

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

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|-------|----|--|--------------------|-------------|
| 10:00 | 1. | Comments from the Chair | | Terry Ogawa |
| 10:10 | 2. | Approval of Minutes – October 11, 2017 | Action Item | Terry Ogawa |

Strategic Priority Work

- | | | | | |
|-------|----|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 10:15 | 3. | Follow-up on Old Business
a) Strategic Planning Progress | | Terry Ogawa/Jackie Majors |
| 10:45 | 4. | Workgroup Reports
a) Subsidy Child Care System – CalWORKS Stage 1
b) Los Angeles County’s Prevention Plan – Improving Access to ECE Programs | | Jackie Majors
Jacquelyn McCroskey |
| 11:00 | 5. | Priority Work Updates (brief to allow all updates)
a) Board of Supervisor Designees
i. Comments
b) Roundtable Members | | |

Public Policy

No updates

Wrap-up

- | | | | | |
|-------|----|---------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 11:30 | 6. | Announcements & Public Comments | | Meeting Participants |
| 11:45 | 7. | Meeting in Review | | Terry Ogawa |
| 12:00 | 8. | Call to Adjourn | | Terry Ogawa |

Pending Priority Items:

- Proposed Board Communication Document – Karla Pleitez Howell
- Status on Strategic Plan Development
- Exploring Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation – Kalene Gilbert
- Supporting Gubernatorial Candidates – Michele Sartell
- Measure H – Homeless Initiative – Child Care - Cristina Alvarado

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

Mission Statement

The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development builds and strengthens early care and education by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems and infrastructure improvement.



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Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2017

Welcome and Introductions

1. Call to Order and Comments by the Chair

Chair Terry Ogawa opened the meeting of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) at approximately 10:10 a.m. with self-introductions.

2. Approval of September 13, 2017 Minutes

Upon a motion by Ms. Terri Nishimura and second by Ms. Nellie Ríos-Parra, the minutes for September 13, 2017 were approved. Ms. Kalene Gilbert, Dr. Dawn Kurtz, Dr. Karla Pleitéz Howell, and Dr. Sharoni Little abstained.

Strategic Priority Work

3. Status Updates

a. Overview of Proposed New Agenda

Chair Ogawa introduced the Strategic Progress discussion by presenting the proposed new format for the Roundtable agenda. She described how the new format reflects the feedback received throughout last year and at the annual retreat meeting. The new format, based on the members' collective desire to work towards outcomes, will help the Roundtable to stay on task with its priority agenda, which is focused on Access, Quality and Workforce Development. Chair Ogawa added that in order to solidify communications with the offices of the Board of Supervisors (Board), a specific meeting time will be designated to meet with the Board designees. Workgroups will be formed to work on specific issues like the subsidy child care system and Los Angeles County's (County) Prevention Plan. Chair Ogawa noted that subsequent Roundtable meetings will conclude with specific directions as to how the work will be accomplished by various involved organizations. She then opened the floor to comments from Vice Chair Jackie Majors and other members.

Vice Chair Majors mentioned that the proposed new agenda was designed to be more purposeful, to capture the essence of the Roundtable's work, and to keep the Board offices informed. She also touched on the need to have new member orientations as well as intentional presentations.

Members responded positively to the proposed agenda. A recommendation was offered to further synchronization between each meeting's agenda and the respective minutes to highlight the next steps, action items and outcomes. In response to a question regarding the two work groups listed on the proposed agenda, Chair Ogawa responded that the work groups are proposed to address significant issues (Subsidized Child Care System – CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care and Los Angeles County's Prevention Plan – Improving Access to Early Care and Education Programs) that were discussed last year. Other work groups will be formed as the need arises, but they all need to be relevant, ad hoc, and open to non-member experts.



Members further recommended clarifying the objectives, deliverables and the timeframe for each work group as well as prioritizing the top work groups that address on the most critical issues facing the early care and education system. Chair Ogawa concurred by recommending that each work group begin by defining their work as recommended. A final suggestion was made to align the work groups with the Public Policy Platform.

b. Measure H – Homeless Initiative: Board of Supervisor’s Child Care Motion Update

Ms. Cristina Alvarado of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) provided updates on the progress made by the workgroup convened to respond to the Board’s Measure H – Homeless/Child Care Motion passed on June 13, 2017. Subgroups were formed to address barriers families experiencing homelessness face in accessing subsidized early care and education services and explore opportunities for helping families navigate services and enroll their children. She shared the workgroup’s consideration of piloting a child care navigator concept by co-locating Child Care Resource and Referral (R&R) Agency staff with Coordinated Entry System (CES) for Families Lead Agencies. Another issue raised that requires further exploration is eligibility for CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care.

