

Minutes for Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission

November 9, 2022

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 Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable) Commission meeting at 10:03 a.m. by reading the grounding statement to conducting a virtual meeting. Colman then called roll of the Policy Roundtable Commission.

2. Comments from the Chair

Chair Karla Pleitéz Howell welcomed Commissioners, alternates, and guests to the meeting and invited all participants to turn on their video to enhance communication. Chair Pleitéz Howell highlighted the November 2, 2022 election and noted that some results are still unknown. She also expressed gratitude for the many people who have dedicated their careers to ensure children are provided a launch pad for success.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

3. Early Care and Education Facilities Resources and Supports: Infant and Toddler Care Policy Considerations
Leanne Drogin, OAECE Senior Program Analyst, provided an overview of the early care and education (ECE) facilities development work the OAECE has spearheaded since November 2021. She noted that ECE facility development and approvals is a complicated process and requires ECE providers in LA County unincorporated areas to work with multiple County Departments and the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) to receive plan reviews and permit and zoning approvals. Drogin noted that the OAECE is partnering with Public Counsel to develop tools and provide support to ECE providers to navigate the ECE facilities development process. Drogin reviewed the types of ECE facilities development support activities that have been and will be provided by OAECE and Public Counsel. Ritu Mahajan, Public Counsel Directing Attorney, presented the interactive toolkit, "[Child Care For All: How to Develop and Renovate ECE Facilities in Los Angeles County](#)," that the OAECE and Public Counsel developed for ECE providers. Mahajan announced that the toolkit will be available on OAECE's website in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Korean starting November 10, 2022. The toolkit will be available in Armenian and Russian at a later date. Mahajan announced that the OAECE and Public Counsel are also developing an ECE facilities toolkit for city planning and building and safety staff that will be available in December 2022 and an ECE facilities toolkit for ECE providers interested in transitioning their current program to serve infants and toddlers. This toolkit will be available by summer 2023. More details can be found in the PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the conversation for questions and comments. Commissioner Jennifer Cowan asked if the Resource and Referral (R&R) agencies should play a role in distributing the toolkit and if there is an opportunity to connect the toolkits with the California Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP). Drogin shared that there will be a training on how to use the toolkit on November 15, 2022, and that the team would like to work with the R&Rs to raise awareness about the toolkits. Colman added that CCIP will be included to the list of ideas for coordination opportunities.

Commissioner Amber Rivas shared challenges that ECE programs on school properties experience when working with the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and asked if the toolkit includes information about working with DSA. Mahajan shared that the toolkit does not include this type of information and that it is designed to be a living document and can be updated over time.

BREAK

Chair Pleitéz Howell transitioned the meeting into a five-minute break.

General Business

4. Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2022

Vice Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses presented the minutes from October 12, 2022 and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Jennifer Hottenroth made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Dean Tagawa seconded the motion. The motion on the minutes passed with 3 abstentions: Commissioners Jessica Perea, Ellen Cervantes, and Ofelia Medina.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

5. LA County ECE Covid Response Learning, Reflection and Moving Forward

First 5 LA's Becca Patton, Director of ECE, and Jaime Kalenik, Senior Program Officer, provided a presentation on LA County's ECE COVID-19 Response Team's (Response Team) learnings, reflection, and findings to move forward. The Response Team was established soon after LA County's COVID-19 pandemic emergency orders were announced, and the Response Team consisted of 10 institutions. The Response Team focused on: 1) supporting access to child care for essential workers, 2) providing guidance and support to help ECE providers operate safely, and 3) preserving LA County's ECE infrastructure. Patton and Kalenick presented the key findings from the Response Team's Learning, Reflection and Moving Forward Report that includes ECE Providers' perspectives, best practices for future efforts, and areas to address in moving forward. The PowerPoint presentation provides more detail.

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for questions and highlighted the impact that the Response Team's accomplishments had on the community. OAECE Director Colman noted that she will share the Response Team's work and lessons learned with other national efforts.

COVID-19 and Early Care and Education

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

OAECE Director Colman reported that COVID-19 cases are increasing in LA County but has remained low in community transmission and that while there has been an uptick in average hospitalizations there has not been a strain on hospitals. Colman reminded the group that the new COVID-19 booster and flu shots are available and early childhood programs can receive free COVID-19 test kits. She also shared that Monkey Pox is no longer considered a public health emergency.

Wrap Up

7. Announcements and Public Comment

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for public comment.

- Commissioner Dean Tagawa announced that mobile vaccination clinics for children and flu shots for staff and families will be available at LAUSD early education centers on 11/19/22 – 11/22/22.
- Commissioner Ariana Olivia provided a summary of the topics discussed at the November 2, 2022 Child Care Planning Committee meeting which included a presentation from Help Me Grow and the importance of lead testing at ECE licensed centers.

8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Karla Pleitéz Howell, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
3. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
4. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
6. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
7. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
8. Ellen Cervantes, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
9. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
10. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
11. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
12. Ariana Olivia, *Child Care Planning Committee*
13. Steve Zimmer, *Commission for Children and Families*
14. Dean Tagawa, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
15. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
16. Fran Chasen, *Southern California Chapter – CA Association for the Education of Young Children*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Department of Public Health*
2. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
3. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
4. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*

Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Gus Bribiesca, *Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services*
3. Leticia Casillas-Sanchez, *Children Now*
4. Catherine Dingman, *Department of Children and Family Services*
5. Regan Foust, *University of Southern California, Children's Data Network*
6. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*
7. Abbe Land, *Department of Human Resources*
8. Whitney Leathers, *Long Beach Mayor's Fund for Education*
9. Ritu Mahajan, *Public Counsel*
10. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 LA*
11. Becca Patton, *First 5 LA*
12. JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia, *CA Federation of Family Child Care Association*

Staff Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Director*
2. Leanne Drogin, *Senior Program Analyst*
3. Erica Weiss, *Intermediate Clerk*
4. Charli Lewis, *Administrative Aide*
5. Julia Bruton, *MSW Intern*