



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2008

10:00 a.m. – noon

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Avenue, Conference Room 743

Los Angeles, California 90012

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Duane Dennis, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

a. Review of Minutes

- July 9, 2008

Ms. Jan Isenberg made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Arlene Rhine seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

- September 10, 2008

Ms. Rhine made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Terri Nishimura seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted with one abstention.

b. Report on Annual Audit of California Department of Education Contracts

Mr. Dennis announced that all of the Office of Child Care contracts with the California Department of Education are audited by an outside auditor annually. The file review portion of the Investing in Early Educators Program audit was completed in one day on September 17, 2008. The auditor reviewed 202 Stipend participant files and was impressed with how well the files were consistently organized, making his job very easy. The auditor also reviewed 15 of the 150 mini-grant applicant files and had no questions.

2. PROPOSED CHILD CARE POLICY FRAMEWORK

Mr. Dennis reminded members and guests of the brief history that has resulted in the development of the Policy Framework, which is a response to the motion introduced by Supervisor Knabe on March 4, 2008. The motion directed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to report back to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation for structuring child care policy that does the following: cuts across county departments, First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP); brings a more integrated focus to child development services; emphasizes child care as an integral part of services offered to families involved in the County system of care; and finally, pursues legislative solutions to facilitate the utilization of all child care subsidy dollars allocated to programs in Los Angeles County.

Since the September 10, 2008 meeting of the Roundtable, the proposed Policy Framework has been modified to incorporate feedback from Roundtable members, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Mr. Miguel Santana), County departments and selected community stakeholders. Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that during her meeting with Ms. Kathy House and Mr. Santana, the title of the document, they settled on calling it a “Policy Framework”.

Next, Ms. Malaske-Samu drew members’ attention to changes in the document, including clarifying potential opportunities for partnerships. She added that as a result of a meeting with representatives of the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services (DPSS), agreements were reached that while the objectives coincide with their activities, some dates for achieving baseline data were changed due to the challenges for arriving at strategies for requesting and gaining information on which children are enrolled in child development. In addition, Mr. Phil Ansell on behalf of DPSS suggested minor changes consistent with federally legislated mandates for supporting parental choice in seeking child care. Consensus was reached on the concept of “more informed parental choice”. In a separate meeting with Philip Browning, Ms. Malaske-Samu learned that he supports making parents aware of the benefits of high quality early care and education. Lastly, she has been assuring groups that the County is not interested in taking over child care for the county. Rather, the County wants to determine what role it can play to facilitate the use of quality child care and development services by county clients, employees, and residents; act as an advocate to benefit the child care and development community; and serve as a neutral player to convene stakeholders to enhance the system. Ms. Malaske-Samu referenced the County’ role as summarized in the last paragraph on page 2 of the Policy Framework. She also relayed that the features and benefits of quality child care and development is spelled out in the endnotes.

Mr. Dennis reminded members of the end game for the meeting, a motion to adopt the Policy Framework.

a. Using the Child Care Policy Framework to Align Our Goals

Mr. Duane Dennis introduced Mr. Santana, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Children and Families Well-being Cluster. Mr. Santana thanked the Roundtable and Ms. Malaske-Samu for working diligently in response to Supervisor Knabe’s motion, which creates an opportunity to rethink the role of the Office of Child Care within the context of the new structure of the Chief Executive Office. He noted three areas addressed by the Policy Framework:

- The critical importance of ensuring that county clients – CalWORKs families and families under the supervision of the DCFS – have access to high quality child care and development services.
- As the largest employer in the County, access to high quality child care and development services contributes to a stable and more productive workforce. In the County’s role of promoting quality child care and development, it also serves as a model organization to the private sector.
- Noting that child care and development has been identified as a priority by some cities, the County has a role to influence all municipalities to make it a priority so that it is more accessible and of higher quality for all county children and families.

Mr. Santana further stated that the County can “add value” to legislative advocacy in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. He commented on recent advocacy efforts that resulted in maintaining at a minimum current funding for most child care and development programs. However, he expects that ongoing funding for child care and development will need to be dealt with in the near future.

Mr. Santana reported that implementation of the Policy Framework will need to occur within the context of existing staff within the Office of Child Care. However, the Office of Child Care will have the support of the CEO in its efforts to coordinate and integrate with other CEO Divisions and County Departments. He concluded by commending the Roundtable and Ms. Malaske-Samu for identifying strategic, tangible and measurable goals and looks forward to noting accomplishments in one year.

b. Discussion and Adoption of the Framework

Mr. Dennis thanked Mr. Santana for his comments, then opened the floor to discussion.

