action items requiring follow-up

Content:

- Cognizant of federal agenda.
- Issues raised and follow-up examples are AB 3632 and AB 114 (chaptered 2011).
- Better coordination with Board Offices.
- Systems approach and early care and education vision.
- Wish list – one stream of early care and education services.
- Materials are sufficient.
- Sharing information
 - Need to share information with the Board offices
 - Legislative information is widely distributed

Group 4

Format

- Format generally works, meetings are inclusive.
- Recommendation: once every three to six months, dedicate a whole meeting to a “hot topic” and related dialogue
 - Build in more time for discussion at regular meetings
 - Allow more time for department updates

Content

- Have addressed relevant issues.
- Would like more collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee and information on the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Materials

- Materials provided members are sufficient.
- Share information at staff meetings.
- Board agenda items.
- Sacramento Updates.
- Documents circulated with other organizations.

Group 5

Format

- Is a two hour meeting too short? Would a longer meeting, every other month, be more effective?
- Some members attend multiple meetings addressing these issues, while other members only address these issues at Roundtable meetings.
- Some topics are not fully addressed.
- Has the expanded membership helped the Roundtable meet its goals?
- It is a challenge to balance issues, and provide information in new and relevant ways.

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- Use the first part of the year to study an issue and the second part of the year to focus on relevant policies.

Content

- Not all presentations have been relevant to the work of the Roundtable.
- Not sure that the Roundtable helps the Board of Supervisors.
- New Supervisors will be coming on board soon – how do we make the Roundtable relevant to them?
- The Roundtable has not addressed the issue of license exempt care. This is an important issue.
- Access to care continues to be a challenge as subsidized care is only accessible to the very poor and wealthy families can purchase care. Families in the middle struggle.
- Participants reported sharing information with their supervisors and using the minutes for that purpose.

Following the reporting out process, Dr. Little thanked everyone for the comments and insights. This information will be used to improve our processes and focus our attention going forward.

5. Budget and Legislative Update

Ms. Maureen Diekmann, Co-chair of the Joint Legislative Committee presented the Budget and Legislative Update.

The Governor signed the Budget Act of 2014 and the associated trailer bills on June 20, 2014. This budget reflects negotiations between legislators and the Governor, and begins the process of re-investing in early care and education. Allocations were made to:

- Increase the number of subsidized spaces available to children of low-income families
- Raise reimbursement rates for subsidized care
- Enhance the quality of programs, e.g. professional development

Other significant changes are as follows:

- Eliminates family fees for the part-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP)
- Augments funding for state preschool facility development
- Authorizes the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop a process requiring every contracting agency to re-compete for continued funding every five years
- Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to review and update the child care and development permit process
- Allows CSPPs to retain an additional 10 percent of their contracts in reserve for professional development of its instructional staff

While additional funding will provide more spaces overall for children ages birth to five and raise the reimbursement rates to programs serving the children, the majority of the investments are targeted to increasing spaces for preschool age children and professional development activities directed to preschool and transitional kindergarten (TK) teachers.

The budget also calls for:

- Increases to Community Care Licensing Division fees by 10 percent

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- Expresses legislative intent to improve efficiencies within the State licensing system with increased funds for staff, which is expected to result in increased inspections over time

Legislation of priority interest to the Roundtable includes two items which are linked to the approved budget:

- AB 1454 (Calderon) as reported at last month's meeting, was amended to phase in the frequency of licensing inspections. Status: Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspend File
- SB 837 (Steinberg), which originally would have established universally available transitional kindergarten (TK), was significantly amended in mid-June and then amended slightly on July 2nd. The bill now provides implementation language 1) to the budget allocation of \$15 million for professional development activities, with priority going to TK teachers; and 2) to the budget allocation of \$10 million for other professional development projects. Status: Assembly Committee on Appropriations – pending hearing
- SB 192 (Liu) introduced during the last session, received modest amendments in mid-June. This bill proposes to recast the Child Care and Development Act as the Early Learning and Educational Support Act and make some other changes to sections of the Education Code specific to child care and development. Among the proposed changes is enhancing the information that is available to parents through the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, the Alternative Payment Program agencies and the CDE website. Status: Assembly Committee on Appropriations – pending hearing
- SB 1123 (Liu) no changes since the last meeting. Status: Assembly Committee on Appropriations – pending hearing

In the conversation following Ms. Diekmann's presentation, it was noted that while these increased allocations to child care and development services are welcome, they are not overwhelming. The 2014-15 Budget restores funding to 1,000 spaces in General Child Care Centers and 500 Alternative Payment vouchers statewide. The most significant increase in services is once again focused on the CSPP serving three- and four-year old children. The gap in services for infants and toddlers was not addressed by this Budget.

Ms. Diekmann introduced Dr. Carolyn Brennan, to share her thoughts on issues impacting services for infants and toddlers. Dr. Brennan is the Senior Policy Analyst with the ZERO TO THREE Western Office and focuses on public policies that support infants and toddlers in California.

Dr. Brennan noted that only two percent of infants and toddlers have access to licensed child care and development services. In organizing its policy work, ZERO TO THREE has identified the following policy framework:

- Good health
 - Physical health
 - Social and Emotional Health,
 - Developmental Screening, and
 - Nutrition

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- Strong Families
 - Basic Needs,
 - Family Leave,
 - Child Welfare, and
 - Home Visiting

- Positive learning experiences
 - Child Care,
 - Early Head Start, and
 - Early Intervention

ZERO TO THREE stresses providing services that reach children and families where they are. For families relying on family, friend and neighbor care, home visiting can be an effective service. Families using licensed care need systems that support the quality of care, are affordable and accessible. Dr. Brennan remarked that the competition between services to children birth to three verses services to four and five year olds, or perinatal verses early care and education, undermines efforts to build a system that provides continuity of care.

