



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

222 South Hill Street, Fifth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-4103 • Fax: (213) 217-5106 • www.lacountychildcare.org

MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

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 10:05 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and invited to introduce themselves.

a. Comments from the Chair

Mr. Dennis announced that Mr. William T Fujioka will attend the Roundtable meeting scheduled for February 13, 2008.

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- November 14, 2007

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Arlene Rhine seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted unanimously as written.

2. STEPS TO EXCELLENCE PROJECT (STEP) UPDATE

Ms. Helen Chavez, STEP Project Coordinator, provided an update on STEP implementation in the following four areas: staffing, applications, response to mini-grants, training, and Research Advisory Committee. (See PowerPoint presentation, *Steps for Excellence Project: Policy Roundtable Update – December 12, 2007.*)

a. Staffing Update

Ms. Chavez announced the filling of two staff positions. Ms. Yvonne Young has been hired as the Intermediate Typist Clerk; Ms. Doris Monterosa will work as a part-time training consultant.

b. Applications

Ms. Chavez reviewed outreach efforts that were implemented from September through October of 2007. Twenty-one outreach sessions were conducted at which 385 individuals representing family child care homes (78%) and centers (22%). To date, 133 applications have been received of which 63 are from centers and 70 are from family child care homes. Child care and development programs located in Long Beach have submitted the most applications at 54, while no applications have been received by programs in Wilmington. Future recruitment efforts will focus on the following pilot communities: Florence/Firestone, Inglewood, Palmdale, Pasadena, and Wilmington.

c. Response to Mini-grants

In addition to the outreach sessions, Ms. Chavez hosted four technical assistance workshops and one conference call during November 2007 for programs interested in submitting mini-grant applications. Mini-grant applications have been received from 127 child care and development programs, of which 20% are from family child care homes and 81% are from centers.

d. Training Calendar

Ms. Malaske-Samu provided the update on the training calendar. She was recently informed that the Office of Child Care would receive a time-only extension through June 2009 from the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD). Unfortunately, the decision for the extension was overturned, probably due to CDE/CDD's discomfort for doing an extension for only one county. Ms. Malaske-Samu is optimistic that a time-only extension will be awarded, but it is likely to be much shorter. The current timeframe for conducting the trainings is through June 2008.

e. Research Advisory Committee

Ms. Malaske-Samu announced the formation of the Research Advisory Committee. The following have agreed to serve on the Committee: Mr. Armando Jimenez and Ms. Patricia Lozano of First 5 LA, Dr. Carollee Howes and Ms. Eleanor Zucker of UCLA/Center for Improving Child Care Quality, Ms. Dianne Philibosian of California State University (CSU) Northridge, Ms. Gail Zellman of the RAND Corporation, Dr. McCroskey, and Dr. Marlene Zepeda of CSU Los Angeles.

3. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Robert Wiltse directed members to their meeting packets for copies of the following materials: memo to Victoria Evers, Intergovernmental Relations Branch, dated November 19, 2007 and titled Recommendations for County of Los Angeles Federal Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 110th Congress; the Quality Child Care for America Act Fact Sheet prepared by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's office; and H.R. 3870, the Quality Child Care for America Act.

Mr. Wiltse provided a quick summary of the Quality Child Care for America Act (the Act). The Act would amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act by creating a set-aside for workforce development initiatives. The funds can be used to increase compensation or benefits for child care providers as well as enable them to receive additional education or training.

Next, Mr. Wiltse noted the recommendations for the County's Federal Legislative Agenda under two areas: Children and Family Services and Workforce Investment Act. The recommended items reflect the comments made at the November meeting of the Roundtable. Mr. Wiltse added that the legislative platforms adopted by Board of Supervisors will allow the Roundtable to respond to federal and state legislative issues.

Mr. Wiltse invited members to upcoming meetings of the Joint Committee on Legislation. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Department of Children and Family Services located at 12440 East Imperial Highway, Room 539 in Norwalk.

