



**Policy Roundtable for Child Care**  
**Wednesday, December 8, 2010**  
**10:00 a.m. – Noon**  
**Conference Room 743**  
**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles**



**Proposed Meeting Agenda**

- 10:00 1. Welcome and Introductions Ruth Yoon  
Vice Chair
- a. Comments from the Chair
- b. Review of Minutes from October and November 2010 **Action Item**
- 10:15 2. Progress on Updating the Child Care Policy Framework Jacquelyn McCroskey
- Discussion
- 10:50 3. Policy Framework Objective: Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes
- a. Status of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care Adam Sonenshein
- b. Restoration of Funds to Child Development Services **Action Item** Michele Sartell
- c. Congressional Action Michele Sartell
- o Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start
- o Funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant
- o Funding for Early Learning Challenge Grants
- 11:20 4. Update on Selected Proposals Presented to First 5 LA Commission
- a. Early Care and Education Workforce Initiative
- b. Data Collection Plan for Countywide Advocacy and Planning
- 11:35 5. Reflections on Educare Tour Whit Hayslip  
Ruth Yoon
- 11:50 6. Announcements and Public Comment Members & Guests
- 12:00 7. Call to Adjourn

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care is to serve as the official County body on all matters relating to child care, working in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee and the Children's Planning Council, to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County by providing policy recommendations to the Board.

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## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**October 13, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 743  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California**

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

##### **a. Comments from the Chair**

Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

##### **1) Welcome to New Members**

Ms. Nishimura relayed that Ms. Reynolds served two terms as chair of the Child Care Planning Committee, from 2008-2010. With the adoption of the Committee's 2010-11 membership slate, Ms. Reynolds term as chair ended and Ms. Bobbie Edwards was elected as Chair of the Committee. On October 5, 2010, the Board of Supervisors appointed Ms. Edwards to the Roundtable.

On October 12, 2010, the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Adam Sonenshein as the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) representative. Mr. Sonenshein replaces Dr. Celia Ayala.

Ms. Nishimura welcomed the new members and extended her deep appreciation to the contributions made by both Ms. Reynolds and Dr. Ayala. Ms. Nishimura added that they should expect the Roundtable to enlist their help as needed!

##### **2) Strengthening Families Leadership Summit**

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu referred members to their meeting packets for a copy of the Save the Date flyer for the Strengthening Families Leadership Summit scheduled for November 10, 2010. Participation in the event is by invitation only, however she asked for names of anyone interested in attending to let her know so that they may be invited as space allows. Persons representing networks will be encouraged to take back and share the knowledge gained at the summit with other systems in the county.

Because the event conflicts with the Roundtable meeting and a number of members have been asked to participate and serve as panelists, the November meeting of the Roundtable has been rescheduled to Friday, November 12, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in Room 743.

### 3) Comments on the State Budget

Ms. Nishimura noted that the Governor has signed the state budget for 2010-11. Due to some significant cuts in child care and development, some members and guests are not in attendance as they are addressing service reductions and staff layoffs. The cuts are very deep and very serious! Ms. Nishimura deferred a further conversation to later in the agenda.

#### **b. Review of September 8, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Connie Russell made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Whit Hayslip seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a unanimous vote.*

## **2. POLICY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVE**

*Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.*

#### **a. State Budget Update**

Mr. Adam Sonenshein reported that the budget for 2010-11 was passed by the legislature on Friday. The Governor line item vetoed CalWORKs Stage 3 effective November 1, 2010, which means lots of families will be without child care while working and attending school. Other notable cuts are:

- Fifty percent reduction to the Local Planning Councils (LPCs). According to Ms. Malaske-Samu, the LPC contract for Los Angeles County is critical to the operations of the Office of Child Care; as of the meeting, she was not sure whether the budget reduction would have staff implications.
- Approximately 21 percent cut to the Child Care Recruitment and Retention Programs. For Los Angeles County, this means that the Investing in Early Educators Program stipend amounts paid to early educators completing college coursework are likely to be reduced significantly. Consequent to the LPC and Stipend Program cuts, Ms. Malaske-Samu stated that the Office of Child Care will need to identify at least \$200,000 to keep afloat as is.
- Cuts to quality improvement activities based on the recommendation of the Legislative Analyst's Office to align with the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requirements. California spends a larger percentage of its CCDBG funds on quality improvement activities than required by federal law.
- A reduction in the reimbursement rates paid to license-exempt providers.
- A reduction in the Alternative Payment allowances for administration from 19 to 17.5 percent of their total budgets.
- Child development centers will have their reserves capped at five percent.
- The Governor vetoed augmentations to staffing for the Early Learning Advisory Committee.

Advocacy efforts in response to the elimination of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care are moving quickly. Ms. Adela Arellano of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (the Alliance) announced that the Alternative Payment (AP) Program agencies have begun sending Notices of Action to families informing them that their subsidized child care will end as of October 30, 2010. The AP Program agencies also are preparing to layoff approximately 400 staff countywide.

Community Voices is organizing parents to visit their legislators and participate in a rally on Friday, October 15, 2010. The Alliance and the AP Program agencies have been participating in conference calls with the California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD) to clarify issues. In addition, the Alliance and others are exploring how to best help families connect with other services and collect data. They are partnering with Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) to explore transitioning families with four year olds, looking at strategies to track the number of families that may return to CalWORKs, and urging families to register on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL). Ms. Michele Sartell mentioned that families losing their Stage 3 Child Care will not receive the continuity of care priority; several members and guests find this a troubling change in CDE/CDD's position.

