



Wednesday, June 3, 2020 - 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Virtual – TBD (Placeholder: Microsoft Teams)

AGENDA

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| 1.
12:00 | Welcome and Introductions
▪ Opening Statement and Comments by the Chair

▪ Roll Call of Members/Alternates and Guests | Julie Taren, Chair

Erica Weiss, Staff |
| 2.
12:15 | Approval of Minutes
▪ March 4, 2020
▪ May 6, 2020

▪ Roll Call of Members/Alternates | Action Items
Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair

Erica Weiss |
| 3.
12:25 | Public Policy
▪ Revisions to Governor’s 2020-22 Budget Proposals for ECE
- Analysis and Pursuits of Position

▪ Roll Call of Members/Alternates | Emma Watson, Co-chair, Joint Committee on Legislation and Michele Sartell, Staff

Erica Weiss |
| 4.
12:50 | Child Care Planning Committee Membership 2020-21
▪ Presentation of Membership Slate 2020-21

▪ Roll Call of Members/Alternates | Action Item
Nicole Lopez and JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia
Governance Work Group Co-chairs

Erica Weiss |
| 5.
1:00 | Re-envisioning Early Care and Education in the Aftermath of COVID-19: A Conversation | Julie Taren, Facilitator
All |
| 8.
1:45 | With Gratitude: Final Notes for 2019-20 | Julie Taren, Ernesto Saldaña and Michele Sartell |
| 9.
1:50 | Announcements and Public Comment
▪ Quality Counts CA Workforce Pathways Grant RFA
▪ LPC Local Funding Priorities – Summer Meeting TBD | Ernesto Saldaña |
| 10.
2:00 | Call to Adjourn | Julie Taren |

Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 2, 2020

New Member Orientation: 10:30 – 11:45 a.m. ▪ General Meeting: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

VISION STATEMENT

Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.

MISSION STATEMENT

Lead, build and strengthen an affordable and high-quality early care and education system for the children and families of Los Angeles County.

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Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2020

Members in Attendance (34)				
Parents	ECE Program	Community Agency	Public Agencies	Discretionary
Alejandra Berrio	Rocio Bach	Samitha Givens	Cherise Roper for Ranae Amezquita	Christina Acosta
Cathy Coddington	Sandra Flores	Alex Himmel	Peter Piñon for Eileen Carrillo-Lau	Kevin Dieterle
Nellie Ríos-Parra	Monica Barahona for Andrea Joseph	Lisa Cain-Chang for Elyssa Nelson	Angela Gray	Toni Isaacs
Ernesto Saldaña	Nicole Lopez	Melissa Noriega	Jacqueline Lopez for Daniel Orosco	Kelly O’Connell <i>1st Supervisorial District</i>
	Aolelani Lutu	Ariana Oliva	Ana Lopez	Dianne Philibosian <i>5th Supervisorial District</i>
	Deborah Paratore	Joyce Robinson		Whitney Leathers for Sarah Soriano <i>4th Supervisorial District</i>
	JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia	Kathy Schreiner		Julie Taren <i>3rd Supervisorial District</i>
	Lisa Wilkin	Veronica Torres		Cecelia Urrea
		Roberto Viramontes		

Guests and Alternates: Avis Boyd – Alternate for Alex Himmel, Debra Camp – Department of Public Health, Osvaldo Colin – Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)/Head Start and Early Learning Division, Karen Chambers – California Department of Social Services/Community Care Licensing Division (CDSS/CCLD), Eileen Friscia – Child Care Resource Center, Christina Goldman – CDSS/CCLD, Kristen Felton – Child360, Veronica Herrera – Alternate for Deborah Paratore, Crystal O’Grady – Alternate for Dianne Philibosian, Zoraya Ordenez – Alternate for Alejandra Berrio, Cynthia Renteria – Child Care Resource Center, Stefanie Ritoper – KPCC, Gina Rodriguez – Alternate for Kevin Dieterle, Ancelma Sanchez – Alternate for Lisa Wilkin, Claudia Sarmiento – Child360, Edilma Serna – WestEd: PITC, Ruth Tiscareno – Department of Mental Health, Emma Watson – Alternate for Ernesto Saldaña, Jana Wrights – LA Best Babies Network

Staff: Michele Sartell, Debra Colman

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair, opened the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting at 12:05 p.m. He welcomed members and guests and then read the opening statement. Ernesto next asked members, alternates and guests to make self-introductions. Cristina Acosta read the vision statement and Kelly O’Connell read mission statement.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ernesto Saldaña reviewed the minutes from February 5, 2020 and asked for a motion to approve. Veronica Torres made the motion to approve the minutes; Rocio Bach seconded the motion. The motion on the minutes passed with an abstention from Toni Isaacs.

3. Public Policy Report

Emma Watson, Co-chair on behalf of the Planning Committee to the Joint Committee on Legislation, reminded meeting participants that the updated matrix of legislation was sent to them via e-mail on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The Joint Committee is tracking 24 bills plus five trailer bills that have been introduced this session. The last day for legislators to introduce bills was February 21st. The Joint Committee has started the process of prioritizing bills, most of which have been assigned a watch. Among the bills of interest is AB 2581 introduced by Assembly Member Reyes, which is specific to the establishment of the new Department of Early Childhood Development and mirrors the trailer bill language posted on the Department of Finance website on February 20, 2020. Michele Sartell, staff to the Planning Committee, is preparing a draft bill analysis on AB 2581 and the trailer bill language that will integrate the comments made by the Planning Committee and Roundtable at their respective meetings last month. Emma noted that the Legislative Analyst's Office released their analysis in which they recommend rejecting the Governor's proposal. The plan is to elevate the concerns and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors with a proposed action yet to be determined. The intent is to align the comments with local partners and statewide groups with unified messages.

