



**POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

Submit to: LA County Commissions Services

Instructions: Each LA County Commission is required to provide an update to the Board of Supervisors about its activities through an Annual Report. The Annual Report for Citizen’s Advisory Commissions is to be completed either each Fiscal Year (FY) or each Calendar Year as determined by the Commission. The following template includes suggested sections but is meant to be used as a guide and does not preclude a Commission from including additional information.

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PART I: COVER SHEET

Question: Include the name of the Commission and the timeframe covered by the Annual Report.

1.1) Commission Name

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission
Timeframe: FY 2022-2023

Question: Include the Commission's physical and website addresses, telephone, and fax numbers

1.2) Address

600 South Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 800 Los Angeles, California 90005

1.3) Website

<https://childcare.lacounty.gov/prccd/>

1.4) Fax

N/A

1.5) Telephone

(213) 639-6202

1.6) Policy Roundtable Commissioners

Question: Include members’ names and their titles, and the names of the Executive Officer.

**Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission
Program Year September 2022 – June 2023**

COMMISSIONERS

Karla Pleitéz Howell, J.D., Chair
First Supervisorial District
Alejandra Albarran Moses, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Fourth Supervisorial District

LA County Board of Supervisor Appointees

First Supervisorial District	Second Supervisorial District	Third Supervisorial District	Fourth Supervisorial District	Fifth Supervisorial District
<i>Karla Pleitéz Howell</i>	<i>Justin Blakely</i>	<i>Jennifer Cowan</i>	<i>Alejandra Albarran Moses</i>	<i>Ellen Cervantes</i>
<i>Jessica Perea</i>	<i>Sharoni Little</i>	<i>Amber Rivas</i>	<i>Ricardo Mota</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

LA County Department Appointees

Chief Executive Office

Vacant
Alternate: Vacant

Department of Children and Family Services

Jennifer Hottenroth
Alternate: Lisa-Marie Kay

Department of Mental Health

Kanchana Tate
Alternate: Rebeca Hurtado

Department of Probation

Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo
Alternate: Vacant

Department of Parks and Recreation

Vacant
Alternate: Vacant

Department of Public Health

Robert Gilchick
Alternate: Vacant

Department of Public Social Services

Nurhan Pirim
Alternate: Nora Garcia-Rosales

Other Agency Appointees

Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles

Jackie Majors
Alternate: Paul Pulver

Child Care Planning Committee

Ariana Oliva

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (aka: Child360)

Vacant
Alternate: Vacant

Commission for Children and Families

Steve Zimmer
Alternate: Jacquelyn McCroskey

First 5 LA

Ofelia Medina
Alternate: Jaime Kalenik

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Luis Bautista
Alternate: Debi Anderson

Los Angeles Unified School District

Dean Tagawa
Alternate: Colleen Pagter

Southern CA Chapter – CA Association for the Education of Young Children

Fran Chasen
Alternate: Liliana Alvarez Hernandez

PART II: MISSION STATEMENT

Question: State the mission of the Commission and any motto or vision/values, if applicable; and how mission, vision and values align with and support the County's Mission and Strategic Priorities.

II.1) Mission

The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) builds and strengthens early care and education (ECE) by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement.

II.2) Vision

Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.

II.3) Alignment with and support of the County's Mission and Strategic Priorities

The Policy Roundtable Commission addresses issues that are in alignment with LA County's mission.

- LA County Mission
Establish superior services through inter-Departmental and cross-sector collaboration that measurably improves the quality of life for the people and communities of Los Angeles County.
- The Policy Roundtable Commission includes seven LA County Departments and requires the composition of the Commission to include a cross-section of skills, expertise, and experience that help facilitate inter-Department and cross-sector collaboration to improve the quality of life for the people and communities of LA County.

The Policy Roundtable Commission addresses issues that are in alignment with the following LA County Strategic Priorities:

- Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) Strategic Goal No. 3: Increase Stable Full-Time Employment Among Individual Adults with Incomes at or Above 250% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Child care is identified as a contributing outcome in the ARDI Strategic Plan.
- Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI): ECE is elevated as a critical issue in the Board's PAI. This Board priority has a focus on supporting ECE systems and workforce.

The Policy Roundtable Commission addresses issues that are in alignment with the following LA County State Legislative Agenda 2023-2024 items:

- Child Development and Early Care and Education
- Child Welfare Services
- CalWORKS
- Workforce Development
- Housing, Economic, and Community Development

II.4) Roles and Responsibilities

Question: List any roles and responsibilities of the Commission. This information can be extracted from the Commission ordinance, bylaws, or fact sheet.