The long term strategy is to advocate for the reinstatement of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care. According to Mr. Sonenshein, elected officials plan to start working on the budget upon the swearing in of new members.

Mr. Hayslip announced that Friday at LAUSD is called norm day when LAUSD accounts for the spaces available in all of its centers. After Friday, LAUSD will have a list of where spaces are available for children under five years old. Ms. Younglove stated that all of the Head Start Programs are required to have their programs fully enrolled by October 30<sup>th</sup>, although a small number may have openings after that date.

#### **b. Los Angeles County Legislative Agenda - 2011-12**

Mr. Sonenshein directed members and guests to their meeting packets for copies of the recommendations for the County's State and Federal Legislative Agendas for the coming year.

Next, Mr. Sonenshein reported on bills that were signed into law:

- Senate Bill 1831 (Simitian) incrementally moves the kindergarten start date up and creates transition kindergarten programs. Mr. Hayslip said the true impact of the bill will be experienced a year from this fall. Districts need to be ready to accept children, and that includes having guidelines in place. He added that there is some confusion in the child care community that school districts will be taking children away from their programs. This is not the case as these are children who already would have left to enter kindergarten. LAUSD has 36 pilots up and running with the help of a Packard grant. LAUSD has also tapped into the resources of Dr. Linda Espinoza and Dr. Carola Matera, experts in dual language learning to help facilitate their strong language approach. The Boeing Corporation is underwriting LAUSD's parent engagement piece. A year from next fall, LAUSD anticipates 4,000 children with November birthdates, resulting in a need for 175 classrooms, and then ramping to 500 classrooms by 2013. This is a big jump from their current pilot. LAUSD is developing curriculum materials, which are being considered as a model for districts across the state.

- Senate Bill 1440 (Padilla) will improve articulation between the community colleges and four year colleges.
- Assembly Bill 2084 (Brownley) makes changes to the beverages served in child development programs. This bill implements some of the positive changes that were made to beverages served in schools.

Mr. Hayslip suggested that an opportunity exists for school districts to use their Title 1 funds for early childhood; however, to make this happen would require external pressure. He mentioned that the Chicago Public Schools ended Title 1 programs that were not working and then redirected their funds to early care and education. The Sacramento County Office of Education also has done some work around using Title 1 funds for early childhood. The Joint Committee on Legislation volunteered to study efforts underway and develop advocacy strategies and guidelines on how local school districts could use the funds to serve their communities. Ms. Malaske-Samu asked Ms. Younglove if the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) could assist in raising awareness on how funds are used across the county and point out local examples of where there has been success.

### **3. UPDATING THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CHILD CARE**

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey distributed two items: *From Silos to Systems: Connecting Child Development and County Sponsored Services* and a draft document entitled *Updating the Child Care Policy Framework*. The documents will help guide the work of the County Department/Child Development Collaborative Committee on framing the next iteration of the Policy Framework, including reflecting the work of how County departments are implementing the Strengthening Families Approach philosophy. Dr. McCroskey acknowledged the important contributions of Mr. Michael Gray and Ms. Charlotte Lee, representatives from the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) respectively, and the relatively new involvement of the Probation Department and Department of Mental Health.

Dr. McCroskey mentioned that the first ever policy framework on child care and development was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in January 2009. *From Silos to Systems* summarizes the initiatives and accomplishments to date as reported at the retreat. The policy framework is scheduled for an update in two years, so now is the time to discuss next steps. Dr. McCroskey, Ms. Terry Ogawa, Ms. Malaske-Samu and Ms. Sartell recently met with Mr. Nicolas Ippolito, Deputy to Supervisor Don Knabe, to explore the presentation of the revised policy framework to the Board of Supervisors upon completion. Mr. Ippolito relayed that Supervisor Knabe would be happy to carry the motion and support a public discussion on the item. Supervisor Knabe also supports expansion of the Roundtable to include representatives from the Department of Mental Health and Probation.

Dr. McCroskey stated the question: What is the next iteration of the policy framework that the Roundtable would like to see the Board of Supervisors adopt? She suggested that the work build upon existing efforts and define the work ahead that represents conversations across departments. She suggested identifying two to three major policy areas that relate to more than one department. Dr. McCroskey invited members and guests to submit ideas for the committee to consider and join in the work that will look at how to integrate activities. In the context of the budget cuts, she mentioned that half of the children in the county come to the attention of at least one County department each year.

Member and guest comments:

- Mr. Gray noted that a preliminary analysis of the 467 child deaths from 2008-10 found that 37 percent of the children were in the age range of birth to two years old. He wondered how many of the children may have been enrolled in an early care and education program and, if not, how many deaths may have been prevented. Mr. Gray has been meeting with the DCFS leadership to discuss integrating the Strengthening Families Approach into their in daily work. Specific to internal support programs, Mr. Gray would like to see the information integrated into their service objectives. Dr. McCroskey asked if it would be possible to glean information on whether and the type of early care and education programs the families may have participated in.
- Mr. Hayslip expressed his support for connecting families with high quality services, but noted that the services are not readily available. He suggested exploring how to partner with County departments to maximize resources, beginning with identifying the resources and making the connections. Dr. McCroskey acknowledged the need for two-way connections and shared her thoughts around partnering between the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) Saturday clinics and the Department of Mental Health's contractors funded to provide mental health services as an example. Mr. Hayslip added that he has been meeting with representatives of Magnolia Place and the Early Development Screening and Intervention Initiative to explore co-locating services. He emphasized the importance of relationship-building.
- Ms. Malaske-Samu stated that a revised Policy Framework needs to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January 2011. The November meeting will be devoted to the Policy Framework. In the meantime, a meeting of the County Department/Child Development Collaborative will be scheduled. She also will ask to be on Child Care Planning Committee agenda.