Emma reported on a couple of other bills that have been elevated as high priority for monitoring by the Joint Committee. AB 2894 (McCarty) would require municipalities to address early care and education in their local general plans. The bill is sponsored by Advancement Project. AB 2986 (Reyes), co-sponsored by the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles and Child Care Resource Center, would require that tools used to assess family child care homes participating in Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs) be appropriate to those settings, would require a FCCHEN home to maintain of a developmental portfolio for each child, and include opportunities for parent involvement.

4. Membership Launch 2020-21

Nicole Lopez, Co-chair of the Governance Work Group, announced the launch of recruitment of Planning Committee members Fiscal Year 2020-21. She referenced the meeting packets for the applications as follows:

- A simplified "Intent to Continue" for returning members. Members must complete the form if they want to continue; each member can serve two consecutive three-year terms.
- Cover letter and application form for prospective new members.
- NEW ITEM - Recruitment flyer and application for parents/primary caregivers

This year, efforts will be made to reach out to organizations with established parent engagement activities to recruit parent/primary caregivers to serve as members of the Planning Committee. Members interested and available to help with recruitment were asked to contact Michele.

Members also were asked to help with general recruitment to ensure geographic representation in addition to meeting the five mandated categories: parents/consumers, early educators representing centers and family child care homes, community-based organizations, public agencies and others. The Governance Work Group is charged with putting together the membership slate based on applications received and presenting it to the Planning Committee for action at its June meeting; the Board of Supervisors typically approves the membership in late summer

5. KPCC-LAist Feeding the Conversation

Julie referred meeting participants to their meeting packets for Stefanie Ritoper's bio as well as the bios of the other KPCC journalist and staff joining the meeting. Stefanie welcomed the meeting participants to KPCC's Crawford Family Forum room, noting that it was a big week that included Super Tuesday. KPCC's engagement team is working to narrow the gap between reporters and the community. Their aim is to give people ownership of the stories and bring community voices into the room. Ashley Alvarado, Director of Community Engagement, added her gratitude and echoed the opportunities for engaging families to equip them as advocates. Having an early childhood reporter, Marina Dale, allows for listing and reporting in this area.

Stefanie set the stage for feeding the conversations with the reporters through open-ended conversations at each of the tables. She noted that the conversations are off the record; no particular story is in mind. The goal is to ensure that their stories are informed by community conversations and reflect the diversity of Los Angeles County. Some stories may be targeted based on the issue, depending on the targeted audience. Stefanie then asked each KPCC staff member to introduce themselves and join their assigned tables. KPCC staff members engaged the participants in conversations that caused them to reflect on their own stories based on their work in early childhood and the kind of reporting they would like to elevate for various audiences.

Stefanie reconvened the group as a whole and asked KPCC staff to report on key take-aways from each of their tables. The following list captures some of the statements:

- Critical role of children's social-emotional development and ensuring that this is attended to in transitional kindergarten classrooms as well as early care and education programs serving children from birth to five years old.
- Defining the role of the business community and how it is serving families and supporting the early care and education programs that serve them.
- Disparity between the cost of early care and education services and the pay for early educators working in the programs.
- Decisions families must make between returning to work and paying for child care or staying home, many without the luxury of a choice.
- Wage disparities for the field linked to the expectation to participate in ongoing professional development activities and work towards a degree. Many early educators can help families navigate government support systems based on their own experiences. The disparity in pay between K-12 and early care and education is significant.
- Integrating mental health services with early care and education.
- Challenges faced by immigrant families with fears of potential deportation and separation from their children, causing anxiety in the child and trauma for the families enrolled in early care and education programs.
- Families locating early care and education services that they can afford and/or accessing subsidized services when there is not enough funding to support all eligible families.
- Qualifications needed for staff to handle a variety of child and family issues, such as child abuse and neglect, homelessness, etc. What are the qualifications needed to support the whole child and the family?
- Equity, opportunity and democracy issue. Equity – importance of educating communities and getting to those who need it most.
- Role of higher education and filling pathways gaps of early educators.
- Many early educators have years of experience and are passionate about systems change. Experiences of families beginning at pregnancy and thread of connections throughout the children's early years.

- Serving children with special needs that begins with early identification through linkages with services.
- Expectations of a qualified workforce to meet the diverse needs of every child and family, yet the pay and working conditions fall far short of these aspirations.
- A desire for stories to focus on what is needed to build the system and make it work better for families and the programs that serve them.

