



Child Care Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2023

Members/Alternates in Attendance (31)				
Parents	ECE Program	Community Agency	Public Agencies	Discretionary
Dominic Armendariz	Rocio Bach	Cathy Coddington	Ranae Amezquita	Kelly O'Connell & <i>1st Supervisorial District</i>
Sally Valenzuela for LaRae Cantley	Brittie Crawford & Zivia Munoz	Manuel Fierro	Eileen Carrillo-Lau	Dianne Philibosian <i>5th Supervisorial District</i>
Erica Torres-Ness for Jessica Chang	Angela Gray	Samitha Givens	Nora Garcia-Rosales	Sarah Soriano <i>4th Supervisorial District</i>
Sandra Flores	Nellie Rios Parra	Joelle Landazabal	Ana Lopez & Regina Angelo - Tarango	Julie Taren <i>3rd Supervisorial District</i>
Mona Franco	Lisa Wilkin & Ancelma Sanchez	Ariana Oliva & Humberto Estratalan	Alicia Rivas for Maria Mora	Jennifer Baca Beltran SEIU Local 99
Crystal Jones		Kathy Schreiner	Tom Woodward & Vanessa San Martin	
Stephanie Garcia for Christina Moore		Edilma Serna & Monica Hernandez		
Eli Pessar				

Guests: Chris Sears – Lakeshore, Stacy Lee – Children Now, Rachel Klein – City of LA, Justin Blakely – Crystal Stairs, Amy Battle – Lakeshore, Crystal Thompson – Little Scholars Academy, Luis Molina – Early Edge CA, Justine Flores - Flores Family Child Care, Mark Funston – Lakeshore.

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

1.

2. 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 12:10 p.m. by welcoming members and guests. Wilkin invited members to introduce themselves, share their affiliated organization, and their role within the Child Care Planning Committee. Wilkin explained the rules of the consent calendar and asked members if anyone would like to remove an item from the consent calendar.

3. Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Ariana Oliva introduced the consent calendar. The consent calendar included the approval of the April 5, 2023, meeting minutes and the Local Planning Council (LPC) Local Funding Priorities. No members requested that an item be removed from the consent calendar.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Oliva shared that the minutes from the last meeting were emailed to all members and alternates, as well as posted on the OAECE website. Vice Chair Oliva shared that the Local Planning Council (LPC) Local Funding Priorities were distributed and discussed at the April meeting. Vice Chair Oliva presented the April 5, 2023, meeting minutes and the Local Planning Council (LPC) Local Funding Priorities and asked for a motion to approve. Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve the minutes; Nellie Ríos Parra seconded the motion. The motion on the consent calendar passed with 2 abstentions: Eli Pessar and Julie Taren.

4. Policy Update

Sarah Soriano, Joint Committee on Legislation, presented highlights from the Joint Committee on Legislation. Soriano provided updates on the two Pursuits of Positions.

- Continue child care family fee waivers for all state subsidized early learning and care programs through June 30, 2024
- Increase current reimbursement rates for state subsidized early care and education programs by 25% and adopt an alternative methodology using a cost estimation model and include a timeline for implementation for the actual cost of care based on program enrollment without charging families fees

Soriano shared updates on all bills of high interest for the Joint Committee on Legislation: Bonta AB 51, Carrillo AB 555, Reyes AB 596, Limon SB 380, and Menjivar SB 635. Lisa Wilkin added that Menjivar SB 499 would require ECE providers to replace heat absorbing surfaces on playgrounds. Wilkin shared her concern about the costs required if the bill is passed. Soriano noted that AB 110 included language about family fees and providing a more equitable scale for families.

Soriano provided a federal policy update and summarized President Biden's Executive Order, issued on April 18th, which makes child care and long-term care more accessible and affordable for families. Further detail is listed in the PowerPoint regarding the details of Biden's executive order.