Policy Roundtable Commission Ordinance SECTION 5. Section 3.75.100 Duties and Responsibilities

- Develop policy recommendations related to child care and development that are based on solid research economic forecasts, projected demographic shifts and trends, and federal and state policies, taking into account all forms of child care and development services.
- Advise and assist County Departments in developing and implementing strategies to connect clients and/or employees to high quality child care and development services.
- In conjunction with the Chief Executive Office, develop recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on County, state and federal legislative and budget issues related to child care and development. The Policy Roundtable shall work with community stakeholders so as to understand the impact of those issues on the supply, quality, and demand for child care and development services.
- Working in collaboration with County Departments and community stakeholders, identify strategies to secure and leverage, coordinate, monitor and maximize funding for and access to high quality child care and development services.
- Develop, distribute in electronic format, and post on a County website, an annual report summarizing key issues, Policy Roundtable recommendations, and Board of Supervisors actions.

Unified Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education 2020-2025

In FY 2019-2020, the Policy Roundtable co-created with the Office for the Advancement for Early Care and Education (OAECE) and Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) the Unified Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education 2020-2025 (Unified Strategic Plan). The Policy Roundtable, OAECE, and Planning Committee adopted the Unified Strategic Plan to ensure the three groups focus on the same child care and development priority areas. Each group agreed to work only within the boundaries of the Unified Strategic Plan.

The Unified Strategic Plan highlights priority areas, goals, and strategies for the Policy Roundtable to accomplish. This Unified Strategic Plan indicates important role delineations between the Policy Roundtable, OAECE, and Planning Committee. The following highlights strategies the Policy Roundtable is charged with focusing on:

Priority 1 - Access to Early Care and Education

Goal: Increase access to ECE services for children birth to five years of age and out of school care for children up to age twelve

Strategy 1.1: Reduce barriers and maximize resources to expand ECE services to centers and family child care homes, prioritizing infants and toddlers, high-need families, and under resourced communities

Strategy 1.2: Advocate for funding to build or upgrade ECE centers and family child care homes

Priority 2 - Early Care and Education Quality

Goal: Strengthen the quality of ECE services, especially for children and families most in need

Strategy 2.2: Advocate for increased quality improvement investments for all providers including centers, family child care homes, and family, friends, and neighbor care

Strategy 2.4: Promote integration across early childhood services and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems

Priority 3 - Early Care and Education Workforce Supports

Goal: Improve the compensation and qualifications of the ECE workforce

Strategy 3.1: Advocate for increased compensation for the ECE workforce

Priority 4 - Family and Community Engagement in Early Care and Education Issues

Goal: Increase engagement of parents, caregivers, and communities on ECE issues

Strategy 4.2: Empower and mobilize families as advocates for ECE resources

PART III: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Question: Provide historical information about the Commission such as when it was formed and the purpose for its formation.

III.1) Historical Information

- Formation of The Policy Roundtable Commission
The Policy Roundtable Commission, established in 2000, is a Board of Supervisors appointed body comprised of 25 community leaders in early childhood, education, business, economics, and research and representatives of County Departments including Chief Executive Office, Child and Family Services, Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, Probation, Public Health, and Public Social Services.
- Purpose of Policy Roundtable Commission
The Policy Roundtable Commission is charged with developing policy recommendations to elevate to the Board of Supervisors, advising County Departments on early care and education programs, and identifying strategies to secure, coordinate, and maximize funding for high quality services.
- Staffing the Policy Roundtable Commission
The Policy Roundtable is staffed by the OAECE, an Office within LA County Department of Public Health (DPH).

III.2 and III.3) Prior Year Accomplishments and Significant Outcomes (2021-2022)

III.2) *Question: Include issues of focus in the past year (FY 2021-2022) (do not include current year FY 2022-2023 which will be discussed in section VI: Current Year's Accomplishments).*

III.3) *Question: Include significant outcomes of work by the Commission.*

Policy Roundtable Commission Issue Areas, Accomplishments, and Outcomes FY 2021-2022

Issue	Accomplishment	Outcomes
Access to Early Care and Education		
There is not enough licensed infant and toddler ECE spaces to meet the need.	OAECE, Policy Roundtable, and Department of Regional Planning developed and submitted to the Board of Supervisors in May 2022 a <i>“Plan to Assess Feasibility of Potential Solutions to Remove Barriers in ECE Land Use Entitlements and Permitting Processes and Engage Additional Partners to Support ECE Providers Applying for State Infrastructure Grant Program”</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workgroup comprised of multiple County Departments, child care licensing, Public Counsel, and First 5 LA developed a Toolkit and provided a training to providers on how to navigate LA County facility development approval process and apply for state facility development grants. • A Toolkit was also developed for City Planners to expand city staff understanding of the importance of ECE services in their communities and ways to reduce facilities development barriers for ECE providers.
Early Care and Education Quality		
State funding for LA County’s local child care and development planning council (LPCs) was reduced	Policy Roundtable submitted a Pursuit of Position to LA County’s CEO Legislative and Intergovernmental Legislative Affairs Office (Legislative Affairs) to support efforts to restore full funding for LPCs	Legislative Affairs did not move this policy recommendation in the Pursuit of Position forward, however, funding for LPCs was restored in the California Budget FY 2022-2023 to the full funding level originally provided in 2011.