An interim report was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on September 11, 2017. It was noted among several members that achieving systems integration is challenging and complicated, yet important work that is of interest to the Roundtable as it directly aligns to the priority of access.

The Chief Executive Office is expected to return to the Board with an update on the workgroup’s efforts by November 13, 2017.

4. Workgroup Reports

Chair Ogawa asked for volunteers to chair the two proposed workgroups as follows:

a. Subsidized Child Care System – CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care

Vice Chair Majors volunteered to lead this workgroup.

b. Los Angeles County’s Prevention Plan – Improving Access to Early Care and Education Programs

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey volunteered to lead this workgroup.

Vice Chair Majors offered to work with Dr. McCroskey on developing a screener to reflect the objectives, deliverables, timeframe and partners.

Chair Ogawa explained the priority workgroups to be exclusively relevant to the Roundtable’s priority agenda items, which are Access, Quality, and Workforce Development. Dr. Howell recommended and volunteered to initiate a monthly brief written report to the Board offices that uniformly updates them about different priorities. Both Chair Ogawa and Vice Chair Majors reminded members of the need and the opportunity to have two-way reporting between the Board offices and the Roundtable. Ms. Nishimura announced that the Fourth District Children’s Deputy, Mr. Kelvin Driscoll, is moving to a different position with the County.

5. Priority Work Updates

a. Exploring Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

Ms. Kalene Gilbert announced the Department of Mental Health's exploration of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is seeking for experts from the Roundtable to join a discussion of exploration in early November 2017. Ms. Tasha Boucher of St. John's Child and Family Development Center (St. John's) further explained that, by securing grant funding, they partnered with Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to provide early childhood mental health specialists to local schools with early care and education (ECE) programs. Ms. Boucher shared the profound impact that the model has on the children and their families enrolled in the programs as well as the teachers' in their work with the families. She noted St. John's success in receiving additional grant money from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health and the organization's readiness to partner with other school districts to expand the model.

Public Policy

6. Approval of Public Policy Platform – Second year of the 2017-18 Legislative Session

Ms. Michele Sartell, on behalf of the Joint Committee on Legislation (Joint Committee), presented the Public Policy Platform for the Second Year of the 2017-18 Legislative Session. The Joint Committee reviewed the current Platform in June and agreed that the items should remain without changes as stated in the document. An item has been floated in response to Supervisor Hahn's motion for attention to connecting children and families experiencing homelessness to early care and education services; it has been pointed out that item 8 of the platform addresses this population, supported by a specific bullet point.

Upon a motion by Ms. Fran Chasen and second by Mr. Boris Villacorta, the Public Policy Platform for the Second Year of the 2017-18 Legislative Session was unanimously approved.

7. Legislative Updates

Ms. Sartell referred members and guests to the matrix of State Legislation listing the results of the bills that made it to and were acted upon by the Governor. It was noted that the four bills proposing individualized county child care subsidy plans were awaiting the Governor's action (*as of this writing, all the bills were approved by the Governor as of October 12, 2017*).

Ms. Sartell further shared an informative handout about Choose Children 2018, which is a statewide campaign committed to ensuring California's next governor is a champion for young children. She also shared a summary handout regarding the Child Care for Working Families Act introduced by Senator Patty Murray and Representative Bobby Scott.

Chair Ogawa asked the Roundtable for their feedback on the Gubernatorial Candidates speaking at the recent Birth to Five Water Cooler Conference held in Sacramento. Dr. Howell mentioned that all four candidates emphasized the importance of early care and education. Dr. Howell suggested sharing the Roundtable's voice in the form of a letter of recommendation to the candidates to raise priority concerns around early care and education. Dr. Little recommended researching the possible limitations for the Roundtable to engage in election related campaigns and activities.

