

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners, Alternates, and Guests

Vice Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:01 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments by the Chair

Vice Chair Albarran Moses highlighted the importance of staying positive, building relationships, learning, and adapting when trying to improve policies and systems. She emphasized that nurturing existing relationships and building new ones will help the Commission accomplish the policies and systems change we seek.

General Business

3. Approval of Minutes - May 10, 2023

Vice Chair Albarran Moses presented the minutes from May 10, 2023 and asked for a motion to approve the May 2023 minutes. Commissioner Jessica Perea made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Jennifer Cowan seconded the motion. The May minutes passed with one abstention: Commissioner Ofelia Medina

Public Policy

4. Legislation Updates

Commissioner Justin Blakely, Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Legislation, provided an update on the status of the Pursuit of Position and budget process. LA County Chief Executive Office's Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Office did not move the Pursuit of Position forward.

Commissioner Blakely noted in his budget update that the current budget waives subsidized child care family fees through September 30, 2023, and the 2023-24 Budget Act will permanently revise the family fee schedule. Starting October 1, 2023, families below 75% of the Standard Median Income (SMI) will no longer pay a family fee, and family fees will be capped at 1% for families at 75% or over the SMI.

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), shared that because the state has a \$34+ billion deficit, LA County's priority is to preserve or minimize funding cuts to state funded County programs. She added that LA County has had a high interest in the Pursuit of Position; however, Positions requesting new or increased funding is not a top priority for the County at this time. Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey suggested that the Commission consider modifying the Pursuit of Position by separating the financial request from the rate reform request.

Commissioner Fran Chasen noted that it is important to build on the work the Commission did this year to strengthen the Commission's relationships with the Board of Supervisors. Commissioner Jennifer Cowan asked which is the best approach to working with the Board of Supervisors: through the Delegation teams and/or Board of Supervisor appointees individually meeting with Supervisors. Colman responded that both approaches are needed.

Commissioner Blakely presented legislation updates and noted the legislature will pass the Budget Act (SB 101 and AB 101) on June 15, 2023. The legislative budget priorities include *Care COLA to stabilize child care and help parents*. All high interest bills have advanced to the Assembly or Senate and there is optimism regarding their progress. AB 51 may become a trailer bill and require Resource and Referral agencies to include navigation and referral services for preschool program services under the Early Education Act and transitional kindergarten programs. Further details about legislation bills reviewed in the presentation can be found in the PowerPoint.

5. Child Care Needs Assessment

Colman provided an update on the Child Care Needs Assessment being led by the OAECE and the Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC). She noted the CCPC is required by the state to perform an early care and education (ECE) needs assessment every 5 years. The assessment includes recommendations focused on legislative policy, administrative policy, and systems change. The Needs Assessment includes three focus areas: 1) Access, 2) Quality, and 3) Workforce. Additional details can be found in the PowerPoint provided. Commissioners and guests divided into smaller groups to discuss and prioritize the proposed Needs Assessment's policy recommendations. Each group shared their feedback on the proposed recommendations. The following are prioritized rankings of the recommendations.

Access

- "Prioritize public funding for infants and toddlers and incentivize non-LEA providers to expand service to children birth to 3" was identified as the highest priority.
- "Establish a user-friendly, parent-facing system to enroll in ECE subsidy programs" was identified as the second highest priority.
- "Pursue a federal waiver to eliminate family fees for subsidized ECE programs" was identified as the third priority.

The following policy recommendations were not identified as a priority:

- "Strengthen capacity of R&Rs, APs, DPSS, LEAs to have a coordinated, yet localized, parent-centered approach to support enrollment"
- "Create a system to inform all LA County licensed providers about ECE subsidies"
- "Create a mechanism for LEAs to contract with mixed delivery to provide TK"
- "Establish a unified enrollment platform for publicly funded ECE (TK, CCTR, etc.)"
- "Invest in a study to understand the impact of UPK on mixed delivery system"

Some of the points made in the discussion about Access included the following:

- Align enrollment and awareness systems to streamline the process at County and federal levels
- Enhance the capacity of R&Rs to coordinate and provide easily understandable information to parents and providers, while increasing general awareness among parents and providers
- Advocate for LA County to receive its fair share of funds and ensure proper allocation of resources

Quality

- "Establish a single reimbursement rate that covers the true cost of care" was identified as the highest priority with the following language changes: "Establish a new rate reimbursement methodology that covers the true cost of care and include FFN Providers."

The following policy recommendations were not identified as a priority:

- "Invest in shared service networks among ECE providers to reduce costs"

- “Pilot joint-use facilities between elder care and ECE to maximize resources”
- “Invest in business training for FCCs to strengthen their sustainability”
- “Increase investments to expand LA County FCCHEN’s as a vehicle to maximize support for FCC’s”
- “Invest in family engagement training for FFNs to improve the care for the children in their family”
- “Increase investments to support FFNs in becoming a licensed family child care provider”

Some of the points made in the discussion about Quality included the following:

- Revise the reimbursement rate methodology instead of using a single reimbursement rate to ensure fair compensation for both licensed and licensed exempt care providers
- Address the need for coordination and collaboration between Shared Service Networks and Family Child Care Home Networks while maintaining effective communication channels
- Establish partnerships with the Department of Aging and Disabilities to initiate a pilot program

Workforce

- “Provide financial relief through stipends, bonuses, tax credits, education loan forgiveness and home buying assistance” was identified as the highest priority.
- “Establish a local investment to increase the compensation of the ECE workforce” was identified as the second highest priority.