from nearly \$380,000 to approximately \$190,000.	in order for LPCs to fully meet their contract mandates to support the ECE system and infrastructure.	
Early Care and Education Workforce Supports		
Child care wages are low making it difficult to recruit and retain people to the field.	Commission developed a Pursuit of Position to support an increase in subsidized reimbursement rates by 20% above the current 75 th percentile of the 2018 Regional Market Rate Survey. This increase is essential to stabilizing California’s ECE system and helping the ECE workforce make progress toward receiving wages comparable to their education and experience.	Legislative Affairs moved this Pursuit of Position forward. The California Budget FY 2022-2023 included \$413 million to annualize a full year of previously agreed upon rate increases while the state continues to work with partners and stakeholders toward a single reimbursement rate structure.
ECE programs need to remain open during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.	Commission developed a Pursuit of Position for an additional 18 months of COVID-19 relief funding to provide the necessary supports for agencies to rebuild their ECE programs to achieve full enrollment and offer families additional time to financially recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Pursuit of Position was moved forward by Legislative Affairs. Additional COVID-19 relief funding was approved and included in the California Budget FY 2022-2023: \$157 million to temporarily waive family fees for state subsidized preschool and child care services through September 30, 2023 and \$114 million to pay providers based on enrollment at the maximum authorized hours of care (also known as “hold harmless”) through September 30, 2023.
Funding for the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants Program was not distributed due to concern for economic instability with the emergence of COVID-19.	Commission developed a Pursuit of Position to reinstate the \$195 million to the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development Grants Program and an additional \$55 million to focus on the professional development needs of family, friend, and neighbor (license-exempt) providers and build the capacity of early educators to serve dual language learners.	Pursuit of Position was moved forward by Legislative Affairs but the Early Learning and Care Workforce Development grant funding was not reinstated in the state’s final budget.
Policy Roundtable Commission Infrastructure		
Policy Roundtable did not have a written commitment to promote equity in its activities.	The Policy Roundtable elevated equity issues in informational meetings with LA County Board of Supervisors’ Children’s Deputies, and in Pursuits of Positions to Legislative Affairs.	The Policy Roundtable developed and adopted an Equity Statement.

III.4) Changes to the Commission

Question: Indicate whether the Commission expanded, changed, or remained consistent with their duties/goals/missions during FY 2022-2023.

Changed

As the COVID-19 pandemic subsided, most COVID-19 mandates and policies also started to conclude. For example, in February 2023 the policy allowing bodies governed by the Brown Act to meet virtually ended. As a result, the Policy Roundtable began to meet in-person starting in March 2023.

Consistent (No Changes)

The Policy Roundtable established an Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc in June 2023 to develop recommended changes to the Commission's Ordinance and Bylaws. The recommendations will be presented to the Policy Roundtable for consideration in FY 2023-2024.

Expanded

The Policy Roundtable continued to expand its implementation of its Equity Statement. More information about how the Policy Roundtable expanded its promotion of equity is provided in Part IV: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

PART IV: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Question: Indicate how your Commission has included diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in your work, projects, and activities to represent all constituents of the County of Los Angeles.

IV.1) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives

The Policy Roundtable Commission developed and adopted the Equity Statement listed below in June 2021 and began integrating it into its work more intentionally in FY 2021-2022. While it was standard practice for the Policy Roundtable to prioritize equity issues, the Equity Statement explicitly and formally recognized that this is a value and commitment for the Commission. The Policy Roundtable applies an equity lens as defined by the Equity Statement when determining policy priorities, promotion of policies, and Commission interactions.

Policy Roundtable Commission Equity Statement

“The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (PRCCD) firmly believes that all young children in LA County have an undeniable right to develop and thrive without explicit and implicit biases. Existing systemic educational and societal barriers have led historically marginalized communities to lack access to education, healthcare, and other services necessary for their growth and development.

Acknowledging and eliminating the various layers of inequities is essential and central to ensuring that children, families, and child care providers will be recognized as valued members of society. PRCCD will also work diligently to make a collective impact in advancing equity for child care providers by influencing and championing training, development opportunities, and a diverse workforce.

To accomplish this, we must normalize a holistic, intentional investment in children, families, and child care providers. As influencers, we strive to create conscious, collaborative communities of leaders, policy makers, educators, and parents. The PRCCD is dedicated to challenging one another to engage in a full spectrum of diverse perspectives amongst subject-matter experts and the community at-large. PRCCD is committed to being the catalyst of advocacy for equitable public policies and supporting and sustaining effective quality early care and education through recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.”

IV.2) Methods to Express Ideas Openly

Question: Indicate how your Commission provides an environment that allows members, public and stakeholders to share and express openly their ideas, opinions, and beliefs.