4. RELEASE OF CHILD CARE ECONOMIC IMPACT AND CAREER PATHWAYS REPORTS

Mr. Dennis welcomed Ms. Laura Escobedo back to the Roundtable to present on two soon-to-be released reports.

Ms. Laura Escobedo summarized the results of the studies prepared for the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), City of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board, and the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee. (See PowerPoint presentations *Economic Impact of Early Care and Education in Los Angeles County* and *Early Care and Education Career Pathways Analysis for Los Angeles County*.)

The following comments were made following the presentations:

- Make clear distinctions between the workforce and the economic reports.
- Define “undereducated workforce”; how does Los Angeles County compare nationally?
- Contributors to the undereducated workforce are the number of immigrants who did not complete or attend elementary school in their home country. Our large immigrant population (first generation) impacts Los Angeles data compared to other areas of the country.
- Nurturing has helped immigrant populations gain skills and continue their education.

5. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

a. Los Angeles County Preschool Coalition

Ms. Malaske-Samu distributed the roster of the Los Angeles County Preschool Coalition convened by the California Community Foundation. She then summarized a meeting hosted by Children Now and entitled “Preschool Policy Day: Developing the 2008 Agenda” she attended on Tuesday, December 11, 2008. Ms. Malaske-Samu noted that interest exists for considering preschool services as part of continuum, acknowledging that part-day, part-year programs that only serve four-year-olds do not meet the needs of all families. Simultaneously, efforts are underway to reinvent the momentum for universal preschool. Of interest was the dialogue between Dr. Lynn Karoly of the RAND Corporation and Mr. David Kirp of the University of California Berkeley and author of The Sandbox Investment. They discussed whether the focus should be on the lowest income, most disadvantaged families for preschool. Mr. Kirp found that the challenges for locating affordable, high quality programs are faced by the spectrum of families regardless of income. Ms. Malaske-Samu also reported that RAND’s next study will include interviews with parents to learn their thoughts about what is quality.

b. Southern California Pre-K Partnership

LAUP is hosting the Southern California Pre-K Partnership meeting on Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Japanese American Museum located at 369 East First Street in Los Angeles. The agenda is designed to reinvigorate interest in universal preschool.

c. Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee)

Mr. Craig Lancaster announced the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Los Angeles County Office of Education located at 12830 Clark Avenue, Room 606A in Downey. Ms. Escobedo reported that the Planning Committee has been reviewing the 10 year strategic plan adopted in 2003, looking at accomplishments and new opportunities. The revisions to the strategic plan were approved by Planning Committee at the December meeting.

d. Children’s Planning Council (CPC)

Mr. Dennis relayed that the Children’s Planning Council is redefining, reconstructing and rethinking its work over next few years. A governance group is currently reviewing the purpose of the CPC and its

core activities. Mr. Dennis invited those who were involved in formation of the CPC to have conversations with him or others of the governance group in a way that might contribute to this process.

CPC meetings are held every other month. Supervisor Don Knabe is the incoming Chair.

e. Education Coordinating Council (ECC)

Ms. Terry Ogawa informed members that the report and recommendations pertaining to early care and education were approved by the ECC at their October meeting. Next steps will be operationalizing the unified strategy to fully integrate early care and education with child welfare and probation services. Ms. Ogawa mentioned that plans are underway for a February meeting of leaders to help guide implementation. Ms. Ogawa also stated that with so much occurring in the field of early care and education, a process is needed to ensure that information is shared across sectors. For more information, Ms. Ogawa can be reached at t_ogawa@sbcglobal.net.

