



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MINUTES**

**May 9, 2007**

**9:45 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Conference Room 743  
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles**

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#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Robert Wiltse, Vice-chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

##### **a. Retreat Update**

Mr. Wiltse recognized the assistance from Mr. John Wicker to secure a site for the semi-annual retreat. The all-day retreat is confirmed for Wednesday, July 11, 2007 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center located at 1750 North Altadena Drive in Pasadena.

##### **b. Audit Committee Recommendation**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu reported that yesterday, May 8, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Audit Committee recommendation to continue the Roundtable through June 2011. The Roundtable will need to work with County Counsel to amend the ordinance to reflect the new end date. Ms. Malaske-Samu directed members to the items in the report that the Audit Committee deems relevant. Among other things, member attendance at the regular meetings is a factor in determining the future of the group. A copy of the audit report was included in member packets.

##### **c. Review of Minutes**

- April 11, 2007

Ms. Carolina Alvarez offered the correct of spelling of guest, Celia Ayala, Ph.D. from Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP).

Ms. Jan Isenberg made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected and Ms. Peggy Sisson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with one abstention.

##### **d. Call for Nominating Committee**

Mr. Matt Rezvani invited volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the purpose of putting forth candidates for Chair and Vice-chair of the Roundtable. Ms. Arlene Rhine, Ms. Ann Franzen, Ms. Sisson and Ms Isenberg agreed to serve on the Committee.

## **2. PLANNING FOR PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT**

Dr. Sam Chan ran into a scheduling conflict after the agenda was sent out, so was not able to attend. Ms. Malaske-Samu relayed his report, stating that the next statewide planning meetings to discuss Prevention and Early Intervention are scheduled for June 19 and 26, 2007 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The locations are to be determined, but it is assumed that one meeting will occur in Southern California (see [www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/meetings.aspx](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/meetings.aspx) for updates). Local planning has not started and most likely will not begin until August 2007, once the State guidelines are issued. Dr. Chan, through Ms. Malaske-Samu, encourages participation in local planning efforts by the early care and education community. Ms. Malaske-Samu suggested that the Roundtable discuss how to mobilize the local child care community around this issue.

Ms. Malaske-Samu invited members and guests who attended a recent meeting in Riverside to discuss their impressions. Ms. Kate Sachnoff of First 5 LA reported that the Riverside meeting was an opportunity to understand the lay of the land, including the competing forces. Ms. Sachnoff also described a parallel effort underway to shape planning efforts to address early intervention and prevention and mental health in young children and their families. First 5 California, with funding from The California Endowment, has convened county teams with representation of various mental health sectors. The Los Angeles County team includes Dr. Chan, Mr. Richard Cohen of Westside Children's Center, Ms. Betsy Pfromm of Los Angeles Child Guidance, Dr. Marie Poulson of USC/Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, and Armando Jimenez, Director of First 5 LA's Research and Evaluation. Their approach is from an early childhood health promotion perspective. The first statewide meeting of teams was held in Oakland last week.

Next, Ms. Kim Foster of the County Commission for Children and Families Community offered her impressions of the Riverside meeting, beginning with the information being overwhelming and unfamiliar for folks outside of the mental health field. She stated that early intervention and prevention will look different than the community supports and services piece. For clarification, community supports and services refers to direct mental health services and treatment for persons with a mental health diagnosis as well as links to supplemental services, such as housing and vocational training, among others.

Guests and members echoed some of the confusion and differing perceptions resulting from various meetings. Zero to Three has drafted a paper, *Infants and Toddlers and the California Mental Health Services Act*. First 5 California is also preparing materials on early intervention and prevention as it relates to mental health services. Ms. Sachnoff agreed to make the materials available to the Roundtable members. Materials relating to the planning process, including the Policy Direction and Recommendations, are available on the Mental Health Services Act Web site at [www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/PreventionEarlyIntervention.asp](http://www.dmh.ca.gov/mhsa/PreventionEarlyIntervention.asp).