The Policy Roundtable continued and sought out additional ways to elevate DEI in its practices and policy recommendations. The practices included:

- All new Commissioners were provided a *New Commissioner Orientation* and the Equity Statement was included and reviewed in this Orientation
- During COVID-19 the majority of Policy Roundtable meetings were virtual and the Commission established virtual meeting engagement methods to help expand participants’ comfort in participating in discussions, for example:
 - Encouraging people to attend early to chat with one another
 - At the beginning of each meeting people were encouraged to share something non-work related

- Meeting participants were encouraged to enter comments in the chat
- The meetings included the use of various technology such as JamBoard for people to add their ideas individually, anonymously, or with their name
- Inviting people to share their ideas pre and post meeting to OAECE staff via email or phone
- In March 2023, the Policy Roundtable Commission reinstated in-person meetings. The Commission implemented the following practices to broaden inclusivity for all participants:
 - Made virtual participation accessible for Commissioners who had extenuating circumstances
 - Designed meetings to include small group discussions to increase participation and then shared out small group discussions with the full group
 - Provided accessible parking options to Commissioners needing this accommodation
- The Policy Roundtable will continue to look for ways to strengthen its DEI practices and accountability and incorporating a DEI lens in its policy recommendations

IV.3) Bylaws/Mission Updates

Question: Indicate whether your Commission’s bylaws/mission statements include the promotion of zero tolerance in relation to racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences.

The Policy Roundtable’s Bylaws and Mission statement do not include specific language to promote zero tolerance in relation to racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences. The Policy Roundtable will review its Bylaws in FY 2023-2024 to determine if language reflecting zero tolerance in these areas needs to be added.

IV.4) Encouraging Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Question: Indicate how your Commission handled diverse matters appropriately and demonstrated a commitment to encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion to its constituents.

The Policy Roundtable highlights DEI efforts through its adherence to its Equity Statement. In FY 2022-2023, the Policy Roundtable included in its policy recommendations to the County the following: “The Policy Roundtable firmly believes that all young children in LA County have an undeniable right to develop and thrive without explicit and implicit bias. Due to structural inequity, all legislation and policies should be examined through an equity lens to build a system where all children have access to high quality, affordable early care and education.” More information about the policy recommendations (Pursuit of Position) is in Part VI: Current Year Accomplishments.

The Commission elevates DEI issues in its engagement with LA County Board of Supervisors’ Children’s Deputies and in policy recommendations via Pursuits of Positions. For example, in its Pursuit of Position in FY 2022-2023 the Policy Roundtable made equity a foundational issue by addressing the need for higher pay rates and wages for the ECE workforce, continuity of ECE services for families, and increased resources to support ECE workforce development. More information about these policy positions can be found in Part VI: Current Year Accomplishments.

PART V: NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Question: Provide goals or objectives for the upcoming year; and indicate how goals and objectives support the County's mission, vision, and strategic priorities.

V.1) Goals for FY 2023-2024 and County Support

The Policy Roundtable's FY 2023-2024 goals fall into the following areas:

1. Promote Public Policy Priority Issues: Develop at least one Pursuit of Position for a policy issue, submit policy recommendation to Legislative Affairs, and engage with Board of Supervisors Offices to elevate priority policy issue areas and recommendations.
2. Advance Unified Strategic Plan Priority Area 2: Promote integration across early childhood services and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems.
3. Strengthen Policy Roundtable Infrastructure: Update the Policy Roundtable's Ordinance and Bylaws.

Public Policy: Develop Policy Recommendations and Board of Supervisors Engagement

The Policy Roundtable will:

- Continue to invite and engage the Board of Supervisors' Children's Deputies to the Policy Roundtable Commission meetings and keep Deputies abreast of ECE landscape and policy priority issue areas
- Continue its practice to develop policy recommendations and at least one Pursuit of Position and
 - Submit Pursuit of Position to Legislative Affairs
 - Share Pursuit of Position with the Board of Supervisors' Offices through structured informational meetings
- Provide policy recommendations to OAECE to include in LA County's *Blueprint to Fortify the Infant and Toddler Child Care System*

Unified Strategic Plan: Early Childhood Services Integration

The Policy Roundtable will stay abreast of policies, research, and status of ECE landscape to inform its approach to implement the Unified Strategic Plan's Priority Area 2 (Quality) listed below:

- **Strategy 2.4**: Promote integration across early childhood services and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems
- **Activity 2.4.2**: Convene a community of practice among LA County Departments' early childhood initiatives and programs to support quality, share tools and resources, and improve coordination

The following approaches will be implemented to promote integration across early childhood services and with other child/family support systems.

- Commission meeting discussions will be facilitated to intentionally identify opportunities for coordination/integration across early childhood services and with other child/family support systems
- The Commission will establish an Ad Hoc to identify activities that promote collaboration and coordination between LA County Departments, cross-sectors, and other early childhood focused Commissions and share with the Policy Roundtable

- Informed by Ad Hoc recommendations and Commission discussions, the Policy Roundtable will develop a strategy that connects early childhood education with other child/family support systems

Policy Roundtable Infrastructure: Update Policy Roundtable’s Ordinance and Bylaws

The Policy Roundtable will conduct a thorough review of its Ordinance and Bylaws in FY 2023-2023 and make the appropriate changes. For example, LAUP (also known as Child360) is an organization that has a designated Commission seat, however, in FY 2021-2022 LAUP dissolved as an organization. This and other changes require the Policy Roundtable to update its Ordinance and Bylaws. The Policy Roundtable will also review its Bylaws to determine if it needs to include specific language to promote zero tolerance in relation to racial and ethnic discrimination and/or gender-based differences.

