



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: March 5, 2008
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: East Los Angeles Library
4837 East 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Members in Attendance: (33) Bobbie Edwards, Lorraine Schrag, Karen Kaye, Carol Hiestand for Kathleen Pompey, Lucy Fitzpatrick for Pamela Schmidt, Patti Oblath, Rocio Bach, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia for Sylvia Parra, Julie Taren, Rosa Arevalo, Pamela Kwok, Mary Helena Vasquez, Noreen Clarke, Wilma Kiel, Ancelma Sanchez, Roseanne Ghiazza for Corinne Sanchez, Diane Philibosian, Holly Reynolds, Linda Cooper for Sherri Lewis, Patrice Wong, Jenny Trickey, Cynthia Zarate for Angelica Solis, Pamela Ortiz-Dick for Nellie Rios Parra, Sandra Menendez, Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Randi Wolfe for Carolina Alvarez, Wendy Tseng for Ngoc Dang, Holly Daasnes, Alan Guttman, Chantal Lamourelle Sims, Marcella McKnight, Atalaya Sergi, and Alicen Vera.

Guests and Alternates: Diana Careaga, Kathy Schreiner, Lisa Wilkin, Elaine Waldman, Diane Hackett, Peggy Sisson, Lou Orr, Jane Lee Choe, Leann Negron, Jennifer Webb, Kate Sachnoff, Janie Barreto, and Elaine Moore.

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:22 p.m. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Ms. Reynolds read the opening statement.

II. Update from Office of Child Care

Laura Escobedo announced that the revised Strategic Plan had been approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 4, 2008 and would be placed on the Office of Child Care Web site (www.childcare.lacounty.gov) soon. She also informed the group that Supervisor Knabe has continued his interest in funding allocated in Los Angeles County from the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) and how to best use the funds that go unearned. He may be proposing a motion that would require the Office of Child Care to hold a forum for contractors in order to develop recommendations for changes in the CDE/CDD subsidized system that would make it possible to use more of the funds allocated for child care services. This may take place as soon as April.

III. Approval of Minutes for February 6, 2008

The Chair asked that the minutes from February 6, 2008 be reviewed. She called for changes or corrections to the minutes. There being no changes, the Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion to approve was made by Dianne Philibosian and seconded by Bobbie Edwards. The Chair called for the vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

IV. Request for Service Priority Change

The YWCA has been providing full-day child care services for school-age children at two locations (San Fernando and Angeles Mesa) to accommodate year round schedules. In the last few years the situation has altered because Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has changed schedules back to a traditional school year. The need for full-day care between September and June has nearly disappeared. In addition, area schools have increased the number of after-school spaces and programs available on school campuses. Both of these facts have resulted in a severe under-utilization of the general child care contract managed by the YWCA in both areas.

The solution proposed by the YWCA is to convert these full-day school-age spaces into full-day spaces for infant/toddler and preschool-age children utilizing the site in San Fernando and another site in Compton. The YWCA cannot convert the school-age spaces at Angeles Mesa, since the

space used is on the second floor. So the YWCA would reduce the number of children served at Angeles Mesa (90008) by 40 and transfer those 40 school-age spaces to a Compton site (90221), which currently serves children birth to four years old.

Staff reviewed the Needs Assessment data, which indicates justification for increasing the availability of infant/toddler and preschool care, although it means a reduction in school-age care. Staff presented a report with all the data and recommended that the Planning Committee approve the request of the YWCA to eliminate 70 full-day school-age spaces at two sites (91340, 90008) and to increase full-day spaces for children birth to four years old at two sites (91340, 90221).

After allowing questions and comments, the Chair called for a motion to approve the service priority request change for the YWCA as recommended by staff. Wilma Kiel moved to approve and Bobbie Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

V. Membership Recruitment for 2008-09

JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia announced the availability of the applications for membership on the Planning Committee for 2008-09. She reminded current members that they must complete the application in order to continue on the Planning Committee. She urged attendees to take and share the applications with others. Applications are due May 7, 2008. Nomination forms for the position of Chair and Vice Chair will be available at the next meeting.

VI. Early Learning Foundations Update

Lisa Wilkin and Cynthia Zarate provided a history of the local efforts to positively impact the development of the early learning foundations, which have been approved and are being disseminated. Unfortunately, very few of the recommendations made were addressed in the final product. At this time, the CDE is developing curriculum frameworks and will be working to develop early learning foundations for other areas such as social studies. By the fall of 2011, there will be a revised Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) tool that is aligned with the foundations. Of primary concern is the fact that the foundations are not presented in a continuum and that there are over 160 items. The coalition working to impact the early learning foundations has managed to introduce a spot bill (AB 2909 (Furutani)) that would require a state commission to review the foundations. The group is hoping to use this bill to leverage changes in another piece of legislation (SB 1629 (Steinberg)) to include critical statements related to appropriate foundations. Cynthia Zarate called attention to the survey that was passed out and urged those attending to complete it if they had not already done so. The survey will help the coalition decide on strategies related to implementation.