Sometimes the challenge is recognizing and connecting other “systems” in our planning and implementing of services. Are Regional Centers represented? Are home visitation programs represented? At the federal level, we are witnessing increased investments in Early Head Start and efforts to facilitate collaboration between child development and Head Start services.

These issues raise the question of our own readiness to collaborate. Do we recognize where our agendas overlap? Can we focus on areas where we agree and advance those issues?

Ms. Diekmann and members thanked Dr. Brennan for her thought provoking comments.

6. Aligning Our Work with Colleague Organizations

Members collected their sandwiches and settled in for a working lunch. The first item was a panel presentation by Ms. Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California, Ms. Kim Belshé, Executive Director of First 5 LA, and Dr. Richard Cohen, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and manager of Project ABC, a federally funded collaborative project designed to create a system of care for young children in the Los Angeles County area who would benefit from mental health services.

First 5 California

Ms. Maben opened the panel noting that there was a lot going on! The State Budget for 2014-15 includes some wins for children. The CSPP is being expanded and \$50 million was allocated to Quality Rating and Improvement to build on the work of the RTT-ELC. While these “wins” do not add up to a banner year – they are a good start. There is still much work to be done. We need to be able to tell our stories to the legislature, to effectively communicate what children and families need.

First 5 California is collaborating with the Packard Foundation, and the CDE to provide technical assistance to programs applying for Early Head Start -Child Care Partnership grants.

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First 5 CA, in collaboration with a number of State departments, will be hosting the Child Health, Education and Care Conference in Sacramento February 10-12, 2015. In addition, the First 5 Commission is engaged in a strategic planning process, has recently launched the “Talk, Read, Sing” public information campaign and continues to network with the 58 county commissions.

First 5 LA

Ms. Belshé opened her remarks by thanking Mr. Dennis for his contributions to the First 5 LA Commission. She then noted that, in 2013-14, the Commission had taken in approximately \$90 million in revenue, but had an estimated \$250 million in expenses. These facts were forcing the Commission to plan for a different future, one where living within its means would require a different kind of discipline. Ms. Belshé noted that First 5 LA was the largest funder of early care and education in Los Angeles County.

In March 2014, the Commission adopted a new set of governance guidelines. Per these guidelines, every grant that the Commission considers must include a plan for sustainability at the front end and every grant will have an expiration date. In addition, there will be a new emphasis on partnerships. In June 2014, the Commission considered a Framework (Framework) for Impact. This Framework includes the following:

- **Vision:** Throughout Los Angeles County’s diverse communities, all children are born healthy and raised in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment so that they grow up healthy in mind, body, and spirit, and are eager to learn, with opportunities to reach their full potential.

First 5 LA’s Emerging Framework for Impact		
Priority Outcomes	Goals	Ultimate Impact
System Outcomes Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Services, Early Care and Education, Community	Children 0-5 achieve their maximum physical health potential	Children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life
	Participant Outcomes Parents/caregivers Children 0-5 years	
Children 0-5 reach their maximum cognitive development potential		

- **Target Populations:** First 5 LA will work on behalf of all children 0-5 and their families in Los Angeles County, but will focus on those who face significant risks and challenges to achieving their maximum physical and socio-emotional health and learning potential.

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This Framework places a new emphasis on parents and their ability to support outcomes for their children. Families are an integral part of communities. This Framework also presents a number of areas for alignment with the Roundtable around policy, practice and parent engagement. In addition, both First 5 LA and the Roundtable have a commitment to focus on the need for services for infants and toddlers.

First 5 LA is looking for opportunities where their outcome orientation can add value.

Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)

Dr. Cohen remarked that he enjoyed returning to Eaton Canyon. While working with a local Head Start program, Dr. Cohen was involved in a teacher training project based at Eaton Canyon, which became a national model.

Dr. Cohen thanked Michele Sartell for her work in supporting the Planning Committee and noted that the Planning Committee fulfills Los Angeles County's child care planning mandate that is included in the State Education Code. This Committee is very focused on and serves as a resource to people working directly with young children.

The Committee is working under the Strategic Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools in July 2013. The goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- **Quality:** QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) implemented in Los Angeles County is accessible and understandable to parents, providers, and the public.
- **Access:** Increase the supply of and access to appropriate early care and education options by maximizing the use of existing state and federal funds and ensuring connections between early care and education providers and other support services to address all children's needs and abilities.
- **Planning Council Role:** Participation in the Planning Committee is expanded to include more stakeholders.
- **Workforce:** early educators implement best practices effectively in serving children and families of diverse backgrounds and abilities.

During the 2013-14 year, each agenda was structured to incorporate/reflect the Strengthening Families Framework and the Protective Factors.

There is a work group to address each goal of the strategic plan. Once a quarter, the Planning Committee hosts the RTT-ELC Advisory Committee. Members of the Quality Work Group participate in the Committee. The Joint Committee on Legislation, involving members of the Committee and Roundtable, monitors State and Federal legislative and budget processes.

