Reimagining an Equitable Early Care and Education System for Providers and Families

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
   - Opening Statement and Comments by the Chair
   - Self-introductions of Members/Alternates and Guests
   Julie Taren, Chair

2. Approval of Minutes
   - September 2, 2020
   - Roll Call of Members/Alternates
   Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair

3. LPC Annual Self-Evaluation – 2019-20
   - Report to the California Department of Education
   Nicole Lopez and JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, Governance Work Group Co-chairs

4. Advancing Racial Justice in Early Care and Education During COVID-19 and Beyond
   Keisha Nzewi, Public Policy Director, CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network

5. Work Group Discussion: Identifying Priorities
   - Access/Inclusion
   - Workforce Systems Improvement
   - Public Policy (Joint Committee on Legislation)
   Julie Taren

6. Announcements and Public Comment
   Ernesto Saldaña

7. Call to Adjourn
   Julie Taren

Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 4, 2020
Virtually via Microsoft Teams

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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Members – Program Year 2020-21

Julie Taren, Chair
3rd Supervisorial District

Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair
Parent/Consumer

Christina Acosta
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Discretionary

Cathy Coddington
Parent/Consumer

Norma Amezcua
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
Child Care Provider

Kevin Dieterle
First 5 LA
Discretionary

Dr. Tamar Andrews
Temple Isaiah Preschool & Santa Monica College
Public Agency

Dr. Melita E. Ferguson
Compton College Child Development Center
Public Agency

Rocio Bach
Catholic Charities
Child Care Provider

Andrea Fernandez
California Children’s Academy
Child Care Provider

Alejandra Berrio
Parent/Consumer

Sandra Flores
Alma Preschool Center
Child Care Provider

Anne Blackstock-Bernstein
UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality
Public Agency

Nora Garcia-Rosales
LA County Department of Public Social Services
Public Agency

Lisa Cain-Chang (Alternate)
Child Educational Center
Community Agency

Samitha Givens
Learn4Life Charters
Community Agency

LaRae Cantley
Parent/Consumer

Angela Gray
Culver City USD/Office of Child Development
Child Care Provider

Eileen Carrillo-Lau
Pomona Unified School District
Public Agency

LaTanga Hardy
LA Trade Tech
Discretionary

Jessica Chang
Parent/Consumer

Maria Harris (Alternate)
Long Beach USD/Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach
Public Agency
Toni Isaacs  
Partnerships for Education, Articulation & Coordination through Higher Education (PEACH)  
Discretionary

Cherise Roper  
LAUSD/Early Childhood Education Division  
Public Agency

Crystal Jones  
Parent/Consumer

Marisol Rosales  
Parent/Consumer

Ana Lopez  
Baldwin Park Unified School District  
Public Agency

Sachin Sangani  
Parent/Consumer

Nicole Lopez  
Little Tokyo Service Center  
Child Care Provider

Kathy Schreiner  
ECE Workforce Advocate  
Community Agency

Aolelani Lutu  
Partners in Childcare  
Community Agency

Edilma Serna  
WestEd PITC  
Community Agency

Micha Mims  
City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation & Parks  
Child Care Provider

JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia  
CA Federation of Family Child Care Association  
Child Care Provider

Maria Mora  
LACOE Head Start & Early Learning  
Public Agency

Sarah Soriano  
4th Supervisory District Representative

Gabriel Muñoz  
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District  
Public Agency

Victoria Tarango  
Southern California Chapter-CAEYC  
Community Agency

Kelly O’Connell  
1st Supervisory District Representative

Veronica Torres  
Child360  
Community Agency

Ariana Oliva  
Unite-LA  
Community Agency

Lauren Trosclair Duncan  
2nd Supervisory District Representative

Deborah Paratore  
St. Anne’s  
Child Care Provider

Cecelia Urrea  
Special Education Professional  
Discretionary

Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D.  
5th Supervisory District Representative

Delia Vicente  
Parent/Consumer

Nellie Rios-Parra  
Parent/Consumer

Lisa Wilkin  
Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles  
Child Care Provider

Jana Wright  
LA Babies Network  
Community Agency
Meeting Minutes – September 2, 2020

**Members in Attendance (45)**

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**Staff:** Michele Sartell, Debra Colman, Erica Weiss

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Julie Taren, Chair, opened the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting at 12:04 p.m. She welcomed both new and returning members, alternates and guests to the first meeting of FY 2020-21, noting that the meetings will continue to be held virtually as COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact our lives – personally and professionally. Julie briefly reviewed the agenda and spoke to a few housekeeping items, commenting on the challenges with using virtual format rather than meeting in person.