V.2 and V.3) Workplan FY 2023-2024 and Goal Timeline

V.2) Question: Include a work plan to accomplish the goals.

V.3) Question: Include a timeline for completion of each goal.

Policy Roundtable Commission Workplan FY 2023-2024			
Month	Goal 1: Promote Public Policy Priority Issues	Goal 2: Advance Unified Strategic Plan Priority Area 2 (Promote Integration Across Early Childhood Services and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems)	Goal 3: Strengthen Policy Roundtable Infrastructure
September 2023	Approve formation of Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc	Chair presents theme for FY 2023-2024: “Synchronizing Systems”	Policy Roundtable reviews recommended changes to Ordinance and Bylaws
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LA County ECE Landscape • Identify Commissioners’ areas of work that align with Policy Roundtable/Planning Committee Public Policy Platform 		Approve formation of Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LA County’s ECE Legislative Agenda and identify priority policy issue areas 		
December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc meets 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant Toddler Child Care Landscape Report presentation • Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc shares policy considerations to Policy Roundtable for feedback 		
January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Governor’s proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025 • P-5 Fiscal Strategies Presentation of ECE Fiscal Analysis • Policy Roundtable finalizes policy recommendations for Infant Toddler Blueprint 		Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc meets
February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify policy issues, informed by Planning Committee, to include in Pursuit of Position • Infant Toddler Blueprint presentation 	Establish Early Childhood Services Coordination (Services Coordination) Ad Hoc	Receive feedback from County Counsel regarding Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc recommendations
March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve Pursuit of Position • Commission Delegations begin to share Pursuit of Position with Board of Supervisors’ Deputies 	Services Coordination Ad Hoc meets to draft services coordination strategy	Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc presents recommendations to Policy Roundtable
April 2024	Delegations continue to share Pursuit of Position with Board of Supervisors’ Deputies	Services Coordination Ad Hoc presents early childhood services coordination strategy recommendations to Policy Roundtable	
May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Governor’s May Revise Budget FY 2024-2025 • Identify if another Pursuit of Position is needed or development of new legislation • Follow up with Board of Supervisors’ Deputies 	If needed, Services Coordination Ad Hoc meets	Policy Roundtable approves changes to Ordinance and Bylaws
June 2024		Policy Roundtable finalizes LA County Early Childhood Service Coordination Strategy	Submit requested changes to County Commission Services

PART VI: CURRENT YEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Question: For Commissions that are long-standing (2 years or older), include your accomplishments from your reporting year (2022-2023) and a completion date or expected completion date.

VI.1) Accomplishments FY 2022-2023

The Policy Roundtable’s significant accomplishments for FY 2022-2023 are captured in the following four categories:

1. Developed Policy Positions
2. Informed Board of Supervisors about Proposed Policies and ECE Needs
3. Strengthened Policy Roundtable Promotion of Equity
4. Adjusted to COVID-19 Policy Changes

1) DEVELOPED POLICY POSITIONS

The Policy Roundtable developed a Pursuit of Position that included two policy positions. The Pursuit of Position was informed by the Planning Committee, County Departments, and the public. For the full Pursuit of Position see Attachment 1.

Pursuit of Position

GOVERNOR’S 2023-24 BUDGET PROPOSAL: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

1. Continue Child Care Family Fee Waivers for all State Subsidized Early Childhood Services through June 30, 2024
2. 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

Background

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic families shouldered high child care costs and this was exacerbated by the pandemic, an economic downturn, and increased inflation levels. During the pandemic the state took temporary actions by waiving family fees for state subsidized child care programs. These actions played an essential role in preventing the child care system from collapsing and helping working families earning a low-income access child care services. These investments continue to be just as critical amid the current economic downturn and increased inflation levels. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “California is ranked third out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for most expensive infant care.”¹ Families continue to struggle to afford basic needs, particularly in communities of color which were impacted the most by the pandemic. The family fee waivers for state subsidized child care are due to sunset June 30, 2023, and many families in California will begin receiving a monthly bill of up to \$595 starting July 2023. In response to the Governor’s budget, the ECE Coalition released its 2023-2024 Budget letter, signed by more than 30 organizations, requesting family fees to be eliminated. Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes and Senator Monique Limón introduced legislation, AB 596 and SB 380 respectively, to “make child care more accessible to all families by suspending the family fee waiver until a sliding scale for family fees can be established to make it possible for low-income families to access affordable child

¹ Economic Policy Institute. *Child Care Costs in the United States*. <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/CA>

care.”² It will take time for programs and families to fully recover from the impact of the pandemic. Waiving family fees will reduce the hardships imposed on families during the pandemic by relieving them of making difficult choices about paying for food, rent, or child care. It is recommended that LA County support the ECE Coalition’s request for extending the family fee waivers.

