

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



POLICY • PLANNING • PRACTICE

Child Care Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1st, 2023

Members/Alternates in Attendance (39)				
Parents	ECE Program	Community Agency	Public Agencies	Discretionary
Dominic Armendariz	Norma Amezcua	Genetric Brown	Ranae Amezcuita & Ana Oregel	Jennifer Cowan
Anne Blackstock-Bernstein	Rocio Bach	Cathy Coddington	Peter Piñon for Eileen Carrillo-Lau	Jessica Guerra & Patrick MacFarlane - 2 nd Supervisorial District
LaRae Cantley & Sally Valenzuela	Brittie Crawford	Samitha Givens	Nora Garcia-Rosales	La Tanga Hardy & Giselle Navarro-Cruz
Jessa Santangelo-Costanzo for Jessica Chang	Veronica Herrera & Maricela Guzman	Ariana Oliva	Scott Herring	Kelly O’Connell & 1 st Supervisorial District
Sandra Flores	Micha Mims	Kathy Schreiner	Alicia Rivas for Maria Mora	Carla Hegwood for Dianne Philibosian 5 th Supervisorial District
Mona Franco	Nellie Rios Parra	Edilma Serna & Monica Hernandez	Gabriel Muñoz	Gina Rodriguez & Stephanie Orozco
Crystal Jones	JoAnn Shalhoub-Mejia		Tom Woodward	Sarah Soriano & Andrea Sulsona - 4 th Supervisorial District
Stephanie Garcia for Christina Moore	Elsie Soto for Jacqueline Torres			Julie Taren & Fran Chasen 3 rd Supervisorial District
Eli Pessar	Lisa Wilkin & Ancelma Sanchez			

Guests: Luis Bautista - LACOE, Justin Blakely – Crystal Stairs, Ella Cavlan, Elida Garcia – Orange County Department of Education, Vivian Garcia - United American Indian Involvement, Christina Hernandez - LA Mayor's Office, Elaina Holley – SBCSS, Sharalyn Jenkins-Sweeten – DSS , Jaime Kalenik - First 5 LA, Rachel Klein – City of Los Angeles, Abbe Land - LA County HR , Niland Lim , Ritu Mahajan – Public Counsel, Marcella McKnight - Opportunities Exchange, Yvonne Perez - CCRCCA, Cynthia Renteria - Child Care Resource Center, Stephanie Ritoper, Joyce Robinson – Low Income Investment Fund, Sonja Robinson - LACOE, Dane Rold - First UMC Preschool, Carly Rosenstein - Builders of Jewish Education, Faith E Saunders – CCRCCA, Laura Stein - LA County DPH - Help Me Grow LA, Fiona Stewart – CCALA, Erica Torres-Ness – Wee Care, Heather Vessey-Garcia, Josh Wallack – Open Society Foundations, Elise Weinberg - Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, and Melissa Wheelahan - OC Dept of Education.

OAECE Staff: Julia Bruton, Debra Colman, Leanne Drogin, Betsy Jacoby, Charli Lewis, Zenaida Meza, and Erica Weiss.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Opening Statement and Comments by the Chair

Lisa Wilkin, Chair to the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), began the meeting at 12:02 p.m. by reading the standardized statement to conducting a virtual meeting. Wilkin referred members to the vision and mission statement at the bottom of the agenda.

Roll Call of Membership and Alternates

Zenaida Meza, Staff Analyst at the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), called roll for the Planning Committee. After roll call, Chair Wilkin shared the agenda items for February's Child Care Planning Committee.

2. Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Ariana Oliva, introduced the consent calendar. Today's item on the consent calendar is the approval of the January 4th, 2023, minutes. No members requested that an item be removed from the consent calendar.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Oliva presented the Consent Calendar and asked for a motion to approve. Sarah Soriano made the motion to approve the minutes; Jennifer Cowen seconded the motion. Angela Gray requested that she be added to the list of members in attendance from the January 4th, 2023 meeting. The motion on the consent calendar passed with 6 abstentions: Cathy Coddington, Ariana Oliva, Micha Mims, Nellie Rios Parra, Dominic Armendariz, and Scott Herring.