- Page 10, item b)i): suggest changing the language in the last sentence to broader language that would result in establishing a long-term partnership with First 5 LA that would be bigger than simply requesting funds.
- Page 3: at end of last paragraph, change language from “... lack of County government...” to “... absence of County government...” in the spirit of collaboration and integration.
- Page 5 flow chart: caution use of dotted lines around “No County Agency” boxes as may imply intent to flow money through County agency rather than directly to programs.
- Missing from the chart are the contributions of the Resource and Referral (R&Rs) programs and others (e.g. Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program, etc.) that support child care and development services. Add resources brought to bear on achieving the goals, including resources.
- First 5 LA and LAUP are funded with public dollars and should be represented on the chart.
- It was noted that the original motion contains an ambitious timeline. The State Budget crisis changes the way in which unspent dollars will be handled. In addition, there is a tension between quality and quantity. Lastly, the R&Rs have been told not to give too much information to DPSS clients. One member responded by saying that parental choice and quality are not diametrically opposed to each other. A large number of DPSS clients choose license exempt, which could be high quality. Ms. Malaske-Samu encouraged the R&Rs to use the Policy Framework at the time they renew their contracts with DPSS to ensure that families receive information.
- Page 11, item 2)a): The date for convening stakeholders will be moved from October 30, 2008 to probably November 15, 2008.

There was some discussion regarding taking action given the suggested changes. Ms. Malaske-Samu reviewed the changes, which she anticipated completing by mid-afternoon, although revising the chart is expected to take longer to edit. A presentation has been made at the cluster level and County Department representatives have made comments, which were integrated into the document, and they are on board. Ms. Kathy House suggested taking action on the agenda item based on the edits agreed to in the meeting.

Ms. Kathy House moved to approve the Policy Framework; Ms. Arlene Rhine seconded the motion. The motion was approved with one abstention.

Mr. Dennis congratulated the Roundtable for a significant effort. Ms. Terry Ogawa, guest, suggested presenting the Policy Framework to the Education Coordinating Council (ECC). Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that it is on the agenda for the October meeting. Mr. Dennis also thanked Ms. Ogawa for bringing the work of the Roundtable to the ECC.

3. JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION REPORT

a. State Budget Impact on Child Care and Development

Mr. Robert Wiltse directed members to their meeting packets for the copy of the document entitled *Winners and Losers: A Report on the California State Budget and Legislature - Child Care and Development*. The document provides a quick summary of the enacted California State Budget for 2008-09 as it pertains to child care and development and lists the bills that made it to the Governor's desk, resulting in his signature or veto. Beginning with the budget, the field of child care and development did not receive the level of decreases anticipated and, in fact, those programs providing direct services to children of low-income families are to receive growth adjustments. However, there will be no Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). Of interest to the Roundtable and the Office of Child Care, funding was restored at current levels to the recruitment and retention program and the local planning councils (in Los Angeles, the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program and the Child Care Planning Committee, respectively). Funding is maintained at its current level for the centralized eligibility list. Also notable is the cut in funds to Community Care Licensing.

b. Legislative Update

Mr. Wiltse moved on to a brief summary of legislation. Of the 16 child care and development bills reviewed by the Governor, seven were signed and the remaining nine were vetoed. Among the bills signed are the two actively supported by the Roundtable, AB 2759 (Jones) and SB 1629 (Steinberg). AB 2759 consolidates all of the child care and development programs serving preschool age children (three and four year olds) under one umbrella, the California Preschool program. Due to the Roundtable's advocacy, the bill includes language that will monitor and report on the use of infant toddler services and part- and full-day preschool.

SB 1629 establishes the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) comprised of 13 members representing the early care and education community, a program administrator from a CDE-contracted program, a caregiver for infants and toddlers, a person with experience with English learners, and a local educational agency kindergarten teacher. The Advisory Committee is charged with developing a policy and implementation plan that includes a quality rating scale and improvement system and a model funding structure aligned with the quality rating system.

Mr. Wiltse also drew members' attention to AB 978 (Benoit), which strengthens enforcement relating to violations in licensed facilities by imposing additional inspection requirements and hefty civil penalties. In closing on this agenda item, Mr. Wiltse referred members to the full document for the status on the remaining bills, letting them know that for those vetoed bills, the Governor's message is included.

It was asked what efforts are underway to ensure participation on the Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee as established by SB 1629. Ms. Malaske-Samu answered that she and Ms. Helen Chavez are working with the water cooler group (also known

as the Child Care/Early Care and Education Alliance). The group is preparing a draft report with recommendations for implementation of the bill that will be submitted to the legislature. She added that LAUP is also involved with the group. Dr. McCroskey emphasized the importance of being at the table given the breadth of the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) system and bringing it to the folks in Sacramento.

c. Federal Legislative Platform Recommendations

On behalf of the Joint Committee on Legislation, Mr. Wiltse presented for action by the Roundtable the proposed recommendations of child care and development items for inclusion in the County's Federal Agenda. The first section of the draft memo identifies three legislative initiatives from the current session and two Federal programs of interest to the field of child care and development. The second section beginning on page 3 lists the actual items recommended for the Federal Agenda. Four of the items build upon those in the current Federal Agenda, with suggested edits to broaden the language. The Joint Committee recommends an additional item reflecting greater attention to the resources needed to support the professional development of the early care and education workforce.