Wrap Up

8. Meeting in Review

a. Action Items

Item Description	Lead
Utilize the new format of the agenda for subsequent meetings	T. Ogawa & J. Majors
Initiate preparation of brief monthly written reports to the Board offices	K. Howell (volunteered)
Convene a Subsidized Child Care System – CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care	J. Majors (volunteered)
Convene a Los Angeles County’s Prevention Plan – Improving Access to Early Care and Education Programs Workgroup	J. McCroskey (volunteered)
Schedule separate monthly meetings with the Board designees	T. Ogawa

b. Follow up Items

Item Description	Lead	Pending
Measure H – Homeless Initiative: Board of Supervisor’s Child Care Motion	J. Majors & C. Alvarado	Updates
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	K. Gilbert	Updates
Letter of Recommendation to Gubernatorial Candidates	M. Sartell	Research

9. Announcements and Public Comments

- Dr. Dawn Kurtz announced that LAUP will be changing its name.

10. Call to Adjourn

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

Members Attending:

Boris Villacorta, First Supervisorial District

Dawn Kurtz, LAUP

Fran Chasen, Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children

Jackie Majors, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commission for Children and Families

Jennifer Hottenroth, Department of Children and Family Services

Kalene Gilbert, Department of Mental Health

Karla Pleitéz Howell, First Supervisorial District

Katie Fallin Kenyon, First 5 LA

Nellie Ríos-Parra, Child Care Planning Committee

Robert Gilchick, Department of Public Health

Sharoni Little, Second Supervisorial District

Terri Nishimura, Fourth Supervisorial District

Terry Ogawa, Third Supervisorial District

Alternate Members Attending:

Aden Michael for Kalene Gilbert, Department of Mental Health
Colleen Pagter for Dean Tagawa, Los Angeles Unified School District
Debi Anderson, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Ellen Cervantes for Jackie Majors, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Liliana Alvarez Hernandez for Fran Chasen, Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children

Guests Attending:

Ariana Oliva, LAUP
Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Elsa Jacobsen, LAUP
Khydeeja Alam Javid, Advancement Project California
Patrick MacFarlane, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Rob Beck, Department of Public Social Services
Susan Savage, Child Care Resource Center
Tasha Boucher, St. John's Child and Family Development Center
Tatevik Magakyan, Department of Parks and Recreation

Staff:

Gevik Shahverdian
Michele Sartell

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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Workgroups

At times, it will be necessary for workgroups to be established to dig deeper into significant issues. These groups will be assigned by interest, relevance and access to information. The duration of the workgroup, the time commitment and outcomes will be specific to the issue and determined by the workgroup lead. These workgroups may require in-person meetings or conference calls outside of the normally scheduled Roundtable meetings.

In an effort to use member's time in the most effective way possible, the lead member of the assigned workgroup will assess the issue using a "screener" to gauge relevance, appropriateness, member expectations and outcomes.

Workgroup Screener

1. Does the issue have a critical impact on Access, Quality and Workforce as it relates to young children and their families?
2. What is the anticipated time commitment?
3. What is the expected outcome of this workgroup?

PROPOSED PREVENTION WORK GROUP

Introduction

On June 30, 2017, the Office of Child Protection (OCP) published its prevention report, *Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: A Prevention Plan for Los Angeles County*. The report includes seven strategies including a strategy focused on early childhood education:

4. Improve access to early care and education (ECE) programs.

We will call on stakeholders to enhance partnerships among the County's Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, the Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council, LACOE, school districts, First 5 LA, the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, and others to work on improving access to ECE for those families interested in participating. Many ECE programs have complicated enrollment processes with short and narrow enrollment windows that may not align with the child care needs of vulnerable biological families, resource families, or relatives who work or go to school. Immediate goals include mapping ECE resources, providing information on this complex system to County departments and their community partners, helping families served by County departments access and navigate the ECE system, linking entities specializing in ECE to P&A networks and family-serving County departments, and enhancing the ability of the Department of Children and Family Services to make referrals electronically and track whether or not services are received. Over the longer term, we hope to develop strategies for utilizing existing ECE resources more efficiently regardless of funding source, and for seizing opportunities to expand the quality and availability of ECE services in communities with the largest gaps between supply and demand. As with the approach to home visitation described in strategy 3 above, shared planning is needed to align and maximize resources, given varying funding streams and eligibility criteria.

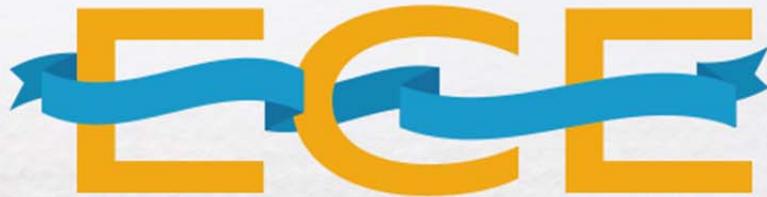
The OCP has turned to the Roundtable to lead this effort. The Prevention Work Group will be convened to frame and discuss issues, develop recommendations for the Board of Supervisors and other stakeholders, and work collaboratively with the OCP to assure alignment with the other six prevention strategies.