3. Policy Update

Jessica Guerra, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Legislation, presented on the Governor's Proposed Budget, discussed in the Joint Committee on Legislation's first monthly meeting in January. Guerra highlighted key points that were discussed during the meeting of the Joint Committee on Legislation:

- As part of the Governor's \$297 billion budget, which includes a \$22.5 billion deficit, there are no new investments for child care and early learning, delaying 24,000 early care spaces that will be rolled out in the 2024-25 year.
- There is no new rate reform from last year, but it will be up for negotiation this year, as the current contract ends in June 2023.
- State preschool and TK increase COLA by 8.31%.
- There is a reduction of funding in TK, related to staffing. However, there is ongoing commitment to making sure they are meeting the 1:12 teacher student ratio in the classroom.

To close out, Guerra shared that the next Joint Committee on Legislation will meet on February 16th, 2023 at 12 pm. Guerra then invited committee members to ask questions.

Angela Gray asked that if TK expansion has been postponed, does that mean that in 2023-2023 the teacher-student ratio will be 1:10? Wilkin clarified; TK expansion has not been postponed. Rather, in 2023-2024 students will have to be age 4 by April 2nd (rather than age 4 by February 2nd). Wilkin also clarified that no one in LA county will get a COLA and there is no change to the standard reimbursement rate. Wilkin also shared that for state preschools, they would like to get rid of the requirement that they do an environment rating scale and replace it with the class instrument. Angela Gray asked why the state never upgraded to the ECERS-3 rating system in state preschool programs, as she thinks it is a more balanced rating scale. Wilkin responded sharing that this is not the Department of Education's proposal but rather the Governor's proposal.

Nellie Rios-Parra commented on the Governor's proposed budget to allocate \$763,000 Prop 98 General Fund for Prek Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and how it seems the state is moving away from ERS and towards the CLASS tool. She shared that costs to implement the use of the CLASS tool are high although she has not formally compared it to the cost of the ERS tool. The two assessments (ERS and CLASS) are focused on different outcomes. While the CLASS is seen as a better indicator of student outcomes and academic success, it is not considered to be culturally responsive or normed to the populations we serve in LA County or CA. If the goal or intent is to focus on student outcomes, then looking at the DRDP rating record longitudinally per child may be more fruitful, specifically a unique identifier (CALPADS) for each child in preschool/ECE and on to K-12. Her comments resonated with others who agreed via the chat.

Micha Mims asked, since fees were waived, come July 1st, will they still be waived? Or will the parents pay? Wilkin responded that this was not in the Governor's proposal but could be included in the proposal later.

Debra Colman, director of the OAECE, invited members to reach out to Leanne Drogin, OAECE representative on the Joint Committee on Legislation, to discuss any other concerns within the Governor's Budget.

4. Presentation: Learning from the Implementation of Universal Prekindergarten in new Yor City

Josh Wallack, Leadership in Government Fellow, Open Society Foundations, presented a PowerPoint on the learnings from the implementation of universal prekindergarten in NYC. Before starting his presentation, Wallack shared that he is working to expand early care and education programs with 18 teams from around the country, including Alameda County in California. Wallack spent 8 years working on the expansion of early care and education programs in NYC.

Wallack started his presentation by sharing the structure of early childhood care in NYC, which is a Mixed Delivery Model that includes the following programs:

- Public Schools and Pre-k Centers
- Center-based Programs
- Family Child Care

Further information on each of these programs is listed in the PowerPoint. Wallack shared a summary of the numbers of Pre-K students enrolled in Pre-K for All in 2014, 2017, and 2019, as Pre-K for All has



expanded. From 2013 to 2015, the number of Pre-K for All programs expanded from 560 to 1,850. Further data on Pre-K for All is listed in the PowerPoint.

Wallack also shared lessons learned from NYC's mixed-delivery system:

- Early childhood planning is hyper-local.
- Taking other's perspectives is key.
- Help families see the benefits of every setting.
- Centralizing enrollment can help everyone do better.
- Different settings need different supports, but not everyone needs their own.

Wallack invited committee members to ask questions.

Commissioner Wilkin noted the importance of highlighting the successful outcomes in NYC. Commissioner Cowan asked about the centralized enrollment process and the partnership with the mixed delivery system. Wallack noted that it was required for all contracted Pre-K providers to join the centralized enrollment center system. He added the policy rationale for this decision was to maximize choice for families and ensure the system was easy to navigate.

Commissioner Crawford asked about stats that indicate private school closures due to the school changes in NYC. Wallack highlighted that more schools joined the system because of increased enrollment due to families' new availability of affordable childcare.