Status of Pursuit of Position

At the time the Pursuit of Position was submitted to Legislative Affairs the state was projecting a \$34+ billion deficit and LA County’s policy priorities were focused on preserving or minimizing funding cuts to state funded County programs. LA County had a high interest in the Policy Roundtable’s policy positions, however, policy positions requesting new or increased funding were not a top priority for the County. Thus, Legislative Affairs did not approve the policy positions recommended by the Policy Roundtable. As just noted, the policy issues are of high interest to the County and Legislative Affairs partnered with OAECE to closely monitor the progress of several bills, most notably, Reyes AB 596/Limon SB 380, and budget trailer bills that addressed policy issues in the Pursuit of Position. The final state budget included subsidized child care fee waivers for families through June 30, 2025 and families would not have to pay more than 1% of their income toward fees.

Process and Stakeholder Engagement in Developing Pursuit of Position

The process to develop and monitor the progress of the Pursuit of Position spanned nine months (October 2022 – June 2023), and included the following stakeholder groups:

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission – 9 meetings

- Identified priority policy issues to elevate for Pursuit of Position
- Informed development of Pursuit of Position
- Approved Pursuit of Position
- Monitored progress of Pursuit of Position and related proposed legislation
 - ✓ Meeting Dates
 1. 10/12/2022
 2. 11/9/2022
 3. 12/14/2022
 4. 1/11/2023
 5. 2/8/2023
 6. 3/8/2023 – Pursuit of Position Approved by Roundtable
 7. 4/12/2023
 8. 5/10/2023
 9. 6/14/2023

Planning Committee – 4 meetings

- Informed development of Pursuit of Position
- Monitored progress of Pursuit of Position and related proposed legislation
 - ✓ Meeting Dates
 1. 3/1/2023

² Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes. *Assembly Majority Leader Reyes and Senator Limón Introduce Child Care Reform Legislation*. February 2023.

<https://a50.asmdc.org/press-releases/20230209-assembly-majority-leader-reyes-and-senator-senator-limon-introduce-child>

2. 4/5/2023
3. 5/3/2023
4. 6/7/2023

Joint Committee on Legislation – 6 meetings

- Developed recommended policy issues to elevate for Pursuit of Position
- Developed Pursuit of Position
- Monitored progress of Pursuit of Position and related proposed legislation
 - ✓ Meeting Dates
 1. 1/19/2023
 2. 2/16/2023
 3. 3/16/2023
 4. 4/20/2023
 5. 5/18/2023
 6. 6/15/2023

OAECE, DPH Government Affairs, and Legislative Affairs

OAECE consulted and coordinated with *DPH Government Affairs* and *CEO Legislative Affairs* in the development, submission, and monitoring of the Pursuit of Position. The OAECE met/communicated with:

- DPH Government Affairs on average two times a month from February 2023 – May 2023
- Legislative Affairs on average two times a month from April 2023 – May 2023
- DPH Government Affairs met with Commissioners and Planning Committee members (Joint Committee on Legislation) in March 2023 (3/16/23)

2) INFORMED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ABOUT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ECE LANDSCAPE

Commissioners from the Policy Roundtable and Board appointees from the Planning Committee met with four of the Board of Supervisors Offices (Supervisors Solis, Mitchell, Horvath, and Hahn) to provide a status on ECE in LA County and review the Pursuit of Position.

- ✓ Meeting Dates
 1. 4/3/2023 – Supervisor Horvath’s Office, Deputy Elizabeth Shuster
 2. 4/20/2023 – Supervisor Mitchell’s Office, Deputy Kelvin Driscoll
 3. 5/8/2023 – Supervisor Solis’s Office, Deputy Candice Roosjen
 4. 5/8/2023 – Supervisor Hahn’s Office, Deputy Maral Karaccusian
 5. 5/22/2023 – Supervisor Horvath’s Office, Deputy Elizabeth Shuster

3) STRENGTHENED POLICY ROUNDTABLE PROMOTION OF EQUITY

The Policy Roundtable strengthened its focus on DEI efforts through the application of its Equity Statement, explicitly elevating these issues in meetings with LA County Board of Supervisors’ Children’s Deputies and in policy recommendations. Equity is a foundational issue in addressing the need for higher pay rates and wages for the ECE workforce, continuity of ECE services for families, and increased resources to support ECE workforce development. The policy positions adopted by the Policy Roundtable in FY 2022-2023 embody the Policy Roundtable’s Equity Statement.

4) TRANSITIONED TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS

As noted in Part III: Historical Background, section 4: Changes to the Commission, most COVID-19 mandates and policies started to conclude as the COVID-19 pandemic subsided. In February 2023 the approval for bodies governed by the Brown Act to meet virtually ended and as a result the Policy

Roundtable began to meet in-person starting in March 2023. As part of the transition to meeting in-person the OAECE increased its outreach efforts to Commissioners to ensure the Policy Roundtable would have quorum for each meeting and secure meeting space.

PART VII: ONGOING/LONG-TERM PROJECTS

VII.1) Ongoing/Long-Term Projects

Question: Provide any ongoing or long-term projects that the Commission is continuing to work on.