Julie noted that throughout the agenda the Planning Committee has a pivotal role in responding to and addressing issues relating to COVID-19 at the same time ensuring that deliverables as required by the California Department of Education are met. On behalf of the Planning Committee leadership, she invited participation as we continue to grapple with the impact of COVID-19 on our service to
children and families and the programs that serve them. She added that input will be sought on issues to be elevated and tackled.

Julie called upon Dr. Melita Ferguson to read the vision statement and Marisol Rosales to read the mission statement. Next, Julie introduced the theme for the year given these unprecedented times on multiple levels – “Reimagining an Equitable Early Care and Education System for Providers and Families”. She expressed hope that the theme resonates with the membership during discussions pertaining to reimagining the early care and education system within the context of COVID-19 and during deliberations on what it means to imagine an equitable system.

Julie asked Erica Weiss, staff with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, to take roll of the members and alternates.

2. **Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2020**

| Ernesto Saldaña, Vice Chair, reviewed the minutes from June 3, 2020 and asked for a motion to approve. Andrea Fernandez made the motion to approve the minutes; Veronica Torres seconded the motion. The motion on the minutes passed with abstentions from Christina Acosta, Dr. Tamar Andrews, Micha Mims, Deborah Paratore, and Maria Harris. |

3. **Reimagining Our Work**

Ernesto Saldaña introduced the meeting participants in a virtual discussion in response to a piece entitled “My Truth” by Kristie Norwood posted in the July 30th edition of ChildCareExchange included in the meeting packets for today’s meeting. Ernesto briefly commented on the author’s reflections on a conversation among “Reimagining Our Work Initiative Conveners” during which it was noted that most of the colleagues for reimagining their work are white. As a Black Woman, Ms. Norwood asks why when most of the early childhood field is “built on the labor of women of color”, and, to borrow a phrase from another colleague, ponders the notion of “centering Blackness”. He commented on the power of the introspective piece that explores centering blackness that is relevant to other people of color as well.

Ernesto further reflected on the social injustices impacting communities of color, and black people, adding the strong correlation between early care and education and social justice. He hoped that the article raises our consciousness to re-think/re-imagine our work with children and families and build up those on the front lines in service to children and families. Ernesto invited the meeting participants to share their reactions to the article.

Meeting participants shared comments in the chat box with a few speaking aloud, commenting to the power of the article and its personal relevance to coping to get along and the exhaustion associated with assimilating to the dominant culture. Additional comments focused on our responsibility to our children that includes inviting them to embrace and find joy in their culture, to not sacrifice, to be vulnerable in the unknown, and our collective responsibilities to impact systemic change.

4. **Role of Child Care Planning Committee in Response to COVID-19: Elevating Issues, Contributing Expertise**

Michele Sartell, staff to the Planning Committee on behalf of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, directed meeting participants to the slide deck. She briefly reviewed the role of the Planning Committee and the deliverables as the County’s local child care and development council per contract with the California Department of Education that include preparing a needs assessment comparing the supply with the demand of early care and education services, developing a countywide
planning informed by the needs assessment, and providing a forum to grapple with issues impacting the availability and provision of services. She encouraged members and alternates to become familiar with the Membership Manual, which contains the Policies and Procedures for membership participation as well as the Education Code requirements. She then discussed the current charge to the Planning Committee by both the California Department of Education/Early Learning and Care Division and the County’s Department of Public Health to prioritize COVID-19 efforts and listed activities that have been undertaken to date with local partners under the leadership of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Team.

Meeting participants were invited to raise additional roles, challenges and opportunities, and policies that should be addressed by the Planning Committee. The following items were raised:

- Workers compensation
- Risk of liability if children, family members or staff become sick with COVID-19
- Compensation for family child care homes serving subsidized children beyond 10 days and compensation of staff overall during COVID-19
- Contributing to the work of the Early Learning Policy Council and its work groups
- Support needed to navigate the upcoming flu and cold season
- Shortage of testing for children, families and workforce
- Substitutes for the workforce
- Compounding hardships and crises impacting children of color
- Secondary trauma on providers meeting the growing needs of families – training on trauma informed practices (references were made to NAECY’s publication, “Trauma and Young Children”; see https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/books/trauma-and-young-children, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network training page at https://www.nctsn.org/resources/training, and the Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation at www.ecmhc.org/tutorials/trauma/mod5_3html)
- Professional development and key materials for best practices needed in multiple languages

Michele concluded the agenda item by suggesting that additional opportunities to offer up suggestions and dive deeper into prioritizing and addressing the items will be forthcoming.

