



County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: June 6, 2007
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Glendale USD, Board Room
223 N. Jackson Avenue
Glendale, CA 91203

Members in Attendance: (31) Fran Chasen, Bobbie Edwards, Peggy Sisson, Karla Pleitz for Pamela Schmidt, Corinne Sanchez, Dianne Philibosian, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Anita Tetrault, Jenny Trickey, Patrice Wong, Carolina Alvarez, Noreen Clarke, Nellie Rios Parra, Susan Baxter, Craig Lancaster, Sheri Lewis, Lorraine Schrag, Ancelma Sanchez, Carol Hiestand, Holly Reynolds, Cristina Alvarado, Jan Isenberg, Rocio Bach, Rosa Arevalo, Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Whitney Byrd, Wilma Kiel, Alicen Vera, Maria Rochart, Mary Helen Vasquez, Holly Daasnes for Leyla Abou-Taleb, Robert Wiltse for Kathryn Elliot.

Guests and Alternates: Julie Taren, Roseann Ghiazza, Lisa Wilkin, Ree Harris, Lorraine Gutierrez, Norayma Cabot, Silvia Parra, Pat Koesler, Randi Wolfe, Billie Weiser,

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Peggy Sisson, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m. She asked those present to introduce themselves and then read the opening statement.

II. Presentation on LA Exploring Children's Early Learning Settings (EXCELS)

Allison Fuligni, Program Director for the LA EXCELS study, provided an overview of the work of the Center for Improving Child Care Quality at UCLA. The Center conducts policy relevant research to improve the quality of early care and education for young children. The Center applies its research in projects such as the development of the new accreditation for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

LA EXCELS is a collaborative effort with RAND, funded by the federal government. The study has several purposes: 1) describe the early learning settings in Los Angeles County; 2) Observe the experiences of children in these settings; 3) learn about the philosophies and practices of the teachers and caregivers; 4) learn about the costs associated with early care and education; 5) learn about the families of the children in the settings; and 6) assess children's language, cognitive, and social-emotional development. The study began three years ago and this year will be the last for collecting data.

The study began with 251 three year old children who were in various child care settings and 58 children in a control group that was not in any time in care outside of the home. The settings included publicly funded centers, private centers, and family child care homes. Data was collected in the following ways: observations in the setting (three days); parent interviews; child assessments, and teacher questionnaires.

The second year, the study followed the children to whatever setting they were in and added another 44 children. The children in the study are currently in kindergarten. Median income for the families was about \$2,000 per month; the average was \$2,500 per month. Maternal education ranged from completion of the second grade to advanced degrees.

The tools used in the study include time sampling, modified Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS), and CLASS. Each setting was reviewed to determine the percent of time spent on various activities such as free choice time, transition and routines, teacher directed small groups, etc. Using cluster analysis, two patterns emerged across variables: "structured" settings and "child-directed" settings. In the structured settings, more time was spent on teacher-directed activities, transitions, routines, and meal times. In the child-directed settings, more time was spent in free

choice activities and outside, with less teacher-directed activities. More publicly-funded centers and family child care providers were rated as structured. More private centers were rated as child-directed.

The social-emotional climate of the classroom or setting was also evaluated. This included teacher sensitivity, behavior management, positive or negative climate, and staff-child interactions. All settings rated higher on these scales than on the learning environment scales (above).

All findings are preliminary at this point. However, it does appear that for three year olds, a healthy and positive social-emotional climate results in greater language and cognitive development as measured on child assessments. There will be more child outcome results to report when the study is completed. Allison Fuligni is invited back next year to present more of the results.

II. Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2007

The chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2007 meeting. Dianne Philibosian moved to approve; her motion was seconded by Whitney Byrd. The Chair asked if there were changes to the minutes. There were no additions or corrections. The Chair called for a vote to approve the minutes. The motion was passed with no abstentions.

III. Approval of the Plan for Use of the One-Time Retention and Training Funds

Laura Escobedo reviewed the core components of the plan for \$4.25 million that will be issued to the Planning Committee for 2007-08. The emphasis is on training to improve the quality of care and the capabilities of the early childhood workforce. The funds will be used for teacher and provider stipends for college course work, but will also include extensive training opportunities for which stipends may be offered. There will be training for directors, supervisors, and managers and funds to support the work of the community colleges in developing curriculum for core courses that will be accepted at the four year college level. This one-time initiative will be linked with other funds and resources in the launch of the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) quality rating scale pilot. Providers, programs, and family child care networks serving the pilot STEP communities can apply for quality improvement stipends.