#### 4. UPDATES

##### a. Steps to Excellence Project (STEP)

Ms. Helen Chavez announced the following:

**Enrollments:** 480 applications to join STEP were received during the summer. Most of the applicants were outside of the pilot communities. Official enrollment is at 370. STEP has rated 165 programs to date and should hit 200 by December. STEP will continue to rate programs through June 2011.

**Recognitions:** STEP has received awards from the National Association of Counties, the California Association of Counties, and the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission.

**Evaluation:** Ms. Malaske-Samu has leveraged \$38,000 for a process evaluation of STEP. The Request for Qualifications will be released this month.

**Sustainability:** STEP's primary funders are First 5 LA, the Board of Supervisors and the CDE/CDD. In addition, LAUSD is using Title 1 funds to pay STEP for program ratings. STEP is seeking additional funding from First 5 LA to expand the pilot into the 14 place-based communities and pay for a full-time equivalent trainer. Another potential source of funds may be the money that the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) will use to fund pilot quality

rating systems across the state. Ms. Chavez is finalizing the STEP report and will soon have an executive summary to share with the ELAC.

**Staffing:** On a personal note, Ms. Chavez announced that she accepted a promotion within the Service Integration Branch (SIB) to work with the Education Coordinating Council. She expressed her pleasure in serving the Roundtable, stating that she has learned so much and is grateful for their contributions to STEP. In her new role, Ms. Chavez hopes to collaborate around connecting children to early care and education and helping those transitioning from the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

b. Statewide Planning Efforts

Ms. Younglove distributed excerpts from the application that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on behalf of ELAC. She noted that the October meeting has been rescheduled to November 30. She briefly walked members and guests through the objectives of the grant that includes rolling out a quality rating and improvement system pilot project. The materials also include a list of the ELAC members. Once the money is committed, there may be some changes as ELAC refines the plan with more specificity. There is a state match requirement, which is listed on the last page of the handout.

c. Bridge Funding for CDE/CDD-contracted Programs

Ms. Laura Escobedo was asked to give an update on the plan for bridge funding to address future state budget delays. Ms. Escobedo reminded members that at the previous meeting there was a discussion on the need to develop a mechanism to assist CDE/CDD-contracted child development programs when faced with budget delays. She mentioned that Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start made a request to First 5 LA for funding to assist their State Preschool Programs during the budget impasse. At that meeting, First 5 LA agreed to make a staff person available to participate in local efforts to establish a bridge funding mechanism. Ms. Escobedo has been working on this issue with representatives from the California Community Foundation and the Los Angeles Preschool Advocacy Initiative.

Ms. Escobedo stated that with the immediate crisis for passing of the budget now over, the focus is on issuing the allocations as quickly as possible. Given the data collected from contractors during the budget delay, easily a third of the 150+ contracts were significantly impacted, resulting in closed classrooms and/or sites. Now there are questions on whether programs will fully earn their contracts. In the meantime, work is underway to look at creating a bridge/loan fund. The goal is to have something to present by late spring. Ms. Escobedo concluded her comments by remarking on a ballot initiative that would, if passed, require a majority to pass the state budget. If the initiative passes, it may change the need to establish a local fund. Only three states require a two-thirds majority to pass a budget.

d. First 5 LA

Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that the First 5 LA Commission is scheduled to meet Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. A number of Commissioners are introducing motions to augment First 5's countywide proposals. Ms. Nancy Au and Ms. Angie Stockwell will be introducing a motion to expand the countywide investment in the early childhood workforce. This proposal was developed by Ms. Randi Wolf at LAUP; Mr. Dennis has worked closely with the Commission members to craft a motion that will be successful and will provide a sizable investment in the

local early childhood workforce. The proposal is comprehensive and broad in vision and is designed to bring folks together.

The proposal includes six components:

- 1) Expand the LAUP stipend program to include persons working in programs other than LAUP.
- 2) Support the Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies Gateway program, which provides training for license and license exempt providers, a Web based training calendar, and contracts courses with community colleges.
- 3) Support STEP expansion into all 14 Best Start communities, including training, technical assistance, and coaching in conjunction with the R&Rs Gateway program.
- 4) LACOE - Division of School Improvement
- 5) Higher Education – Teacher Quality Partnership
- 6) Workforce Initiative – Early Care and Education

The ask is for a substantial amount of money. Ms. Malaske-Samu hopes to report on the results of the proposal at the November or December meeting of the Roundtable. While the proposal is listed as an action item on the Commission agenda, typically items are presented in the first month and then voted upon in the next month. The goal is to push money out the door quickly, but still follow the process for public vetting and more. Ms. Malaske-Samu noted that there are lots of proposals on the agenda.

e. Planning for Educare

Mr. Hayslip announced that dates are scheduled for visits and exploration of Educare in Chicago and Omaha. The Chamber of Commerce and Compact LA are providing assistance and support. The Packard and Buffett foundations have awarded the planning grant. Technical assistance is needed for convening groups; Ms. Ogawa has agreed to handle the planning and convening process.

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

- LACOE Head Start is hosting a large resource fair in Exposition Park on November 23, 2010. Several vendors will provide on-site services, including flu shots by the Department of Public Health. Two thousand people are expected to attend. The fair is open to low income families with preschool children.
- First 5 LA is hosting a panel discussion on childhood obesity on November 8, 2010 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- First 5 LA has hired Ms. Carol Baker as its new Policy Department Director. Ms. Baker previously worked in Public Affairs. Ms. Kate Sachnoff said they are recruiting for three positions at the senior and junior analyst levels.