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey moved to accept the proposed recommendations; Ms. Maria Calix seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

a. Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)

Ms. Holly Reynolds, Chair of the Planning Committee, informed the members that all local planning councils, which are funded by the California Department of Education, are now required to conduct self-reviews to assess whether they are meeting the needs of those served. As such, the Planning Committee membership has reviewed whether they are meeting their legislative charges. After a lively discussion and suggestions for areas of improvement, they determined that the Planning Committee is in compliance with their requirements.

b. Children's Planning Council (CPC)

Mr. Duane Dennis updated the Roundtable members on the status of the restructuring of the Children's Planning Council. The CPC has been renamed the Children's Council of Los Angeles, and subsequently made changes to its Board. The Board has been reduced from 51 members to 29, eliminating, among others, representation from the Roundtable. Mr. Dennis announced that Ms. Sharon Watson has been hired as the director. Her more focused approach will be the convening of strategic groups around particular topical issues, including child care and development. It will be the convening of these strategic groups that stakeholders, such as the Roundtable, will be invited to participate. Dr. McCroskey added that she also is no longer member. She added that she sees this new direction as a good thing that implies more action around five outcome areas. Members wanting to join the Council's mailing list should contact Ms. Watson by e-mail at swatson@laccpc.org.

c. Commission for Children and Families

Ms. Ann Franzen reminded members of her report at last month's meeting during which she mentioned the Commission selecting obesity as an area in which they want to make an impact. She distributed the Research Brief prepared by Data Mining Project, a research partnership

between the Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC Program and First 5 LA entitled *Preventing Early Childhood Overweight*.

d. First 5 LA

Ms. Kate Sachnoff reported that First 5 LA recently held an open session on their Strategic Plan, slated for implementation beginning in June 2009. Part of the session included a discussion of priorities for judging outcomes. Highlights from the September Board meeting included approval of the pilot site Best Start LA, which coincides with the same geographic area served by Magnolia Place. Best Start LA is focused on children from birth to three and their families.

e. Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Mr. Adam Sonenshein provided a recap of LAUP's Master Plan Stakeholder Meeting held on October 3, 2008. Participants in the meeting included stakeholders involved in the creation of LAUP as well as new stakeholders. Participants were provided a review of the survey results followed by updates on the current status of LAUP and their plans for the future. Mr. Sonenshein also announced two ribbon cuttings. The first is scheduled for October 22, 2008 at the Human Services Association located in Huntington Park. LAUP will open five additional sites at the Baldwin Park Unified School District on October 31, 2008. Mr. Sonenshein ended with a current status on LAUP numbers: 180 centers are operating under contract; there are 124 family child care homes serving as LAUP sites; and 40 sites are in development. As a result, about 7,600 children are enrolled in LAUP, with another 2,300 spaces in development.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has released their calendar for the Service Area Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)/Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Community Forums. Thus far, the locations have been secured for those being held in Service Area 8. The flyer and registration materials for the Service Area 8 forums and the calendar of all the forums are included in the packets. The calendar with location and registration information as it becomes available will be posted at <http://dmh.lacounty.info/mhsa/plans/pei.html>.
- LAUSD has a bond measure on the November ballot, Measure Q. The measure, if passed, would provide \$700 million for new schools and school renovation, of which \$150 million would be targeted to child development renovation. This item was provided as information, not as a recommendation for the Roundtable to take a position.
- Mr. Wiltse announced that after ten years of serving on the Roundtable, he is stepping down due to a change in jobs at the Department of Children and Family Services. He will be leaving the Child Care Unit for Family Support in the middle of the month. Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth will fill in until a formal replacement has been selected. Mr. Wiltse expressed his pleasure working with the Roundtable.

6. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Ms. Maria Calix
Ms. Nancy Carter
Mr. Duane Dennis
Ms. Ann Franzen
Mr. Whit Hayslip
Ms. Kathy House
Ms. Jan Isenberg
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura
Ms. Arlene Rhine
Ms. Holly Reynold
Ms. Connie Russell
Ms. Esther Torrez
Mr. Robert Wiltse
Ms. Mika Yamamoto

Guests:

Ms. Senat Admessu, National Alliance on Mental Illness
Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center
Ms. Susan Cooper, Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Early Developmental Screening Initiative
Ms. Leanne Negron, First 5 LA
Mr. Michael Olenick, Child Care Resource Center
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA
Mr. Miguel Santana, County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool
Ms. Grace Cainoy Weltman, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

Staff:

Ms. Laura Escobedo
Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu
Ms. Michele Sartell

Minutes 10-8-08