Dr. Cohen posed the challenge of leveraging child development, home visitation and Early Head Start services. He also noted that, while early childhood mental health consultation is recognized as a "best practice" in child development programs, it is far from institutionalized. As we facilitate clients from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to access child development services, we should also be providing the staff in these programs with the tools and supports needed to effectively serve families who have experienced trauma, and/or are in need of a variety of services.

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Questions and Answers

Mr. Dennis thanked Ms. Maben and the First 5 CA Commission for the “*Talk, Read, Sing*” campaign. This public information campaign is very well done and provides leadership to counties, at a time when resources are shrinking.

Ms. Belshé commented that the county commissions are an untapped resource. First 5 LA is refining its advocacy capacity and now has advocates in Sacramento and Washington, D. C. She noted that legislators are eager to speak with county commissioners and learn about their work. Commissioners are seen as thought leaders.

Ms. Maben added the First 5 California Commission sees its role as being the best partner possible to the independent county commissions. Given California’s 58 counties, it is not surprising to learn that there are some common issues across all counties, as well as issues that are specific to individual commissions.

Question: Can the various place-based efforts, including, Best Start, the Department of Mental Health’s (DMH) Health Neighborhoods, and the communities identified by The California Endowment, avoid duplication?

Ms. Belshé responded that there is overlap between these various initiatives. Ideally, there would be more purposeful communication at the onset. However, Best Start and the DMH Health Neighborhoods are trying to align.

Question: Research has shown that by six years of age, children in poor households have significantly smaller vocabularies than those in higher income households. Should we not be attempting to intervene earlier in the lives of younger and prevent such gaps?

Ms. Belshé agreed that services for infants and toddlers are needed. First 5 LA has invested in home visitation and is seeking to reach 40 percent of the families of new born children in Best Start communities.

Ms. Maben responded that the *Talk, Read, Sing* campaign directs families to a website that offers a variety of resources.

Dr. Brennan offered material from ZERO TO THREE on preventing this word gap.

Comment: Evaluation is critical to learn what did or did not work. However, that process requires time. Frequently, by the time the data is available, the funding has run out and programs have to start-over with the process of convincing funders of the value of the work.

Ms. Belshé responded that it is important to look backward and forward, to inform policy change and have an exit strategy at the onset. LAUP is a good example. First 5 LA cannot repeat the LAUP experience. Clearly, LAUP has done good work – but First 5 LA is not the agency that can scale LAUP up nor can it sustain LAUP. Ms. Belshé went on to say that investing in direct services is not the best direction for First 5 LA unless there is an exit strategy and another entity in place to sustain the operations of successful programs.

Comment: Better alignment of efforts is needed to both maximize the resources we do have and increase the effectiveness of our advocacy.

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Question: How will the exit strategy requirement be applied to the Best Start communities?

Ms. Belshé responded that the Commission is aware that place-based work requires time, more than five years, to demonstrate results. Conversations have been launched with participating hospitals, noting that the First 5 funding is time-limited.

Comment: Dr. McCroskey noted that the Child Care and Development Policy Framework (Policy Framework) is on the July 14, 2014 agenda of the Board of Supervisors and recommended that the Planning Committee, First 5 LA, and the Roundtable identify one or two items to work on collaboratively.

Comment: A reference was made to Dr. Brennan's remarks with the suggestion that a collaborative effort to support the full range of services – child care, early mental health and health could be meaningful.

Comment: Research on early mental health consultation has revealed that those services increase teachers' efficacy, reduce teacher turnover, increase attachment and support the development of relationships between children and adults. It was also noted that this type of support reduces incidents of expulsions from early care and education settings.

A hardy round of applause was offered to all panelists.

7. Policy and Action

Following a short break, members re-convened to consider how the goals of the Policy Framework could be aligned with the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRC). Dr. Jennifer Hottenroth opened this agenda item by providing a context for the BRC and its recommendations.

She reminded the group of the death of Gabriel Fernandez, a young child who died while in the care of his mother, despite multiple calls to the DCFS expressing concern for his safety. The BRC released its interim report in December 2013 and the final report in April 2014. Overall, the recommendations addressed the following issues:

- Data sharing between departments continues to be a challenge
- 50 percent of children are placed with relatives who need additional support
- 50 percent of newly detained children are under five years of age, many with mental health issues
- Performance-based contracts should replace the current "task" oriented contracts

In addition, the BRC recommended a single entity, focused solely on child safety, be charged with managing child protective services.

Dr. Hottenroth shared the BRC's Education Recommendations:

1. The County should establish mechanisms for cross-system education-related coordination, collaboration, and communication. We endorse the structure of the Education Coordinating Council (ECC), and they should continue to establish additional mechanisms for cross-site collaboration. The new child welfare structure proposed by the Commission must jointly engage DCFS, probation, school systems, the courts, and

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community partners to create cross-systems goals and strategies to improve educational continuity, stability and academic success for foster youth.

2. The County should increase access to early intervention services for foster children and children at high risk of abuse and neglect. All children under the supervision of DCFS between 0-5 should be prioritized for access to Early Childhood Education learning programs, including Head Start, Early Head Start, and Home Visitation. These programs should be funded and well marketed. Once placed in a program, children should be permitted to remain enrolled until they start kindergarten.
3. The County should ensure that school stability and child safety are improved through County-wide expansion of the pilot program that has been proven effective in the Gloria Molina Foster Youth Education Program.