## **6. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Bobbie Edwards  
Mr. Michael Gray  
Mr. Whit Hayslip  
Ms. Charlotte Lee  
Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Mr. Adam Sonenshein  
Ms. Mika Yamamoto  
Ms. Ruth Yoon  
Ms. Sarah Younglove

**Guests:**

Ms. Adela Arellano, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Education Coordinating Council  
Ms. Holly Reynolds, Fairplex Child Development Center  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA

**Staff:**

Ms. Helen Chavez  
Ms. Laura Escobedo  
Ms. Michele Sartell



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care**

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

**November 12, 2010  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 743  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California**

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

##### **a. Comments from the Chair**

Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:12 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

##### **b. Review of October 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Due to lack of a quorum, the October minutes will be held for consideration at the December meeting.

#### **2. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: REFLECTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS**

Ms. Nishimura started the conversation by stating how inspired she was by the summit. Prior to attending, Ms. Nishimura learned from her staff that no one had heard of the Strengthening Families Approach and Protective Factors, given that they see approximately 1,200 children with special needs and the data that speaks to a higher level of risk for child abuse and neglect among this population. She was particularly touched by the emphasis on a strength-based framework and using a common language across disciplines. Ms. Nishimura mentioned that she is impressed by the paradigm change that occurred at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to serving as a resource for families rather than an entity that removes children.

Other members and guests weighed in with their thoughts about the summit as well. Many of the comments were around the models presented and the discussions from the County-Community dialogues and how to take to scale a Strengthening Families Approach in Los Angeles County. It was noted that the Ms. Judy Langford has accomplished a lot of the work by translating very complicated concepts into practical and conversant ideas that are both hopeful and doable. In addition, there is a lot to learn from the work in Illinois that resulted in a paradigm shift as noted by Ms. Nishimura. Dr. McEwen, in his presentation, offered references to resources and literature that contributed to their change in approach. His presentation including the references will be made available soon through an Internet link.

Dr. Randi Wolfe posed the question, “By the end of the day, what are the concrete next steps?” Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu replied that the Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Casey Family Foundation have a plan for taking the common themes and looking at the development of strategies for implementation in Los Angeles County. She added that First 5 LA has been involved from the beginning and was responsible for introducing Los Angeles County to Ms. Langford. It was noted that other foundations – Hilton and Amundson – were present at the summit.

### **3. UPDATING THE POLICY FRAMEWORK**

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey referred to the Summit as the perfect segue for developing the next iteration of the policy framework. She referred members and the guests to their meeting packets for the draft laundry list of potential recommendations framed around the Strengthening Families Approach and the five Protective Factors<sup>1</sup> by Ms. Malaske-Samu in preparation of the meeting. There is some urgency to updating the framework, which is due to the Board of Supervisors in January 2011. An extension may be requested, however the aim is to submit it for action by February/March 2011. The document presented to the Board will include an introduction highlighting the two years of progress, honing in on the partners and their contributions.

Dr. McCroskey walked members through the list, highlighting strategies relating to families receiving services from County departments and with potential promise for achievable outcomes. Some of the highlights include: continuing and expanding upon ongoing activities, such as facilitating enrollments of children under Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) into Head Start; supporting emerging initiatives, such as the development of the Educare child development center in identified southeast Los Angeles communities, the Los Angeles Unified School District Saturday clinics, and the new transition kindergarten classrooms resulting from the passage of Senate Bill 1381; and taking on new endeavors, such as linking homeless families with child development services and reviewing DCFS and Probation policies to ensure teen parents are connected to child development services.

There was some discussion among members and guests around a few of the items as follows:

**Item 1, b, i, c.** *CEO (Chief Executive Office)/SIB (Service Integration Branch) OCC (Office of Child Care) Roundtable shall work with other DCFS family-center services such as kinship caregivers; CalWORKs families with two children under six who are exempt from work requirements; CalWORKs homeless, domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse to facilitate access to child development services.*

- The CalWORKs exemption from welfare-to-work activities for families of young children is set to expire in 2011, therefore does not make sense to address.
- County departments separately hold contracts with organizations that conduct assessments of individuals who come to their attention and may confront issues of homelessness, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse. The respective departments and their contractors do not necessarily work together and may or may not see the same people. One suggestion is to forge a campaign across departments for an integrated service approach.

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<sup>1</sup> The Protective Factors are: Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Concrete Support in Times of Need, and Children’s Social and Emotional Development.

**Item 3, iv.** *OCC Roundtable shall work in partnership with DCFS, Probation, child welfare and child development advocates, legal services, and others to clearly define how children qualify as “at-risk of” abuse or neglect for priority subsidized child care services.*

- Define at-risk more broadly, regardless of child’s placement to encompass children under the purview of DCFS
- Children of teen parents under the supervision of DCFS and Probation
- A strategy may include working up the DCFS chain, then to the California Department of Education to weigh in. Is this a legislative or an administrative issue?

