

**POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 ♦ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

Microsoft Teams ▪ To join by telephone: 323.776.6996; Conference ID: 880 538 588#

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

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|-------|--|-------------|--|
| 10:00 | 1. Roll Call of Membership | Action Item | Debra Colman,
OAECE |
| 10:10 | 2. Comments from the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection and Looking Forward • Welcome Leanne Drogin | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell,
Chair |
| 10:20 | 3. Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call Vote | Action Item | Karla Pleitéz Howell
Erica Weiss, OAECE |

COVID-19 and Early Care and Education (ECE)

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|-------|---|-------------|------------------------|
| 10:30 | 4. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in Los Angeles County | Information | Debra Colman,
OAECE |
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Public Policy Update

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|-------|--|-------------|--|
| 10:37 | 5. First Year of 2021-22 Legislative Session | Information | Dean Tagawa, Joint
Committee on
Legislation Co-Chair |
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Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

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| 10:47 | 6. OAECE FY 2020-2021 Accomplishments | Information | Debra Colman,
OAECE |
| 10:57 | 7. Policy Roundtable Role Review and Focus | Discussion | Karla Pleitéz Howell,
Chair |
| 11:35 | 8. OAECE & Strategic Plan (Priority Area 3.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Supervisors Mitchell and Kuehl Motion (approved 6/22/21):
“Pathways to Economic Recovery for Women, Communities of Color
and the Care Economy” | Discussion | Debra Colman,
OAECE |

Wrap Up

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| 11:50 | 9. Announcements and Public Comment | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell,
Chair |
| 11:55 | 10. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn | Information | Karla Pleitéz Howell,
Chair |

Next Virtual Meeting:

Wednesday, October 12, 2021 ▪ 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Vision

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

Mission

Lead, build, and strengthen an affordable and high-quality ECE system for the children and families in Los Angeles County.

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Minutes for June 9, 2021

Welcome and Introductions

1. Roll Call of Membership

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), opened the meeting of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Roundtable) at 10:03 a.m. by reading the grounding statement pertaining to the conducting of the virtual meeting. She then called roll of the membership.

2. Comments by the Chair

Chair Jackie Majors welcomed members, alternates and guests to the last meeting of 2020-21. She deferred her comments for later in the agenda.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Jackie Majors presented the minutes from May 12, 2021 and asked for a motion to approve. Alejandra Albarran Moses made the motion to approve the minutes; Dawn Kurtz seconded the motion. The motion on the minutes passed unanimously.

Roundtable Leadership Transition

4. Presentation of Leadership Slate

Debra presented the proposed leadership slate on behalf of the nominations committee as follows: Karla Pleitéz Howell as Chair and Alejandra Albarran Moses, as Vice Chair. Karla represents Supervisorial District 1 and is the Chief of Policy and Programs at Advancement Project California; Alejandra is the Supervisorial District 4 appointee and is the Early Childhood Education Coordinator with the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services. Karla mentioned that it is both a thrill and an honor to work with the Roundtable, building upon the leadership of Terry Ogawa and Jackie Majors with a focus on equity and alignment. Alejandra expressed her gratitude for the confidence of the Roundtable to serve in the leadership role.

5. Approval of the Leadership Slate

Jackie Majors asked for a motion to approve Karla Pleitéz Howell and Alejandra Albarran Moses as Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Roundtable. Terry Ogawa made the motion to approve; Julie Taren seconded the motion. The motion to approve Karla as the Chair and Alejandra as the Vice Chair was unanimously approved.

Jackie and Debra congratulated and welcomed Karla and Alejandra as the new leadership team effective July 1, 2021.



Pending Approval – September 8, 2021

COVID-19 and Early Care and Education (ECE)

6. Update on COVID-19 and ECE in Los Angeles County

Debra referred to CalOSHA for information on pending revised COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards regarding face coverings and physical distancing in the workplace (see <https://www.dir.ca.gov/covid/>). Los Angeles County will align its protocols with the CalOSHA workforce standards that pertain to whether workers are vaccinated, stipulating that if all workers are vaccinated, they may remove their masks. However, workers should continue to wear their masks if any colleague(s) is not vaccinated or their vaccination status is unknown. Debra relayed that new cases of COVID-19 continue to decrease and hospitalizations have stabilized. Unfortunately, residents vaccinated at the lowest rate are also representative of populations with the highest infections and hospitalizations. African Americans are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The Department of Public Health is targeting their communications, outreach and vaccination efforts to communities most impacted. Vaccination rates continue to climb for persons 16 years old and older. The County's Mega vaccination sites are closing as on the ground efforts to provide vaccinations are ongoing, particularly targeted to populations most at risk and hardest to reach. For early care and education, the guidance changed from six feet to three feet of physical distancing to allow programs to open to full capacity as of June 15th, however face coverings are still required as children are not among the vaccinated. More information for early care and education, K-12 and higher education is forthcoming per direction from the state.