The group reviewed local data from the BRC report:

Children Age Five and Under

Improved child safety depends on identifying children who are at the greatest risk for a serious or fatal injury and providing them and their families with high-quality, accessible, and appropriate services. We know that in Los Angeles County:

- Children under five years old are at the greatest risk of death as a result of abuse or neglect.
- Fatality rates are highest among infants under age one.
- A report to a child protection hotline is the single best predictor of a child's injury-related death before age five, including both deaths due to maltreatment and deaths due to unintentional injury. This is true regardless of whether DCFS legally substantiates the abuse or neglect. (p.20)
- More than three quarters of the roughly 8,000 infants who are reported to DCFS each year remain with their families of origin after the first hotline report. Fifty percent are subsequently reported for a second report of maltreatment before age five.

Copies of *“Child Abuse and Neglect: Fatalities 2012: Statistics and Interventions”* were included in the meeting materials. This report noted that in 2012, children under one year accounted for 44.4 percent of child fatalities, children three and under accounted for 77 percent of fatalities.

The following comments were shared during the discussion:

- County departments continue to stand alone, unsure of how to engage in cross department discussions. The SIB was created to help departments have those discussions. Child welfare issues cover a range of family issues and consequently, services and supports require more than one department to be effective. Collaboration needs to be done all the time – not on a family by family basis.
- The Gabriel Fernandez case highlighted communication breakdowns across the school district, police and DCFS.

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- This case highlights the need for child safety as countywide prevention strategy and measure of success.
- Connections should be made with the Office of Child Protection.
- Dr. Andrea Rich has written a Los Angeles Times editorial on the needs of children throughout DCFS and the County.
- In response to the Katie A. lawsuit, some partnerships have been formed, but change is limited. The focus remains on high need/high risk children and less on prevention.
- Regarding recommendation number 3 – access to mental health services for children under five years of age – continues to be a challenge. The Children’s System of Care was established in 1990 with a small group of “pioneer providers.” The workforce to meet the substantially increased demand for these services needs to be developed. A number of efforts are underway to build this capacity.
- There is a high need for training, reflective supervision, and recognition of appropriate training/skills for persons working with young children on mental health issues.
- Have we made progress toward the “no wrong door” approach to comprehensive services or are we still focused on only one issue/discipline?
- Could foster parents be mandated to use early care and education services?
- Mandates are not well received by foster or birth parents in the child welfare system. They are generally struggling to meet a host of mandates already. Do we have the capacity in the early care and education system to absorb 3,000 additional children?
- As an alternative, early care and education could be incorporated in the foster family agency contracts.
- ZERO TO THREE has fact sheets on educational rights that could be helpful.
- The BRC has recommended the creation of a Child Protection Czar. Clearly there is a need to integrate services across county departments and with communities. Children and families will not benefit, despite training early care and education staff on child abuse prevention, if other symptoms are ignored. There is a need to recognize and support the role of communities.
- Clearly, we are still investing more in interventions than in prevention. SIB has faced legal barriers to data sharing. Efforts and even dollars do not resolve these barriers.
- Congresswoman Karen Bass’s bill has made it possible for school districts to share information with DCFS.

In closing this discussion, Ms. Jacildo suggested that the information shared will need review to inform action by the Roundtable.

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8. Wrap Up and Feedback

Dr. Little thanked everyone for their participation throughout the day and asked everyone to offer one comment on what worked for them today.

Members

Dr. Sam Chan:	Appreciated the process and the ownership of the whole.
Dr. Jennifer Hottenroth:	The topics were relevant to the Roundtable's work.
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey:	Appreciated the purposeful relationship building and the focus of "policy to action".
Dr. John Whitaker:	Enjoyed hearing the different points of view and recognition of the importance of relationships
Mr. Nurhan Pirim:	Appreciated having a voice at the table, the opportunity to listen and provide feedback, and to respectfully agree to disagree
Dr. Sharoni Little:	The opportunity to model/experience collaboration and to move forward.
Ms. Dora Jacildo:	
Kathy Malaske-Samu:	The setting and the conversations.
Ms. Maria Calix:	Synergy.
Ms. Duane Dennis:	Distracted by concern for impending change – the only constant in the universe.
Ms. Terri Nishimura:	Appreciated the meeting structure and the opportunity to dive deeper.
Ms. Nina Sorkin:	The reflections on 2013-14 and the opportunity to dialogue.
Dr. Robert Gilchick:	The opportunity to go deeper on issues and process.
Ms. Ruth Yoon:	The focus on infants and toddlers.
Ms. Maureen Diekmann:	Keeping our focus on the needs of children

Guests:

Cristina Alvarado:	Feels welcome at the meeting, appreciates the exchange of ideas and how to impact systems.
Dr. Michael Olenick:	The day was well organized.
Dr. Jacquelyn Christensen:	The getting to know you activity and variety within the meeting structure.
Ms. Nancy Lee Sayers:	The flexibility in the structure and the opportunity to go deeper in the issues.
Ms. Sharon Green:	The collaborative process and the opportunity to hear other perspectives on issues.
Ms. Michele Sartell:	The exercise and the focus on alignment.
Dr. Carolyn Brennan:	Privilege to participate. Focus on alignment.
Ms. Nora Garcia- Rosales	The setting, the information and the deeper conversations.
Ms. Cheri Thomas:	The ability to go deeper on issues.
Ms. Rosie Arroyo-Carmona:	The theme and conversation related to alignment.
Ms. Tessa Charnofsky:	The setting, the longer conversations and hearing from multiple perspectives.
Ms. Patricia Carbajal:	The information that was shared was helpful.
Edith Garcia:	Opportunity to meet people.