Additional general comments were offered as well and are as follows:

- Dr. McEwen spoke to convening an interagency team to implement the paradigm shift that speaks to parent partnership, professional development, integration of services and more. What might the Los Angeles County version look like? First 5 LA through its Community Opportunities Fund invests in policy change activities.
- Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)-Head Start is implementing a family development credentialing model developed by Cornell University that is similar to the Strengthening Families Approach. Ms. Malaske-Samu will request a presentation on the model from LACOE.
- There needs to be a discussion on the role of the Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agencies. The R&Rs touch lots of families through child care referrals and there may be parents of young children needing assistance from other social service agency. Explore R&Rs as connectors to other services, including those offered by County departments. Child Care Resource Center refers families to 211 LA County. What about LACountyHelps! and using the Healthy City database?
- The Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) is like a control group with lots of families potentially not receiving any services. How are families registered on the LACEL being linked to other resources pending being pulled for enrollment in a child development program? Social service agencies may also help child development programs when they are conducting enrollments connect with families that are harder to reach.
- Explore bringing in representation from the Regional Centers; look at how addressing children at risk for and with special needs throughout the policy framework.
- The framework will build on lessons learned and accomplishments to date.
- Need to incorporate parent involvement and outreach to parents.
- Next steps to move the policy framework agenda will include: take to County department representatives for comment; members representing Board of Supervisor offices present the framework to their respective Board members for feedback; and request a public discussion as part of Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

To conclude, Dr. McCroskey asked for the Roundtable members’ go ahead for the committee to continue working on the recommendations and begin conversations to with County department

representatives. A meeting of the committee will be scheduled before the December meeting of the Roundtable.

#### **4. POLICY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVE**

*Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.*

##### **a. Activity Related to CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care**

Ms. Michele Sartell referred members to their meeting packets for a copy of the draft policy brief summarizing the status of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care since the Governor eliminated funding for it with his line item veto authority when he signed the 2010-11 State Budget. She briefly summarized the work of legislative leaders and community advocates to restore funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care, create bridge funding to cover the child care costs of CalWORKs Stage 3 eligible families (including those transitioning off of CalWORKs Stage 2) until funding is restored, and delay implementation of the termination of families from receiving the services.

#### **5. UPDATES**

##### **a. Update on Selected Proposals Presented to First 5 LA Commission**

Ms. Malaske-Samu reported that First 5 LA has been presented with 22 proposals for funding, which they have whittled to 15. The proposals were assigned to consultants or staff members to conduct analyses for further consideration. The proposals of most interest to the Roundtable are as follows:

- First 5 LA – East Los Angeles College (ELAC) Child Care Providers

See Early Care and Education Workforce Initiative.

- Data Partnership

Dr. McCroskey referred members to the handout included in their meeting packets for the recommendation submitted by Commissioner Duane Dennis. In summary, there are multiple sources of data – 211 LA County, Healthy City and more – on children from birth to five years old and their families that could be pulled together into a comprehensive approach. The proposal would create an infrastructure for reporting on a variety of child and family variables.

- Improving Nutritional and Physical Activity Environment in Child Care Settings

This proposal suggests strengthening the nutritional environments of licensed and license-exempt child care settings by improving the food and beverages served to the children. The elements include trainings to the providers on healthy nutrition standards and physical play activities with children and how to outreach to parents.

- Early Care and Education Workforce Consortium

Dr. Randi Wolfe of Los Angeles Universal Preschool reported on two major proposals. The first is the ELAC Child Care Providers that proposes an education academy targeted to 150 Spanish and 50 Mandarin-speaking family child care providers. The academy would offer educational guidance and specialized coursework in child development and other core subjects to the providers. Its coaching model that would also provide ongoing tutoring and educational/career advisement.

The proposal for the Early Care and Education Consortium represents a collaboration of stakeholders to provide and improve available training and professional development to the early care and education workforce. The request for \$37 million would support six components: Early Care and Education Workforce Initiative (\$3 million); Early Childhood Educators Stipend Program (\$1.2 million to make match for First 5 California initiative, CARES Plus); R&Rs (\$1.9 million); Steps to Excellence Project (\$1.4 million); LACOE Division for School Improvement (\$983,943); and Higher Education Teacher Quality Partnership (\$1 million). Commissioners Nancy Au and Duane Dennis will make the proposal to the full Commission.

A special meeting of the full Commission to consider the proposals is scheduled for Monday, November 15, 2010 at 2 p.m.

#### **b. Planning for Educare**

Ms. Ruth Yoon reported that a group of 10 stakeholders including Ms. Malaske-Samu, Ms. Terry Ogawa and Dr. Celia Ayala are traveling to Chicago then Omaha to visit Educare sites. In Los Angeles County, the plan is to create a state of the art early care and education center, a hub for family services, and a state of the art professional development center. The center will be designed to provide a vision for demonstrated quality and involving parents in promoting their children's development. City of Bell and Cudahy are being considered as potential sites. Santa Clara County is in the planning stage, having completed their visits. Los Angeles County has some funds to start, including bond money for facility construction and funds from the philanthropy community.

### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

- The Child Care Resource Center has published two documents containing data and maps on child care enrollments and need: *Agency-wide Family Needs Assessment* (Fall 2010) and *A Day at the Capitol – Sacramento, CA 2010*. Ms. Ellen Cervantes distributed copies of the first publication, which is also available for download as part of the meeting materials from the Office of Child Care Web site at [www.childcare.lacounty.gov](http://www.childcare.lacounty.gov); click on "Policy Roundtable for Child Care", then click on 'Meeting Schedule' and go to 'Meeting Materials' for November.