5. Governance Work Group

Nellie Ríos Parra, Chair of the Governance Work Group, provided a membership update and requested members fill out the membership application to renew their Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC) membership. Ríos Parra requested members share the application with candidates that should apply. The new due date for applications is May 19, 2023, and Ríos Parra noted the revised meeting schedule beginning in September 2023.



Lisa Wilkin asked if there is a place to see the current roster and how to locate membership terms. Ríos Parra shared that members should reach out to OAECE staff for membership details.

6. Universal Prekindergarten Los Angeles (UPKLA)

Debra Colman, Director of the OAECE, provided an update on the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Framework. Colman shared the benefits and challenges of UPK (Universal Pre-Kindergarten). More detail is listed in the PowerPoint. Colman introduced two grants: 1) the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Grant, led by the OAECE, and 2) the Implementation Grant, led by LACOE. Colman shared the allowable costs of the two grants. A detailed list of the allowable costs is listed in the PowerPoint. Colman shared an update on the strategy development process and the steps taken before submitting the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Application to the CDE in April. Over the last several months, the Child Care Planning Committee Workgroups have provided feedback regarding needs within the early care and education system. Colman summarized the feedback that has been shared during the Child Care Planning Workgroups. Feedback from workgroups is listed in the PowerPoint. The OAECE and CCPC incorporated the feedback from workgroups and identified 4 key goals of the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Grant:

1. Increase parents' knowledge about early education choices
2. Establish local partnerships between LEAs and ECE mixed delivery system
3. Enhance partnerships to support children with special needs
4. Increase supports for workforce

Colman shared the involved activities, short term outcomes, and long-term outcomes of each goal. Details on each goal and related activities and outcomes are listed on the PowerPoint. Colman provided next steps:

- 5/03 Vote to approve the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Framework
- 6/30 Present UPKLA Mixed Delivery Framework to LACOE Board
- 7/01 Launch UPKLA

Colman invited members to share comment, questions, and reflections on the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Framework.

Crystal Jones, co-chair of the Parent Engagement workgroup, shared that they've worked towards a unified approach for effective collaboration between parents and providers.

Ranae Amezcuita, co-chair of the Access and Inclusion workgroup, emphasized the need to amplify parent choice and improve access to information, recognizing that families have diverse pathways to reach their goals.

Lisa Wilkin inquired about the whereabouts of 4-year-olds not enrolled in UTK or state funded preschool and proposed asking parents where their children are being cared for and what contributed to their choice. She also asked about the demographics of families utilizing UTK. Julie Taren shared her concern



that an unintentional consequence of the development of a bifurcated system. She suggested using parent groups on social media parent groups to support parents understanding of parental choice.

Nellie Ríos Parra questioned the adaptability of the plan and the possibility of revisiting and adjusting it if needed. She emphasized the need to avoid past mistakes and set realistic goals. Colman confirmed the ability to modify the framework and highlighted the iterative nature of the process.

Justin Blakely noted the planning framework aligns with AB 51, which includes referral services from R&R agencies. He added that AB 51 has been re-referred to the Committee on Appropriations to determine implementation stages.

Brittie Crawford responded to Wilkin's questions and shared that from 2014 to 2021 most four-year olds who would qualify for TK would stay at her preschool. However, in 2022 all the children eligible for TK went to TK classrooms and left the preschool. Kelly O'Connell shared that this is the experience they are hearing at Options for Learning from their private preschool centers.

Dianne Philibosian expressed concern over the history of unimplemented state comprehensive plans for a unified ECE system, emphasizing the need for strong advocacy efforts involving parents, teachers, and community members. She highlighted the need for local-level organization due to municipal agencies' restrictions on lobbying expenditures. Philibosian also inquired about the link between LACOE and school districts, and how the latter will be involved in planning. She stated that the inability to contract from a school district to mixed delivery is unacceptable and urged writing letters to state legislators to effect change.

Erica Torres-Ness inquired about other cities or states that have implemented UPK, to learn from their experiences.