9. Call to Adjourn

[Type text]

Ms. Jacildo thanked everyone for the commitment to improving services for children and families, wished everyone a happy August. She adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Members/Alternates Attending

Jeannette Aguirre, Los Angeles County Probation Department
Maria Calix, Second Supervisorial District
Sam Chan, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
Duane Dennis, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Maureen Diekmann, Los Angeles Unified School District
Jennifer Hottenroth, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Karla Pleitez Howell, Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Dora Jacildo, Fourth Supervisorial District
Sharon Little, Second Supervisorial District
Kathleen Malaske-Samu, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Jacquelyn McCroskey, Third Supervisorial District
Terri Nishimura, Fourth Supervisorial District
Nurhan Pirim, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
Nina Sorkin, Los Angeles County Commission for Children and Families
Esther Torrez, First Supervisorial District
John Whitaker, Fifth Supervisorial District
Keesha Woods, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Ruth Yoon, First Supervisorial District

79% of members were in attendance

Guests

Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Rosie Arroyo-Carmona, California Community Foundation
Kim Belshé, First 5 Los Angeles
Carolyn Brennan, ZERO TO THREE
Cristal Byrne, UCLA-Center for Improving Child Care Quality
Ms. Patricia Carbajal, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
Tessa Charnofsky, First 5 LA
Jacquelyn Christensen, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
Richard Cohen, Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Edith Garcia, Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Sharon Green, California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing Division
Emily Harding-Morick, UCLA-Center for Improving Child Care Quality
Patricia Herrera, 211 LA County
Danette McBride, Second Supervisorial District
Camille Maben, First 5 California
Nora Garcia- Rosales, Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
Randi Wolfe, Tikkun Consulting
Cheri Thomas, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office

Staff

Michele Sartell

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 Update

GOAL 1: OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS/FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY:
Maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, operations, and strong fiscal management to support timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services.

Strategic Initiative 1: Sound Fiscal Management/Capital Investments
Strengthen County's capacity to sustain essential services through proactive and prudent fiscal policies and stewardship while investing in the future by studying, prioritizing, and pursuing the highest-need capital projects.

Focus Areas:

- **County Fiscal and Budget Policies**
Review, update and enhance the County's fiscal and budget policies to reflect the Board's commitment to being a leader among government entities.
- **Forecasting County Revenue Streams**
Expand and refine the County's capability for short and long-term forecasting of the major discretionary revenues.
- **Debt Management Guidelines**
Prepare policy guidelines for maximum annual debt service payments on outstanding short- and long-term debt obligations as a percentage of annual expenditures.
- **Capital Investments**
Complete the assessment of the current condition of all County facilities, prepare a long-term forecast of ongoing and periodic maintenance requirements, and develop a replacement plan for County facilities that have exceeded their useful life and can no longer be supported or maintained.

Strategic Initiative 2: Targeted Risk Management

Focused risk management activities based on trends identified through updated technology and enhanced communication pathways.

Focus Areas:

- **Upgrade the Workers' Compensation Claims Management System**
Integrate and update the Claims Management System with internal and external technology to harness advanced mitigation and cost-control methodologies, as well as ease the complexity of departmental access to reporting mechanisms.

- **Enhance Reporting Technology**
Implement next generation dashboard, claim system analytics and reporting technology to identify opportunities for prevention efforts, cost containment and operational efficiencies.
- **Department Cost Driver and Service Integration**
Provide departments semi-annual cost driver, trend indications and recommendations for actionable items to reduce the overall costs of risk.
- **Best Risk Management Practices**
Coordinate existing best practices and develop new risk-based practices for implementation based on recommendations and trends indicators.

Strategic Initiative 3: Countywide Contracting Improvement Initiative
Implement improvements in the contracting process by standardizing and incorporating best practices while ensuring compliance with public procurement laws and County policies.

Focus Areas:

- **Implement the Countywide Contracts Management System (CCMS)**
Identify, plan and initiate a phased approach to implement CCMS with County departments that are soliciting Proposition “A” contracts in Fiscal Year 2014-15, and converting Community and Senior Services to the County’s standard contracting models.
- **Integrate CCMS with the Vendor Self Service (VSS)**
The integration of CCMS with the VSS enterprise application will provide a means for contractors to electronically respond to County solicitations.
- **Develop and Implement Advanced, Specialized Contract Process Training**
Expand existing countywide contract process training to include specialized training in the varied acquisition strategies and disciplines used in the County solicitation process.

Strategic Initiative 4: Innovative Technology Application
Develop innovative Information Technology solutions that achieve efficiencies and transform service delivery.

Focus Areas:

- **Expand and enhance e-Government Initiatives**
Provide opportunities to improve and expand constituent access to County services and information utilizing websites, mobile applications and other e-government technologies.
- **Establish shared technology platform to support mobile services**
Implement shared mobile technologies to enable departments to support their mobile workforce.

- **Deploy shared computing platform, tools and services for electronic forms and workflow**
Establish a shared computing environment to enable departments to automate the use of electronic forms to improve constituent engagement and operational efficiencies.
- **Expand the County's Information Management systems**
Implement governance and identify technologies to facilitate secure data sharing, information exchange and data analytics in support of the County's operations.
- **Establish County-wide sourcing agreements**
Establish single countywide agreements to reduce cost and effectively service county departments.

Strategic Initiative 5: Legacy System Replacement

Develop criteria, establish priority, fund and initiate the modernization or replacement of critical legacy systems.