### **7. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Maria Calix  
Ms. Bobbie Edwards  
Ms. Charlotte Lee

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Carolyn Naylor  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Ms. Arlene Rhine  
Ms. Connie Russell  
Ms. Ruth Yoon

**Guests:**

Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center  
Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services  
Ms. Patti Oblath, Connections for Children  
Ms. Terry Ogawa  
Dr. Randi Wolfe, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

**Staff:**

Ms. Sarah Moton  
Ms. Michele Sartell



## County of Los Angeles Policy Roundtable for Child Care



*Policy Brief*

*Updated: December 7, 2010*

### STATUS OF CALWORKS STAGE 3 CHILD CARE

On October 8, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger eliminated funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care by line item veto when he signed the 2010-11 State Budget. Immediately following passage of the budget, legislators and advocates across the State have engaged in actions intended to help families weather the immediate crisis of losing their child care and development services and ultimately restore funding to the CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care Program. This addendum provides a brief overview of the CalWORKs Stages of Child Care, the impact of the Governor's action, and the status of recent actions to ensure that families who have successfully transitioned to self-sufficiency are able to continue working with the security that their children are in safe and stimulating child care and development programs.

#### Overview of CalWORKs Child Care

CalWORKs recipients participating in welfare to work activities that lead to employment and self-sufficiency are eligible for child care for their children from birth up to 12 years old and for their children with special needs and severe disabilities up to 18 years old.

There are three stages of child care:

**Stage 1:** Begins when a parent enters a County-approved welfare-to-work program or employment and continues serving them for up to six months or until their work and child care are stable. Families may continue to receive Stage 1 Child Care assistance if there are insufficient funds in Stage 2.

**Stage 2:** Available to families receiving welfare and with stable employment. Families are eligible for Stage 2 Child Care for up to 24 months after they stop receiving cash aid.

**Stage 3:** Prior to the elimination of funding, Stage 3 Child Care supported families as they moved off welfare and into self-sufficiency and had exhausted their up to 24 months of eligibility for Stage 2. Families continued to receive Stage 3 Child Care until they no longer met the income eligibility requirements or their children exceeded the age limit.

#### Governor's Veto of CalWORKs Stage 3

On October 8, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger eliminated funding for the CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care Program when he signed the 2010-11 State Budget for a savings of \$256 million.<sup>1</sup> Approximately one week later, families began receiving Notices of Action that their child care services would be terminated effective November 1, 2010 and were encouraged to register on their County's Centralized Eligibility List (CEL). Almost simultaneously, Notices of Action were sent to families preparing to transition from CalWORKs Stage 2 to Stage 3 Child Care. State policy prohibits these families from receiving priority for continuity of care<sup>2</sup>, which would otherwise allow a family to be picked up relatively quickly by another subsidized child care and development program. Rather, they would be listed based on income (lowest income first) with other families already registered on the CEL.

According to the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, 17,200 children ages birth through 12 years old of 11,700 families in Los Angeles county were due to lose their child care services as of November 1, 2010 resulting from the elimination of funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child

Care. The estimated 6,000 providers – largely licensed centers and family child care homes – serving these families were also at risk of reducing or closing their operations. The 13 organizations that administer the funds – the ten Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and three additional organizations with Alternative Payment Programs – would also experience consequences resulting in an estimated 400 layoffs.<sup>3</sup>

### **Status of Recent Actions to Restore CalWORKs Stage 3 Funding and Provide Transitional Aid to Families**

Since the Governor signed the budget, the legislative leadership and community advocates have been working diligently to develop strategies to: 1) restore funding for CalWORKs Stage 3; 2) establish bridge funding to cover the child care costs of families eligible for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care until cuts are restored; 3) delay implementation of the cuts; and 4) establish CalWORKs Child Care Diversion Services.

#### **1) Legislation to Restore Cuts**

Legislative leaders President Pro Tempore of the Senate Darrell Steinberg and Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez have crafted a bill to be introduced as soon as the legislature reconvenes in early January 2011. The bill proposes a transfer of \$250 million in General funds to the Department of Education to fully fund CalWORKs Stage 3 for 2010-11, retroactive to November 1, 2010. The remaining \$6 million is an allocation of Assembly discretionary funds put forth by Speaker of the Assembly John Pérez.

*On December 6, 2010, the same day that the Legislature met to swear in new members, Speaker Pérez introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 1, which will reappropriate funds to the California Department of Education (CDE) for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care. Of the reappropriation, the funding sources would include \$118 million in unobligated balances appropriated in the Budget Act of 2009 and from the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant and also \$115.5 million from the General Fund.<sup>4</sup>*

#### **2) Bridge Funding**

In the meantime, the California and local First 5 Commissions have been asked to cover the cost of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care during the transitional period beginning November 1, 2010 until the bill is signed.<sup>5</sup> To date, 31 County First 5 Commissions have approved funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 eligible families for their children ages birth to five years old. First 5 LA approved \$15 million for services provided from November 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011. On November 3, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved a mechanism for the funds to go to the 13 organizations that administer the Alternative Payment Programs, which also manage the CalWORKs Child Care funds.<sup>6</sup> Unfortunately, no clear funding stream has been identified to date to bridge the funding gap for school age children up to 12 years old.

#### **3) Delay of Implementation**

On October 29, 2010, the Public Interest Law Office, the Child Care Law Center, Western Center on Law and Poverty, and Public Counsel filed a motion on behalf Parent Voices Oakland and four Stage 3 parents to halt the termination of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care<sup>7</sup> against defendants California Departments of Education and Social Services. Alameda Superior Court Judge Wynne Carvell issued a temporary restraining order and set a full hearing on the matter for November 4, 2010.<sup>8</sup> On November 5, 2010, the Judge blocked the elimination of CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care funding to allow for time to screen families' eligibility for other subsidized child development programs and ordered the CDE to rescind the notice stating that child care support had ended due to lack of funding. A hearing date was set for November 23, 2010 to determine whether to prevent termination of Stage 3 Child Care funding beyond the

immediate stay, with a court date scheduled to reconvene to discuss the merits of the case on November 17, 2010.<sup>9</sup> On November 17th, a settlement was reached. The CDE agreed to continue providing the child care services through December 31, 2010 and to immediately notify parents of their right to be screened for eligibility for other subsidized child development programs.<sup>10</sup>