Screening questions

1. *Does the issue have a critical impact on access, quality and workforce as it relates to young children and their families?* Yes – as described above.
2. *What is the anticipated time commitment?* Monthly meetings beginning in January 2018, with possible additional meetings as needed to meet with key partners and shape reports.
3. *What is the expected outcome of this work group?* Recommendations for the Board of Supervisors and other stakeholders, with written reports as needed in alignment with overall reporting on development of the County's child maltreatment prevention plan.



CA ASSEMBLY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION



ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Save the Date!

**Friday, November 17, 2017
at 2 p.m.**

Elihu M. Harris State Building - First Floor Auditorium
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA 94612

More info at speaker.asmdc.org, click on "issues"

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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND
POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Wrap-up of the California State Budget and Legislation – First Session of 2017-18
Child Care and Development**

California State Budget 2017-18

On June 27th, Governor Jerry Brown approved the Budget Act of 2017-18. Overall, the budget reflects the Governor's continuing fiscal prudence due to economic uncertainties in anticipation of another recession, while increasing investments in key priority areas including education, reducing poverty and improving state infrastructure. Contrary to Governor Brown's initial proposal to pause multi-year investments to child care and development as promised in the 2016-17 budget, his approved 2017-18 budget package boosts reimbursement rates and expands full-day state preschool spaces. Furthermore, the budget expands eligibility for state subsidized child care and development services to low-income families and creates a bridge fund to provide emergency services to foster children. Concurrently, the budget package initiates a process for streamlining and aligning early learning programs serving four year old children administered by local education agencies (LEAs).

Child Care and Development Budget Items

Reimbursement Rates

- Allocates \$160.3 million (\$43.7 million Proposition 98, \$23.9 million non-Proposition 98 General Fund) to raise by five percent the State Reimbursement Rate (SRR) paid to organizations holding contracts with the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide center-based services to children of income-eligible families. Provides an additional six percent (\$60.7 million Proposition 98, \$32 million non-Proposition 98 General Fund) increase to the SRR. Per se, Increases the SRR for general child care and development programs to \$45.44 per child day of enrollment; increases the SRR for part-day California State Preschool Program (CSPP) to \$28.32 per child day of enrollment and for full-day CSPP to \$45.73 per child day of enrollment. Increases are effective as of July 1, 2017.
- Augments the budget for the Regional Market Rate (RMR) by \$40.6 million General Fund to increase the maximum reimbursement ceiling for voucher-based child care and development programs serving low-income families to the 75th percentile of the 2016 RMR survey effective January 1, 2018.

Access

- Expands the availability of full-day CSPP for local education agencies (LEAs) to serve an additional 2,959 children with an increase of \$7.9 million Proposition 98 funds beginning March 1, 2018.
- Allows part-day CSPP to achieve full enrollment by admitting three and four year old children with exceptional needs regardless of family income once all otherwise eligible children have been enrolled.

California State Budget 2017-18

Eligibility

- Establishes 12 months of continuous eligibility for income-eligible families with children at 70 percent of State Median Income (SMI) at time of enrollment in state subsidized early care and education programs. Families will remain income-eligible at time of recertification as long as their total adjusted income is at or below 85 percent of SMI. Families are required to report increases in income that exceeds the 85 percent threshold. The SMI will reflect the most current census data as calculated by the California Department of Finance, effective July 1, 2018. Allocates \$25 million to update the income eligibility limits and implement the provision.

Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children

- Creates a voucher based program to subsidize child care and development services for eligible children placed by the child welfare system with approved resource families, licensed or certified foster families, or approved relatives or nonrelative extended family members or children of system-involved young parents, effective January 1, 2018. The new program also provides navigators through the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to help families transition to more permanent sources of subsidized services and arranges for trauma informed training for staff of programs serving children involved with the child welfare system.