5. Re-envisioning Early Care and Education During a Public Health Crisis: Operationalizing Public Health Guidance into Best Practices

Michele again directed meeting participants to the slide deck for an introduction to and overview of the draft handbooks with the working title “Tips for Best Practices for Early Care and Education During a Public Health Crisis” noting one is targeted to family child care home providers and the other to center-based programs. She reported that the documents were crafted by a task force comprised of direct service early care and education providers including a sub-committee of representatives from Los Angeles Family Child Care Providers United convened by the Planning Committee in July and August. The purpose of the work was to operationalize public health guidance for early care and education into best practices for promoting children’s optimal development and engaging families while ensuring the health and safety of the children, their families, and early educators. She emphasized that the handouts were created by and for the early care and education community, reflecting their creativity and innovation for implementing public health guidance while honoring and preserving program integrity and values.

Michele continued by presenting the format of the handbooks that serve as a side by side of best practices that correspond with the public health guidance across eight elements: ensuring the health and safety of early educators, welcoming and ending the day – drop off and pick up of children, re-inventing the indoor and outdoor learning environments, nurturing children’s development and overall
sense of well-being, providing snacks and meals, naptime, and engaging families/sustaining community. A slide was included that showed a table of resources included in the handbooks. Michele noted that the resources are not exhaustive, however many have links to additional resources. Michele concluded the presentation by acknowledging all of the individuals who participated in virtual meetings and reviewed multiple drafts with a special call out to Joyce Robinson, previous member of the Planning Committee, who volunteered and facilitated the sub-committee comprised of Los Angeles Family Child Care Providers United representatives in drafting the handbook for family child care home providers. She added that the next steps include an internal review of the handbooks and relayed that the Los Angeles County ECE COVID-19 Emergency Response Team plans to arrange for translations into other languages and have the handbooks graphically designed.

6. **Workforce Pathways LA**

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, began her presentation by reviewing work that has been prioritized to respond to issues relating to COVID-19, with a focus on systems support and building a strong infrastructure that continues to meet the early care and education needs of families and the workforce. She then drew meeting participants attention to her slide deck on Workforce Pathways LA, designed to support early educators and the early care and education professional development system. Debra reported that the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program (AB 212) was transforming into the new program as a result of changes in the use of professional development funds at the state level. Workforce Pathways LA builds upon the legacy of the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program by continuing to offer stipends for achieving college units and professional development milestones and by adding connections to career advisement, support for license-exempt providers to become licensed family child care home providers, and strengthening the overall professional development system. She noted that applications for participation will be administered online through the ECE Workforce Registry.

Workforce Pathways LA has three overarching goals for advancing the field: licensing/health and safety; permits, degrees and professional development; and workforce systems improvement. The latter of the three will become a core part of the Planning Committee’s Workforce. Debra reviewed the components of each of the goals, recognizing the partnerships with the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, Quality Start LA, Child360 and Partnerships for Education, Articulation & Coordination through Higher Education (PEACH) essential to implementation of the project. As such, early educators may expect more support in setting their professional development goals towards moving along the career lattice.

Meeting participants expressed their gratitude for the ongoing investments to the workforce that will be open to a broader representation of early educators.

7. **Announcements and Public Comment**

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

- WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) Trainer Institutes provide training for educators, program managers, and other professionals responsible for supervising and training infant/toddler care teachers. For more information, visit [https://www.pitc.org/training/pd-providers/trainer-institute](https://www.pitc.org/training/pd-providers/trainer-institute).