The CDE has issued a number of Management Bulletins on the elimination of CalWORKs Stage 3 funding and to guide contractors on implementation of the court order.<sup>11</sup>

#### 4) CalWORKs Child Care Diversion Services

On November 24, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) issued an administrative directive internally containing instructions for offering CalWORKs Diversion services to families transitioning from Stage 2 Child Care or receiving Stage 3 Child Care benefits.<sup>12</sup> “These families may choose to apply for CalWORKs and if determined “apparently eligible”,<sup>13</sup> will be offered the opportunity to continue with their CalWORKs application for cash aid or be “diverted” from CalWORKs by receiving a Diversion Services Referral for Child Care to the Alternative Payment Program agency.”<sup>14</sup> Families determined “apparently eligible” may qualify for up to 24 months of Stage 2 Child Care to maintain their employment. Families who have exhausted their CalWORKs 60-month time limit will not be eligible for the Diversion Services referral.

Families with children ages six and older are expected to begin applying for a Diversion Services referral beginning December 1, 2010, while families with young children ages 0 to five should begin applying as of January 1, 2011. Families will be able to apply for the Diversion Services for Child Care at their local DPSS office. DPSS also will be available to conduct screenings at the Alternative Payment Program locations.

#### *Endnotes:*

<sup>1</sup> *California State Budget 2010-11 Summary*, October 8, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> California Department of Education. *CalWORKs Stage 3 Elimination of Funding*. Management Bulletin 10-10, October 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. *CalWORKs Stage 3 Elimination of Funding*. October 2010.

<sup>4</sup> AB 1(Perez): Education Finance: CalWORKs Stage 3.

<sup>5</sup> Letter to Local First Five Commissions from Speaker of the Assembly John A. Pérez and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Darrell Steinberg, October 25, 2010.

<sup>6</sup> Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Supplemental Agenda for Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Retrieved on November 4, 2010 from <http://bos.co.la.ca.us/Categories/Agenda/AgendaHome.asp>.

<sup>7</sup> Fitzharris, T. *Judge Orders Temporary Halt to Implementation of Stage 3 Funding Cut*. CDPI Information Bulletin. November 1, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> Order Granting Interim Relief signed by Judge Wynne Carvill, October 29, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Fitzharris, T. *Judge Orders Temporary Reinstatement of Stage 3 Care Pending Revised Notice to Recipients*. CDPI Information Bulletin. November 5, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Goldmacher, S. *Lawsuit Settlement Keeps Day-care Program Alive through 2010*. *Los Angeles Times*, November 17, 2010.

<sup>11</sup> See Management Bulletins 10-12 through 10-21 available for download at the CDE Web site located at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/ci/allmbs.asp>.

<sup>12</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services. *Child Care Diversion Services*. Administrative Directive 4923, November 24, 2010.

<sup>13</sup> “Apparently eligible” means that the family can demonstrate their eligibility for aid based on their family composition, deprivation factor, family income and family property/resource amounts.

<sup>14</sup> County of Los Angeles Department of Public Social Services. *CalWORKs Diversion Service Overview – Former Stage 3 Child Care Families*. December 1, 2010.

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**PROPOSED REQUEST FOR PURSUIT OF POSITION ON STATE BUDGET ITEMS**  
Prepared for the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Child Care Planning Committee  
Draft: December 6, 2010

On October 8, 2010, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the 2010-11 State Budget bill (SB 870, Chapter 712), which included significant cuts to child care and development services and, through his line item veto authority, the elimination of funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care.

The Office of Child Care administers three California Department of Education funded programs: the county's Local Planning Council (LPC – in Los Angeles County, known as the Child Care Planning Committee), the AB 212 Child Care Recruitment and Retention Program (in Los Angeles County, known as the Investing in Early Educators Program), and the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL). The LACEL was the only program of the three spared from reductions in the Budget Act of 2010 (Senate Bill 870, Chapter 712) signed by the Governor. The Statewide LPC budget was slashed in half from \$6,637,000 to \$3,319,000 while the Statewide AB 212 Program budget was cut by nearly 22 percent from \$15,000,000 to \$11,825,000. In prior years including 2009-10, Los Angeles County's share of the budget for the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and Investing in Early Educators Program have been \$377,000 and \$4,250,000 respectively.

Due to the severity of the cuts and the potential impact on the functions of the Office of Child Care to support the child care and development infrastructure, the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable) with input from the Planning Committee is recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt positions to pursue the restoration of funds to these two programs. The remainder of this memo provides more detailed information on potential impact of the budget cuts to the Planning Committee and the Investing in Early Educators Program.

**CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE (PLANNING COMMITTEE)/LOCAL PLANNING COUNCILS**

**1. Recommend Position: Restore funding to the Local Planning Councils**

**Background**

- LPCs were established in each county in 1991 as a result of AB 2141 to develop priorities for the allocation of federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds to provide subsidized child care and development services to children of income eligible families. In addition, AB 2141 required the LPCs to determine local child care and development needs and develop countywide plans for meeting those needs.
- In 1997, AB 1542 strengthened and broadened the role of the LPCs to include the following mandates: establish priorities for State-contracted child care and development services; conduct countywide needs assessments every five years; review periodically State-contracted child care and development services related to meeting priorities; accomplish work through collaboration with a broad range of community stakeholders; develop countywide comprehensive plans for child care and development services; and coordinate part-day Head Start and State Preschool programs to achieve full-day services.