The Unified Strategic Plan Priority Areas that the Policy Roundtable is currently focusing on are anticipated to need long-term multi-year action to improve policy and systems in these areas.

RECOMMENDED PURSUIT OF POSITION – GOVERNOR’S 2023-24 BUDGET PROPOSAL: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Introduction

The Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) firmly believes that all young children in LA County have an undeniable right to develop and thrive without explicit and implicit bias. Due to structural inequity, all legislation and policies should be examined through an equity lens to build a system where all children have access to high quality, affordable early care and education. With this as a core value, the Policy Roundtable in consultation with the Child Care Planning Committee, recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed pursuit of position to increase investments in the early care and education system in two areas:

- 1) Continue Child Care Family Fee Waivers for all State Subsidized Early Learning and Care Programs through June 30, 2024
- 2) 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

This document provides a brief analysis of each proposed budget item and justification. It concludes with the recommended pursuit of position and consistency with existing County legislative policies.

1) Continue Child Care Family Fee Waivers for all State Subsidized Early Childhood Services through June 30, 2024

Summary Analysis of Proposed Budget Item

Early care and education programs provided a critical service to children and families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by remaining open and/or re-opening to support working families, many of whom earn a low income and rely on subsidized child care services. During the pandemic the state took temporary actions by waiving family fees for state subsidized child care programs. These actions played an essential role in preventing the child care system from collapsing and helping working families earning a low income access to child care services. These investments continue to be just as critical amid the current economic downturn and increased inflation levels. According to the Economic Policy Institute, “California is ranked third out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for most expensive infant care.”¹ Families continue to struggle to afford basic needs, particularly in communities of color which were impacted the most by the pandemic. The family fee waivers for state subsidized child care are due to sunset June 30, 2023, and many families in California will begin receiving a monthly bill of up to \$595 starting July 2023. In response to the Governor’s budget, the ECE Coalition released its 2023-24 Budget letter, signed by more than 30 organizations, requesting family fees to be eliminated. Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes and Senator Monique Limón introduced legislation, AB 596 and SB 380 respectively, to “make child care more accessible to all families by suspending the family fee waiver until a sliding scale for family fees can be established to make it possible for low-income families to access affordable child care.”² Continuing the family fee waivers for an additional 12

¹ Economic Policy Institute. *Child Care Costs in the United States*. <https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/CA>

² Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes. *Assembly Majority Leader Reyes and Senator Limón Introduce Child Care Reform Legislation*. February 2023.

months will also provide families needed time to financially recover and progress from the impacts of the pandemic.

Justification

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic families shouldered high child costs and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic, an economic downturn, and increased inflation levels. It will take time for programs and families to fully recover from the impact of the pandemic. Waiving family fees will reduce the hardships imposed on families during the pandemic by relieving them of making difficult choices about paying for food, rent, or child care. It is recommended that LA County support the ECE Coalition's request for extending the family fee waivers.

2) 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

Summary Analysis of Proposed Budget Item

Current child care reimbursement rates do not cover the full cost of operating early care and education programs serving income eligible families. The ECE Coalition is also requesting to increase the reimbursement rate by 25% to cover the full cost of care. Low reimbursement rates directly impact the wages earned by the early care and education workforce largely comprised of Black and Latinx women, falling far short of providing compensation based on education and experience. Consequently, state-contracted agencies are finding it harder to recruit and retain qualified staff and family child care home providers are leaving the field for more lucrative professions to support their families.

The Budget Act of 2021 transitioned agencies holding direct service contracts with the state for center-based early care and education services from reimbursement based on the Standard Reimbursement Rate (SRR) to the Regional Market Rate (RMR) ceiling used to reimburse providers (centers, family child care homes, and family/friend/neighbor) accepting subsidy vouchers from income eligible families. The reimbursement rate for centers and family child care homes is currently at the 75th percentile of 2018 RMR survey and continues to be outdated and significantly lags behind the rate of inflation. As a comparison, since 2016-2017 California's minimum wage has increased by more than 50% and the RMR for LA County child care programs has only increased by 21%. Based on the P-5 Fiscal Strategies 2022 report the RMR reflects what families in a community can afford and not the true cost of care, thus creating "an inequitable system that perpetuates inequality between higher-income and lower-income communities... exacerbates lower-quality settings and lower wages across child care, disproportionately affecting low-income communities, minority groups, and communities of color."³ The Assembly Majority Leader Reyes' and Senator Limón's legislation, AB 596 and SB 380 respectively, also intends to update the current reimbursement rate methodology to ensure child care providers are paid equitably for their work. California's early care and education workforce composition is: 98% women; 71% of family child care providers and 66% of center based providers are people of color;

<https://a50.asmdc.org/press-releases/20230209-assembly-majority-leader-reyes-and-senator-senator-limon-introduce-child>

³ Capito, Jeanna; Fallin Kenyon, Katie; and Workman, Simon. "Understanding the True Cost of Child Care in California: Building a Cost Model to Inform Policy Change," 2022, page 1.

and approximately 50% of family care and center based providers earn a wage low enough to qualify state and/or federal subsidy such as Medicaid, WIC, and SNAP.⁴

Justification

Prior to the pandemic and currently low reimbursement rates have complicated efforts to fund and deliver high-quality early care and education programs that promote children's optimal development while addressing the health, safety, and overall well-being of the children served. Insufficient funding limits programs' ability to increase compensation and offer benefits such as health insurance and retirement, adequately resource programs, and incentivize quality improvement efforts, ultimately limiting access and forcing many child care providers out of business. Furthermore, basing reimbursement on outdated market rates fails to consider the actual cost of care.