Peggy Sisson called for a motion to approve the plan. Carol Hiestand moved for approval. Rosa Arevalo seconded the motion. The motion carried with no abstentions.

IV. Approval of Membership Slate for 2007-08

JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia and Jan Isenberg presented the slate of new and returning members for 2007-08. Both acknowledged the work group who reviewed the applications and developed the recommended slate.

The Chair called for a motion to approve the slate. A motion to approve was made by Robert Wiltse and seconded by Dianne Philibosian. Motion was passed, with no abstentions.

V. Election of Officers for 2007-08

The Chair stated that In order to comply with the Brown Act, we are using an open ballot process. The ballots that will be completed by voting members or their alternates will be tallied immediately and then retained in our files as part of the public record. Each ballot has a member's name on it. Ballots can be viewed by contacting Laura Escobedo. She then called on the Work group Co-Chairs to begin the nomination and election process. Jan Isenberg identified the two candidates for Chair: Craig Lancaster and Bobbie Edwards. Each candidate spoke briefly about their backgrounds.

Peggy Sisson called for any nominations from the floor. There being no additional nominees, the Co-Chairs passed out the ballots and collected them when completed. After tallying the votes, Craig Lancaster was announced as the new Chair of the Planning Committee.

The Chair announced that since Craig Lancaster had been elected Chair, his name would not be considered for Vice Chair. She called for nominations for the floor and invited Bobbie Edwards to stand for Vice Chair. She accepted. She and Holly Reynolds, the other nominee, were each asked to give a brief introduction.

There being no additional nominees, the Co-Chairs passed out the ballots and collected them when completed. After tallying the votes, Holly Reynolds was announced as the new Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

VI. Presentation on a New Health Care Initiative for Child Care Teachers and Providers

Alexa Frankenburg is the Senior Political Community Organizer for Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Ms. Frankenburg provided an overview of a new, collaborative initiative to make affordable health care coverage accessible to family child care providers and teachers. The partners for the Quality and Retention Health Care pilot are SEIU, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), LA CARE Health Plan, and Insure the Uninsured Project. Funding for planning the initiative and promotion has been provided by the California Health Care Foundation.

The goals of the initiative are to: provide affordable subsidized health insurance for 1000 teachers who are part of the LAUP program, and providers who are currently uninsured; address quality and retention issues; and promote workforce training. To be eligible, the individual must work 30 hours/week and be uninsured.

The health plan would be comprehensive and includes drug benefits. It was designed with input from providers. LA CARE Health Plan would be the insurance provider. Estimated costs for one year's insurance coverage for 1000 participants is approximately \$3.2 million. This will be paid for through a variety of sources. Participating providers and teachers would pay monthly premiums of between \$50 and \$125 (average \$67/month). The plan would be to finance the remainder (\$2.3 million) from other sources. LAUP would contribute to support its uninsured teachers; other sources such as California Department of Education (CDE) Quality Improvement funds or funding directly from the Board of Supervisors has not yet been committed. LA Health Care would also contribute about 25% of the costs.

To participate, the provider or teacher must take at least one college course per year. There is no requirement that participants must be in CDE-funded programs or serve a majority of subsidized children. While SEIU encourages membership, there is no bargaining unit involved and no union membership requirement. If all financing pieces are in place, the project could launch January 2008. Enrollment would begin this fall.

An evaluation would be included to see if offering this support reduces turnover and increases education and skill level. If it is successful, it could be pushed up to the State level for implementation. There is current legislation that would put a universal health care system in place. However, it is unlikely that it will pass in the next two years. Some of the proposals exclude self-employed people such as providers. Even if comprehensive health care reform is passed, it may not be implemented until 2012.

The figures provided in the handout indicated an actual unsubsidized cost of about \$260+ per month. This is much lower than what many programs now pay per individual for their health care coverage. Ms. Frankenburg stated that once the pilot is implemented and successful, they may increase participation by allowing centers to purchase their health care through the Quality and Retention Health Care program.

VII. Announcements or Comments

Anabelle Godwin, long time advocate of quality child care and beloved instructor in child development passed away in May. A memorial will held at Mission College on June 9, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.

LAUP will be holding a Conference and Family Expo on September 7 and 8, 2007. If anyone is interested in presenting, please contact Carolina at LAUP. It will be held at the Convention Center.

Public Counsel is holding a workshop for AB 172 contractors interested in applying for facilities money. The workshop is scheduled for June 21, 2007. Flyers are on the back table.

VIII. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. It was so moved by Jenny Trickey; seconded by Bobbie Edwards. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.