The following policy recommendations were not identified as a priority:

- “Establish compensation standards for starting and ongoing wages, benefits, and planning time for professionals using the living wage standard” and the group noted that “compensation standards” needs to be clarified.
- “Invest in innovative “earn and learn” strategies to recruit and train an effective workforce, like apprenticeship programs”
- “Increase funding for college and career advisement programs to strengthen qualifications and retain the current workforce”
- “Pilot competency-based pathways that allows the workforce to demonstrate competency in order to earn credit toward degrees”

Some of the points made in the discussion about Workforce included the following:

- Emphasize the importance of developing strategies for effectively distributing financial support to the workforce
- Address the challenge of ensuring continued salary payments if funding is no longer available
- Explore and replicate innovative practices and successful initiatives from cities and communities to enhance the workforce in other locations
- Workforce is necessary for all Access and Quality to be successful

Colman closed the conversation with next steps regarding these recommendations and that a Needs Assessment Policy Brief will be released in Fall 2023.

[Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion](#)

6. Policy Roundtable 2022-2023 Reflections and Goals for 2023-2024

Vice Chair Albarran Moses reviewed some of the Policy Roundtable’s accomplishments for FY 2022-23 and invited Commissioners to share their *end of the year* reflections on FY 2022-23 and identify goals for the Commission for FY 2023-24. Commissioners shared the following:

FY 2022-23 Accomplishments

- Fostered in-person collaboration and quick decision-making regarding priorities
- Incorporated collective perspectives and input into a Pursuit of Position
- Developed a strong Pursuit of Position
- Maintained a strong focus on equity and utilization of the Equity Statement
- Elevated the importance of mixed-delivery child care services and parent choice
- Continued to prioritize the well-being of children and families
- Established and activated Board of Supervisor Delegation Teams

FY 2023-24 Goals

- Identify “dynamics” earlier and how to address these dynamics; initiate conversations to provide policy requests earlier; anticipate who will be future electeds to help ensure ECE is a policy priority
- Seek partners to align priorities and strengthen our positions; identify ways to align our priorities with other industry priorities, such as housing and mental health, to maximize impact
- Highlight the potential long-term cost savings associated with advancing Commission budget requests
- Revisit ECE fiscal analysis because the ECE landscape has changed
- Stay abreast of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) implementation
- Utilize child/family data to advocate for policy changes; seek out why fewer families are utilizing child care services
- Advocate for legislation through a Pursuit of Position

In closing the discussion and preparing for FY 2023-24 Vice Chair Albarran Moses announced the Commission will update its Ordinance and Bylaws. Vice Chair Albarran Moses requested volunteers to be part of a summer workgroup to develop proposed changes to the Ordinance and Bylaws for the Commission to consider. Commissioners Jessica Perea, Amber Rivas, and Dean Tagawa volunteered to participate in the workgroup.

Wrap Up

7. Announcements and Public Comment

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Commissioner Chasen shared that the Southern California Chapter of the California Association for the Education of Young Children will host a virtual meeting on July 17, 2023 and will provide updates on the proposed early childhood credential. For more information visit www.scccaeyc.net.
- Lisa Wilkin shared that two Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles FCHENs are ending. She added that FCCs providing subsidized child care during specific months are eligible to receive \$1,442.
- Commissioner Ariana Olivia shared that in CCPC’s June 2023 meeting, the CCPC provided feedback on the Needs Assessment policy recommendations and approved the 2023-24 CCPC membership slate.
- Betsy Jacoby, OAECE Staff Analyst, noted LA County facility development fee waivers are available for programs serving infants and toddlers in LA County unincorporated areas and that a training hosted by OAECE and Public Counsel on how to expand child care services to include more infants and toddlers will be offered June 28, 2023.
- Commissioner Blakely provided the following information:
 - June 15, 2023: More than 3,500 people will gather at the Capitol to advocate for critical investments to support providers
 - June 24, 2023: Community Voices will hold a workshop on storytelling as an advocacy approach

- June 30, 2023: Deadline for Governor Newsom to sign the budget and Crystal Stairs is providing information regarding ways to contact the Governor to support child care funding.

8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:07 PM.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*
4. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
6. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
7. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
8. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
9. Ariana Oliva, *Child Care Planning Committee*
10. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
11. Dean Tagawa, *LA Unified School District*
12. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
13. Fran Chasen, *Southern CA Chapter - CA Association for the Education of Young Children*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Guests Attendance

1. Felisa Chavez
2. Rachel Klein
3. Heesu Kim
4. Esther Nguyen
5. Kelly Reynolds
6. Shay Scott
7. Lisa Wilkin

Staff Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Director*
2. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
3. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*
4. Charli Lewis, *Administrative Aide*
5. Zenaida Meza, *Staff Analyst*
6. Meliza Hernandez, *Staff Analyst*