

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes January 10, 2024

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 Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:01 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments by the Chair

Chair Albarran Moses reflected on progress the Commission has achieved since September 2023, such as informing the Infant Toddler Child Care System Blueprint and fostering connections between County Departments and other systems. She noted that there is still more progress to achieve. She also acknowledged that the Governor's Budget was released shortly before the start of the Policy Roundtable and she is excited by the opportunities this year will bring.

General Business

3. Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2023

Vice Chair Justin Blakely presented the minutes for the Policy Roundtable meeting on December 13, 2023 and asked for a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Amber Rivas made the motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Lisa Wilkin seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The following changes were suggested:

- Commissioner Jennifer Cowan requested to change “suggested” to “discussed” in section 6 paragraph 2 sentence 2 from the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes
- Commissioner Nurhan Pirim requested to amend the spelling of a guest's name from “Shakhualadyan” to “Shakhvaladyan” in the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes
- Commissioner Robert Gilchick requested that future minutes include guests' affiliated organization

The motion to approve the December 13, 2023 minutes passed with the following amendments: change “suggested” to “discussed” in section 6 and change the spelling of a guest's name from “Shakhualadyan” to “Shakhvaladyan.” The motion passed with the amendments and no abstentions.

Public Policy

4. Understanding Current California Child Care Costs: Reimbursement Rate Methodology and Cost Estimate Model Update

Chair Albarran Moses introduced Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies Co-Founder Jeanna Capito and Katie F. Kenyon, Consultant, to present information about California child care costs, reimbursement rate methodology, and cost estimate models. Capito and Kenyon developed cost models for more than a dozen states and led the alternative methodology process in California, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia. Capito discussed how the current reimbursement rate is set and highlighted the differences between price, cost, and true cost. She reviewed the approach of utilizing an “alternate methodology” instead of a “market rate study” to inform setting public subsidy rates and outlined the importance of cost modeling. Further details can be found in the PowerPoint.

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion regarding the Reimbursement Rate Methodology and Cost Estimate Model Update. The following highlights some of the comments provided:

- Title 5 rates across counties in the state differ with variations by age group and adjustment factors. The cost of care in Los Angeles County is notably higher than other counties and the actual costs are not adequately met by reimbursement rate.
- State budget is finite and therefore it is a challenge to pay child care operators the true cost of care

- State has the discretion to set reimbursement rates at a percentage of the true cost of care
- The cost model can adjust for inflation and increases in costs or wages

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

5. ECE in Transition: Universal PreKindergarten and Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint Update

Debra Colman, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Director, provided an update about the planning activities for: 1) Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) implementation, and 2) the development of an Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint (Blueprint) for Los Angeles County. Colman addressed the urgency to present the infant toddler child care system recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. She noted that the Blueprint will include data, possible partners, and short- and long-term policy recommendations. Colman's PowerPoint presentation provides more detail.

6. Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint Draft Policy Recommendations

Commissioner Kanchana Tate, a member of the Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc, reviewed the Policy Ad Hoc's activities and topics of discussion since the Commission's December 13, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Tate noted that some Ad Hoc members inquired about and expressed interest in extending the due date for the Blueprint. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion regarding the draft infant toddler child care recommendations presented at the December 13, 2023 Commission meeting which included:

- Infant Toddler Early Care and Education (ECE) Capacity (Capacity)
- Cost of Infant Toddler ECE (Cost)
- Access to Infant Toddler ECE Services (Access)

A range of suggestions for these Blueprint recommendations were provided during the discussion. The following highlights some of the points raised:

- Propose policies that address licensing requirements, length of time to receive approvals, and inconsistent interpretations of possible violations
- Adjust Access rationale to reflect that subsidized infant toddler child care is no longer experiencing low enrollment
- Change rationale for Cost of Infant Toddler ECE to "families cannot afford infant toddler ECE services" and add "low-income" to recommendation 2.1
- Avoid using child care for all providers and specify the type of providers (e.g., Family Child Care Home, center-based, etc.) the recommendation addresses

