

Minutes for Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission

January 11, 2023

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's comments focused on the Governor's January budget that was released January 10, 2023. She noted that the state is facing a \$22.5 billion deficit and Governor Newsom's budget strives to close the deficit without using the state's reserves and more specifics about the budget will be provided in today's first presentation. She concluded her remarks by affirming that more information about the budget is needed, the Commission will continue to track the budget, and the May revise will be significant.

Public Policy

3. Overview of Governor's Proposed Budget FY 2023-24

Stacy Lee, Children Now's Chief Learning Officer and Senior Managing Director of Early Childhood, reviewed California's budget timeline and provided an overview of the Governor's January Budget. Lee shared that the budget totals \$297 billion and even though California is facing a \$22.5 billion projected deficit the budget aims to: 1) avoid drastic cuts by slowing implementation for multi-year, one-time efforts; and 2) protect the most vulnerable. Lee's review of the budget highlighted early care and education (ECE) related budget items such as child care slots, cost of living (COLA) increase for ECE providers, rate reform, dual language learner services, and transition kindergarten. Lee also provided an overview of federal budget increases for ECE which includes increases to Child Care and Development Block Grant, Head Start, Early Head Start, and other programs serving children ages 0-5. Lee's PowerPoint presentation provides more detailed information.

Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the floor for discussion and meeting attendees were invited to add comments and questions to IdeaBoardz. Some of the questions and comments in the discussion focused on equity, the impact of delaying 20,000 new child care slots, requiring 10% of enrollment for children with special needs, rate reform, COLA, workforce development, and advocacy to the Board of Supervisors.

BREAK

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

General Business

4. Approval of Minutes – December 14, 2022

Vice Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses presented the minutes from December 14, 2022 and asked for a motion to approve the December minutes. Commissioner Dean Tagawa made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Ricardo Mota seconded the motion. The December minutes passed with two abstentions: Commissioners Ariana Oliva and Nora Garcia-Rosales.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

5. LA County Department of Children and Family Services

LA County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Division Chief and Commissioner Jennifer Hottenroth and DCFS CSA II Steve Sturm, provided an overview of DCFS services for young children. DCFS promotes child safety and well-being by partnering with communities to strengthen families, keeping children at home when possible, and connecting them with stable, loving homes in times of need. Commissioner Hottenroth and Sturm highlighted DCFS' Emergency Child Care Bridge program, California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP), and its Early Education-DCFS Partnership. The presentation included an overview of each program and the Partnership, their respective challenges and outcomes. The PowerPoint presentation provides more detailed information.

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The discussion included the need to streamline systems and pathways for families to access services by allowing "one eligibility entry point" for services; thus, making pathways between institutions and systems less burdensome for families.

COVID-19 and Early Care and Education (ECE)

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

OAECE Director Debra Colman reported that COVID-19 cases are decreasing in LA County. Colman highlighted a partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which will provide five trauma informed care trainings for ECE providers in March 2023 and that early childhood programs can receive free COVID-19 resources through the end of January 2023 by visiting www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Wrap Up

7. Announcements and Public Comment

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for public comment.

- Leanne Drogin, OAECE Senior Policy Analyst, announced that the Joint Committee on Legislation (Committee) will begin its 2023 meetings on January 19, 2023 and these meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month from January 2023 – May 2023. She shared that Commissioner Justin Blakely is co-chair of the Committee and there is a need for more Commissioners to join the Committee. Commissioners interested in joining the Committee were encouraged to contact her.
- Commissioner Fran Chasen shared that 1) IDA is offering a range of trainings and more information can be found at www.idaofcal.org; and 2) IDA's 8th Annual Policy Update will be held on January 23, 2023.

8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Albarran Moses thanked all the presenters for sharing their work. Vice Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 11:56 p.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. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*

9. Ariana Oliva, *Child Care Planning Committee*
10. Jackie Majors, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
11. Steve Zimmer, *Commission for Children and Families*
12. Dean Tagawa, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
13. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
14. Fran Chasen, *S. CA Chapter – CA Assoc. for the Education of Young Children*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Department of Public Health*
2. Nora Garcia-Rosales, *Department of Public Social Services*
3. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
4. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
5. Marcy Manker, *First 5 LA*

Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado
2. Priya Batra
3. Gus Bribiesca
4. Amy Caskey
5. Regan Foust
6. Jessica Guerra
7. Abbe Land
8. Whitney Leathers
9. Stacy Lee
10. Esther Nguyen
11. Yvonne Perez
12. Jose Ramos
13. Kelly Reynolds
14. JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia
15. Steve Sturm
16. Julie Taren

Staff Attendance

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