



## Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: February 7, 2007

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

Location: Glendale USD  
319 North Central Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91203

**Members in Attendance:** (31) Cristina Alvarado, Rosa Arevalo, Whitney Byrd, Fran Chasen, Bobbie Edwards, Carol Hiestand, Lloyd Kajikawa for Jan Isenberg, Pamela Kwok, Peggy Sisson, Pamela Schmidt, Corinne Sanchez, Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Wilma Kiel, Rocio Bach, Dianne Philobosian, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Anita Tetrault, Jenny Trickey, JoEllen Tullis, Patrice Wong, Layla About-Taleb, Helen Chavez for Carolina Alvarez, Noreen Clarke Sheehan, Grace Castro for Sandra Dennis, Alan Guttman, Debbie McBee, Celeste Salinas for Pat Mendoza, Beverly Morgan Sandoz, Holly Reynolds, Lorraine Schrag, Mary Helen Vasquez.

**Guests and Alternates:** Roseann Ghiazza, Laura Campana, Ree Harris, Julie Parkinson, Janice Hart, Susan Savage, Manny Castellanos, Karen Kaye, Kay Johnson.

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo, Michele Sartell

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Peggy Sisson, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) opened the meeting at 12:14 p.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves and then read the opening statement.

### II. Approval of Minutes from January 3, 2007

**The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2007 meeting. Bobbie Edwards moved to approve; her motion was seconded by Jenny Trickey. The Chair asked if there were changes to the minutes. Cristina Alvarado asked to have the spelling of her name corrected. The Chair called for a vote to approve the amended minutes. The motion was passed with one abstention.**

### III. Governors Proposed Budget for 2007-08

Michele Sartell from the Office of Child Care presented information from the Governor's proposed Budget for 2007-08, on upcoming legislation and on advocacy issues. The Governor is assuming an increase of 7% in revenues in order to balance the budget. Proposed expenditures include an increase for Community Care Licensing to enable them to increase the frequency of facility visits from 20% of the total to 30% per year, not counting complaint visits. Some funds have been earmarked for improved technology related to record keeping for the department.

Child Care and Development funds remain the same except for an additional four million under the Quality budget item and five million to continue the wrap-around for the new Pre-Kindergarten and Family Literacy Program (PKFLP). Funding for the teacher retention initiative continues. There is increased funding under preschool standards development. Overall, there is a proposed COLA of 4.04%; and a growth allocation of .97% for direct service programs.

Under CalWORKS, the Governor has proposed funding Stage 2 Child Care with \$268.9 million in Prop 98 funds. The After School Education and Safety (ASES) program will continue to be funded at the same level as this past year (\$547 million) as will the new PKFLP at \$50 million. The funds for this program are included in the State Preschool line item.

The Governor has once again asked to freeze the State Median Income as it applies to family eligibility for child care subsidies. He has also proposed changes in the safety net for the children of CalWORKS parents who are being sanctioned. The income supports for these children would be seriously reduced. He has also proposed an increase in tuition and fees for the state university system.

The following are advocacy issues being discussed by the Joint Committee on Legislation:

- Adequate funding for Community Care Licensing
- Continue to raise reimbursement rates for CDE-funded programs
- Expanding subsidized child care services to all eligible families.
- Maintain CalWORKS safety net
- Expand infant/toddler care
- Watch the development of Preschool Standards

#### IV. Presentation: Report to the Board on Preschool Funding

Laura Escobedo reminded the Planning Committee of the Board request related to the funds allocated to the County for State Preschool and how much of this funding goes unearned annually. She reported that over the last three fiscal years, between 6 and 11 million dollars in unearned funds have been returned to the State. Unearned funds may end up back in the general fund unless the Child Development Division argues successfully to keep them in Child Development. However, that does not mean that the dollars directed for services in Los Angeles County will be restricted for use only in Los Angeles County. While the amount of the unearned funds each year is substantial, it is made up of small amounts from many agencies and is not guaranteed year after year to be the same.

