



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

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

Vice Chair Justin Blakely opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:07 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments by the Chair

Vice Chair Blakely outlined that over the next few months the Policy Roundtable will develop early care and education (ECE) policy positions to address system challenges experienced by parents and ECE providers in LA County. He noted that these policy issues will be in alignment with LA County's 2023-2024 State Legislative Agenda and the Commission will elevate the prioritized policy issues to the Board of Supervisors. Vice Chair Blakely added that the Policy Roundtable will conduct its work with intentionality which includes valuing brevity and focusing on solutions.

General Business

3. Approval of Minutes - October 11, 2023

Vice Chair Blakely presented the minutes of the Policy Roundtable meeting on October 11, 2023 and asked for a motion to approve the October 11, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Jessica Perea made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Lisa Wilkin seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion passed to approve the October 11, 2023 minutes with two abstentions: Commissioners Jackie Majors and Jacquelyn McCroskey.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

4. Planning in a Shifting Early Care and Education Landscape: An Update on the Infant Toddler Blueprint and Universal PreKindergarten

Debra Colman, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Director, opened her presentation by acknowledging that the ECE landscape is shifting. Colman noted that a roadmap for LA County ECE will be articulated in the next Unified ECE Strategic Plan, including efforts to integrate the ECE mixed delivery system into Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) and fortify the infant toddler child care system. Colman then provided an update on UPK implementation planning and the development of a Blueprint to improve the infant toddler ECE system in LA County. Colman also reviewed the ECE items in LA County's Legislative Agenda and highlighted that policy positions the County can champion must be consistent with its Legislative Agenda. Thus, policy positions the Commission recommends to the County's CEO Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Office to move forward for County support must be consistent with the Legislative Agenda. Colman's PowerPoint presentation provides more detail.

Colman invited questions and observations regarding the shifting ECE landscape, and suggestions for policy considerations. Commissioners raised the following points:

1. Changes are occurring across many systems
2. There is a need to understand where the gaps are within the ECE system, and be proactive to create a strategic way forward
3. Continue to emphasize equity and justice to ensure services are available for all children



4. Continue to take positions on existing bills and the Commission should consider *developing* legislation
5. When supporting legislation, the Commission must also provide policy implementation recommendations to avoid unintended negative consequences during policy implementation
6. Want clarity regarding what is considered “living wage” in the Legislative Agenda’s ECE item: “Align eligibility to subsidized child care to County living wage”
7. Need to address the conflict between policy wins that raise reimbursement rates for subsidized child care but also make it difficult for families who do not qualify for subsidized care to pay the increased tuition rates
8. Need to tie ECE issues to other policies important to the Board of Supervisors, such as homelessness. Important related data points to be aware of include: 1) Americans most at risk of being evicted are infants and toddlers (New York Times 10/2/2023 article: [The Americans Most Threatened by Eviction: Young Children](#)) and 2) very few children who are unhoused attend ECE programs.
9. Prioritize ECE workforce recruitment and retention and declining enrollment in community college child development courses
10. Need to make subsidized reimbursement based on enrollment (rather than attendance) permanent
11. Need a centralized ECE enrollment system
12. Need to include a focus on early childhood mental health assessment and awareness
13. Consider advocacy for paid family leave and more supports for Family, Friends, and Neighbors providers

Public Policy

5. Getting Grounded in LA County’s Legislative Agenda

Vice Chair Blakely reminded the group that all policy recommendations developed by the Commission must be consistent with the Legislative Agenda. Meeting attendees then moved into small groups to share how their work connects with the Legislative Agenda and which issue areas should be of highest priority for the Policy Roundtable in FY 2023-2024. The following is a summary of the points shared out to the whole group:

- Important to have a strong workforce to care for the most vulnerable (Group 1)
- Utilize resources to support the workforce (Group 1)
- Stress the importance of competitive rates to attract the necessary workforce (Group 2)
- Sustain and develop a highly skilled, well-compensated workforce, covering the true cost of care (Group 3)
- Provide workforce support through training and clear career pathways (Group 2)
- Understand how career development occurs in the workforce, emphasizing long-term careers in ECE and home-visiting (Group 2)
- Ensure access to quality ECE (Group 2)
- ECE facility development is needed (group 1)
- Establish a connection and work with housing and business development (Group 1)
- Connect ECE with resources for children and families (Group 2)
- Leverage existing resources provided by the state and County (Group 2)
- Streamline administration processes to focus on efficiency for the benefit of program participants and serving agencies (Group 3)



- Clearly delineate who is the intended beneficiaries of the service among workforce, children, and/or families (Group 3)
- Establish a clear definition of quality in ECE (Group 3)

Vice Chair Blakely summarized the main points raised in each group and highlighted that the ECE workforce seemed to be the highest priority. He also reflected that the points the groups elevated are consistent with policy issues being emphasized with the state.

6. Creation of Ad Hoc

The Commission did not discuss the need to establish a new ad hoc.

Wrap Up

7. Announcements and Public Comment

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

- Commissioner Lisa Wilkin provided a summary of the topics discussed at the November 1, 2023 Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting, which included a presentation by Quality Start Los Angeles and a presentation by the LA County Department of Public Health on gun violence. Commissioner Wilkin also shared that the Planning Committee revised and approved its bylaws.
- Jen Baca Beltran with Service Employees International Union Local 99 shared that in November 2023 the Child Care Providers United and the California Department of Social Services will co-host a webinar that provides information about how child care providers can access healthcare benefits.
- Commissioner Fran Chasen shared that the Infant Development Association will host its 9th Annual Policy Update on January 22, 2024.

8. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Blakely adjourned the meeting at 11:52 PM.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Gloria Davis, *Second Supervisorial District*
4. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
6. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
7. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
8. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
9. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
10. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
11. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Care Planning Committee*
12. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
13. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
14. Fran Chasen, *California Association for the Education of Young Children*



Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Rebeca Hurtado, *Department of Mental Health*
2. Sonia Barajas, *Department of Probation*
3. Debra Colman, *Department of Public Health*
4. Jackie Majors, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
5. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
6. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

Guests Attendance

1. Jen Baca Beltran
2. Marvin Espinosa
3. Humberto Estratalan
4. Monica Hernandez
5. Heesu Kim
6. Rachel Klein
7. Esther Nguyen
8. Kelly Reynolds

Staff Attendance

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