Discussion ensued regarding the role of the Roundtable and potential links with First 5 LA and others engaged in planning efforts. It was suggested that the Roundtable may need to proactively insert itself into the planning processes. To get started, the Roundtable could convene stakeholders already participating in different planning groups, including LAUP, First 5 LA, Zero to Three, and the Department of Mental Health. Next steps would be convening persons working in various types of child care and development programs, including centers and family child care homes. The goal would be to develop a countywide early care and education agenda in relationship to the Mental Health Services Act, Early Intervention and

Prevention. Ms. Malaske-Samu will plan future meeting agendas to facilitate moving forward on these ideas.

Mr. Whit Hayslip mentioned that Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has also convened group of people on this issue. Dr. Chan is the common link among all of these groups.

### **3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

#### **a. AB 313 – Child Care Quality Rating System**

Mr. Wiltse directed members to their meeting materials for a copy of AB 313, amended as of May 1, 2007. This bill, authored by Assembly Member Benoit, would require the California Department of Social Services to develop and implement a licensed child care facility rating system using information on the facility beginning on and after January 1, 2005. The bill proposes assigning Grades A, B, C, or Not Rated based on levels of compliance and standing with licensing. For example, a program receiving a Grade A is in good standing and has no documented records of deficiency in the past three years, whereas a program with a Grade C has in the past three years experienced serious ongoing compliance issues, has been issued a temporary suspension order, and documented records of three or more violations. The Department is charged with posting and updating the ratings on its Web site. As amended on May 1, development and implementation of the rating system would occur by January 1, 2010 **after** implementation of a system of unannounced visits for family child care homes of at least once every three years and child care centers of at least once every two years.

It is worth noting that on April 24, the bill passed unanimously out of the Assembly Committee on Human Services, with all committee members signing on as co-authors.

#### **b. SB 680 – Child Care Training and Special Needs Access**

Mr. Wiltse referred members to the April meeting at which, as requested by Mr. Duane Dennis representing the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, the Roundtable voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors support SB 680, authored by Senator Ridley-Thomas. SB 680 would appropriate and allocate ongoing funding to the resource and referral agencies (and the local planning councils in three counties) to continue facilitating the inclusion of children with disabilities and other special needs into existing in child care programs and building the capacity of child care programs to serve the children. On April 17, the Board adopted a position of support. Mr. Wiltse reported that the bill is now in the Senate Committee on Appropriations Suspense File due to funding requirements.

Mr. Wiltse requested that Roundtable approve a letter of support be prepared and sent to the author of the bill. Ms. Rhine moved and Ms. Maria Calix seconded that such a letter be prepared and sent. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **c. Other Bills of Interest**

Mr. Wiltse referred members to their materials for copy of the Legislative Matrix updated as of May 8, 2007. Most of the bills passed out of their policy committee with amendments and are now in Appropriations awaiting further hearing and assignment. The Joint Committee has noted a few additional bills that may be of particular interest to the Roundtable. AB 975, authored by Assembly Member Solario, would appropriate funds to the resource and referral agencies to

continue to provide training and support to license-exempt providers. AB 1059 by Assembly Member De León proposes to expand funding to improve the retention of early educators in state-funded programs by requiring alignment between CARES and AB 212 programs in counties that have both, establish a Pre-kindergarten Assumption Program of Loans for Education, and expand the Child Development Teacher and Supervisor Grant Program. This bill is sponsored by Preschool California, Children Now, and Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California, however is opposed by the California Child Development Administrators Association as some of the provisions of the bill would only benefit early educators working in a publicly funded preschool program. Lastly, SB 944 authored by Senator Padilla would require the California Department of Education to collect and aggregate data regarding child care and development programs and make the data available by zip code on their Web site. This bill was recently amended to expand the data collection efforts from the state-funded preschool programs to all of the state-funded child care and development programs inclusive of state preschool. This bill is also of interest to the Child Care Planning Committee as it is legislatively mandated to conduct regular needs assessments.

