



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: January 7, 2009

12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: The California Endowment
750 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Members in Attendance: (31) Kathleen Pompey, Rocio Bach, Ancelma Sanchez, Peggy Sisson, Diane Philibosian, Bobbie Edwards, Gay Macdonald, Roselma Samala for Randi Wolfe, Atalaya Sergi, Ofelia Medina for Angelica Solis, Rosa Arevalo, Pamela Kwok, Alan Guttman, Julie Taren, Patti Oblath, Kate Andersen, Holly Reynolds, Nellie Rios Parra, Cecelia Gutierrez for Corrine Sanchez, Jenny Trickey, Alicen Vera, Susan Baxter, Darlene Cabrera, Noreen Clarke, Holly Daasnes, Lucy Fitzpatrick, Pat Mendoza, Sylvia Parra, Nurhan Pirim, and Ree Harris for Anita Tetrault

Guests and Alternates: Fran Chasen, Rebecca Patton, Diana Careaga, Sam Kirk, Carol Hiestand, Edilma Serna, Karla Pleitez, Celeste Salinas, Pam Schmidt, Mary Helen Vasquez, Ana Gallegos, Lupe Chavez, Norma Barragan, Kathy Schreiner, and Elaine Waldman

Staff: Laura Escobedo, Helen Chavez, and Doris Monteroso

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds opened the meeting at 12:15 and read the opening statement. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2008 Meeting

The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2008. A motion to approve was made by Bobbie Edwards and seconded by Alan Guttman. The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed with no abstentions.

III. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo stated that the Governor had released his 2009-10 Budget early. There have already been numerous analyses, one of which is available with the meeting materials. She pointed out the proposed decrease in child development funding of \$55 million. This cut would be a permanent reduction to the overall funding for child care and development services in California, not just a temporary reduction. It is based on the amount of "unearned" funds and so the Governor is saying there will be no reduction in actual numbers of children served. However, without administrative and other structural barriers to fully utilizing these funds, there will continue to "unearned" dollars and eventually a reduction in actual service numbers. The other item noted is a slight increase in funding for Community Care Licensing (CCL). However, the proposed \$3.7 million does not make up for previous reductions to this department and is earmarked for a particular use beyond the basic functions of CCL. She noted that a fuller review of the budget would be presented at the February meeting.

Laura Escobedo also presented a graph produced using the enhanced Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) reporting capabilities, which displays the registration and enrollment trends for LACEL from January through December of 2008. Over 20,000 children were enrolled through LACEL in 2008; however there remains a huge gap between those on the list and those able to be enrolled. It was suggested that these graphs be produced on a regular basis by Service Planning Areas.

IV. Endorsement of the Policy Principles of the Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative

Laura Escobedo provided a short overview of the process and stakeholders involved in developing these principles. They will be used in education and advocacy efforts to groups outside the field of early care and education to promote a common understanding of the critical issues for early childhood education in California and Los Angeles County.

Bobbie Edwards moved to endorse the Policy Principles of the Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative. It was seconded by Gay McDonald. Discussion followed. A suggestion was made to have the California Community Foundation, which convenes the Initiative coalition, to add the names of the organizations involved in developing the principles. **The chair called for a vote. Motion to endorse passed with one abstention.**

V. Request to Relocate Subsidized Spaces.

Alan Guttman, co-chair of the Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment Work Group, presented the facts related to the request. Catholic Charities has requested to relocate 15 subsidized school-age spaces from Canoga Park to South Los Angeles. They had only been able to enroll half of the children needed to earn the full contract and were at risk of returning more funds to the state. While both areas have a need for school-age care based on the needs assessment data, the size of the eligible population is much larger in South Los Angeles, thus providing greater opportunity to fully utilize all the spaces.

Peggy Sisson moved to approve the request and Dianne Philibosian seconded it. Following discussion, the question was called and a vote taken. The motion passed with two abstentions.

