



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: November 5, 2008

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

Location:

East Los Angeles County Library
4837 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Members in Attendance: (26) Kathleen Pompey, Rocio Bach, Anselma Sanchez, Peggy Sisson, Diane Philibosian, Joy Cyprian, Bobbie Edwards, Gay Macdonald, Randi Wolfe, Atalaya Sergi, Celeste Salinas for Pat Mendoza, Sylvia Parra, Nurhan Pirim, Ofelia Medina for Angelica Solis, Rosa Arevalo, Sarah Soriano, Pamela Kwok, Amy Bigelow for Patrice Wong, Alan Guttman, Karen Kaye, Julie Taren, Vicky Duran for Ana Cubas, Alejandra Guillen for Sandra Menendez, Patti Oblath, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia, and Anita Tetrault

Guests and Alternates: Fiona Stewart, Susan Savage, Diana Careaga, Sam Kirk, Carol Hiestand, Rosemary Olachea Heaslip, Fran Chasen, and Melissa Messchooner

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Bobbie Edwards, Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m. in the absence of the Chair, Holly Reynolds, She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Ms. Edwards read the opening statement.

II. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo announced the calendar of community forum meetings for the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) mental health initiative. She urged attendees to commit to attending at least one of the stakeholders meetings to ensure a voice for the 0-5 age group. If the youngest children are listed as a priority in many of the meetings, then it is likely there will be funds from the initiative that target this age group. Included in the materials is the vision statement, developed by the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), describing how early mental health and early childhood can be integrated. This is available on the back table or through the Office of Child Care Web site at www.childcare.lacounty.gov. Members are urged to take copies to share when they attend the stakeholders meetings.

Laura Escobedo then stated that there is a move to create a national agenda for child development. She noted the document entitled "Developing America's Potential: An Agenda for High Quality Child Care" provided to members. This document was prepared by a coalition of respected organizations including the Center for Law and Policy (CLASP), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Zero to Three and the National Women's Law Center, among others. The Planning Committee will be asked to endorse this statement at the December meeting.

Finally, she reminded those in attendance that the Office of Child Care is holding a meeting on November 6, 2008 to develop remedies to maximize child development contracts that may result in legislation. Notice of the meeting is available on the back table. She encouraged all who could to attend.

III. Presentation on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL)

Laura Escobedo introduced the staff of the LACEL: Martha Navarrete, Database Manager, and Mariela Balam, Outreach Coordinator. There are currently about 50,000 active child records on the LACEL. These represent the children who are in need of child care and development services and are not yet served. Each month approximately 3,000 new records are registered on LACEL and about 2,500 are terminated or archived because they are outdated or the families have not responded to requests for updates. There are now about 1,500-2,000 users located within the 150 contractors who are required to use LACEL.

In 2007, the Office of Child Care was awarded an Information and Technology grant to enhance the reporting capabilities of the LACEL system. There are now dozens of reports that can be developed using LACEL data and data from Community Care Licensing as well as maps that “picture” the distribution of children, households, child care programs, etc.

Martha Navarrete conducted a few searches using the new Web-based system. She produced a few data reports: Enrollment by Program Type and by Age for the first quarter of this year; Active and Enrolled Children by Age and for each Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Service Area. In addition, she produced maps of all children with Active status in the LACEL as of current date, active and enrolled children, and zip code and community specific maps that included actively waiting children and available child care programs.

Participants were informed that staff would be willing to produce maps or reports by request and with sufficient notice. LACEL staff will be able to use this new reporting capability to assist in maintaining an accurate data-base and to support policy changes.

IV. Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2008

The Vice Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2008 meeting. A motion to approve was made by Dianne Philibosian and seconded by Peggy Sisson. The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed with one abstention.

