



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee
Minutes: June 2010
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Glendale USD Professional Dev Center
319 North Central Avenue
Glendale, CA 91203

Members in Attendance: (27) Rocio Bach, Ancelma Sanchez for Lisa Wilkin, Sam Kirk, Kathleen Pompey, Susan McCombs, Diane Philiposian, Peggy Sisson, Joy Cyprian, Mary Helen Vasquez, Ofelia Medina, Nurhan Pirim, Fiona Stewart, Patrice Wong, John Berndt, Sarah Soriano, Tara Henriquez for Randi Wolfe, Bobbie Edwards, Deborah Gatti, Pat Mendoza, Pam Schmidt for Karla Pleitez, Holly Reynolds, Atalaya Sergi, Anita Tetrault, Ofelia Aguilar, Andrea Joseph, Michelle Morse, Julie Taren, and Jenny Trickey

Guests and Alternates: Edilma Serna, Lou Orr, Elvie Matias, Ritu Mahajan, Kathy Schreiner, Rachelle Pastor, Marion Siemon Burgeson, Nichole Smith, Carol Hiestand, and Vanessa Mendez

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:18 p.m. She welcomed the group and thanked Glendale Unified School District (USD) for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments. She requested that everyone introduce themselves. The Chair read the opening statement. Laura Escobedo announced that Anita Tetrault, who has represented Glendale USD would be retiring at the end of June.

II. Approval of Minutes from the May 5, 2010 Meeting

The Chair called for a motion to approve the May 5, 2010 minutes. Sam Kirk moved to approve; Dianne Philiposian seconded the motion. The Chair called for the vote. The motion was approved without abstentions.

III. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo shared information about a new initiative, the ECE Career Ladder Project (CLP) funded through First 5 California and sanctioned by the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The project developed out of the work of a Bay Area group called Early Childhood Professional Development and Education Collaboration (EPEC). The project will gather input from California's early care and education field on the appropriate content and structure for an ECE career ladder, identify most relevant examples from other states, and compile this input for the official entities responsible for California's standards and certification of teachers. The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) responded to a call for partners to help distribute a survey that will be issued this summer and to host local forums to gather input.

Laura Escobedo asked the group about continuing the leadership training with a focus on emotional intelligence into the next program year. The group agreed they would like to do this. She asked that any other ideas for major foci for the Planning Committee in the coming year be forwarded to her. She acknowledged that funding for Local Planning Councils was at risk due to the State budget, but hoped the Planning Committee would meet again in September.

IV. LACEL Self-Review Report

Sam Kirk of the Access and Centralized Eligibility (CEL) Work Group reported that the Work Group has reviewed the operation of the CEL in Los Angeles County based on the criteria developed by CDE. The self-review is a requirement of the CEL contract and must be conducted every year. The Work Group found that the LACEL (Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List) was compliant with all dimensions of the review.

V. Approval of Membership Slate for 2010-11

Ancelma Sanchez of the Membership and Policies Work Group presented the roster of recommended members for the 2010-11 year developed by the Work Group.

Sam Kirk moved to approve the roster as recommended by the Membership and Policies Work Group. The motion was seconded by Diane Philibosian. The chair called for the vote. Motion was passed with no abstentions.

VI. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2010-11

The Membership and Policies Work Group presented the nominations of Bobbie Edwards for the position of Chair and Sam Kirk for the position of Vice Chair. Pat Mendoza moved to approve the recommended slate; the motion was seconded by Peggy Sisson. The Chair called for a vote. Motion was passed without abstentions.

VII. Update on the Constructing Connections LA Pipeline

Ellen Deker of the Low income Investment Fund (LIIF) is the point of contact for technical assistance for those who are developing or expanding child development center facilities in Los Angeles County. The “pipeline” is the process that each project goes through toward a successful completion. There are five phases: Pre-Planning, Planning, Pre-Development, Development, and Start-up. Pre-planning is the dream stage; there are currently 78 people who have contacted Ellen Deker to explore what it will take to start a child development program. The next phase involves creating a business plan; there are 23 projects in that phase. Pre-Development involves design, site acquisition and financing; there are 22 projects at that stage. Development means construction; there are eight projects in this phase. When completed they will add approximately 500 spaces to the available supply. The final phase is Start-up, which is when the license is obtained. Only three projects are at this point and will be opening up an additional 142 preschool-age spaces.

The technical assistance provided through LIIF usually involves information and referrals about financing, architects, business planning, land use issues, and legal status of the organization. Ms. Deker provides one on one assistance and LIIF has partnered with the Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies to provide group training related to the aforementioned topics.

VIII. Update on State Budget for 2010-11

Laura Escobedo stated that the Governor’s May Revise Budget proposed eliminating all child development programs except part-day State Preschool and the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program, and eliminating CalWORKS. Both the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees rejected the elimination of these programs, but are seeking ways to reduce costs. The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) has recommended the following as ways to reduce costs:

- 1) Reduce the Regional Market Rate (RMR) ceiling to the 60th percentile of the 2009 RMR study, which would be the equivalent to the 70th percentile of the currently used 2005 survey rates. This would reduce payments to providers and would shrink contracts of Alternative Payment agencies.
- 2) Lower the income eligibility for low-income families to 60 percent of the State Median Income (SMI) from the current ceiling of 75 percent. Savings estimate would be approximately \$75 million from reduced contract amounts.
- 3) Reduce Quality Improvement Funds by \$10 to \$14 million. Funding for Local Planning Councils, R&Rs, and WestEd: Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) are included in these funds. Four million dollars of this reduction would be dedicated to Community Care Licensing so the same amount can be deducted from the general fund budget.

The LAO is suggesting cuts that equal \$217 million, which equates to a cut of six percent for all programs in the child care and development system. Laura Escobedo stated that completely eliminating one type of program or another hurts the entire system of care and makes it very difficult to build the system back up when resources are available.

IX. Public Comment and Announcements

- 1) Laura Escobedo presented Holly Reynolds with a certificate and a plant to mark her excellent service and leadership as Chair of the Planning Committee from 2008-2010.
- 2) Early Intervention Workshop on June 16, 2010 at the Braille Institute; flyers on the table.
- 3) Westside Children's Center and Home Safe will be holding a rally on Monday, June 7th to protest the extreme cuts to the child development system. An e-mail announcement will follow.

X. Adjournment

Ancelma Sanchez moved to adjourn; Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.