Public Policy Update

7. First Year of 2021-22 Legislative Session

Michele Sartell, staff with the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education, directed meeting participants to the matrix comparing the Governor's revisions to the proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 ("May Revise") to the legislature's version. On May 14, 2021, Governor Newsom presented his California Comeback Plan for recovery from the pandemic. He outlined proposed investments in five areas: providing immediate relief for those hardest hit by the pandemic, confronting homelessness and housing affordability, transforming public education, building infrastructure and jobs, and combating wildfires and climate change. The Governor's proposed investments in early care and education remained modest, relying mostly

on federal relief funds for short-term solutions while neglecting the more systemic issues impacting the field such as addressing the outdated and complicated reimbursement rate system. On the other hand, the Governor continued to demonstrate his commitment to achieve universal transitional kindergarten within the next five years.

Michele relayed that the legislature answered with much more generous support for early care and education that includes reimbursement rate reform while also raising rates to the 85th percentile of the 2018 regional market rate, increasing access to low-income families by just over 200,000 children compared to the Governor's 100,000 slots, providing a 4.05 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and investing in facilities and workforce development. Michele commented that the agreement between the Senate and Assembly reflects the direction of the ECE Coalition and the California Legislative Women's Caucus regarding the investments needed for recovery and elevating the field of early care and education that truly meets the needs of children and families and the programs that serve them. Michele added that to date the Governor's office has been relatively quiet in response to the recommendations, thus the need for ongoing advocacy.

Jackie remarked on a conversation between Giannina Perez of the Governor's office and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. She encouraged members to use their leadership and sphere of influence to speak on behalf of providers and the potential of dismantling of field if investments focused on the reimbursement rates are not raised. Patrick MacFarlane of the Child Care Resource Center added that conversations are occurring behind closed doors. Karla also commented on the timing and opportunities that exist in the budget with respect to a more robust data system. She suggested that the state will need guidance on the development of the data system, touched upon in the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care (see <https://californiaforallkids.chhs.ca.gov/home>) without much direction; she also referenced the Blue Ribbon Committee report that has recommendations that should be lifted (see <https://speaker.asmdc.org/blue-ribbon-commission-early-childhood-education>). Others added their comments with urging to bring their voices to the Governor's office. Also referenced was a video produced by the Child Care Resource Center featuring Senate Leva talking about the reimbursement rate system (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=II5Kk0nGFHg>).

Our Strategic Plan in Motion

8. Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Equity Statement

Jackie relayed an experience exemplary of others that speak to the lack of understanding of equity for addressing the disproportionate impact of systems on African American populations. She spoke to the mistrust in communities of color in traditional systems, providing a historical perspective beginning with slavery and Jim Crow laws to more recent and ongoing experiences of racial discrimination. Jackie emphasized that distrust of systems is real and therefore cannot be ignored. She then thanked Justin Blakely and Moni Ilunga of Crystal Stairs, Inc. for their involvement in helping the Roundtable shape its equity statement.

Justin commented on the equity statement as the cornerstone for the Roundtable's future work. He thanked the ad hoc committee members work on the statement and acknowledged Karla and Alejandra for mention of equity in statements in their acceptance of their nominations as the incoming leaders. Monia added that the equity statement gives focus, particularly as the work impacts the lives of children and families and referenced the research that helped inform the development of the statement. Alejandra thanked Justin and Monia for their work that

included listening to the input of the ad hoc committee members, adding that the work is personal for her as a community member with a family. Terry Ogawa thanked Justin, Monia and the committee for putting together the statement, adding that her attendance at the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) last week prompted her thinking that as the Roundtable enters a new year, to consider how the equity statement is integrated into implementation of the Unified Strategic Plan and collaboration among the three entities that includes the OAECE. She also recommended that Ernesto Saldaña and Ariana Oliva as the incoming leadership of the Planning Committee think about how to join in the equity statement. Karla expressed her appreciation of Terry's point with a commitment to collaborate with the Planning Committee on jointly adopting the equity statement.

Jackie Majors asked for a motion to approve the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Equity Statement. Terry Ogawa made the motion to approve; Dean Tagawa seconded the motion. The motion approving the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Equity Statement passed unanimously.

9. Pathways to Economic Resiliency: Los Angeles County 2021-26

Debra directed meeting participants to the slide deck with a reminder that the Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS) released Pathways to Economic Resiliency on how to move forward on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The report calls out child care as a priority in section 8 of the report. The OAECE was asked to take the lead on preparing recommendations in response to the child care item. An ad hoc committee comprised of Roundtable members and lead staff of the Women+Girls Initiative was convened to craft the recommendation for integration into a report to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in June. Debra added that the recommendations are grounded in equity and the Unified Strategic Plan priorities and reflects the work prior to the COVID-19 pandemic for implementation. The ad hoc selected to focus on three areas: increasing access with support for stabilization of early care and education during COVID-19 recovery; advocating for funding for facility development to build capacity; and improving the qualifications and compensation of the workforce. Debra reviewed each of the five recommendations in more detail (refer to the slide deck available for download at https://childcare.lacounty.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2021/06/PRCCD_MeetingPacket_Final_9June21.pdf).