Colman noted her concern for the infant and toddler care system. Wallack added the importance of remembering the impact of infant and toddler services. He highlighted the appeal of at home Family Child Care services. He noted the idea of including these services as equal partners and ensuring the system is built with their services in mind.

Rachel Klein, Child Care Initiative, addressed the impact of the workforce. Wallack noted the income disparity between NYC school teachers in the community and school districts, which created quality issues. He added that the workforce salaries should be a key component to address early in the process.

Whitney Leathers, Mayor's Fund for Education, asked how the NYC system determined quality for programs. Wallack noted the trained division that rated each program with elements that resonate with families, including teacher and family service data. Each rating was accessible and published for public viewing.

Commissioner Wilkin closed the conversation by addressing the differences between NYC's UPK implementation system and the Los Angeles proposed UPK system.



5. Universal Prekindergarten Mixed Delivery Planning Grant

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), shared the role of the Child Care Planning Committee in regards to UPK and highlighted the UPK Grant required activities. She highlighted that the proposed strategies will be presented to LACOE in June.

Colman separated the Planning Committee into breakout rooms to discuss one of the two questions:

- How can school districts work with the mixed delivery system outside of school districts to support all three and four-year-olds?
- How do we best support families about their preschool choices?

All groups shared their ideas and highlighted main discussion points with the larger group. All ideas are noted on the Ideaboardz.

Question 1
Reflection & Feedback

How can school districts work with the mixed delivery system outside of school districts to support all three and four-year-olds?	Votes
concern - SD's get funding through their ADA so how can we make funding available to CBOs, FCCHS, Private - figure out a different funding	2
Every zip code is covered by R&R/AP - subsidy/parental choice - how can we build on existing infrastructure	2
Concern for profit & private programs are supported so they may keep their doors open	0
SD communicate their capacity - who they are able to serve - to brainstorm how we can partner	0
Qualifications for ECE staff & PreK credential - honor the life experience of professional	0
School districts could learn of and acknowledge other settings and workforce qualifications - different metrics for quality	0
If SD's were licensed then it would make it easier to identify and partner.	0
Other related feedback?	Votes
Help all to honor and value parental choice - over being competitive for children	1
we need to better understand what are all the barriers preventing school districts to partner with CBO providers (ADA, facilities, etc).	1
Creating a list of providers in the neighborhood of an LEA/school would be helpful to create linkages.	0



Question 2

Reflection & Feedback

How do we best support families about their preschool choices?	Votes
Make sure all options are clear and educate families on all requirements for enrolling in those choices	1
Make sure all marketing and communications is multi-lingual and easy to understand; perhaps create a hotline or website for more info	1
create listening sessions with families on what their early learning and care needs are	1
ensure families voices are at the table when developing the plan and materials	0
Filter feature on a map of locations to help parents identify choices for early care and education	0
Liaisons working with school districts, CBOs, and centers to help navigate the options	0
Ensuring that the messaging of UPK mixed delivery system is collective of parent's and providers voices	0
Help parents understand difference in options (best pitch for each setting)	0
Get family perspective on their needs for child care and listening when determining options	0
Outreach campaign coordinated among stakeholders (schools, CBOs, county level orgs, etc.)	0
Provide access to all for free.	0
Make it easy to access/navigate.	0
Create an app. That way the marketing and advertising is always with the parents. Mult-modal communication with families (phone, online, in print, etc.)	0
Connect with child care providers -families go to them for advice and information	0
Make it fully inclusive and with the supports/scaffolds needed.	0

Additional Feedback	Votes
Share similarities and differences between options.	1
Continue our efforts towards advocacy to help make it a true, free, mixed delivery system. If families can't afford their preferred choice..	1

Use public service announcements to share the same key information.	0
Create a Centralized Eligibility and/or Enrollment system that is easy to navigate for parents to use.	0
Create a survey to find out what parents needs and interests are, including obstacles to help overcome and navigate.	0



Zenaida Meza, OAECE, noted that feedback will be used in the workgroups when developing recommendations for review by the LACOE board.

6. Announcements & Public Comment

Vice Chair Oliva opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Commissioner Serna introduced the new regional coordinator, Monica Hernandez.
- Rachel Klein noted the importance of including Wallack in workgroups to facilitate conversations regarding NYC's successful UPK implementation.

7. Call to Adjourn

Chair Lisa Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.