VI. Discussion of Alternative Meeting Schedules

Ancelma Sanchez, co-chair of the Membership and Policies Work Group, reminded the group of the proposal to reduce the number of business meetings for the Planning Committee that was discussed and voted down in September. She indicated that the work group was revisiting the issue and wanted ideas and feed back from the Planning Committee before developing another proposal related to the meeting schedule. Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of reducing the number of business meetings including the issue of being able to respond quickly to events and proposals. Work group meeting opportunities, difficulty in scheduling meetings sites, and ensuring a quorum were discussed. Ancelma Sanchez thanked the group for its input.

VII. Update on the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP)

Helen Chavez with the Office of Child Care informed the group that STEP has been implemented since July of 2007. STEP is Los Angeles County's pilot Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The pilot is targeting 600 centers and family child care homes in 10 areas of Los Angeles County. The site evaluation visits will begin this month for the 188 providers who have passed the licensing review. Many of these centers and family child care homes received mini grants to be used to improve aspects of their program relating to the six quality components described in the STEP system. These providers have also participated in many of the trainings which were conducted last year to help them prepare for the STEP evaluation. The site reviews will be conducted by UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality, which is also evaluating the STEP program as a whole. Funding for training and mini- grants was available through a one-time California Department of Education (CDE) contract and additional funds have been made available through the Board offices. On-going training is available related to participation in STEP. A monthly training catalogue is available on the Office of Child Care Web site and is distributed to current participants and through the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (R&Rs). This pilot will continue through 2010. STEP staff are working to adjust the process to better accommodate the work done by centers and family child care homes that have already undergone accreditation processes and the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) evaluation. In the future, staff will be looking at how best to inform parents and the public about STEP and what the STEP certification signifies.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

Elaine Waldman from the Communicable Disease Unit of the Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update on current issues. The salmonella outbreak in Los Angeles County has affected 785 people including about 400 children. While the actual source is still being investigated, it is believed that it was most likely a person to person dispersion beginning with contaminated food.

She stressed how important it is to create a culture of infection control within child care and development settings. She pointed out that it is not yet a requirement for kitchens within centers to have representatives trained in safe food handling. She will provide a list of trainings for food handlers that can be distributed to all Planning Committee members.

Patti Oblath announced that a provider conference is scheduled for March 28, 2009 at the Carson Community Center. This is a collaborative effort of Connections for Children, Center for Community and Family Services, and Crystal Stairs. Flyers are available on the table.

Julie Taren announced a Saturday seminar at the RAND institute on early childhood issues including the results of the last RAND study about Preschool. The seminar will be given from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on January 31, 2008 at the RAND site in Santa Monica. Flyers are available on the table.

Fran Chasen announced Infant Development Association (IDA) training on the SCERTS model for March 20, 2009. Flyers are on the table.

Alan Guttman informed the group that the Obama Web site, www.change.gov, posts documents and position papers related to early care and education. He also urged attendees to get involved with the planning for the Prevention and Early Intervention initiative as there does not seem to be enough people representing 0-5 in the discussion.

There will be a Water Cooler planning meeting held locally in Los Angeles. All of these statewide planning meetings have been held in Northern California making it very difficult for individuals from Southern California to participate. This session is focused on the development of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Results of these planning efforts can inform what happens with the state Early Childhood Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee charge. It is important to have a large group at this meeting to indicate that more of these meetings should be held in Los Angeles. Flyers are on the table.

California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC), the statewide organization supporting school-age programs, now has a staff person assigned to Los Angeles. If any of the agencies are providing school-age services, there are CalSAC materials available through Susan Baxter. CalSAC is planning a conference in Torrance in October of 2009 to which the School-age work group will be contributing.

Early Childhood Education Alliance (ECEA) is a non-profit arm of the California Teachers Association. They have developed an early childhood platform to inform and affect K-12 with principles of child development and early education. To join the virtual network, visit <http://oivresp.com/?fid+339a0dfb66>.

Holly Daasnes from Community Care Licensing (CCL) provided an update on the effects of the budget crises on CCL. Beginning February 1, 2009 state employees will be furloughed two days each month. This will mean a significant decrease in availability of services. In addition there could be a 20% reduction in the State workforce. She announced a new Web portal for licensed providers (www.mycccl.ca.gov) through which licensees will access important notices and emergency alerts.

IX. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.