Budget Bills with Child Care and Development Items

AB 97	Budget Act of 2017	Chapter 14 Approved by Governor: June 27, 2017
AB 99	School finance: education omnibus trailer bill – modifies various education programs, including child care and development	Chapter 15 Approved by Governor: June 27, 2017
SB 89	Human Services Budget Bill – includes provision for Emergency Child Care Bridge Fund for Foster Children	Chapter 24 Approved by Governor: June 27, 2017
SB 113	Budget Act of 2017 – amends Budget Act of 2017, including modest adjustments to funding for CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care, Quality Improvements and 21st Century Community Learning Centers	Chapter 181 Approved by Governor: August 24, 2017

California State Legislation¹

Introduction

Legislators considered 45 bills of interest to the early care and education community during the First Session of the State Legislative Session for 2017-18. Eighteen bills made it to the Governor's desk for his consideration, of which 17 were approved and one was vetoed. Two bills – AB 60 providing continuous eligibility for income eligible families and AB 1154 establishing the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children – were addressed in the budget bills approved by the Governor. This section contains a brief summary of the bills that passed the legislature for the Governor's consideration and action. Approved bills take effect on January 1, 2018 unless otherwise noted.

Regulatory Compliance/Health and Safety

SB 401 (Pan)	Requires an office building meeting the child care needs of state employees to comply with Title 22 regulations for indoor and outdoor activity space.	Chapter 235 Approved: September 11, 2017
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Streamline of Administrative Processes and Eligibility for Subsidized Child Care and Development Services

AB 258 (Arambula) ²	Authorizes Fresno County to develop an individualized county child care subsidy plan.	Chapter 697 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 273 (Aguiar-Curry)	Creates a condition for eligibility of subsidized child care and development services to parents engaged in an educational program for English language learners or to attain a high school diploma or general education development certificate.	Chapter 689 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 300 (Caballero)	Authorizes Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties to develop an individualized county child care subsidy plans.	Chapter 699 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 377 (Frazier)	Authorizes San Diego and Solano Counties to develop an individualized county child care subsidy plans.	Chapter 701 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 435 (Thurmond)	Authorizes Contra Costa, Marin and Sonoma Counties to develop an individualized county child care subsidy plans.	Chapter 703 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 603 (Quirk-Silva)	Allows Alternative Payment (AP) Programs to establish an electronic timesheet process for the monthly attendance record or invoices. Requires AP programs to offer reimbursement to providers via direct deposit transfer into provider's financial institution account. Effective as of July 1, 2019.	Chapter 706 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 1106 (Weber)	Requires, with exceptions, an AP program to have no less than 36 months to expend funds allocated to that program in any fiscal year.	Chapter 716 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017

¹ To obtain additional information about any legislation, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.htm.

² Governor Brown included a signing message with his approval of AB 258, AB 300, AB 377 and AB 435 as follows: "Although I am signing [AB 258]. ... the process for developing and approving individualized plans needs to be streamlined. Additionally, counties need to ensure that CalWORKs families in Stage 1 child care are not inadvertently disadvantaged when crafting these plans. Thus, I am directing my administration to work with the [CDE] and the specific counties named in these bills to implement whatever administrative or statutory changes are needed to reduce the bureaucratic burden that has become all too commonplace in the development and oversight of these plans. Changes should be expedited so that counties can proceed with the business of serving families in the most appropriate and efficient manner possible. Our programs in this area have become overly complicated and bureaucratic. We can and should establish a more efficient and flexible system for our partners."