Focus Areas:

- **Establish Legacy modernization criteria and priority**
Implement a formal process for the review and evaluation of legacy systems to prioritize and plan for modernization and replacement.
- **Create an on-going funding program for IT Legacy Systems**
Implement a formal IT Capital Planning Process to fund the modernization and replacement of IT Legacy systems.
- **Engage departments to identify and plan for the modernization or replacement of critical legacy systems.**
Collaborate with the Chief Information Officers Council and Leadership Committee to identify and plan for the modernization or replacement of critical legacy systems.
- **Launch department legacy replacement initiatives.**
Coordinate with departments to facilitate the modernization or replacement of at-risk legacy systems.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 Update

GOAL 2: COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND RESPONSIVENESS:

Enrich lives of Los Angeles County residents by providing enhanced services, and effectively planning and responding to economic, social, and environmental challenges.

Strategic Initiative 1: Customer Service Innovation/Enhancement

Reinvent how County services and products are provided to the public, utilizing more intuitive, customer-centric approaches to achieve maximum outcome and customer satisfaction.

Focus Areas:

- **Voting System Modernization**
Continue multi-year effort to modernize the County's voting system through iterative and open process, maximizing stakeholder input.
- **Effective Small Business Assistance**
Improve the County's interaction with small business owners, providing useful, timely information, and better guidance in navigating through the County's procedural requirements.
- **Redesigned Websites for Customer Engagement and Government Transparency**
Redesign the County's digital Annual Report with a number of innovative features focused on increased transparency and access; and redesign the County's homepage utilizing the latest technologies and web standards to exemplify functionality, efficiency, flexibility, accessibility, and transparency.

Strategic Initiative 2: Job Creation Efforts

Increase the number of Los Angeles County residents that obtain employment in industries and sectors that pay living wages and provide a path for future professional growth.

Focus Areas:

- **Business Services**
Establish a countywide business service strategy that aligns education, training and competitive grant opportunities with economic development strategies that meet the workforce needs of high-growth industries and businesses in the region.
- **On-the Job Training & Subsidized Employment**
Expand the number of CalWORKs' participants, veterans, non-custodial parents and other vulnerable populations in "earn and learn" models that provide them with meaningful work experiences that lead to permanent employment with potential career pathways in high-growth industries.

- **Summer Youth Employment**
Provide short-term employment opportunities to CalWORKs, foster and other low-income youth in industries in which they gain valuable skills necessary for academic and professional success.
- **County Workforce Enhancement**
Expand innovative recruitment strategies and online access to workforce and training programs that lead to job opportunities. This includes internships, fellowships and mentoring programs to attract talented individuals to the County's workforce system.

Strategic Initiative 3: Emergency Preparedness Expansion

Enhance emergency preparedness through continued investment in personnel, training and facilities.

Focus Areas:

- **Inclusive Emergency Planning**
Enhance the accessibility of County emergency preparedness programming to people with disabilities and others with access and function needs through continued outreach and engagement.
- **Emergency Management Training and Exercise Program**
Provide a training and exercise program to develop and maintain qualified emergency management personnel to facilitate County preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- **County Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP)**
Coordinate the COOP for all applicable County departments to improve their capability to sustain the delivery of critical County services to the public during disasters and catastrophic events.
- **Community Preparedness Planning for County Unincorporated Areas**
Implement community focused emergency preparedness/public education programs in the unincorporated portions of the County and strengthen participation by non-government organizations in supporting general preparedness efforts Countywide.
- **County Emergency Operations Center (CEOC) Assessment**
Assess the existing CEOC and determine the need for renovation or replacement to ensure a state-of-the-art facility from which to command the County's emergency organization in times of disaster and catastrophic events.

Strategic Initiative 4: Healthy Neighborhood Projects

Use existing resources to initiate local community-involved discussions to pinpoint specific health and behavioral health issues of concern to high-need neighborhoods in Los Angeles County.

Focus Areas:

- **Blueprint for creating and sustaining Healthy Neighborhoods**
Host a Healthy Neighborhood Planning Summit that brings together relevant County and city agencies, educational and academic institutions, advocacy groups, civic bodies, non-profit organizations, health plans, providers and elected officials to discuss and provide input for creating a blueprint to roll out the Healthy Neighborhoods strategy in Los Angeles County.
- **Oversight & Accountability**
Develop an inclusive governing body to advise the County and its Departments on the implementation of the blueprint.
- **Healthy Neighborhood pilot**
Identify pilot communities using existing and newly identified resources, and engage community members to initiate discussions on the social determinants of health and behavioral health outcomes and on collaborating to develop community-based strategies for addressing them. The pilot would also assist in the development of governing bodies at the neighborhood level where one does not currently exist, and develop a blueprint for building neighborhood capacity to ensure long-term self-sufficiency.
- **Expand access to services**
Build upon existing service areas and ethnic or culturally-specific relationships and expand partnerships in each service area to improve access to and coordination of primary care, mental health and substance use treatment services.
- **Enhance collaborative care**
Develop and publish specific mechanisms to improve referrals, clinical services, care coordination and information sharing functions between all relevant partners.

Strategic Initiative 5: Environmentally Sustainable Practices

Provide services and operate facilities in a manner that reduces consumption of energy, water, and other resources; promotes the use of renewable energy sources; enhances quality of life; and continues to protect the environment.