Members and guests also were asked to comment on the conversations:

- Thread of topics that resonated – language we use defines us – up to us to inform, empower, educate – we are the ones with the stories that can turn the tide. We can partner, collaborate, foster relationships. Portraying things we want to see.
- Aggressive will-building campaign for legislators, families, etc. to change mindsets. Better mindsets – change is slow in coming – talking amongst ourselves but not capturing the larger public.
- What if media got it right? Notion of depth at birth – weave in personal story. Try to simplify what we know about brain development, so others understand what it means for children birth to three. Help build the urgency of quality care, looking at teachers differently and with respect

Stefanie invited meeting participants to pitch stories to KPCC LAist on their website where there is a box with questions on what audiences want to hear. KPCC LAist has editorial independence and can take cues on information that needs to get out there. She commented that challenges around staffing have been included in previous stories and can be continued. She added that it is also important to represent what is working well to benefit children and families, highlighting what agencies are doing with limited resources and how groups are working together to solve challenges. With respect to next steps, staff recorded their notes on a shared document. Stefanie expects the notes will spark ideas for stories and different events. She asked participants to sign up on their contact list and, if they complete the postcard, they will receive an e-mail to ask for input. Lastly, she offered a tour of the studio after the close of the meeting.

6. Announcements and Public Comment

- A big thank you was extended to the KPCC LAist staff for the space to connect and fuel the passion for our work.
- Long Beach City College will be offering free computer classes in the Spring of 2020. A flyer will be sent via e-mail. More information also is available at LBCC.edu/adult-education.
- The Infant Development Association of California – South Chapter is hosting the 5th Annual Vivian Weinstein Leadership Day: Early Intervention for Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) on May 11th. For more information, visit <https://www.idaofcal.org/events-south-chapter>.
- The Early Childhood Alliance is focusing its work on addressing facility development to address the unmet need for early care and education services. Advocacy efforts are currently focused on the Los Angeles City Council to modify the conditional permit requirements.
- Child360 is accepting nominations for early educator of the year awards. For more information, visit <https://child360.org/>.

7. Adjournment

<i>The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.</i>

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2020

Members in Attendance (41)				
Parents	ECE Program	Community Agency	Public Agencies	Discretionary
Alejandra Berrio	Norma Amezcua	Liliana Sanchez for Samitha Givens	Ranae Amezcuita	Christina Acosta
Jessica Chang	Rocio Bach	Alex Himmel	Anne Blackstock-Bernstein	Kevin Dieterle
Cathy Coddington	Andrea Fernandez	Elyssa Nelson	Eileen Carrillo-Lau	Toni Isaacs
Nellie Ríos-Parra	Sandra Flores	Melissa Noriega	Nora Garcia-Rosales	Kelly O’Connell <i>1st Supervisorial District</i>
Ernesto Saldaña	Nicole Lopez	Ariana Oliva	Angela Gray	Dianne Philibosian <i>5th Supervisorial District</i>
Sachin Sangani	Aolelani Lutu	Joyce Robinson	Ana Lopez	Michael Shannon
Delia Vicente	JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia	Kathy Schreiner	Maria Mora	Sarah Soriano <i>4th Supervisorial District</i>
	Lisa Wilkin	Victoria Tarango	Gabriel Muñoz	Julie Taren <i>3rd Supervisorial District</i>
		Veronica Torres		
		Roberto Viramontes		

Guests and Alternates: Robert Beck – Alternate for Nora Garcia-Rosales, Fran Chasen – Alternate for Julie Taren, Gina Rodriguez – Alternate for Kevin Dieterle, Dr. Cheri Roper – Alternate for Ranae Amezcuita, Ancelma Sanchez – Alternate for Lisa Wilkin, Fiona Stewart – Alternate for Christina Acosta, and Emma Watson – Alternate for Ernesto Saldaña

Staff: Michele Sartell, Debra Colman

1. Welcome and Introductions

Julie Taren, Chair, opened the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting at 12:05 p.m. She welcomed members and guests to the teleconference meeting, temporary approach to coming together and conducting our business during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the Planning Committee will continue holding virtual meetings as some semblance of physical distancing remains in place and restrictions are eased over the coming weeks and possibly months. Julie then reviewed the protocols for the teleconference that may be modified for future meetings based on learning for doing things differently at this meeting. She invited meeting participants, as part of the protocols, to submit questions and comments in writing to Michele Sartell, staff to the Planning Committee, at msartell@ph.lacounty.gov.

Julie asked Erica Weiss, staff with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, to take roll of the members and alternates. Guests were asked to e-mail her eweiss@ph.lacounty.gov for a record of their attendance.

2. Public Policy Report

Public Policy Platform for First Year of 2020-21 Legislative Session – Action Item

Emma Watson, Co-chair on behalf of the Planning Committee to the Joint Committee on Legislation, referred participants to the Public Policy Platform included in their meeting packets. Each year, the Joint Committee on Legislation reviews the existing Platform to determine if there are changes based on actions from the last session and emerging issues in the field. The items inform the County's Legislation Platform with examples of potential policy issues that may be tackled by legislation or the budget – note that it is only the items that are numbered and in bold that are listed in the County's Platform. However, the Planning Committee and Roundtable's Public Policy Platform is submitted as an attached document with the items for the County's Platform as reference.

Emma relayed that this year the Joint Committee recommends adding an item to the Platform that is relevant to our current crisis and may be important in the future should there be another state of emergency. She read item 10 as follows:

10. Support efforts to ensure that children and their families have timely access to early care and education services during a local, state and/or national emergency.

Such efforts may include:

- Increasing funds to subsidize early care and education services of the essential workforce and at-risk populations.
- Enhancing child care resource and services to directly connect families impacted by the emergency with early care and education programs with the capacity to serve them.