Higher Education		
AB 19 (Santiago)	Establishes the CA College Promise, which will waive for one academic year some or all of the fees for any first-time community college student enrolled full time who submits either a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a California Dream Act application.	Chapter 735 Approved by Governor: October 13, 2017
SB 164 (McGuire)	Amends existing law by requiring each community college district that administers a priority enrollment system to grant priority for registration to any student who is a recipient under the Tribal TANF program.	Chapter 97 Approved by Governor: July 21, 2017
Workforce		
AB 26 (Caballero)	Would have provided an outreach, training and technical assistance pilot program targeted to license-exempt child care providers.	Vetoed by Governor: October 12, 2017 Message, in part: A new pilot program, undifferentiated from existing programs, seems unnecessary to establish at this time.
AB 168 (Eggman)	Prohibits an employer from relying on salary history information of an applicant for employment as a factor in determining whether to offer an applicant employment or what salary to offer an applicant. Applies to all employers, including state and local government employers and the Legislature.	Chapter 788 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 450 (Chiu)	A companion bill to California's 'sanctuary state' bill (SB 54), the Immigrant Worker Protection Act introduces measures designed to limit workplace raids by federal enforcement.	Chapter 492 Approved by Governor: October 5, 2017
SB 54 (De León)	Prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies, including school police and security departments, from using money or personnel to investigate, interrogate, detain, detect, or arrest persons for immigration enforcement purposes and would, subject to exceptions, proscribe other activities or conduct in connection with immigration enforcement by law enforcement agencies.	Chapter 495 Approved by Governor: October 5, 2017
Miscellaneous		
AB 480 (Gonzalez Fletcher)	Supportive services for families participating in CalWORKs to include additional \$30 per month to assist with cost of diapers for each child under 36 months of age.	Chapter 690 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 752 (Rubio)	Prohibits a CDE-contracted child care and development agency from expelling or un-enrolling a child due to behavioral concerns unless certain conditions are met.	Chapter 708 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
AB 1520 (Burke)	Establishes the Lifting Children and Families Out of Poverty Task Force for the purpose of submitting a report to the Legislature and the executive branch administration of the state that recommends future comprehensive strategies to achieve the reduction of deep poverty among children and reduce the overall child poverty rate in the state.	Chapter 415 Approved by Governor: October 2, 2017

SB 63 (Jackson)	Establishes the New Parent Leave Act. Prohibits an employer for refusing to allow an employee with more than 12 months of service and at least 1,250 hours of service during the previous 12-month period, and who works at a worksite in which the employer employs at least 20 employees within 75 miles, to take up to 12 weeks of parental leave to bond with a new child within one year of the child's birth, adoption, or foster care placement. Additional provisions relating to family leave included in the legislation.	Chapter 686 Approved by Governor: October 12, 2017
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Questions or comments relating to this document may be referred to Michele Sartell, Los Angeles County Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education within the Service Integration Branch of the Chief Executive Office, by e-mail at msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 974-5187.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
 POLICY ROUNDTABLE
FOR CHILD CARE
AND DEVELOPMENT
POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Jeannette Aguirre

October 19, 2017

Maria Calix

Fran Chasen

To: Stephen Sotomayor
Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations

Richard Cohen, Ph.D.

From: Harvey Kawasaki, Manager
Service Integration Branch

Carina Cristiano

Katie Fallin Kenyon, Ph.D.

Michele P. Sartell, Program Specialist III
Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education
Service Integration Branch

Robert Gilchick, M.D., M.P.H.

Jennifer Hottenroth, Psy.D.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STATE
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR SECOND SESSION OF 2017-18 –
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT ITEMS**

Karla Pleitéz Howell, J.D.

Harvey Kawasaki

This memorandum responds to the request for review and update of the County's State Legislative Agenda items for child care and development (section 1.3) for the second year of the 2017-18 legislative session. For reference, attached to this memorandum is the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) Public Policy Platform – Second Year of 2017-18 Legislative Session (Platform).

Dawn A. Kurtz, Ph.D.

Sharoni Little, Ph.D.

Jackie B. Majors

Jacqueline McCroskey, D.S.W.

In addition, this memorandum calls attention to priority issues with potentially significant impacts on the field of early care and education that may be addressed through budget proposals and legislation during the upcoming session. Jointly, the Roundtable and the Planning Committee will closely monitor proposals that address these issues and forward items relevant to meeting the needs of children and families in our County to the Board of Supervisors with proposed pursuits of position.

Stacy Miller

Terri Chew Nishimura

Terry Ogawa

Faith Parducho

Nurhan Pirim

Nellie Ríos-Parra

Dean Tagawa

Boris E. Villacorta

Keesha Woods



County Legislative Agenda – Items for Child Care and Development

For background, each year the Planning Committee and Roundtable review the Platform, which delineates the County's legislative agenda items for child care and development (sub-section 1.3) with examples of efforts that may be addressed by proposed legislation or state budget. The Platform was considered by the Planning Committee on September 6, 2017 and then was approved by the Roundtable on October 11, 2017. Both bodies recommend referencing the availability of the Platform document in the material presented to the Board of Supervisors and made available to the general public through the County and/or Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education website.

The following reiterates sub-section 1.3 Child Care and Development as listed in the County's current State Legislative Agenda, recommending that the items be retained as written.

1.3 Child Care and Development

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.
2. Support efforts to develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.
3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the culturally and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.
4. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).
5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low and moderate income families.
6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.
7. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care and development programs.
8. Support efforts to ensure vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.
9. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services through facility development in communities of unmet need.