Focus Areas:

- **Net-zero water (Sustainable water resources)**
Develop projects and services to improve sustainable local water supplies.
- **Net-zero waste (Solid waste reduction and recycling)**
Optimally manage and reduce solid waste by diverting from waste stream and maximizing recycling opportunities.
- **Net-zero energy (Energy and greenhouse gas)**
Reduce fossil fuel and fossil-fuel-based energy consumption in the County's services and operations and in the community while producing or procuring energy from renewable sources to reduce greenhouse gas emission and the impact on climate change.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 Update

GOAL 3: INTEGRATED SERVICES DELIVERY:

Maximize opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services.

Strategic Initiative 1: Launch of Health Care Reform

Support continued transformation of the health delivery system with the goal of improving quality of care, access to care, and patient experience while safeguarding long-term fiscal sustainability of County services.

Focus Areas:

- **Enhance Primary Care and Continuing Care Outpatient Clinics**
Further develop the capabilities of the Department of Health Services' (DHS') Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMHs), focusing specifically on fine-tuning empanelment, increasing capacity for panel management, facilitating transitions in care, and refining team member roles and responsibilities.
- **Expand the use of electronic consultations and referrals**
Implement DHS' electronic consultation and referral tool, e-Consult, across all major medical and surgical specialties and all referring providers within DHS and the community partner network.
- **Build Managed Care Capabilities**
Build DHS' capability to perform utilization management, claims administration, revenue contracting, and other core managed care functions.
- **Implement an Integrated Electronic Health Record**
Go-live with DHS' integrated Electronic Health Record at the first location, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.
- **Housing for Health**
Provide permanent supportive housing for 800 individuals in collaboration with other County health and social service departments.

Strategic Initiative 2: Strengthening and Integrating Youth Protection Programs

Continue collaborative efforts among County departments and outside partners to protect children and youth in Los Angeles County.

Focus Areas:

- **Prevention of Child Sex Trafficking**
Develop comprehensive strategies for identifying and working with youth involved in human sex trafficking to get them out of the business.
- **Recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection (BRCCP)**
Develop a comprehensive plan, including appropriate personnel and financial resources, to implement BRCCP recommendations, including a focus on integrating services across County departments and policy clusters. Create multi-departmental and cross-cluster data management systems.
- **Health Care Benefits Enrollment**
Provide easy-to-access Medi-Cal enrollment services to parents with children involved in the dependency system to enable them to reunite with their children in a timely manner.

Strategic Initiative 3: Implementing Jail Reform

Improve conditions in the County jails by establishing an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and implementing Vanir recommendations on Jail Plan.

Focus Areas:

- **Development of the Office of Inspector General**
In conjunction with the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel, complete and continue to monitor the implementation of the OIG, including the establishment of an organizational structure and corresponding funding for the OIG.
- **Implement Vanir Recommendations on Jail Plan**
Implement and monitor Vanir recommendations that include: 1) completion of program space requirements for five jail options, including development of Consolidated Treatment Facility; 2) development of space plans and construction cost options for alternative facilities for women at Pitchess Honor Rancho and Mira Loma; 3) completion of scoping documents to preserve \$100 million of SB 900 grant funding to construct new jail facility; 4) preparation of operating costs and custody planning plans for the five jail options; and 5) development of innovative treatment programs to provide quality mental health services to mentally ill inmates.

Strategic Initiative 4: Refinement of AB 109 (Public Safety Realignment) Implementation

Refine implementation of AB 109 with emphasis on seeking alternatives to incarceration and monitoring quarterly performance and budget reports.

Focus Areas:

- **Alternatives to Incarceration**
The Chief Executive Office (CEO) shall review proposals for pilot programs related to the Sheriff's alternative to incarceration efforts.

- **Implementation Updates**

Review and analyze quarterly performance measure and status updates provided by all Departments involved with AB 109 implementation.

- **Cost Analysis and Revenue Review**

The CEO and Auditor-Controller shall review and analyze quarterly departmental claims reports for reimbursement of AB 109 related costs, as well as monitor claims, cash flow and revenue of AB 109 funds within the trust account.

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PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM
First Year of 2015-16 Legislative Session

Introduction

The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) promote policies designed to increase the availability of and access to affordable, high quality early care and education programs for all children and their families of Los Angeles County. This public policy platform presents current and emerging policy issues in early care and education that are consistent with the County of Los Angeles State Legislative Agenda for the First Year of the 2015-16 Legislative Session. The platform identifies each of the legislative agenda items in **bold** followed by examples of efforts that may be addressed by proposed legislation and/or the proposed state budget.

Platform Issues

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Addressing the early care and education needs of children from birth through age 12, including infants and toddlers, preschool and school age children, and children with disabilities and other special needs up to age 22, and their families.
- Enhancing the quality of centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt care providers.
- Promoting a strengthening families approach to meet the needs of children at risk for abuse, neglect or sexual exploitation or under the supervision of the child welfare system and children of families under the supervision of Probation.
- Integrating early identification and intervention systems that recognize and respond early to young children who may be at risk for disabilities and other special needs.
- Developing policies that encourage collaboration between early care and education programs and locally-funded projects and public agencies that foster child and family well-being through the provision of coordinated services.
- Incorporating optimal health promotion policies and procedures as an integral component that contributes to the overall quality of early care and education services and programs.
- Engaging parents as their child's first teachers and partners in promoting their child's optimal growth and development.