8. **Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.*
LOCAL CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL PROGRAMS
SUMMARY OF SELF EVALUATION FINDINGS

Agency: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors        Vendor Number: 19-2419-00-9

Agency Representative: Michele P. Sartell                  Title: Child Care Planning Coordinator

Telephone Number: 213.639.6239 (office); 323.594.1244 (mobile) Dates Reviewed: ________________________________

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<th>Compliant</th>
<th>Non-compliant</th>
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| 1. EC Section 8279.3 and 8499.5(b) | Involvement in Local Priority Setting Process  
Parents, staff, Board of Supervisors, County Superintendent of Schools, LPC members, and the public at large participate in reviewing and evaluating core data elements and determine local priority areas of unmet child care and development services for all children. | X         |               |
| 2. EC Section 8499.5 | Governance and Administration  
Policies, needs assessments, comprehensive child care and development plans, and administration of LPC categorical programs meet statutory requirements. | X         |               |
| 3. EC Section 8499.5 | Funding  
Allocation and use of funds meet statutory requirements for allowable expenditures. | X         |               |
| 4. EC Section 8499.3 | Standards, Assessment, and Accountability  
Categorical LPC programs meet state standards for membership certification. | X         |               |
| 5. EC Section 8499.3(f),(g) | Staffing and Professional Development  
Staff members and LPC members are recruited, trained, assigned tasks, and assisted to ensure the effectiveness of the program. | X         |               |

Mail this form to the LPC Consultant by November 15 of each year to:
Early Education and Support Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 3410
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
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| 6. EC Section 8499.5 (3) | Opportunity and Equal Educational Access  
All participants have equitable access to all programs provided by the LPC, as required by law. | X | |
| 7. EC Section 8499.5 (4),(5),(6),(7),(8) | Collaboration Activities  
LPCs coordinate and collaborate with multiple partners to mobilize public and private resources to meet the identified local child care and development needs in their local communities. | X | |

**FINDINGS OF NONCOMPLIANCE**  
(Attach additional pages as necessary to note all noncompliance findings)
Racial Justice in Early Care and Education During COVID-19 and Beyond

Keisha Nzewi – Public Policy Director, CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Keisha Nzewi started with the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network in May 2016. She has many years of experience as a community organizer and policy advocate in the Bay Area. For 6 years, Keisha was the Advocacy Manager at the Alameda County Community Food Bank in Oakland. Prior to that she was the Advocacy Director at the American Heart Association, and a Health Educator at Berkeley Youth Alternatives. Keisha's background in food policy advocacy and health add much value to the Network's advocacy and membership work. Her past work offered her many opportunities to work with federal, state, and local level elected officials. She has one 8-year-old daughter, marched in the Cal Band, and runs half marathons as long as there is a big sparkly medal at the finish line.
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STANDING WORK GROUPS

- **Access/Inclusion** – informs geographic priority setting for State funding, reviews data related to the Needs Assessment for childcare and development, and reviews requests for changes in service priorities. In addition, promotes the inclusion of children at risk for or with disabilities and other special needs in typical early care and education programs and encourages the coordination of services. Currently, this work group is meeting as needed in response to requests from agencies holding contracts with the California Department of Education to serve low-income families eligible for subsidized services and wishing to expand or change their service areas. The work group will begin meeting more regularly (monthly) to focus on the preparation of the LPC Local Funding Priorities beginning in January 2021.

- **Governance** – develops annual membership slate, reviews and revises Planning Committee policies and procedures, and participates in annual self-review. This work group is limited to members only. The work group meets periodically throughout the year.

- **Joint Committee on Legislation** – reviews, prioritizes and makes recommendations to the Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development on legislative and administrative policy issues relating to early care and education. The Joint Committee generally meets monthly from January through June, consistent with the State Legislative calendar.

- **Workforce Systems Improvement Work Group** – implements the Workforce Pathways LA goal for improving systems to increase the number, qualifications and competencies of early childhood professionals within a consistent improvement system. In collaboration with the Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) Work Group, this Planning Committee work group will develop a landscape of professional development and education opportunities and craft recommendations for strengthening partnerships among community-based agencies, and early educators and higher education institutions as well as entities offering opportunities for professional development. Due to the need to develop deliverables within a short period of time, this work group will be limited in size and to Planning Committee members only. It is anticipated that draft work products will be presented to the full Planning Committee membership for review and comment throughout the process.

For more information on the work groups, contact Michele Sartell by e-mail at msartell@ph.lacounty.gov or by telephone at (213) 639-6239.
## Standing Work Group Membership – 2020-21

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**Access/Inclusion Co-chairs:** Alejandra Berrio, Ariana Oliva

**Governance Co-chairs:** Nicole Lopez, JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia

**Joint Committee on Legislation Co-chairs:** Dean Tagawa, PRCCD, Emma Watson

**Workforce Systems Improvement Work Group Co-chairs:** Andrea Fernandez, Samitha Givens

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*Updated – September 28, 2020*