In addition, Emma referenced modifications to the supporting statements; however, these are not included in the County's legislation. Rather, they are examples of items that may appear in legislation or the state budget that can be pointed to if there is a recommended pursuit of position on a bill that the Planning Committee and the Roundtable propose elevating to the Board of Supervisors. She noted the items as follows:

Item 9 – the language highlighted in yellows is a refinement to the facilities item to coincide with the work of the Master Plan at the state level.

Item 8 – indicates legislation that established 12 months of continuous eligibility for families receiving CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care.

Emma noted one suggestion received in writing to move item 10 to the top of the list to elevate it to the attention of the Board of Supervisors. The suggestion was not accepted as recommended additional items or proposed changes to existing items, if accepted, are integrated into updates to the County's overall legislative agenda. As such, the process does not allow for the rearrangement of the items. Yet, the new item, if also approved by the Roundtable, will be highlighted in the cover memo to Legislative Affairs.

Julie Taren asked for a motion to approve Public Policy Platform for First Year of 2020-21 Legislative Session. Joyce Robinson made the motion to approve the motion; Andrea Fernandez seconded the motion. Erica Weiss took roll call on the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

State Public Policy Update

Emma provided a brief update on activities at the state level to address COVID-19 as it relates to early care and education and what may be expected as the legislature reconvenes, and the Governor prepares to release his revisions to the proposed 2020-21 state budget. The Governor's office has taken many steps to keep child care open for essential workers. In addition to providing emergency funding for child care vouchers to meet the needs of eligible essential workers and resources for keeping programs safe and clean, he launched child care website to help essential workers locate services.

The Assembly reconvened on May 4th and the Senate will reconvene on May 11th. Committee hearings will be held virtually. Legislators are reassessing their bills to focus on COVID-19 or pre-COVID-19 crises items like homelessness and housing and wildfire prevention. It is likely that a reduction of bills will be considered or complete gutting and amending of existing bills to address COVID-19. That said, a few bills have been amended and the Committee on Human Services has scheduled a hearing for Thursday, May 7th. Among the bills to be heard is AB 2581 introduced by Assembly Member Reyes. AB 2581 is the bill that would establish the Department of Early Childhood Development within the California Health and Human Services Agency. The bill (originally proposed as Trailer Bill Language) proposes that all child care and development programs, except the California State Preschool Program, would transition from the California Department of Education to this new office.

Emma reported that the May Revise will be released on May 14th will likely scale back many of the proposed investments from the Governor's 2020-21 budget proposed in January; it will be a workload budget with the potential for pre-allocated funding that has not been apportioned to be reallocated. Furthermore, there will likely be an August Budget Revision due to the delay in personal income taxes receipts until July 15. It has been suggested that they may be another revised budget in the Fall.

3. COVID-19: Connecting Essential Workers to Early Care and Education

Guidance for Child Care Resource and Referral (R&Rs) Agencies and Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs) Emergency Response Plan

Michele referred meeting participants to the materials packets for Management Bulletin 20-07 and the document entitled, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee – A Unified Emergency Response Plan. On April 15th, the California Department of Education (CDE) released Management Bulletin 20-07 with the subject line, Guidance for Child Care Resource and Referral (R&Rs) Agencies and Local Child Care and Development Planning Councils (LPCs). The guidance required the child care resource and referral (R&R) agencies and the local child care and development planning councils (LPCs) to develop emergency response plans that were due before the end of April. The guidance outlines the roles of the R&Rs during the crisis with the LPCs in a supportive role to the R&Rs that were to be addressed in the plan. Unfortunately, the short timeline did not allow for input from the Planning Committee as Los Angeles County's LPC.

Michele noted the collaborative work already underway to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided the foundation for the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education on behalf of the Planning Committee and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles plus R&R representatives to set the course for a unified plan to the state, a copy of which is included in the meeting materials.

Notable are conflicting messages in the Management Bulletin including due dates and a follow-up conversation with the Director of the CDE who stated that their intent was a joint plan. While the joint plan was submitted, R&Rs and LPCs were required to reply to respective surveys. Each of the R&Rs completed the survey and Michele completed the survey on behalf of the Planning Committee. The survey asked a few questions about what the LPC is doing to support the R&Rs and to address the items specific to LPCs listed in the Management Bulletin. A survey question not addressed in the Management Bulletin related to staff retention and layoffs in addition to programs abilities to maintain operations post COVID-19. Michele anticipates that further direction may be forthcoming from the CDE to conduct some data collection in this area.

Michele concluded that the emergency plan was developed with the idea that it would be nimble to respond to future emergencies, should they occur.

Early Childhood and Education for COVID-19 Essential Workers in Los Angeles – Los Angeles County Early Childhood Education COVID-19 Response Plan

Michele briefly reported on the work of the the Los Angeles County Early Childhood Education COVID-19 Response Team that was formed in March and is comprised of representation from the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education/DPH, First 5 LA, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Los Angeles Unified School District, Child Care Alliance of L.A., Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, Center for Strategic Partnerships, City of L.A., R&Rs, and non-profits. The purpose of the ECE Response Team is to support essential workers in Los Angeles County in accessing child care by engaging in three strategies: 1) identifying the capacity of early care and education programs to temporarily enroll children of health care workers, first responders and other essential workers; 2) securing resources – financial and in-kind donations of things like diapers and cleaning and sanitizing supplies – for distribution to early care and education programs; and 3) elevating policies to ensure that early care and education programs have the supports they need both during the crisis and ongoing to remain operational through the economic recovery.

