



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee



Background

The first local child care planning efforts were launched in 1991 as a result of AB 2141, which created Local Child Care Planning Councils in each county. The Board of Supervisors authorized the convening of the Los Angeles County Child Care and Development Block Grant Planning Council in response to the legislation. The Council's purpose was to establish priorities for the allocation of federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds (CCDBG). The Council held seven regional meetings involving over 400 individuals. These meetings resulted in a statement of priorities, which formed the basis for the distribution of millions of dollars in new child care funding for the region.

AB 2141 also authorized these local councils to determine local child care needs, and to prepare a Countywide child care plan. In July 1992, the Board of Supervisors delegated the responsibility for Countywide child care planning to the Council, through the Board appointed Child Care Advisory Board. In response to this broader charge, the Council changed its name to the Child Care Planning Committee in January of 1993.

In 1997, AB 1542 heralded the advent of welfare reform in California. While creating and defining California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), the legislation also strengthened and broadened the role of the local planning councils.

Mandates of AB 1542

- Establish priorities for State-funded child care and development services.
- Conduct a countywide needs assessment at least every five years.
- Conduct periodic review of child care programs funded by the California Department of Education (CDE) and Department of Social Services related to meeting priorities.
- Collaborate with many groups to meet local needs.

- Develop a comprehensive county-wide plan for child care and development.
- Coordinate part-day Head Start and State Preschool programs with full day child care.

Mission

The mission of the Los Angeles 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 Planning Committee works collaboratively with other County planning groups:

- Policy Roundtable for Child Care
- Children's Council of Los Angeles
- First Five LA Commission
- Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

The Office of Child Care, within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office, supports the work of the Planning Committee. Within this branch of County government, the Planning Committee is positioned to work with County departments, as well as the above-mentioned groups, to improve the lives of children and families in Los Angeles.

Meeting Schedule

The Planning Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at various sites throughout the County. At least once each year, the regular business meeting is held on a Saturday, to facilitate the participation of parents and providers.

The public is welcome to attend all Planning Committee meetings and to participate in the Work Groups of the Planning Committee. Please contact the Office of Child Care to verify the location of the meetings, or visit the Web Site at: www.childcare.lacounty.gov.

Child Care Planning Committee Accomplishments 2000-2008

- Assessed countywide child care supply in 2000, 2003, and 2006. Created an interactive Web site with needs assessment data: (<http://gismap3.co.la.ca.us/childcare>).
- Developed geographic priorities for allocation of new child care subsidy funds (2000-2008).
- Developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan, identifying outcomes and goals related to increased capacity, improved quality, enhanced qualifications and compensation for providers, increased accessibility and affordability, and improved systems of information and service to families and providers (2003). The Strategic Plan was revised and approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2008. Implementation is ongoing.
- Developed and implemented a countywide Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) for families seeking subsidized child care and development services (2003-ongoing).
- Developed a Model Compensation Scale for center-based child development staff and for program directors (2004-2008).
- Conducted/sponsored countywide surveys on: compensation and education of child care center personnel (2002, 2005-06) and family child care (2003, 2006); special needs (2003); vacancy (2004-2005); low-income families waiting for child care (2006); and license exempt school-age child care (2005-06, 2008).
- Reviewed the amount of under-utilized funding and the underlying causes of under-earned Child Development contracts in Los Angeles County (2007-08).
- Distributed approximately \$20 million in stipends to qualified child development teachers through the AB 212 Investing in Early Educators Program, which promotes retention and encourages continuing education for child development staff (2002-2008).

Planning Committee Membership

There are 50 members of the Planning Committee, 10 from each of the required categories stipulated in AB 1542. Each of the five County Supervisors appoints one member from any one of the categories to represent his/her district. Membership terms are three years, renewable each year. Each member may serve up to two, three-year terms. A Chair is elected to serve a two-year term; and a vice chair is elected to serve a one year term.

The five membership categories are as follows:

- **Parent Consumers** (or guardians) who are using child care or have used child care for their children within the past three years.
- **Child Care Providers**, both center-based, and family child care.
- **Community Representatives** from organizations or programs which advocate for child care services, provide funds for child care services, or serve populations who benefit from child care services, but do not contract with CDE to provide child care and development services.
- **Public Agency Representatives** from state, city, County, or local education agencies.
- **Discretionary Members** who may represent any of the above categories, or may represent another type of stakeholder.

Contact Information

The Office of Child Care provides staff support to the Child Care Planning Committee.

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