Leanne Drogin, Deputy Director of OAECE, presented the draft recommendations for the last two categories:

- Infant Toddler ECE Workforce Compensation (Compensation)
- Quality Infant Toddler ECE Programs (Quality)

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The following highlights some of the suggestions provided:

- Include institutions of higher education (IHE) as partners for some of the recommendations. Including partnerships with IHEs in the Blueprint will increase IHE's ability to access federal funding to support Quality.
- Setting wage requirements may force programs to choose between paying higher wages and having less staff or having more staff and paying lower wages. Conversely, higher wages will help with recruitment and retention of infant toddler child care workforce.
- Consider including in 3.1C "once the state approves the cost model estimates for the alternate reimbursement rate methodology"

- Consider including in Quality a recommendation to establish a level of resources to meet Quality standards
- Include more federal policy recommendations and explore options to support current federal policy proposals

The Commission will review and provide input to the close-to-final Blueprint recommendations at the Commission's February 14, 2024 meeting.

Given the sense of urgency to provide the Blueprint to the Board of Supervisors and interest of some Commissioners wanting more time to provide input to the Blueprint, Colman asked the Commission if they thought the OAECE is on-track to submit the Blueprint in March 2024. The following are some of the questions and comments raised:

- When will the last time the Commission will provide input if the Blueprint is submitted in March 2024? Colman shared that it would be at the Commission's February 14, 2024 meeting. Colman highlighted other opportunities people can provide input before the Blueprint is submitted in March 2024.
- Will the Commission vote on the recommendations? Colman responded that the Commission does not vote on the recommendations. The Blueprint will be submitted to Department of Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer for final approval.
- There was a request by a Commissioner for more time to provide input to the Blueprint, however, there was overall support for the Blueprint to be submitted in March 2024

7. Creation of Ad Hoc

The Commission did not identify the need to establish a new Ad Hoc.

Wrap Up

8. Announcements and Public Comment

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

- Commissioner Wilkin shared that EveryChild California is hosting the UPK-UTK Leadership Symposium on February 1-2, 2024 in Los Angeles. Registration is open to everyone.
- Commissioner Debi Anderson announced that the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start inaugural ECEvolution: Shaping the Future of Early Education, will be held March 14-16, 2024, at the Beehive in South Los Angeles
- Chair Albarran Moses shared the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee is hosting the Long Beach Early Childhood Symposium on March 9, 2024
- Isidro Villanueva announced that the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will be promoting a collaboration between LACOE and DEO to highlight DEO's apprenticeship programs

9. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Blakely adjourned the meeting at 12:10 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. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*

7. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
8. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
9. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
10. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
11. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
12. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
13. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
14. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Care Planning Committee*
15. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
16. Dean Tagawa, *LA Unified School District*
17. Fran Chasen, *S CA Chapter – CA Association for the Education of Young Children*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Steve Sturm, *Department of Children and Family Services*
2. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Guests Attendance

1. Christina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Jen Baca Beltran, *SEIU Local 99*
3. Marvin Espinosa, *Girls Club LA*
4. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *California Children's Academy*
5. Monica Hernandez, *WestEd PITC*
6. Nicole Jain, *LA County Department of Economic Opportunity*
7. Anupama Joshi, *Cal State University, Dominguez Hill/PEACH*
8. Rachel Klein, *City of Los Angeles*
9. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
10. Alejandra Portillo, *LAEP*
11. Isidro Villanueva, *LA County Department of Economic Opportunity*
12. Shady Mallory, *Meaningful Goal Housing Shelter*

Staff Attendance

1. Debra Colman, *Director*
2. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
3. Meliza Hernandez, *Staff Analyst*
4. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*
5. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*
6. Zenaida Meza, *Staff Analyst*
7. Erica Torres-Ness, *Management Analyst*