2. Support efforts to develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Providing parents with clear, concise information on the quality of early care and education settings.
- Fostering the engagement of parents that promotes their child's optimal healthy growth and development and learning.
- Incorporating early learning standards that are research-based, culturally responsive to children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, aligned with existing regulatory systems and local quality initiatives, recognize and respond to the individual needs of children in group settings, and attend to families' needs for comprehensive services.
- Building an infrastructure of technical assistance, financial supports and training, all of which are tied to defined quality standards, to help early care and education programs achieve and maintain high quality services.

3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the culturally, linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Focusing on teachers and other members of the workforce gaining skills and demonstrating competencies in the following areas: how to provide instructional support to children, best practices in working with dual language learners, proficiency in recognition and response to children with disabilities and other special needs, health and nutrition best practices, engaging parents and guardians, and expertise on the spectrum of child development from birth through early adolescence. Workforce practice must be based on established early care and education research.
- Offering coursework and instruction responsive to a multi-lingual, multicultural workforce, including but not limited to providing content in students' home language and offering classes during non-traditional hours.
- Expanding early childhood educators' access to higher education through stipend programs, grant funds and loan forgiveness programs, higher compensation when they attain post-secondary degrees, and benefits (i.e. health insurance and retirement plans).
- Facilitating child development or early childhood education coursework coordination and articulation between the community colleges and California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.
- Supporting efforts to enhance the quality of the license-exempt care workforce and facilitating connections between license-exempt care and the larger system of early care and education.

- Supporting alignment of teacher requirements under Title 22 with teacher requirements under Title 5.

4. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Increasing to, at a minimum, annual inspections of centers and family child care homes.
- Advocating for, at a minimum, annual unannounced inspections of all licensed facilities.
- Providing that CCLD is sufficiently funded, staffed and held accountable to meet the standards, conduct timely reviews of licensing applications and responses to complaints, and provide technical assistance and resources to current and future licensees.
- Ensuring that costs of obtaining and renewing the license (or licenses for programs with multiple sites) is reasonable and not an extraordinary burden to the licensee's cost of doing business.

5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low and moderate income families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Expanding access to high quality subsidized services for all eligible children, including infants and toddlers and children with disabilities and other special needs as well as preschool and school age children.
- Increasing levels of reimbursement in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and the Regional Market Rate (RMR) to compensate providers for the true cost of high quality services.
- Prioritizing funds targeted to infants and toddlers to meet the growing demand for high quality services.
- Increasing funds for expansion of high quality full-day, full-year services for all ages.
- Offering tax incentives to businesses to provide or subsidize employee's early care and education services.
- Ensuring that the income ceiling for eligibility for State subsidized care reflects the current State Median Income (SMI), adjusted by region if appropriate.
- Opposing proposals that would reduce subsidized rates based on geographic location.

6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education/Early Education and Support Division (CDE/EESD) administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Allowing administrative efficiencies such as multi-year contracting, grant-based funding, and waivers on program rules and regulations to allow flexibility of services based on community and family needs.
- Establishing a 12-month annual eligibility redetermination to allow for more stable enrollments for early care and education programs and continuous services for children and their families.
- Ensuring agencies have the capacity to connect with and serve the most vulnerable and the most difficult-to-serve families.
- Maintaining affordable family fees that do not exceed eight percent of gross family income.
- Maintaining part-day State Preschool as a free, comprehensive early care and education program.
- Allowing for various systems that serve vulnerable and low-income children and families to streamline administrative functions and share information in order to facilitate the enrollment of children in subsidized early care and education programs and to participate in joint data collection efforts.

7. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services by including these services into city and county general plans.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Integrating early care and education in specific plans for land use, housing, transportation, economic, workforce, and community development.
- Facilitating the cost effective construction or renovation of early care and education facilities in communities with unmet needs for these services.

8. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care and development programs.

9. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Making sure that California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) families have access to child care and education services, ensure that participating families are afforded the time and information needed to evaluate their child care and education options and make sound choices, and that allow parents to pursue or maintain employment.
- Promoting, facilitating and supporting consistent and continuous participation of children under the supervision of the child welfare system and Probation and their families in high quality programs that promote healthy child development and support effective parenting.
- Ensuring that all subsidized children – infants and toddlers, preschool age, and school age children – and their families have access to consistent and continuous high quality early care and education services that partner with parents to promote children’s healthy growth and development and prepare them for school and life, and meet the needs of families.
- Addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting teens to ensure their access to high quality early care and education services that support their academic goals, promote positive and effective parenting skills, and contribute to their child’s healthy growth and development.
- Facilitating access to high quality early care and education programs that are responsive to the unique needs of children and families experiencing homelessness.

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2013-14 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

SECOND YEAR

Adopted by Board of Supervisors on:
December 3, 2013

**STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST**

2013-14 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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20. Support proposals to fully fund Emancipated Youth Stipends and the Independent Living Program.

1.3 Child Care and Child Development

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.
2. Support efforts to develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.
3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the cultural and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.
4. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.
5. Support efforts to adequately fund high-quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families.
6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education/Child Development Division administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.
7. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services by including these services in city and county general plans.
8. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care and development programs.
9. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

2. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION

2.1 Air Quality

1. Support proposals and/or funding to assist local governments to: 1) purchase zero and/or near zero emission vehicles, including plug-in and hybrid vehicles, idle reduction devices, electric vehicle charging infrastructure; 2) upgrade refueling infrastructure; 3) make necessary facility improvements; and/or 4) convert vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to enable the shift toward more fuel-efficient vehicles and lower carbon fuels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help improve air quality.