In addition, the ECE Response Team is coordinating community calls for early care and education providers every other week. The next community call is scheduled for Friday, May 8th at 9 a.m. The announcement was sent this morning.

4. Announcements and Public Comment

Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair, reminded members, alternates and guests to send their announcements to Michele for distribution via e-mail. He then invited public comment.

- Kelly O’Connell of Options for Learning reported that while the \$50 million dollars the Governor allocated to ensure child care centers, facilities and family provider homes are safe and clean for the children and families, agreements are in place for the R&Rs to accept and distribute the funds. Initially, the R&Rs thought the “Cleaning Supplies for Childcare Providers (CSCP)” funds would be used for bulk purchasing. Rather, the R&Rs will provide funds to providers to purchase supplies. The amount of funds awarded to each provider will be based on their numbers of spaces for serving children at a cost of \$69.80 per space. The funding is available for all types of early care and education programs including licensed centers and family child care homes and license-exempt providers who complete a self-certification form stating that they are open and serving children or planning to re-open soon to serve essential workers. Kelly encourage providers to begin contacting their local R&R to complete the self-certification. Funds will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

- Debra Colman of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education/Department of Public Health announced that the R&Rs are picking up several donations from Sesame Street, IKEA and others tomorrow and will be assembling packages for pick up from R&Rs next week.
- Ariana Oliva of UniteLA relayed that the LACOE COVID-19 web page (see <https://www.lacoe.edu/Early-Learning/ECE-Covid-19-Resource-Page>) posts new resources targeted to families/parents, essential workers, and providers/teachers are posted regularly as they become available. The web page includes a link to a catalogue of federal, state, and local financial assistance resources to help child care providers stay open and keep staff on payroll during the crisis.
(See <https://www.lacoe.edu/Portals/0/EarlyLearning/Resources%20to%20Protect%20Your%20Child%20Care%20Business.pdf?ver=2020-04-28-150211-020>.)

5. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

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BUDGET ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDED PURSUIT OF POSITION

Governor's Revised Proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget: The Governor's revisions to his proposed budget (May Revise) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 retracts new investments in the early care and education system that would have improved access to subsidized services for families with children from birth through 12 years old, funded grants for professional development of the workforce and facility development, and created a child care data system. Furthermore, the budget proposes reductions in existing programs and services unless the federal government provides additional funding to states and local governments to maintain essential services and support pathways to recovery. Among the proposed cuts are reductions in the reimbursement rates for direct contract and voucher-based programs and cost-of-living adjustments. In addition, the Governor modifies his proposal to shift most early care and education programs out of the California Department of Education into a new department under the California Health and Human Services Agency into the California Department of Social Services.

Corresponding Bills:

Not Available

**Office for the Advancement of
Early Care and Education
Analyst:**

Michele P. Sartell
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Summary of Governor's Budget Proposal:

Reductions in the California State Preschool Program and General Child Care for Low-Income Families

The Governor proposes allocating the \$53.3 million federal Child Care and Development Block Grant funds for federal fiscal year 2020 to increase access for approximately 5,600 children in the Alternative Payment Program. On the other hand, while the Governor remains committed to achieving universal preschool for all children, the May Revise proposes a pause on additional investments given the current fiscal climate. More significantly, the budget proposes reductions to the subsidized early care and education programs serving infants and toddlers, preschoolers and school age children administered by the California Department of Education (CDE) that may be reversed if the federal government provides enough funds to restore the cuts.

The breakdown of the proposed reductions totaling \$407.6 million are as follows:

- Reduces the standard reimbursement rate (SRR) for CDE-contracted center-based programs serving infants and toddlers and school age children through 12 years old and California State Preschool Program (CSPP) serving three and four year old children by 10 percent and the Regional Market Rate for the voucher-based programs serving children birth through 12 years old of low-income families (\$94.6 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$291.1 million General Fund).
- Eliminates 10,000 slots in CSPP scheduled to begin April 1, 2020 and 10,000 additional slots scheduled to begin April 1, 2021 (\$159.4 million General Fund).
- Suspends the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 2.31 percent (\$20.5 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$36.9 million General Fund).

- Eliminates the one percent add-on to the full-day CSPP reimbursement rate (\$3.3 million Proposition 98 General Fund and \$3 million General Fund).
- Proposes statutory changes to eliminate the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development and Infrastructure Grant funds from the 2019 Budget Act (\$363 million one-time General Fund).
- Withdraws the \$75 million in Proposition 98 General Funds proposed in the January budget for the Inclusive Education Expansion Program.
- Eliminates the \$10 million one-time General Fund from the 2019 Budget Act for child care data systems.
- Reduces by \$4.4 million one-time General Fund resources available for the Early Childhood Policy Council, leaving \$2.2 million available for both 2020-21 and 2021-22.

CARES Act Funding for Child Care

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748; Approved by President, March 27, 2020) appropriated \$3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to allow child care programs to maintain critical operations, including meeting emergency staffing needs and ensuring first responders and health care workers can access child care while they respond to the pandemic. California received its allocation of \$350.3 million in late April.

The Governor proposes using the federal funds as follows:

- Make statutory changes to offset General Fund costs associated with the COVID-19 impact on child care programs inclusive of \$50 million for child care services to at-risk and essential worker populations, \$50 million for cleaning and sanitation supplies, and \$44.3 million for continued payments and assistance to providers and families due to decreased enrollment.
- Allocate \$125 million for one-time stipends for state-subsidized early learning and care providers that remained open or intend to re-open during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increase access to care for at-risk children and children of essential workers (\$73 million).
- Offset the General Fund costs for extending family fee waivers of which \$2 million is available for CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care until June 30, 2020 (\$8 million).