VII. Early Childhood Education Workforce Initiatives Panel

There were five panelists representing four organizations and five initiatives. Diane Hackett from Teach for America stated that her organization's goal is to reduce the inequities in our economic system by improving the education available to children and reducing the achievement gaps. In the last few years they have grown to include an early childhood education component along with the K-12 program. This initiative was launched in Los Angeles in 2007. College graduates are recruited from top universities across the country and placed with seven early childhood education (ECE) providers in Los Angeles. The providers include Head Start, State Preschool and a few full-day child development programs. Teach for America Corp members are given an extensive orientation over the summer and obtain the units required to qualify for a permit. There are 380 Corps members locally in ECE and K-12. One of the issues is the level of compensation since those placed in K-12 tend to earn a higher salary than those placed in ECE. The Corps members are trained in the use of the DRDP-R, High Scope, Creative Curriculum, and Reggio Emilio. They receive intensive coaching, mentoring, and other support both before and during their placements. Corps members can choose to enroll in an ECE Masters program through Loyola Marymount. Any organizations interested in hosting a Corps member as a part of the staff should contact Diane Hackett at Dianne.hackett@teachforamerica.org.

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) has launched two major initiatives aimed at increasing the number of individuals working in the field and increasing the level of education among teaching staff. The first initiative involves collaborations made up of at least one high school, community colleges, and a four year college. The purpose of the collaborations is to attract young people at the high school level to encourage their interest in child development. The primary aim is to increase the number of college students pursuing careers in early care and education. The collaborations are funded for three years. Included in the collaborations receiving funding are: Cal Poly Pomona and Mt. San Antonio College; California State University (CSU) Dominguez Hills and Long Beach City College; CSU Los Angeles and East Los Angeles and Los Angeles Community Colleges; CSU Northridge, University of LaVerne, and Los Angeles Valley College; CSU Northridge and Pierce College; and CSU Dominguez Hills and Santa Monica College.

LAUP has also established a teacher stipend program modeled on the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program administered by Office of Child Care for CDE/CDD-contracted program staff. LAUP uses the same rules and payment levels except that it aims to support those who are not in CDE/CDD-contracted programs, but work in LAUP-funded classrooms. This initiative also offers professional development counseling.

Finally, LAUP is forming a work group made up of representatives from all the colleges involved in its initiative to see how to overcome barriers within the system of higher education for ECE professionals.

The Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (the Alliance), consisting of the 14 Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs) and Alternative Payment Program agencies in Los Angeles County, have been working to enhance the ECE workforce by developing multiple pathways for providers, improving access to information about education and training, assisting the providers to navigate current training programs, developing a system to track training participation, and linking training to educational coursework. The 10 R&Rs in the County have provided training for many years. Now they are coordinating their efforts to establish greater uniformity in what is offered by building on current resources and best practices. Their work will culminate in a project that offers field-based technical assistance, provides career advocates guiding the educational planning of ECE workers, creates or expands linkages with community colleges, and develops an e-portfolio of training achievements and e-catalogue/calendar of training opportunities. The Alliance will offer a certificate of completion to providers who have attended 40 hours of training in the following topics: child growth and development; health, safety, and nutrition; program management; special needs and inclusion; learning environments and curriculum; families and community; positive interaction and guidance; and child observation and assessment.

Leanne Negron and Jennifer Webb of First 5 LA shared information about two initiatives of the First 5 LA Commission. The initiatives' goals are to increase the supply of ECE providers, improve levels of training, and reduce barriers in institutions of higher learning. The Commission has allocated \$15 million over five years for several different activities. There is a policy and advocacy component that includes a public education campaign, a higher education consortium, and a Compensation and Retention Steering Committee. Direct service components include the Friends, Families, and Neighbors Training and Support Initiative, the Career Advocates Project, and the High School Recruitment Program.

The Family, Friends, and Neighbors project targets license-exempt providers. The High School Recruitment Program targets 9th through 12th graders and requires a partnership between high schools and colleges. This program will be funded at \$4 million over four years. The Request for Proposals is now available and due on April 4, 2008. Program activities will consist of information and outreach, hands-on activities such as field trips, and the creation of bridges between high school

and college coursework. The Career Advocates Project targets college students and current teachers and providers in ECE. It will be funded at \$5 million over four years.

In addition to the workforce initiatives, First 5 LA has developed another directed at a related workforce: those working with children ages birth to three and their families, especially those in mental health and developmental health fields. Jennifer Webb stated that this workforce project is part of the Best Start LA Initiative. It will focus on core competency development, training modules, and a sustainability strategy. More information will be available on this in the near future.

VIII. Public Announcements and Comments

The South Central Child Development Consortium is hosting their 16th annual conference at the Radisson Hotel in West Los Angeles on April 18, 2008. Contact Wilma Kiel for information.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair asked for a call to adjourn. Bobbie Edwards responded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.