



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes**

September 13, 2023

### **Welcome and Introductions**

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

Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable) Commission meeting at 10:05 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

#### **2. Comments by the Chair**

Chair Albarran Moses welcomed two new Commissioners: 1) Gloria Davis who was appointed to represent Supervisor Hilda Solis District 2; and 2) Mercedes Santoro who was appointed to represent the Department of Parks and Recreation. Chair Albarran Moses shared that this year's theme for the Policy Roundtable Commission is "Synchronized Systems." The theme uplifts the Policy Roundtable Commission's intent to foster meaningful connections among County Departments and other systems.

### **General Business**

#### **3. Consent Calendar**

##### **3a. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2023**

##### **3b. Policy Roundtable Appointment to First 5 LA Commission**

*Vice Chair Justin Blakely presented the Consent Calendar which includes the minutes from the Policy Roundtable's June 14, 2023 meeting and appointing Chair Albarran Moses to represent the Policy Roundtable on First 5 LA's Commission; Vice Chair Blakely then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Jennifer Cowan made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar; Commissioner Amber Rivas seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar passed with one abstention: Commissioner Nurhan Pirim.*

### **Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion**

#### **4. Policy Roundtable Goals FY 2023-2024**

Chair Albarran Moses shared that the Policy Roundtable will carry over its FY 2022-23 goals to FY 2023-24; the goals are: 1) Update Ordinance and Bylaws; 2) Promote Integration Across Early Childhood Services; and 3) Propose Policy Recommendations.

##### **Goal #1: Update Ordinance and Bylaws**

Leanne Drogin, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Deputy Director, noted the Policy Roundtable Commission was established by an Ordinance in May 2000 and the Ordinance and Bylaws were last updated in 2013. In June 2023, the Commission established a workgroup to develop recommendations for the revision of the Ordinance and Bylaws. Drogin reviewed the recommendations developed by the workgroup. Some of the recommendations she noted included the inclusion of a



Commission representative from the Department of Economic Opportunity, consolidating expert categories, changes to Commissioner term limits, and replacing subcommittees with ad hocs.

Drogin then opened the floor for discussion. Commissioners raised concerns about term limits for appointees within County Departments because of the difficulty in finding County Department representatives who possess the appropriate content and systems knowledge needed to serve on the Commission. Commissioners recommended that County Departments do not have term limits. Drogin provided next steps which includes sharing the County Department term limit change with Department of Public Health's Counsel for review and feedback and including the recommended changes to the Ordinance and Bylaws as an action item on the next Commission agenda.

### Goal #2: Promote Integration Across Early Childhood Services

Chair Albarran Moses highlighted that one of the Commission's key responsibilities involves in collaboration with LA County Departments and community stakeholders to identify strategies to secure and leverage, coordinate, monitor and maximize funding for and access to high quality child care and development services. She noted that the first phase of this goal began in FY 2022-23. Several County Departments, who are part of the Commission, shared with the Policy Roundtable information about child care and development work their Departments are leading or involved in. This year the Commission intends to map LA County early childhood programs and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems. Chair Albarran Moses added that the Commission will work in partnership with OAECE to develop these strategies.

### Goal #3: Propose Policy Recommendations

Vice Chair Blakely noted that as part of the Commission's role to provide policy recommendations, there are multiple methods for elevating policy recommendations. He noted the Commission typically utilizes a Pursuit of Position to elevate policy recommendations for the State budget. The Commission can also use a Pursuit of Position for legislation or recommend a 5-Signature Board Letter to advocate for policy changes. Vice Chair Blakely added that the Commission's delegation teams will continue to meet with Board of Supervisor Offices this year to provide policy positions.

Vice Chair Blakely reviewed that the Commission's process to develop policy recommendations has typically started with the Policy Roundtable identifying policy priorities and based on those priorities the Joint Committee on Legislation provides policy recommendations to the Policy Roundtable. Starting this year, to align more with its purpose, the structure of the Joint Committee on Legislation will move from being a subcommittee to an ad hoc. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Robert Gilchick suggested that the Policy Roundtable consider ways to proactively identify the challenges that need to be addressed, continue to take positions on existing bills, and consider developing bills to propose. Commissioner Pirim suggested the Commission review the Policy Platform

earlier in the year and take positions on policy issues as early as possible. The Policy Platform identifies LA County Legislative Agenda items that align with the Commission's mission and purpose. Another Commissioner suggested that the Policy Roundtable identify issues that organizations/Departments represented on the Commission are prioritizing and where is there alignment with these the issues and the Policy Platform.

Drogin announced that on September 12, 2023, the LA County Board of Supervisors passed a motion that directed the OAECE, in partnership with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), to develop in 180 days a Blueprint to fortify the infant toddler child care system in LA County. The development of the Blueprint will include input opportunities for parents, providers, and other stakeholders. OAECE is requesting that the Policy Roundtable help develop policy recommendations to incorporate into the Blueprint. Vice Chair Blakely noted that the Blueprint presents a significant opportunity for the Policy Roundtable Commission to lead the development of policy recommendations, showcasing the Commission's expertise in the infant toddler child care system and ensuring LA County's accountability for Blueprint implementation.

#### **5. Approve Infant-Toddler Policy Ad Hoc**

*Chair Albarran Moses requested a motion to approve an Infant Toddler Policy ad hoc. Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey made the motion to approve the formation of an Infant Toddler Policy ad hoc; Commissioner Gloria Davis seconded the motion. Commissioner Albarran Moses opened the conversation for discussion. A Commissioner inquired if the Infant Toddler Policy ad hoc should include the Child Care Planning Committee (CCPC). Drogin noted that there will be opportunities for the CCPC to inform the Blueprint and the role to develop policy recommendations lies with the Policy Roundtable Commission and the role of the Roundtable was echoed by other Commissioners. The discussion also included that the development of a Blueprint is a large undertaking, the need to build on existing work, and that the OAECE and DEO have the option to request an extension if needed. The Infant Toddler Policy ad hoc passed with no abstentions. Vice Chair Albarran Moses requested Commissioners to join the Infant-Toddler Policy Ad Hoc. Commissioners Luis Bautista, Jennifer Cowan, Ofelia Medina, and Kanchana Tate volunteered to join the ad hoc.*

#### **Wrap Up**

#### **7. Announcements and Public Comment**

Vice Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment. No public comment was provided.

#### **8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn**

Vice Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

## **Attendance**

### **Commissioners Attendance**

1. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
2. Gloria Davis, *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. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
10. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
11. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
12. Luis Bautista, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
13. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
14. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*

### **Alternate Commissioners Attendance**

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

### **Guests Attendance**

1. Cristina Alvarado
2. Bruce Boyden
3. Marvin Espinoza
4. Humberto Estratalan
5. Veronica Herrera
6. Heesu Kim
7. Rachel Klein
8. Esther Nguyen
9. Kelly Reynolds
10. Isidro Villanueva

### **Staff Attendance**

1. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
2. Meliza Hernandez, *Staff Analyst*
3. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*
4. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*
5. Zenaida Meza, *Staff Analyst*