Meeting participants were invited to ask questions and comment on the recommendations. Among the comments, it was suggested that the Board of Supervisors consider prioritizing the development of a toolkit that provides technical assistance to existing and prospective early care and education programs with upgrades and facility development. A follow-up comment was the need to focus on short term solutions while also addressing long-term change and the need for funding to accomplish the recommendations. Another comment reflected on the equity statement and how it informs the workforce recommendations, adding that paying interns/apprentices should be the absolute threshold as part of recruiting and retaining the next generation.

Gratitude and Farewell

10. Gratitude Messages for Jackie

Debra kicked off the words of gratitude by reflecting on her relationship with Jackie that began while Debra was with First 5 LA. Jackie was her go-to person on early care and education issues and continued to serve as a sounding board, confidant and coach during her transition to Director of the OAECE. Others remarked on Jackie's leadership style that derives from her heart, mind and soul, unafraid to ask hard questions and adding focus to the meetings. Additionally, members reflected on Jackie's leadership during extraordinary moments of the COVID-19 pandemic and the elevation of racial justice.

Jackie added her reflections as a catalyst for leadership and change. She made note that she is not leaving as she will continue as a member on behalf of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. Jackie acknowledged her many friends, mentors and colleagues, both past members (Duane Dennis) and current members. During her tenure as chair, Jackie is most proud of the following accomplishments: 1) the development of the Unified Strategic Plan; 2) the hiring of Debra who is "busy about this business"; 3) the early care and education policy summit that brought together important players in the field; 4) the re-vamped, strategic meeting agenda with presentations that are timely and contribute to the work; 5) the focus on COVID-19 that required advocacy on behalf of the early educators who are the real heroes; and 6) the development of the equity statement that is tangible and should be kept up front for policy and systems change conversations. She ended by thanking the members for the journey, humoring her, and enduring her soap boxes.

Wrap-up

11. Announcements and Public Comment

Jackie invited announcements and public comment.

- The Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) wrapped up its year of focus on equity and racial justice with guest speakers Dr. Mary Earick of New School of Education Dean at New Mexico Highlands University and Saudah Collins, an educator at Richland County School District Two located in South Carolina on "Towards Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy: Addressing Dominant Racial Patterns of In-group Messaging in Early Childhood Classrooms". The Planning Committee also elected new leadership with Ernesto Saldaña, a parent representative, as Chair and Ariana of Unite-LA, a community representative serving as Vice Chair. The new leadership will soon be planning for the new year and looks forward to some joint planning with the Roundtable.
- Jackie mentioned a project undertaken by KPCC – KPCC/LAist gave cameras to 12 child care providers and caregivers across Southern California to document their lives. It is a multimedia project, with photo essays online, radio stories on air at 89.3 FM, a virtual event, and in-person photography installations around Southern California. Child Care, Unfiltered is live at <https://laist.com/special-reports/child-care-unfiltered/> (And in Spanish at <https://laist.com/sinfiltros/>.)

12. Wrap Up

Karla, in her last act as Vice Chair, shared brief highlights from the meeting. She acknowledged the new leadership that will be in place when the Roundtable re-convenes in September. Meeting participants received an update on COVID-19 and the road to recovery, followed by the public policy update that urges continued advocacy with a focus on the Governor's office

to address the reimbursement rate system including increasing current rates. Finally, meeting participants were briefed on the Roundtable's ad hoc committee's recommendations for addressing the child care section in the Pathways to Economic Resiliency that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

13. Call to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Members Attending:

Jeannette Aguirre, Probation Department
Alejandra Albarran Moses, Supervisorial District 4
Fran Chasen, Southern CA Chapter – CA Association for the Education of Young Children
Richard Cohen, Supervisorial District 3
Dawn Kurtz, Child360
Jackie Majors, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles County
Terry Ogawa, Supervisorial District 3
Karla Pleitez Howell, Supervisorial District 1
Dean Tagawa, Los Angeles Unified School District
Julie Taren, Child Care Planning Committee
Steve Zimmer, Commission on Children and Family Services

Alternate Members Attending:

Debi Anderson, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Debra Colman, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Elsa Jacobsen, Child360
Lisa-Marie Kaye, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commission on Children and Family Services
Ariana Oliva, Child Care Planning Committee
Collen Pagter, Los Angeles Unified School District Paul
Pulver, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

Guests Attending:

Robert Beck, Department of Public Social Services Justin
Blakely, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Lisa Cahill, Pathways LA
Jennifer Cowan, Connections for Children Monica
Ilunga, Crystal Stairs, Inc.
Crystal Jones, Jones Family Child Care
Maral Karacussian, Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn
Patrick MacFarlane, Child Care Resource Center
Sara Omanovic, LA County Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services
(WDACS) Ashley Portillo-Baloy, Child360
Kelly Reynolds, Early Edge California
JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, California Federation of Family Child Care Association, Inc.

Staff:

Michele Sartell
Erica Weiss