



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: September 6, 2006

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

Location: East Los Angeles Library
4837 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022

Members in Attendance: (33) Julie Taren for Fran Chasen, Linda Cooper for Sheri Lewis, Ancelma Sanchez, Jan Isenberg, Peggy Sisson, Amy Bigelow for Patrice Wong, Maria Rochart, Prentice Deadrick for Cristina Alvarado, Pat Mendoza, Sandra Menendez, Dianne Philibosian, Craig Lancaster, Susan Baxter, Karla Pleitez for Pamela Schmidt, Leticia Lara, Corinne Sanchez, Sandra Dennis, Layla Abou-Taleb, Rosa Arevalo, Rocio Bach, Whitney Byrd, Noreen Clarke-Sheehan, Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Bobbie Edwards, Alan Guttman, Pamela Kwok, Wilma Kiel, Debbie McBee, Nellie Rios Parra, Joann-Shalhoub Mejia, Adelina Sorokin, Anita Tetrault, Jenny Trickey.

Guests and Alternates: Celeste Salinas, Maria Hendrix, Grace Castro, Lloyd Kajikawa, Jazmin Chavarria, Kay Johnson, Ramona Chang, Florence Nelson, Tristin Rodriguez, Patti Oblath, Laura Campana, Roseann Ghiazza.

Staff: Laura Escobedo, Michele Sartell

I. Welcome and Introductions

Peggy Sisson, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) opened the meeting at 12:08 p.m. She read the opening statement and then asked those present to introduce themselves. The Chair welcomed all the new members.

II. Introduction and Overview of Child Care Planning Committee

Peggy Sisson provided an overview of the history, purpose and functions of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee was founded in 1991 with a primary purpose of determining funding priorities for new federal child development block grant dollars. With the advent of the CalWORKs program, new legislation defined the role and function of Local Planning Councils (Child Care Planning Committee). Chief among the new mandates were:

- ❖ Needs assessment
- ❖ Countywide, comprehensive plan
- ❖ Setting priorities for funding
- ❖ Collaboration with many stakeholders

Our mission statement reflects this: The mission of the Child Care Planning Committee is to engage parents, child care providers, allied organizations, community, and public agencies in collaborative planning efforts to improve the overall child care infrastructure of Los Angeles County, including the quality and continuity, affordability, and accessibility of child care and development services for all families.

The major activities of the Planning Committee include:

Strategic Plan: Development of the Plan and facilitating its implementation.

Teacher Stipend Program: This is a contract that has been renewed annually since 2001. Office of Child Care Staff manage the program with oversight from the Planning Committee. Over \$5,000,000 has gone out in the form of stipends to teachers in child development.

Centralized Eligibility List (CEL): This was a pilot begun in 2001. Last year the legislature required all counties to have a CEL. While the legislation designated the R&R/AP program in each county to administer the CEL, counties such as Los Angeles which had already established an operating CEL could continue to administer it. Once again, Office of Child care staff manage the contract with oversight from the Planning Committee.

Needs assessment: Every few years, the Planning Committee reviews new data regarding the need for child care and development services in the county and produces a report and data files available to all programs and planners.

Funding Priorities: Each year the Planning Committee reviews data to determine which geographic areas are most in need of new, or expanded child development services.

The Chair then listed a number of accomplishments from the Planning Committee Fact sheet included in the orientation materials. She concluded by mentioning a few of the issues that the Planning Committee has dealt with in the previous year such as the Preschool Initiative. This year the expansion of Preschool will continue to be an issue. Prop 49 (after-school funding) implementation will be an issue this year and the development of Preschool standards and guidelines was a focus last year and may continue to be.

III. Review of Membership Binder Materials

Laura Escobedo presented the membership binder and discussed the materials in each section. She stressed that it should be used as a reference tool since it contained contact information for members, staff, and many professional organizations. It also includes other information and resources. There is information about Los Angeles County and the Service Planning Area as well as fact sheets on the specific programs administered by the Planning Committee.

The binder contains a copy of the current 10-year Strategic Plan. Laura Escobedo urged all members to carefully review the plan prior to the retreat in October.