Shift of Early Learning and Care Programs to Department of Social Services

The Governor's Budget proposal released in January included \$6.8 million General Fund in 2020-21 and \$10.4 million ongoing General Fund to transition the existing early learning and child care programs, except the California State Preschool Program (CSPP), from the California Department of Education (CDE) and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to a newly established Department of Early Childhood Development under the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS). The Governor's May Revise modifies the original proposal by transferring the child care and development programs, except CSPP, from the CDE to the CDSS to align all child care programs within a single department in state government and ease the administration of collective bargaining commencing later this year (\$2 million General Fund in 2020-21 to support the transition).

Analysis:

Early care and education services nurture children's healthy growth and development while supporting working families. The COVID-19 crisis has raised up early care and education as an indispensable part of the critical essential infrastructure workforce necessary for supporting health care, front-line and other essential workers and, going forward, foundational to the state's economic recovery. The May Revise proposals for early care and education will decimate the availability of subsidized early care and education services for children of low-income families, an already fragile, struggling field due to reimbursement rates that fail to meet their true operational costs. The consequences of COVID-19 that now require smaller group sizes and higher staff to child ratios as well as the implementation of more intensive cleaning of classrooms poses an additional threat to the survival of programs if the state does not fully leverage the federal funds to supplement the state investment and reimbursement rates are cut.

This analysis focuses on the two significant areas of concern for the field: the proposed cuts to reimbursement rates and the use of CARES funding to reimburse the state for emergency expenditures. In addition, it briefly addresses the Governor's proposal to shift early care and education programs currently administered by the California Department of Education to the California Department of Social Services, however without offering a recommended position.

Impact of Proposed Cuts to the Reimbursement Rate System

Currently, California has a complicated, dual system for reimbursing subsidized early care and education services for low-income families: the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR), which is paid directly to CDE-contracted agencies operating centers and sponsoring Family Child Care Home Education Networks to serve children of income-eligible families; and the Regional Market Rate (RMR), which is used to pay license centers and family child care homes as well as license-exempt providers (commonly referred to as family, friend or neighbor) accepting subsidy vouchers from families received through the Alternative Payment Program or one of the three stages of the CalWORKs Child Care programs.

The SRR is paid at a flat, daily rate to agencies that must meet higher and more costly quality standards as defined by Title 5 in addition to the Title 22 standards for basic health and safety regardless of the economic cost drivers within the respective county. In contrast, the RMR reimburses child care providers based on geographic economic cost factors determined through a RMR survey conducted every two years that considers the private market for child care and preschool services. Licensed providers, centers and family child care homes reimbursed with the vouchers are required to meet Title 22 standards for basic health and safety, while license-exempt providers serving families with the vouchers are held to less stringent standards, mostly related to criminal background checks depending on the provider's relationship to the family. In some areas of the state, reimbursement under the RMR may exceed reimbursement under the SRR, creating a discrepancy in payment to programs that must meet a higher level of quality under the Title 5 standards as stipulated in the California Education Code.

Accordingly, the SRR for direct service contracts would be reduced from the current full-day rate per child of \$48.28 and part-day rate of \$29.90 to \$43.45 and \$26.91 respectively. The existing rates for the RMR per child in Los Angeles County are \$3.55 per hour for family, friend and neighbor (FFN), \$11.34 for a licensed family child care home and \$16.28 for a licensed centers for an infant. The 10 percent cut would result in \$3.10 an hour for an infant served by a FFN, \$10.21 for a family child care provider, and \$14.66 for a center-based program. As of 2018, an

estimated 109,940 children from birth to five years old of income eligible families were able to access subsidized early care and education services in Los Angeles County. An additional 205,277 children birth to five-years-old of income eligible families did not have access to care. The CDE contracts with 147 agencies representing 853 sites in Los Angeles County, including school districts and faith-based and private, non-profit organizations to serve low-income families directly in center-based programs, or with vouchers by centers, family child homes, or family, friend or neighbor care.

Notably, family child care homes are the backbone of California's early care and education system and because of their smaller facility size, are better positioned to serve smaller groups of children in accordance with COVID-19 public health guidance. In fact, 60 percent of family child care programs remained open at the onset of the pandemic, compared to 30 percent of centers. In many places across the state, family child care homes are the only option for families to find affordable programs, care for infants and toddlers, and services during nontraditional hours. In Los Angeles County, 93 percent of income eligible babies and toddlers lack access to a publicly funded early care and education program.¹ Yet, family child care homes bear the burden of historic underinvestment in compensation, lack of supports including professional development, no increase in pay relative to educational attainment or experience, and inequitable access to health care and wellness benefits. These gaps in adequate supports have made it difficult for many family child care homes to stay open; 2019 was the tenth consecutive year California experienced a decline in its family child care home supply. Since 2008, California has lost 30 percent of California's family child care homes.²

Avoiding rate reductions would mitigate the challenges centers and family child care homes, mostly staffed by women of color, are facing with remaining operational. The bigger risk is the loss of programs to the children and families currently served as well as those on waiting lists if reimbursement rates are cut. The triggers to avoid cuts dependent on another influx of federal funds are unknown. Unfortunately, the Senate and the federal administration have expressed their opposition for the HEROES (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions) Act (H.R. 6800) passed on May 15th by the House, the fifth emergency relief bill that would invest an additional \$7 billion into the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant.

