

## Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes

February 14, 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 10:00 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

#### 2. Comments by the Chair

Chair Albarran Moses highlighted the Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day, and Black History Month.

### General Business

#### 3. Approval of Minutes – January 10, 2024

Vice Chair Justin Blakely presented the minutes for the January 10, 2024 Policy Roundtable meeting and asked for a motion to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Lisa Wilkin made the motion to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes; Commissioner Jessica Perea seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the January 10, 2024 minutes passed with two abstentions: Commissioners Jacquelyn McCroskey and Ofelia Medina.

### Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

#### 4. 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: 1) Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Los Angeles implementation, and 2) the development of the Los Angeles County Early Care and Education Infant Toddler Blueprint (Blueprint). Some of Colman's highlights are listed below:

- UPK: In February 2024, the Child Care Planning Committee's Access and Parent Engagement Ad Hoc met with Catalyst California, OAECE, and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles to explore UPK partnerships with Resource and Referral agency managers
- Blueprint: Outreach conducted by OAECE to inform the Blueprint recommendations included convening over 50 meetings, engaging with more than 300 people including parents, early care and education (ECE) providers, ECE focused organizations, and government agencies. Colman outlined intended purposes of the Blueprint which includes tools to inform Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and ECE advocates, recommendations for elected officials during legislation session, and a guide for philanthropy to inform investment strategies. Colman's PowerPoint presentation provides more detail.

#### 5. Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint Draft Recommendations

Chair Albarran Moses noted that since December 2023, the Commission and Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc have provided input on developing and refining draft Blueprint recommendations on five different occasions.

Commissioner Ofelia Medina, a member of the Infant Toddler Policy Ad Hoc, reviewed the Policy Ad Hoc's activities and topics of discussion since the January 10, 2024 Commission meeting. Commissioner Medina noted that during the January 2024 Ad Hoc meeting, each Commissioner prioritized at least three recommendations in each of the five categories to elevate in the final Blueprint.

Leanne Drogin, Deputy Director of OAECE, reviewed the Blueprint draft recommendations, noting priority area categories have been revised since the January 10, 2024 Commission meeting. The updated categories include: 1) Capacity and Infrastructure, 2) Access to Affordable Care, 3) Program Operations, 4) Workforce Compensation,

and 5) Workforce Pathways and Qualifications. The PowerPoint provides more detail. Chair Albarran Moses asked the group to share which recommendations seem the most important and what efforts are working on similar strategies. The following highlights some of the comments provided:

- Recommendations 1.2 and 1.4: These are needed and are dependent on one another
- Recommendation 2.2: Consider emphasizing leveraging Los Angeles County resources that connect families to information fairs, information hubs, etc. and have less dependency on training staff
- Recommendation 3.3: Child Care Providers United (CCPU) is working on this recommendation
- Recommendation 4.2: Suggest changing minimum wage to living wage
- Recommendation 4.3: City of Los Angeles implemented a guaranteed income program and could help inform this recommendation
- Recommendation 4.4: CCPU can be a partner on this recommendation
- Recommendation 5.2: CCPU has resources for this recommendation
- Recommendation 5.3: There are opportunities at the State level to support this recommendation

Colman noted that the final format of the Blueprint will include recommendations, a narrative to provide context, and highlight existing efforts and partners. She noted the Blueprint is a starting point with the hope to advance the ECE field and serve as a basis for the Los Angeles County ECE Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

## Public Policy

### **6. Roundtable Commission Policy Priorities**

Vice Chair Blakely provided an overview of the Governor's January 2024-25 proposed budget and State legislative updates. The following are highlights from his presentation:

- The Budget includes \$6.6 billion (\$4.6 billion from General Fund) for child care and development programs
- The 2021 Budget Act included a multi-year plan to expand access to subsidized child care slots. The Budget maintains this commitment to fund 200,000 slots, however, approximately 146,000 slots have been allocated and the commitment to fund the remaining 54,000 slots by 2026-27 has been delayed with no clear outline for an allocation over the next two years.
- The Budget assumes \$9.4 billion in total TANF expenditure (local, State, and federal funds) in 2024-25
- AB 1808 (Nguyen and Davies) will align the eligibility period for child care support under CalWORKs with other subsidized programs extending from 12 to 24 months. This change aims to create consistent rules for families in need regardless of whether they access support through welfare, community-based structures, or county offices.

Vice Chair Blakely noted the deadline for legislators to introduce bills is February 16, 2024.