In Los Angeles County, some centers and family child homes closed early in the pandemic while many remained open to serve essential workers and provide ongoing services to families earning a low income. Centers and family child care homes continue to endure the challenges of meeting their operating costs to rebuild their programs to reach enrollment targets and fill vacant positions. For many programs, the low reimbursement rates result in low wages, making it difficult to recruit and retain staff and fully enroll children of income eligible families. Family child care home providers, an essential part of the early care and education system, report struggling to meet their costs and often sacrifice their salary to cover operating expenses including paying their assistants. It is recommended that LA County support the ECE Coalition's request to increase the reimbursement rate.

Recommended Pursuit of Position – Support

The Roundtable, with input from the Planning Committee, recommends a position of support for greater investments in the early care and education system as follows:

- 1) Continue Child Care Family Fee Waivers for all State Subsidized Early Childhood Services through June 30, 2024;
- 2) Increase Current Reimbursement Rates for State Subsidized Early Care and Education Programs by 25%

County Legislative Policy

These positions are consistent with County policies as follows:

1.3 Child Development and Early Care and Education

5. Support efforts to adequately fund high quality early care and education services for all children from low- and moderate-income families.
6. Support the streamlining of California Department of Education and Social Services administrative processes to expand access for low-income families, ensure continuity of care, and promote flexible use of early care and education funding to meet the needs of families.
8. Support efforts to ensure that vulnerable children and their families have access to consistent, uninterrupted subsidized early care and education services.

⁴ Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, CA ECE Workforce Study

Supporting Materials

The recommended pursuits of position also are consistent with local and statewide entities including the following:

- P-5 Fiscal Strategies. Capito, Jeanna; Fallin Kenyon, Katie; and Workman, Simon. *Understanding the True Cost of Child Care in California: Building a cost model to inform policy change*. August 2022
https://www.prenatal5fiscal.org/files/ugd/8fd549_831af20bfb4142b59fda11194bb908fd.pdf
- Child Care Reimbursement Rates: Assembly Bill No. 596, Introduced by Assembly Member Reyes (principal coauthor: Senator Limón)
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB596
- Child Care Reimbursement Rates: Senate Bill No. 380, Introduced by Senator Limón (principal coauthor: Assembly Member Reyes)
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB380
- Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes. *Assembly Majority Leader Reyes and Senator Limón Introduce Child Care Reform Legislation*. February 2023
<https://a50.asmdc.org/press-releases/20230209-assembly-majority-leader-reyes-and-senator-senator-limon-introduce-child>
- ECE Coalition Budget Letter. *The Early Care and Education's 2022-23 Budget Priority Ask*. February 22, 2023
- Child Care Resource Center. *Child Care Providers' Rates are Still Not Keeping Pace with Inflation*.
https://www.ece4all.com/files/ugd/e7347e_f1709421aca74cb4be1010bea39dc109.pdf

Additional sources:

- Bipartisan Policy Center. *The Limitations of Using Market Rates for Setting Child Care Subsidy Rates*. May 2020
<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/the-limitations-of-using-market-rates-for-setting-child-care-subsidy-rates/>
- Cal Matters. Aguilera, Elizabeth. *I'm Already Stressed Out': Families to Face Bigger Bills for Subsidized Care as California Ends Waivers*. October 2022
<https://calmatters.org/children-and-youth/2022/10/subsidized-child-care/>
- California Budget & Policy Center. Saucedo, Erik. *California's Subsidized Child Care Providers Urgently Need a Pay Raise*. February 2023
<https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/californias-subsidized-child-care-providers-urgently-need-a-pay-raise/>
- MarketWatch. Albrecht, Leslie. *Child-care costs are outpacing inflation – the average cost of daycare for infants now exceeds in-state college tuition fees*. February 2022
<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/child-care-costs-are-outpacing-inflation-the-average-cost-of-daycare-for-infants-now-exceeds-in-state-college-tuition-fees-11644867995>

- California Legislative Women's Caucus. *Women's Caucus Releases Statement on Governor Newsom's Proposed Budget*. January 2023
<https://womenscaucus.legislature.ca.gov/news/2023-01-10-women%E2%80%99s-caucus-releases-statement-governor-newsom%E2%80%99s-proposed-budget>
- Economic Policy Institute. *Child Care Costs in the United States*.
<https://www.epi.org/child-care-costs-in-the-united-states/#/CA>