## Impact of 2010-11 State Budget Reduction on Los Angeles County's Planning Committee

- The LPC budget for 2010-11 was reduced in half from \$6.6 million to \$3.3 million; budget language requires the LPCs to meet their mandated requirements to the extent possible with data that is readily available.
- Los Angeles County's Planning Committee, administered by the Office of Child Care, has been funded annually at \$377,000.
- The budget for the Planning Committee is expected to be reduced significantly, which will result in the curtailment of certain current and ongoing activities as follows:
  - Prohibit travel to and participation in conferences to stay informed of emerging policy issues and trends in child care and development and to bring the Los Angeles County voice to statewide discussions.
  - Hinder using the expertise of the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office to 1) conduct a random sampling of child care and development centers to survey their use of developmental screening tools; and 2) run analyses of the data collected from the survey.
  - Disallow the Office of Child Care from purchasing data and conducting analyses of the data to update the needs assessment that compares the supply with the demand for licensed child care and development services throughout Los Angeles County and that is used for 1) establishing priorities for the allocation of State funds for subsidized services; 2) planning for building capacity to meet the demand; 3) sharing with child care and development programs to leverage public and private funds to expand and enhance the quality of their services; and 4) drawing the attention of elected officials and policy makers to the need.
  - Forbid updating publications with current data, including the economic impact study of the child care and development industry on Los Angeles County and the model compensation scale for child care and development personnel.
  - Prohibit printing of publications and outreach materials for distribution.
  - Restrict responding to emerging issues and opportunities in the field, such as those presented by the development and implementation of a statewide quality rating and improvement system.

**INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATORS PROGRAM/AB 212 CHILD CARE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAM**

**2. Recommend Position: Restore funding to the AB 212 Child Care Recruitment and Retention Program**

**Background**

- Since 2001, the California Department of Education (CDE) has funded the Investing in Early Educators Program to increase the retention of teachers working in child development programs in which most of the children are subsidized by the state and help the teachers work towards completing college coursework that leads to a degree in child development. Los Angeles County's Investing in Early Educators Program has been funded at \$4.25 million annually.
- In budget year 2009-10, more than 1,900 early childhood educators working in CDE-subsidized centers or participating in Family Child Care Home Education Networks or working in centers or family child care homes serving a majority of CDE-subsidized children earned cash stipends (\$1,100 for three units or \$2,110 for six units) for continuing their education leading to a degree in child development. Of these educators, 189 merited an additional stipend for earning an Associate of Arts, Bachelor or Master Degree (\$250, \$550 or \$750 respectively) in child development. In total, over \$3 million was awarded to these early educators by the summer of 2010.
- The Investing in Early Educators Program also supports the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP), which is a quality rating and support system being piloted in 11 communities throughout Los Angeles County. To date,
  - As of December 2010, 185 child care and development centers and family child care homes have received quality ratings. An additional 90 centers and family child care homes are in the pipeline to be rated.
  - In addition to the ratings, participating centers and family child care homes have been eligible to receive up to \$5,000 in quality improvement grants directly related to the STEP criteria.
  - STEP has offered a series of training opportunities every quarter to both STEP participants and the larger child care and development field. Trainings are directly related to the elements of quality on which programs are rated. Staff also provide individualized technical assistance to STEP participants to help them identify and address areas of improvement and prepare for their quality ratings.

**Impact of 2010-11 State Budget Reduction on Los Angeles County's Investing in Early Educators Program**

- The AB 212 budget for 2010-11 was reduced by nearly 22 percent from \$15 million to \$11.825 million; Los Angeles County's Investing in Early Educators Program, administered by the Office of Child Care, has been funded annually at \$4.25 million.

- The budget for the Investing in Early Educators Program is expected to be reduced; a 22 percent reduction would likely result in one or more changes to the Stipend Program as follows:
  - Elimination of graduation stipends for persons earning Master or Doctorate degrees earned during Cycle 12 (FY 2010-11),
  - Smaller stipends paid for qualifying units earned, which may in turn become a disincentive to early educators who may then choose not to continue their education,
  - Automatic disqualification of incomplete applications; no chance of providing missing information, and/or
  - Fewer stipends awarded based on priorities yet to be determined; to date, all eligible applicants completing the education requirements have received a stipend.
- In addition, a funding cut will impair the Office of Child Care's ability to support efforts to fully implement STEP as follows:
  - Reduce staff support essential to STEP operations, including administrative functions, outreach to recruit STEP participants from the pilot communities, technical assistance and training to facilitate program improvements, and ongoing evaluation and program development based on lessons learned.
  - Diminish STEP's visibility for state funding to serve as a viable pilot for a statewide system.

## **Conclusion**

The State Budget reflects significant cuts to child care and development programs, two of which are administered by the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care located within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office: the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and the Investing in Early Educators Project (e.g. Los Angeles County's Local Planning Council and AB 212 Child Care Recruitment and Retention Program respectively).

Due to the projected impacts of the budget cuts to the child care and development infrastructure and the functions of the Office of Child Care, the Roundtable with input from the Planning Committee, recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt a position that supports efforts to restore funds for the Local Planning Councils and the AB 212 Child Care Recruitment and Retention Program. This position is consistent with County policy to support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education, develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system, develop and sustain a well educated, highly skilled and fairly compensated workforce and increase access to high quality subsidized child care and development services.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michele Sartell, Program Specialist III, by e-mail at [msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov) or by telephone at (213) 974-5187.