Vice Chair Blakely reviewed the purpose of a Pursuit of Position and reminded the group of the two policy issues included in the Commission's 2023 Pursuit of Position. He shared that the Commission will soon develop a Pursuit of Position for 2024 and needs to identify policy priorities to consider including in the Pursuit of Position. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for input on policy issues to consider. The following policy issues were raised:

- Review policy priorities the Commission identified at its June 2024 Commission meeting
- Pursue policy issues through an equity and justice lens
- Include workforce compensation, such as providing paid training days
- Approval of all California General Child Care slots (as noted earlier)
- Increase capacity to shift ratios to care for additional children
- Increase the alternative methodology rate
- Align income eligibility for subsidized programs
- Include Blueprint recommendations

To inform Commission policy recommendations, the practice has been the Joint Committee on Legislation would have in-depth discussions about the Governor's budget, trailer bills, and proposed legislation and based on these discussions the Joint Committee on Legislation would provide policy issue recommendations to the Commission to consider for a Pursuit of Position. Vice Chair Blakely shared that the OAECE was informed by Los Angeles County Counsel that if the Joint Committee on Legislation includes Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) members and Policy Roundtable Commissioners then it is considered a subcommittee and must comply with the Brown Act. OAECE met with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable to revise the Joint Committee on Legislation structure to ensure it complies with the Brown Act. Examples of changes include the Joint Committee on Legislation will meet in-person and implement steps to ensure it is a public meeting. The Chairs and Vice Chairs also identified that it would be optimal to appoint four members from each governing body (Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable) to comprise the Joint Committee on Legislation. Vice Chair Blakely shared that the Planning Committee approved at its February 7, 2024 meeting the launch of the Joint Committee on Legislation with this structure.

#### **7. Approval of Launch of Joint Committee on Legislation for FY 2023-24 and Appointment Authorization**

Vice Chair Blakely presented the action item to approve the launch of the Joint Committee on Legislation for FY 2023-24 and appointment authorization by the Commission's Chair. He asked for a motion to approve this action item as just stated. Commissioner Robert Gilchick made the motion to approve the launch of Joint Committee on Legislation for FY 2023-24 and appointment authorization; Commissioner Lisa Wilkin seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the launch of Joint Committee on Legislation for FY 2023-24 and appointment authorization passed with no abstentions. Commissioners were instructed to contact Leanne Drogin if they are interested in serving on the Joint Committee on Legislation for FY 2023-24.

#### **8. Upcoming Policy Roundtable Commission Activities**

Chair Albarran Moses provided an overview and purpose of the Board of Supervisors Engagement Teams and shared that the Engagement Teams will soon reconvene.

Commissioner Robert Gilchick, a member of the Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc, provided an update on the Ad Hoc's activities and that the Ad Hoc is finalizing its review and recommendations to bring to the Commission. Commissioner Gilchick noted that while some Ordinance and Bylaws changes suggested by the Commission were approved by County Counsel, others were rejected. He anticipates the documents will be ready for the Commission's review soon.

Chair Albarran Moses added the Commission will develop a Service Coordination strategy by June 2024 and more information will be provided at the March 2024 meeting.

#### **Creation of Ad Hoc**

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

#### **Wrap Up**

#### **9. Announcements and Public Comment**

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

- Commissioner Fran Chasen announced the California Association for the Education of Young Children 2024 Annual Conference & Expo on April 19-24, 2024 at the Pasadena Convention Center. For more information about the Conference and presenters visit: <https://conference.caeyc.org/>.
- Heesu Kim shared the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department is hosting a webinar on February 29, 2024 that review the findings from LA City's recent child care survey. City of Los



Angeles is also offering a service called *Free Tax Prep LA* which provides support for individuals and families filing taxes at IRS-certified locations.

## 10. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Blakely adjourned the meeting at 11:58 p.m.

### 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. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
9. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
10. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
11. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
12. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Care Planning Committee*
13. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
14. Dean Tagawa, *LA Unified School District*
15. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
16. 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. Nora Garcia-Rosales, *Department of Public Social Services*
3. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
4. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

#### 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. Manuel Fierro, *Catalyst California*
6. Carla Hegwood, *City of Pasadena*
7. Monica Hernandez, *WestEd PITC*
8. Crystal Jones, *Crystal Clear Learning Center*
9. Shoghig Khadarian, *California Department of Social Services*
10. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
11. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 LA*
12. Kelly Reynolds, *Early Edge CA*
13. Edilma Serna, *WestEd PITC*

#### OAECE 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*