Mr. Wiltse invited members to request further study of bills of interest by the Joint Committee. He added that the Joint Committee will review the Governor's May Revise at the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 23, 2007, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) located at 12440 East Imperial Highway, Room 539, in Norwalk.

Mr. Wiltse followed his report with some good news in relationship to SB 1104, Chaptered in 2004. SB 1104 provided time limited child care for children in child welfare system to 18 months. Working with the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) and through a meeting with Grace Cainoy, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, 18 families timed out for child care under the DCFS were picked up by subsidized programs.

Guest Dr. Celia Ayala of LAUP referred the Roundtable to AB 1236 (Mullin), stating that LAUP has taken a formal position to oppose. The bill proposes to change the date by which the child has a birthday for kindergarten admission, establish the kindergarten readiness program, and require teachers and associate teachers to meet certain educational and credentialing requirements. LAUP is concerned that the bill limits the benefits of the bill to only county offices and school districts, thus omitting the diversity of early childhood programs in Los Angeles County.

Ms. Malaske-Samu directed members to their materials for a copy of the press release on the House vote on Head Start ending standardized testing of four-year olds. Members expressed this as a positive direction, however mentioned the challenges Head Start faces in the future around the higher education requirements that teachers will need to meet. While it is possible for early educators to advance their education, funding is needed to help them earn their degrees. In addition, the child development field still needs to grapple with compensation that is on par with the K-12 system and the resources needed for child development programs to pay teachers commensurate with their education and the K-12 system. Mr. Rezvani mentioned that K-12 teachers are now being pushed towards gaining a Master degree.

Other items of note:

- Ms. Malaske-Samu reviewed the remainder of the items in the meeting packets, including a resource list of new research, an article from the Harvard Review on aligning prekindergarten and early math, a summary of the Pre-kindergarten and Family Literacy Program (PKFLP) funds awarded in Los Angeles County, and the California Department of

Education, Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) notice of public hearing scheduled for May 22, 2007, in Santa Fe Springs.

- Ms. Malaske-Samu asked if members had attended any of the Preschool Learning Foundation input sessions. Staff from LAUP and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) have attended as has Ms. Sisson. The sessions have been informative.

#### **4. PLANS FOR STEPS TO EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (STEP) KICK-OFF**

##### **a. STEP Staff**

Ms. Malaske-Samu announced that the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), Department of Human Services has posted the bulletin for the STEP staff person. She distributed a copy of the job announcement.

##### **b. Kick-off Event**

The Office of Child Care staff are finalizing the mailing list for the invitations to the kick-off event scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2007. Ms. Malaske-Samu circulated the draft invitation for comment. She has confirmed Mr. Roger Neugebauer of the Child Care Information Exchange as the keynote speaker. Mr. Neugebauer has strong relationships to all types of child care and development programs. His presentation will focus on quality initiatives occurring across country. Ms. Billie Greer of the Governor's office will also attend the event. A panel presentation with child care and development program operators will talk about quality issues, facilitated by Mr. Neugebauer.

The event schedule is as follows:

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast and Networking
9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 a.m.	Keynote
9:55 a.m.	Panel Presentation
10:45 a.m.	Roll Out to STEP
11:30 a.m.	Comments from Supervisor Knabe

Staff are refining the STEP application and materials, which will be ready by the launch date. The CAO Information Office is working with the Supervisors' Office to help with press packets and releases.

##### **c. Training and Support Planning**

Ms. Malaske-Samu stated that planning for training and support activities for programs that want to participate in STEP is progressing while awaiting the contract from CDE/CDD to augment the AB 212 funding. The following trainings are under exploration and discussion:

- California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN): trainings on dual language learners, understanding language development and learning a second language.
- UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality: two training cohorts each on the Early Childhood, Family Child Care and Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scales.
- WestEd: Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC): training on infants and toddlers targeted to family child care providers.