Rachel Klein suggested considering Tulsa, Oklahoma as an example for UPK implementation. She expressed optimism about the core of the UPKLA framework, despite remaining questions and concerns, after observing the process over the last few months.

Ranae Amezquita echoed Lisa Wilkin's concerns about student enrollment and questioned why UTK could not be taught in centers that implement developmentally appropriate practices, given teachers' experience with teaching four-year-olds. Amezquita shared concerns about under enrollment of various preschool options and the way parents are informed of the options available to them. She also expressed concern about TK classrooms being developmentally appropriate.

Nellie Rios Parra shared that the work the UPK Liaisons will be doing should be brought back to CCPC so the committee can provide feedback and make changes to the plan. Colman agreed and shared that this



plan can be changed throughout the implementation and CCPC will provide feedback and recommendations for any course correction.

Stacey Lee suggested adding more language on centering children's needs, citing examples from the LA Consortium to move towards meeting their needs and achieving larger goals.

Eli Pessar, Maryland State Department of Education, asked for more detail on how the budget will be spent beyond the 25% allocated for community liaisons. Pessar also inquired about the feasibility of working with community colleges to build workforce pipelines but expressed concerns about articulation and noted a partnership with Workforce Pathways and QSLA. Pessar asked what the UPKLA Framework was funding in term of activities and staff.

Colman responded that defined articulation and provided more details on the budget allocation, including funds for community based UPK liaisons to gather input from parents, expertise gathering, special needs development improvements, unified training plan, hiring a UPK coordinator at the OAECE office, graphic design, and materials. Colman also shared that there is a need to crosswalk the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Framework and the LACOE UPK Planning, and Implementation grant to maximize resources.

Justine Flores raised concern about the lack of discussion and inclusion of Family Child Care providers in the planning framework. Justine asked how Family Child Care providers will be included if they are not part of the FCCHEN program, especially if they are not allowed to join one, and emphasized the need for collaboration with all providers, not just FCCHEN's.

Valerie Marquez raised concerns about workforce development and retention in early education due to historically low pay. She suggested incorporating the California Early Childhood Mentor Program for directors and teachers into the UPK plan to recruit and retain new providers. She also proposed tying in the workforce registry for retention and incentivizing providers and expressed concern about recent changes to stipend requirements for continuing education.

Brittie Crawford asked how many liaisons will be hired and Colman responded that 8 local community liaisons will be hired in conjunction with 8 local R&Rs.

Vote to Approve

Vice Chair Oliva presented the Universal Prekindergarten Los Angeles and asked for a motion to approve. Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve the UPKLA Mixed Delivery Planning Grant Framework; Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. The motion passed with 0 abstentions.

7. Announcement and Public Comment

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

- Betsy Jacoby, OAECE Staff Analyst, announced that the OAECE has launched the facility fee waiver program for infants and toddler facilities.
- Julie Taren announced three Infant Development Association for California events listed here:
 - May 13: Zoom listening session to discuss professional and parental issues
 - May 16: Training event on cultural responsiveness for siblings
 - May 22: IDA annual policy update and follow-up with Department of Developmental Services.
- Erica Torres-Ness shared that May 12 is National Early Care Provider Appreciation Day.
- Rachel Klein shared the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation has obtained funding to open child care centers at certain parks and they have just opened two centers and will be opening a total of 30 by January 2024. Centers serve children 3-5 and there are some ideas of pushing for more centers to serve children birth to 3 given the impact of TK.
- Jennifer Baca Beltran updated the group on bargaining between child care providers and the state, with providers proposing a rate increase package and retirement while the state proposed stipends instead of wage increases. She expressed that stipends are not a solution and providers should be paid the cost of care. She shared that there will be lobbying at the state capital on May 24th and June 15th.
- Stacy Lee highlighted the Children's Movement in California. The top priority campaign is child care rate reform campaign and aims to increase rates by 25% to reach the cost of care over multiple years. Please visit the Children Now website and signing the campaign to support this cause.

8. Call to Adjourn

Chair Lisa Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.