Part of the fact finding that staff undertook to develop this report included a survey of about 30% of all State Preschool contractors in Los Angeles County. The survey asked if the agency had unearned funds and if so, why. The reasons included:

- Start-up periods in which actual service to children was limited;
- Varying enrollments from year to year;
- Changing communities where there are fewer eligible children;
- Competition for enrollment from other programs located in the same area;
- Deliberate attempts not to over-earn contracts, which usually means earning between 95% and 99% of the maximum amount; and
- Inability to find qualified staff to open classrooms for service to children.

CDE will reduce the amount of an agency's contract if, over a period of 2-3 years, the under-earning has been substantial. However, very few actual contract reductions have occurred each year.

The Planning Committee has recommended the following action be taken to monitor the allocation and use of State Preschool funds in Los Angeles County:

- Use State CDE and fiscal reports to track funding allocations, unearned funds and contract reductions over the next year
- Review the under-earnings of other CDE program types in the County of LA
- Request that CDE consult with the Planning Committee when contracts are returned so that the funds can be wisely allocated to areas in most need
- Keep the Los Angeles County State legislative delegation informed

#### V. Update on the Economic Impact Report and Career Pathways Project

Laura Escobedo reminded the Planning Committee of its decision to use Planning Committee funds to pay for a new economic Impact study on early care and education. The Planning Committee is collaborating with the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth, and Their Families, the City Workforce Investment Board, and LAUP. The first meeting of the advisory board took place on January 30, 2007. Data collection is taking place now. As the project unfolds, the Planning Committee will be informed of the work.

## VI. Work Group Updates

**Inclusion Work Group:** The purpose of the workgroup is to identify what is best for children in child development environments and to identify and reduce the barriers faced in serving children with disabilities and other special needs. The group is also looking at how to connect with other systems that may support the inclusion of children in early care and education environments. An emerging issue that the Work Group has been discussing involves the early identification of special needs by child care providers and others. The next meeting will be held at The California Endowment from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2007.

**School-age Work Group:** The work group met with Sue Schatz of the Regional Support Team for after school programs at LACOE. We shared information on the expansion of ASES (600 new sites) and discussed how to work with the LACOE team. The group has two primary goals: monitoring the expansion of ASES for quality issues and impact on current programs; and to form a countywide collaborative for School-age Care. The next meeting will be March 2, 2007 at LACOE from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## VII. Announcements or Comments

If anyone is planning to attend the West Ed symposium on March 2, they must get their reservations in quickly. Information is on the back table.

There will be an RFP issued for Head Start services in the East LA and San Gabriel Valley area. Contact Beverley Morgan-Sandoz at LACOE for more information.

New address for Child Care Information Service in Pasadena: 2465 E. Walnut Street, Pasadena, CA 91107.

South Central Child Development Consortium is holding its annual conference on April 20, 2007. Registration materials are on the back table. The Consortium will be meeting on February 13, at 8:30 a.m. at the Hebrew Union College at the corner of Hoover and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The IDA Conference will be held in San Jose, March 22-24. There are still scholarships available through West Ed.

Laura Escobedo announced that Carlene Davis was no longer with the City of Los Angeles as she has taken a new position with the Urban League for a new community development initiative. Carlene Davis wished to convey her thanks to all her colleagues on the Planning Committee and her regret in not being able to continue her work in early childhood. She will be much missed by all of us.

The National Family Child Care Association conference will be held in Anaheim, August 16-18, 2007.

The Los Angeles Times is discontinuing its children's reading page. Letters of concern should be directed to the editor at the Times.

The Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa, has called for input into his plan to improve the Los Angeles City schools. The Mayor stated his support for Universal Preschool. It is suggested that the Planning Committee submit a letter to the Mayor related to what is needed. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

**The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Fran Chasen and seconded by Carol Hiestand. The Chair called for a vote to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.**