- Child Abuse Prevention Center: uses curriculum developed by Zero to Three and based on work by Judy Langford designed to strengthen families through quality early care and education programs.
- Sessions on using developmental screening tools: an Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) training is scheduled for June 1, 2007 at the Department of Public Works. In the coming year, a training session will be held on how and why to integrate developmental screenings into child care and development programs.
- Child Care Training Institute: LACOE is considering adding a workshop on relationship building and communicating with children and families.
- In addition, exploring training on administrative topics such as hiring, firing, and technology.
- Lastly, the Office of Child Care has received requests to provide training on the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)-R and DRDP access. Apparently, these are available, but at a cost to programs.

Regarding the DRDP, Mr. Hayslip added that while it is not required for programs without CDE/CDD contracts, it is required for all children that have an Individualized Family Services Plan (IFSP) or Individual Education Plan (IEP) regardless of funding source. He reported that WestEd was recently awarded the DRDP-R training project; DRDP access is going to the Napa County Office of Education.

In other news, Ms. Malaske-Samu provided an update on the Stipend Program. For Cycle 8, 2,288 early educators and family child care providers have earned a stipend. Of these, 122 have earned graduation stipends – 69 have earned Associate degrees, 49 have earned Bachelor degrees, and four have earned Master degrees. In each cycle, more and more participants are earning graduation stipends, which support the impact of a program that receives ongoing funding over time.

## **5. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS**

### **a. Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)**

No report.

### **b. Children's Planning Council (CPC)**

No report.

### **c. First 5 LA**

Mr. Rezvani reported that Ms. Carol Baker has been hired as the new Director of Public and Government Affairs. He is in discussions with Ms. Baker on how First 5 LA and the Roundtable can work together on legislative issues.

### **d. Los Angeles Universal Preschool**

Ms. Alvarez relayed that LAUP brought Dr. Thelma Harms and her team to Los Angeles for one week to train the LAUP coaches and anchor person on the ECERS and FCCERS. LAUP plans to bring Dr. Harms to Los Angeles to work with them on a comprehensive plan for using the ECERS and FCCERS.

**e. New Directions Task Force**

No report.

**6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- In mid-May, two new staff members will join the LACEL team.
- The Los Angeles County employee union, SEIU 721 (was 660) recently negotiated a County contribution to the County dependent care spending account. Beginning in 2008, County employees will receive match to their dependent care spending account based on their salary.
- Ms. Rhine mentioned that for the first time in six years, licensing visited her program.
- Ms. Atalaya Sergi of Jumpstart for Young Children introduced herself. Jumpstart's mission is to ensure that preschoolers are prepared for kindergarten. College students are trained to work with preschool children. Currently, they work with Pepperdine, Northridge, and Claremont Colleges, but want to expand the program into Los Angeles. She is seeking suggestions on building partnerships. Ms. Rhine said that her program hosted Jumpstart for three years and mentioned that they pay their college students fairly well. Ms. Sergi can be reached by e-mail at [atalaya.sergi@jstart.org](mailto:atalaya.sergi@jstart.org) or by telephone at (323) 931-0923.

**7. CLOSING COMMENTS & CALL TO ADJOURN**

Mr. Rezvani adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Carolina Alvarez  
Ms. Maria Calix  
Mr. Duane Dennis  
Ms. Ann Franzen  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Jan Isenberg  
Ms. Nancy Chew Nishimura  
Mr. Matt Rezvani  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Peggy Sisson  
Mr. Robert Wiltse

**Guests:**

Dr. Celia C. Ayala, LAUP  
Ms. Kim Foster, Commission on Children and Families  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Education Coordinating Council  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA  
Ms. Billie Weiser, UCLA CICCQ

**Staff:**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu  
Ms. Michele Sartell