Use of CARES Funding to Reimburse the State for Emergency Expenditures

On April 10th, Governor Newsom announced the release of \$100 million to support child care services for essential workers and vulnerable populations. Of the funding, \$50 million was allocated to the CDE to pay for up to 20,000 limited-term additional state-subsidized slots for child care. Of the \$50 million, \$10.665 million was awarded to Alternative Payment Program agencies in Los Angeles County to serve children of essential workers. The other \$50 million was allocated through the CDE to local child care resource and referral (R&R) agencies to ensure child care centers, and family provider homes are safe and clean for the children and families they are serving. The eight R&Rs serving Los Angeles County awarded the funds to centers and family child care homes serving essential workers to purchase gloves, face coverings, cleaning supplies, and other items needed for cleaning and sanitizing their environments and keeping children and their staff safe.

¹ Advancement Project. *Building California's Future: Tackling the Facilities Challenge for Our Youngest Learners*. See <https://www.advancementprojectca.org/ece-facilities>.

² California Child Care Resource & Referral Network. *2019 California Child Care Portfolio Summary*. https://rrnetwork.org/assets/general-files/Summary_rev3.pdf.

In late April, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families allocated \$350.3 million of the supplemental Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds appropriated in the CARES Act to California to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19. Allowable uses of the funds through September 2021 include: continuing payments and assistance to early care and education programs in cases of decreased enrollment or closures related to COVID-19, and to ensure they are able to remain open or reopen; paying staff salaries and wages of child care providers; providing child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to COVID-19 regardless of income eligibility requirements; funding to child care providers for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume program operation; and meeting allowable obligations incurred prior to enactment of the CARES Act.

The Governor proposes using \$144 million of the federal CCDBG funds to pay back the state for its allocation of funding for family fee waivers, meeting the early care and education needs of the essential workforce and at-risk populations, and cleaning and sanitation supplies. The supplemental CCDBG funds in totality are necessary to further meet the needs of essential workers and the programs that serve them during this crisis. Early care and education programs are facing escalating economic challenges in response to public health directives for smaller group sizes of children to implement physical distancing standards and more intense cleaning and sanitizing efforts to ensure the health and safety of the children and their staff. Many programs were already facing challenges with keeping their doors open prior to the COVID-19 crisis. Administrators of CDE-contracted agencies report that limits to group sizes of children will impact their ability to fully earn their contracts even as operational costs go up associated with higher staff to child ratios, individualized materials to support physical distancing, disposable meal service supplies, and implementation of intensive and ongoing cleaning to maintain the health and safety of the classroom environments. Fully leveraging the federal funds to supplement the state investment is vital to ensuring that centers and family child care homes may re-open and remain open during and survive the crisis.

Proposal to Shift Early Care and Education Programs to the Department of Social Services

In January, the Governor proposed transitioning all early care and education subsidy programs, except the CSPP, from the CDE to a new Department of Early Childhood Development under the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA), which currently oversees the work of the Master Plan on Early Learning and Care and Early Childhood Policy Council. The proposal also included a shift of CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care and the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children into this new department. The purpose of the new department was to improve alignment among the early care and education programs and coordinate the integration of services to more comprehensively meet the needs of children and their families. As a cost saving measure and to achieve the goal of aligning programs, the Governor's May Revise proposes shifting the early care and education programs currently under the CDE, except CSPP, into the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

For background, the CDE administers state subsidized early care and education programs meeting the needs of children birth through 12 years old of eligible families with incomes up to 85 percent of State Median Income (SMI). The CDE contracts with local agencies to provide services directly in centers and/or family child care homes or with vouchers that allow families to choose among licensed centers, family child care homes or license-exempt providers (e.g. family, friend

or neighbor). The CDSS administers CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care and the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Children in Foster Care (Bridge Fund) with funding going to the local county welfare departments to issue vouchers to license or license-exempt child care providers respectively meeting the needs of families participating in welfare-to-work activities and, on a temporary basis, to meet the immediate needs of children placed in foster care.³

As of 2019-20, the CHHSA received one-time funds to develop the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (Master Plan) that includes studying and preparing recommendations in five areas: – finance, facility, access, quality and universal preschool. The Master Plan is due to the Governor, legislative policy and budget committees, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Director of the State Department of Social Services, and the Director of Finance by October 1, 2020. In addition, CHHSA convenes the Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) comprised of researchers, parents and providers to prepare recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and Superintendent of Instruction on early care and education issues.

The proposal to shift early care and education programs from the CDE to the CDSS to promote alignment without a clear plan seems premature, particularly during a time of economic crisis, with the potential to further bifurcate an already complicated system of services. Moreover, the work underway on the development of the Master Plan informed in part by the Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education's report released in April 2019 and stakeholder input as well as the work of the Early Childhood Policy Council should contribute to decisions about best strategies for aligning the overall system of early care and education.

No recommended position is offered on this item, however it is an important issue to track as the legislature considers this proposal.