Mr. Wiltse raised an issue of concern with respect to planning for the prevention and early intervention component of the Mental Health Services Act funding. In a conversation with Ms. Helen Kleinberg, he learned that planning meetings to decide funding allocations, while open to the public, are designed to allow only delegate members to speak. It is his understanding that the delegates represent the adult population using mental health services. Ms. Escobedo stated that she has been having conversations with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) regarding an integrated model that is inclusive of the early care and education system, which have been encouraging. She will follow-up with Mr. Sam Chan of DMH regarding the concern and potential of ensuring that voices representing the needs of young children and their families are considered in the process. Ms. Kate Sachnoff added that the meeting of which Ms. Kleinberg spoke was a centralized meeting; planning meetings are also being held in the Service Planning Areas (SPAs). Ms. Malaske-Samu will distribute information on the meeting schedules to the members. She asked that members let her know if they attend meetings.

f. First 5 LA

Dr. McCroskey reported on a special meeting held on November 28, 2007 to address the following items: approve LAUP's Annual Report; approve LAUP's scope of work, budget and sustainability plan; and possible action on an alternative LAUP sustainability plan. Dr. McCroskey stated that there is a projected steady decline in funding that will become available to Los Angeles County from tobacco taxes under Proposition 10 that will be felt in four to five years, which adds to the relevancy of the meeting relating to LAUP's budget. The conversation with LAUP focused on the long-term plans for sustainability. The proposal put forth by the Commission was for LAUP to support its own budget with less reliance on First 5 LA and with a plan for matching funds over time, which was unanimously supported by the Commission members with one abstention. Overall, First 5 LA is strongly committed to preschool and intends to work collaboratively with LAUP on the plan for sustainability. Both will meet again in March 2008 to continue the discussion.

Ms. Kate Sachnoff directed members to their meeting materials for First 5 LA's adopted 2007-09 Public Policy Agenda, "Strengthening Families and Neighborhoods". Ms. Sachnoff reported that the policy agenda is consistent with First 5 LA's goal to impact policy and is aligned with its Strategic Plan as well as County goals, has a prevention orientation, and commits to a leadership role. The document is organized around early learning, health, and safe children and families, yet is intended to address priorities with immediate timelines, such as initiatives and work relating to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), sustainability of LAUP, and health care reform. First 5 LA plans to work with grantees and community partners to be supportive and move forward on the policy items. Ms. Sachnoff invited groups to contact her office if they are also addressing particular policy issues that are aligned with First 5 LA to explore opportunities of support and collaboration.

g. LAUP

Ms. Carolina Alvarez reported that efforts are underway on a sustainability plan. LAUP will be looking carefully at its current projects and partnerships and opportunities for leveraging resources. She added that ensuring children and families receive quality services is imperative. Ms. Alvarez also reported that LAUP's foster care initiative is moving along and that providers working in this area have been identified. In addition, LAUP has partnered with Pathways to conduct trainings on working with children with special needs and best practices. Training dates will be posted on the Web site at www.laup.net.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Malaske-Samu announced that Ms. Stephanie Fricano of the Legislative Analyst's Office will visit the Office of Child Care on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. Staff will provide Ms. Fricano with overviews of the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL), STEP, the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program, the Child Care Planning Committee, and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care. The purpose of the meeting is to plant seeds for future policy development.

7. CALL TO ADJOURN

Mr. Dennis extended happy holidays to members and guests and acknowledged that work ahead in the New Year. He adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

Ms. Carolina Alvarez
Ms. Maria Calix
Mr. Duane Dennis
Ms. Ann Franzen
Mr. Whit Hayslip
Mr. Craig Lancaster
Ms. Sheri Lewis
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Ms. Arlene Rhine
Ms. Connie Russell
Mr. Robert Wiltse
Ms. Mika Yamamoto
Ms. Ruth Yoon

Guests:

Ms. Sally S. Anderson, City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families (CCYF)
Ms. Diana Careaga, First 5 LA
Ms. Leanne Dagin Negras, First 5 LA
Ms. Elizabeth Diaz, CCYF
Ms. Leila Espinosa, UCLA/Early Developmental Screening and Intervention (EDSI)
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA
Ms. Ellie Zucker, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality

Staff:

Ms. Helen Chavez
Ms. Laura Escobedo
Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu
Ms. Martha Navarrete
Ms. Michele Sartell