

Minutes for Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission

February 8, 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 Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:04 a.m. and read the grounding statement to conducting a virtual meeting. Colman then called roll of the Policy Roundtable.

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 shared that diversity should be celebrated in LA County year-round and spotlighted Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and Supervisor Holly Mitchell for their strong leadership in public service. Chair Pleitéz Howell also noted that Mayor Bass and Supervisor Mitchell share mutual policy priorities with the Policy Roundtable, and they include: workforce compensation and pay equity, improving systems, and incorporating child well-being as a priority in legislation.

Public Policy

3. Roundtable Commission Policy Priorities

Leanne Drogin, Deputy Director at OAECE, reviewed the Policy Roundtable's Policy Accomplishments for FY 2021-22 and the function of a Pursuit of Position. Justin Blakely, Commissioner and Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Legislation, presented the process and role of the Joint Committee on Legislation, Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC), and the Policy Roundtable for developing a Pursuit of Position. He then highlighted the three policy issue areas elevated at the January 19, 2023 Joint Committee of Legislation meeting as potential priority policy issues for the Policy Roundtable to consider for a Pursuit of Position. The policy issues elevated include: 1) increasing the reimbursement rate; 2) supporting conversations about universal pre-kindergarten (TK expansion) that promotes a mixed delivery system; and 3) continuing family fee waivers for state subsidized early care and education (ECE) services. More information can be found in the PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Blakely then invited the group to provide thoughts about the policy issues elevated and if anything else should be considered. General support was expressed for the policy issues and some of the points raised in the discussion that followed are listed below:

- the importance of the state using current LA County cost of care data to determine reimbursement rates
- the Governor's Budget did not include an extension of hold harmless provisions and previous requests to extend family fee waivers were typically coupled with a request to continue hold harmless provisions
- raising awareness about Management Bulletin 23-01 and its unintended negative consequences
- many policy proposals are falling short by not ensuring equity

BREAK

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

General Business

4. Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2023

Drogin presented the minutes from January 11, 2023 and asked for a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes. Commissioner Fran Chasen made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Jackie Majors seconded the motion. The December minutes passed with one abstention: Commissioner Kanchana Tate.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

5. Los Angeles County Office of Education

Commissioners Luis Bautista and Debi Anderson provided an overview of Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start and Early Learning Division and key programs they provide, including serving more than 46,000 children in LA County. Commissioners Bautista and Anderson highlighted LACOE's California Preschool Instructional Network (CPIN), Inclusive Early Childhood Education, and Quality Start Los Angeles. The presentation included an overview of each program and the opportunities for growth and collaboration. The PowerPoint presentation provides more detailed information.

Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the floor for discussion and in response to questions Commissioner Bautista highlighted the need for subsidized programs to have better alignment around eligibility requirements and the need for infants and toddlers to not be left out of a shifting mixed delivery system. OAECE Director Debra Colman shared that local planning councils, including the CCPC, will receive funding from the California Department of Education to develop a plan to expand access universally to preschool programs for 3- and 4-year-olds through a mixed delivery system. The CCPC has started the process, including establishing workgroups, to develop planning strategies to include in the funding application. Colman encouraged those interested in helping to develop recommendations for planning strategies to attend the CCPC meetings.

COVID-19 and Early Care and Education (ECE)

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

OAECE Director Colman reported that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have stabilized in LA County. She noted the California State of Emergency order is scheduled to end February 28, 2023. Colman highlighted a partnership between the OAECE and LACOE to provide mental health trainings to ECE providers and early childhood programs can receive free COVID-19 test kits by visiting www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Wrap Up

7. Announcements and Public Comment

Chair Pleitéz Howell opened the floor for public comment. Commissioner Majors highlighted the importance of implementing equitable policies and regulations. She shared concerns about the unintentional negative consequence of prioritizing one group's needs above another when all children's needs are important. She also shared a document developed by Crystal Stairs, *The Consequences of Slavery and Our Societal Responsibility to Correct*, which speaks to the consequences of slavery and the importance of dismantling structural racism through policy reform.

8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Chair Pleitéz Howell thanked all the commissioners for the ideas addressed. Chair Pleitéz Howell adjourned the meeting at 11:57 p.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Karla Pleitéz Howell, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*

4. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
6. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
7. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
8. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
9. Ariana Oliva, *Child Care Planning Committee*
10. Jackie Majors, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
11. Luis Bautista, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
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. Rebeca Hurtado, *Department of Mental Health*
2. Debra Colman, *Department of Public Health*
3. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
4. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
5. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado
2. Gerardo Alvarez
3. Melita Ferguson
4. Andrea Fernandez
5. Giovanni
6. Gabriela Guerrero
7. Rachel Klein
8. Abbe Land
9. Whitney Leathers
10. Colon Legerton
11. Esther Huỳnh Nguyễn
12. Nani Oesterle
13. Yvonne Perez
14. Jose Ramos
15. JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia
16. Elsie Soto

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*

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SLAVERY AND

Our Societal Responsibility To Correct



Dedicated to dismantling structural racism, creating measurably greater opportunities for black children to thrive!



Enslavement of Black People

1619 - 1865

246 Years



Segregation & Jim Crow Era

1865 - 1954

89 Years



Civil Rights Movement & Redlining

1954 - 1968

28 Years



Systemic Racism, Discrimination & Police Brutality

1968 - 2023

55 Years

PROGRAMMED TO FAIL BUT DESTINED TO PREVAIL



- 1 in 3 Black children live in poverty
- Black children represent 7.4% general population; 25% of LA County foster care population
- 58% of all Black children will live through a child abuse investigation before they reach 18-years-old
- 67% of California's Black children do not read or write at grade level
- 2 of 3 Black children who are eligible for child care subsidy do not receive it
- 50% of preschool suspensions/expulsions involve Black children
- Black educators are paid less than their White counterparts, resulting in poverty rates 3x that of all other workers