Recommended Position for Board Approval:

The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the following pursuits of positions:

- Oppose the Governor's proposed cuts to the Standard Reimbursement Rate and Regional Market Rate used to reimburse subsidized early care and education services.
- Oppose the Governor's proposal to sweep of the federal CCDBG supplemental funds to backfill the General Fund costs associated with COVID-19.
- Advocate for using CARES Act funding and redirecting the child care workforce and Infrastructure grant funds, data system funding and reduction to the Early Learning Planning Council to: backfill the proposed rate reductions: continue family fee waivers; hold harmless all early care and education programs ensuring that they continue to receive reimbursement for their full contract amount and keep staff engaged in serving children and their families based on FY 2019-20 contract amounts through FY 2020-21; assist with COVID-19 group sizes and staffing ratios; allocate funding to programs so that they may re-open and stay open,

³ In Los Angeles County, the Department of Public Social Services contracts with 11 agencies to administer the CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care and Bridge Fund programs. These local agencies also administer contracts with the California Department of Education for the Alternative Payment Program and CalWORKs Stages 1 and 2 Child Care programs.

and provide professional development related to trauma and other COVID-19 related supports.

These positions are consistent with County policies as follows:

1.3 Child Care and Development

1. Support efforts to enhance the quality of early care and education that set high quality 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.
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.
5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families.
8. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

Completed by: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Pending Approvals

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Proposed Membership Slate – 2020-21

Parent/Consumer	Child Care Provider	Community	Public Agency	Discretionary
Alejandra Berrio Dignity Health/Hope Street (2 nd term ends 2021) SPA 4; SD 2 - work	Norma Amezcua MAOF (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 7; SD 1,2	Samitha Givens Learn4Life Charters (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 8. SD 4	Dr. Tamar Andrews Temple Isaiah Preschool SPA 5, SD 3 (1 st term ends 2023)	Christina Acosta Child Care Alliance of LA (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 3; SD 1-5
LaRae Cantley Community Voices (1 st term ends 2023) SPA 6, SD 2	Rocio Bach Catholic Charities LA (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 5,6; SD 1,2	Alexandra Himmel Child 360 (1 st term ends 2021) Countywide – SPA 4; SD 1	Anne Blackstock-Bernstein UCLA CICCQ (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 5; SD 3	Kevin Dieterle First 5 LA (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD1
Jessica Chang WeeCare (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 5; SD 2	Andrea Fernandez California Children's Acad (2 nd term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD 1	Aolelani Lutu Partners in Childcare (2 nd term ends 2021) SPA 8; SD 2	Eileen Carrillo-Lau Pomona USD (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 3; SD 1	La Tanga Hardy LA Trade Tech SPA 9, SD (1 st term ends 2023)
Cathy Coddington Vital Research (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD 3	Sandra Flores Alma Fam Svs./Alma Pre-Sch (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 7; SD	Elyssa Nelson Child Educational Center (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 3; SD 5	Dr. Melita Elizabeth Ferguson Compton College CDC (1 st term ends 2023) SPA 6, SD 2	Toni Isaacs PEACH (2 nd term ends 2023) SPA 2; SD 3 - home
Crystal C. Jones Jones Family Child Care SPA 7; SD 4 (1 st term ends 2023)	Angela Gray CCUSD/Office of Child Dev (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 5; SD 2	Ariana Oliva UniteLA (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD 1	Nora Garcia-Rosales L.A. County DPSS (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 1-8; SD 1-5	Kelly O'Connell 1st Supervisorial District Rep
Nellie Rios-Parra Lennox School District (2 nd term ends 2021) SPA 8; SD 3 (work)	Nicole Lopez Little Tokyo Service Center (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD 1,2	Kathy Schreiner ECE Workforce Advocate (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 2; SD 3	Ana Lopez BPUSD SPA 3,4,7; SD 1 (1 st term ends 2023)	Dianne Philibosian 5th Supervisorial District Rep
Marisol Rosales Community Voices (1 st term ends 2023) SPA 6, SD 2	Micha Mims City of LA Recs & parks SPA 6; SD 2 (1 st term ends 2023)	Edilma Serna WestEd PITS SPA1-8, SD (1 st term ends 2023)	Maria Mora LACOE HS & Early Learning (2 nd term ends 2022) Countywide – SPA 7; SD 4	Sarah Soriano 4th Supervisorial District Rep
Ernesto Saldaña Advancement Project (1 st term ends 2020) SPA 6; SD 5 – home	Deborah Paratore St. Anne's (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 4; SD 2	Victoria Tarango SCAEYC (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 3; SD 5	Gabriel Muñoz HLPUSD (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 3; SD 1	Julie Taren 3rd Supervisorial District Rep
Sachin Sangani Wonderland Montessori LLC (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 6; SD 4	JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia CA Federation of FCC Assoc (2 nd term ends 2023) SPA 4; SD 2	Veronica Torres Child360 (2 nd term ends 2023) Countywide – SPA 4; SD 1	Cherise Roper LAUSD Early Childhood Ed (1 st term ends 2023) SPA , SD	Lauren Trosclair Duncan 2nd Supervisorial District Rep
Delia Vicente UCLA Early Head Start (1 st term ends 2021) SPA 2; SD 3	Lisa Wilkin Child Dev Consortium of LA (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 2-8; SD 1-5	Jana Wright LA Babies Network SPA 4, SD 1 (1 st term ends 2023)	Claudia Sosa-Valderama LBUSD/Educare SPA 8; SD 4 (1 st term ends 2023)	Cecilia Urrea Special Ed Professional (1 st term ends 2022) SPA 3; SD 1