Emerging Early Care and Education Public Policy Priority Issues for 2017-18

Notable gains were realized for early care and education services during the first legislative session of 2017-18, including increased reimbursement rates for state subsidized programs, the expansion of state preschool programs to serve additional three and four year old children, and administrative efficiencies designed to streamline enrollment for qualifying families. Furthermore, the approved budget for 2017-18 established 12 months of continuous eligibility for children of eligible families up to 85 percent of State Median Income (SMI), and created the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children. However, the early care and education system has not yet fully recovered from the budget cuts that occurred during the recession. In fact, the Planning Committee's needs assessment completed this year documents the persistent significant gap in services for low-income families, commenting that only 15 percent of infants and toddlers of income eligible families compared to 41 percent of preschool age children are served. In addition, early care and education programs – centers and family child care homes – continue to face challenges operating quality programs with existing reimbursement rates that, in part, fail to compensate its staff commensurate with education and experiences.

Efforts are underway by early care and education stakeholders across the state to identify and raise priority issues relating to access, quality and workforce that may be addressed through legislation and/or state budget proposals in the upcoming session. The Roundtable, with input from the Planning Committee, will urge the Board of Supervisors to join efforts locally and across the state to support proposals that focus around three general areas: 1) increase access to subsidized child care and development services for children birth to five years old (birth up to 35 months old and preschool for three and four year olds) for all eligible families, with a focus on services for infants and toddlers; 2) streamline the current dual reimbursement system and raise rates reflective of the true cost of providing quality services; and 3) grow investments to enhance the quality of the services through professional development activities, the evolution of the quality rating and improvement system (QRIS), and QRIS Block Grants that address the quality of programs serving infants and toddlers as well as preschool age children.

In closing, thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on the County's State Legislative Agenda and offer preliminary areas of advocacy for the coming session. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this memo, please contact Michele by e-mail at msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 974-5187.

Attachment

HK:MPS

Cc: Nellie Ríos Parra, Chair, Child Care Planning Committee
Terry Ogawa, Chair, Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development

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PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM
Second Year of 2017-18 Legislative Session

Introduction

The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) promote policies designed to increase the availability of and access to affordable, high quality early care and education programs for all children and their families of Los Angeles County. This public policy platform presents current and emerging policy issues in early care and education that are consistent with the County of Los Angeles State Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 2017-18 Legislative Session. The platform delineates each of the County's legislative agenda items in **bold** followed by examples of efforts that may be addressed by proposed legislation and/or the proposed state budget.

Platform Issues

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high standards for all services and program types and address the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and other special needs, and their families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Addressing the early care and education needs of children from birth through age 12, including infants and toddlers, preschool and school age children, and children with disabilities and other special needs up to age 22, and their families.
- Enhancing the quality of centers, family child care homes, and license-exempt care providers.
- Promoting a strengthening families approach to meet the needs of children at risk for abuse, neglect or sexual exploitation or under the supervision of the child welfare system and children of families under the supervision of Probation.
- Integrating early identification and intervention systems that recognize and respond early to young children who may be at risk for disabilities and other special needs.
- Developing policies that encourage collaboration between early care and education programs and locally-funded projects and public agencies that foster child and family well-being through the provision of coordinated services.
- Incorporating optimal health promotion policies and procedures as an integral component that contributes to the overall quality of early care and education services and programs.
- Engaging parents as their child's first teachers and partners in promoting their child's optimal growth and development.

2. Support efforts to develop and implement a statewide quality rating and improvement system and a system to adjust reimbursement rates based on demonstrated quality.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Providing parents with clear, concise information on the quality of early care and education settings.
- Fostering the engagement of parents that promotes their child's optimal healthy growth and development and learning.
- Incorporating early learning standards that are research-based, culturally responsive to children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, aligned with existing regulatory systems and local quality initiatives, recognize and respond to the individual needs of children in group settings, and attend to families' needs for comprehensive services.
- Building an infrastructure of technical assistance, financial supports and training, all of which are tied to defined quality standards, to help early care and education programs achieve and maintain high quality services.