V. Approval of the Proposed Revision to the Guidelines for Determining Priority Areas for Funding

Alan Guttman, Co-chair of the Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment Work Group explained that the guidelines have been developed in response to a request from California Department of Education (CDE) to create a standardized procedure for determining priorities for each county. All counties will follow the same steps, using the same data, specific to each county, and then applying formulas including numbers of un-served children and percent of un-served children. Counties have been divided into five categories based on population size. Each category will determine its benchmark numbers (number un-served, percent un-served). Los Angeles is its own category as the largest County. Alan Guttman stated that the new guideline does not allow the Planning Committee to set priorities based on age. However, the Work Group will continue to review age-based data, determining real priorities based on age and post the results on the Office of Child Care Web site. The reported priorities for the State will not be broken out by age. Future applicants would be encouraged to consider both sets of priorities in making decisions about services.

Alan Guttman reminded the group that at last month’s meeting the guidelines were reviewed and the Planning Committee recommended that the benchmarks be recalibrated so that there could be more Priority 1 areas. The recalibration results are as follows:

Priority	Number of un-served children (all ages)	Percent un-served
Priority 1	1,500 or more	50%
Priority 2	750 or more	50%
Priority 3	500 or more	50%
No Priority	Less than 500	NA

This resulted in increasing the priority 1 zip codes from 73 to 93.

A motion was made to approve the revised guidelines for determining zip code priorities for future funding by Dianne Philibosian; it was seconded by Peggy Sisson. The chair called for discussion and then called for a vote. The motion passed with one abstention.

VI. Parent Fees in Relation to Maximum Reimbursable Amounts (MRA) in CDE-contracted Programs

Laura Escobedo introduced the topic by explaining that this was yet another report on allocation and use of State funding for child care and development. Because in previous studies, it appeared that some of the under-earnings were due to collected parent fees that were subtracted from the Maximum Reimbursable Amount (MRA), staff conducted a data review to determine how big this issue is.

Findings: Between 2005 and 2008, \$39,632,907 was collected in parent fees in Los Angeles County:

- An average of about \$13 million per year is collected; of this amount, \$8,000,000 is retained by contractors in lieu of MRA.
- Only 12 out of 112 (11%) under-earning contracts collected parent fees equal to the under-earned amount. This is a fairly small proportion of all the under-earned contracts. It appears that subtracting parent fees from MRA explains only a small portion of the huge amounts of under-earned MRA.
- On average, across all contract types that collect parent fees, the parent fees collected equaled 3% of MRA.
- Of the 150 contracts studied, 38 over-earned their MRAs by providing additional child/days of enrollment and earned \$1,564,000 of the collected parent fees.
- A few programs provided additional service that was not compensated by parent fees (estimate \$1,000,000).

Can we make changes so that the fees collected locally are then used locally? If contractors were able to keep all or a portion of the collected fees, without a decrease in MRA amounts, they could be used for providing additional service, reserve accounts, quality improvements, teacher incentives, or to cover un-reimbursed costs. It might be possible to create a countywide fund that could be distributed to programs which do not collect parent fees.

VII. Work Group Announcements

- The Access Work Group will meet on November 17, 2008 at the Alliance for a Better Community at 1:00 p.m.
- The Inclusion Work Group meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at The California Endowment.
- The Constructing Connections Collaboration meeting will be held November 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at Public Counsel.
- Qualifications and Compensation Work Group will meet immediately following the Planning Committee. They continue to work on the Director's Compensation Scale.
- The Strategic Planning Work Group has just finished its work with priorities and is continuing its status check on progress on the strategic plan with each Work Group. Alan Guttman invited other work groups to meet with the group before the January Planning Committee meeting. The Inclusion Work group accepted.
- The Joint Committee on Legislative will meet on November 24 from 12:00 to 2:00 at the Norwalk Office of DCFS.
- The Policies and Membership Work Group met October 22, 2008 to review the policies and procedures as well as recruitment for new members. They will bring the proposed changes before the Planning Committee at the December meeting as well as revisit the issue of revising the Planning Committee meeting schedule.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

Laura Escobedo announced that Camille Maben, the new Director of the Child Development Division of CDE is scheduled to visit the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care on November 20, 2008. Members were encouraged to let Laura know of particular issues they would like to have addressed if possible.

VII Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Randi Wolfe and seconded by Amy Bigelow. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.