Laura Escobedo noted the chart in the binder which explains the reporting and other relationships of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is funded by, and reports directly to, the **California Department of Education**. The Planning Committee also has reporting relationships with the **Board of Supervisors** and the **Superintendent of the County Office of Education**. Each must approve the major products from the Planning Committee, such as the Needs Assessment report, and each approves the membership slate annually.

The Planning Committee works most closely with the Policy Roundtable on Child Care. This is a body established by the Board of Supervisors to advise on child care issues of relevance to County service and policies. The Policy Roundtable is staffed by the Office of Child Care (as is the Planning Committee) and several members of the Planning Committee also sit on the Policy Roundtable. Peggy Sisson as Chair of the Planning Committee sits on the Roundtable. The Planning Committee also works with other entities such as First5LA, LAUP, the Los Angeles Child Care Alliance, and the Children's Planning Committee. However, these are not formal reporting relationships.

IV. Expectation for Membership Participation.

Peggy Sisson introduced Jan Isenberg and JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia who chair the Membership and Policies Work group. They encouraged the new members to participate fully in the Planning Committee by committing to at least one work group. Members were also reminded to identify their alternates since a few had not done so. Participation in both the Planning Committee meetings and in at least one work group will be tracked.

V. Work Group Presentations

Chairs of each work group were invited to make short presentations explaining the focus of each work group and when the work group met. Members who had not yet identified a work group were encouraged to do so. Members who had already selected a work group were asked to confirm their selection or change it. Presentations were given for the following work groups: Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment, Inclusive Child Care, Capacity Development, Qualifications and

Compensation, School-age Quality, Improving Access to Care, Joint Legislative Work Group and Membership and Policies.

Members were asked to stay after the meeting adjourned to check in with the chairs of the workgroups in which they were interested.

VI. Minutes from July 11, 2006

Since copies of the minutes for July had been e-mailed to all members but not copied for the meeting, Peggy asked if the Planning Committee wanted to hold over approval of the minutes until next month. **Dianne Philibosian moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan Baxter. The Chair called for a vote. The motion to approve was carried with one abstention.**

VII. Planning Committee Retreat

The retreat is scheduled from 10:30 to 3:30 on October 4th at The California Endowment Conference Center just north of Union Station at 1000 N. Alameda, Los Angeles 90014. It is one block from Union Station and members were encouraged to take a train to the event. Peggy Sisson called attention to a survey developed to prepare for the retreat. Each member and interested guests are encouraged to complete the survey in order to allow the Strategic Planning Work Group to focus on the most relevant issues during the retreat. An announcement about the retreat will go out shortly. RSVPs are required.

VIII. Data Related to New Preschool Initiative and Board Motion

At a previous meeting, members asked for data related to the new Preschool initiative which would target areas around schools with low API scores. Laura Escobedo shared a map and some charts related to the new Preschool initiative proposed by the Governor. The map identified all schools with API scores in the first three deciles, and all of the preschool sites near these schools. One chart displayed the average number of preschool sites for each School by API score. The lower the API score, the higher the average number of preschool sites existed within a one mile radius of the school. The higher the API score, the lower the average was. The second chart displayed average household income distributed across areas distinguished by the API scores of the schools within those areas. In this case, the lower the API score, the lower the average income; the higher the API score, the higher the average income. She cautioned not to make any assumptions related to the need for preschool. But stated that this data raises interesting questions about creating more programs without understanding what was already happening related to quality.

Peggy Sisson noted that Supervisor Knabe had directed the Planning Committee, with support from the Policy Roundtable, to develop a plan for determining the amount of State Preschool funding returned to the State annually with the intention of seeking greater flexibility in the use of these funds to meet Los Angeles County needs. An ad hoc committee will be formed shortly in order to develop the plan to be submitted to the Board by October 6, 2006.

VIII. Announcements and Public Comment

Jan Isenberg announced that LACOE CPIN is sponsoring a networking meeting on September 21, 2006. Flyers are available on the table.

The South Central Child Care Consortium will hold their annual conference on April 20, 2007. LACOE Head Start has a new Director: Sarah Younglove.

X. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Julie Taren and seconded by Jan Isenberg. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.