3. Support efforts to develop and sustain a well-educated and highly skilled professional workforce prepared to serve the culturally and linguistically diverse child and family populations of Los Angeles County.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Focusing on teachers and other members of the workforce gaining skills and demonstrating competencies in the following areas: forming relationships and interacting with children, how to provide instructional support to children, best practices in working with dual language learners, proficiency in recognition and response to children with disabilities and other special needs, health and nutrition best practices, engaging parents and guardians, and expertise on the spectrum of child development from birth through early adolescence. Workforce practice must be based on established early care and education research.
- Offering coursework and instruction responsive to a multi-lingual, multicultural workforce, including but not limited to providing content in students' home language and offering classes during non-traditional hours.
- Expanding early childhood educators' access to higher education through stipend programs, grant funds and loan forgiveness programs, higher compensation when they attain post-secondary degrees, and benefits (i.e. health insurance and retirement plans).
- Facilitating child development or early childhood education coursework coordination and articulation between the community colleges and California State University (CSU) and University of California (UC) systems.

- Supporting efforts to enhance the quality of the license-exempt care workforce and facilitating connections between license-exempt care and the larger system of early care and education.
- Supporting alignment of teacher requirements under Title 22 with teacher requirements under Title 5.

4. Support efforts to ensure the health and safety of all children cared for in licensed early care and education facilities as afforded by timely, regular, and frequent on-site monitoring by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Increasing to, at a minimum, annual inspections of centers and family child care homes.
- Advocating for, at a minimum, annual unannounced inspections of all licensed facilities.
- Providing that CCLD is sufficiently funded, staffed and held accountable to meet the standards, conduct timely reviews of licensing applications and responses to complaints, and provide technical assistance and resources to current and future licensees.
- Ensuring that costs of obtaining and renewing the license (or licenses for programs with multiple sites) is reasonable and not an extraordinary burden to the licensee's cost of doing business.

5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low and moderate income families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Expanding access to high quality subsidized services for all eligible children, including infants and toddlers and children with disabilities and other special needs as well as preschool and school age children.
- Increasing levels of reimbursement in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) and the Regional Market Rate (RMR) to compensate providers for the true cost of high quality services.
- Prioritizing funds targeted to infants and toddlers to meet the growing demand for high quality services.
- Increasing funds for expansion of high quality full-day, full-year services for all ages.
- Offering tax incentives to businesses to provide or subsidize employee's early care and education services.

- Ensuring that the income ceiling for eligibility for State subsidized care reflects the current State Median Income (SMI), adjusted by region if appropriate.
- Opposing proposals that would reduce subsidized rates based on geographic location.

6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Allowing administrative efficiencies such as multi-year contracting, grant-based funding, and waivers on program rules and regulations to allow flexibility of services based on community and family needs.
- Establishing a 12-month annual eligibility redetermination to allow for more stable enrollments for early care and education programs and continuous services for children and their families.
- Ensuring agencies have the capacity to connect with and serve the most vulnerable and the most difficult-to-serve families.
- Maintaining affordable family fees that do not exceed eight percent of gross family income.
- Maintaining part-day State Preschool as a free, comprehensive early care and education program.
- Allowing for various systems that serve vulnerable and low-income children and families to streamline administrative functions and share information in order to facilitate the enrollment of children in subsidized early care and education programs and to participate in joint data collection efforts.

7. Support proposals designed to prevent, detect, investigate and, when appropriate, prosecute fraud in subsidized child care and development programs.

8. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Making sure that California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) families have access to child care and education services, ensure that participating families are afforded the time and information needed to evaluate their child care and education options and make sound choices, and that allow parents to pursue or maintain employment.

- Promoting, facilitating and supporting consistent and continuous participation of children under the supervision of the child welfare system and Probation and their families in high quality programs that promote healthy child development and support effective parenting.
- Ensuring that all subsidized children – infants and toddlers, preschool age, and school age children – and their families have access to consistent and continuous high quality early care and education services that partner with parents to promote children’s healthy growth and development and prepare them for school and life, and meet the needs of families.
- Addressing the needs of pregnant and parenting teens to ensure their access to high quality early care and education services that support their academic goals, promote positive and effective parenting skills, and contribute to their child’s healthy growth and development.
- Facilitating access to high quality early care and education programs that are responsive to the unique needs of children and families experiencing homelessness.

9. Support efforts to expand the supply of appropriate early care and education services through facility development in communities with a significant shortage of these services.

Such efforts should include, but not be limited to:

- Facilitating the cost of effective construction or renovation of early care and education facilities in communities with unmet needs for these services.
- Integrating early care and education in specific plans for land use, housing, transportation, economic, workforce, and community development.