

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes March 13, 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 10:03 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments by the Chair

Chair Albarran Moses acknowledged daylight saving time began March 10, 2024 and March is Women's History Month.

General Business

3. Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc Update

Commissioner Robert Gilchick, member of the Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc (Ad Hoc), shared that the Ad Hoc met two times to review and further develop recommended changes to the Commission's Ordinance and Bylaws. Commissioner Gilchick also shared that some of the recommended changes were reviewed by County Counsel for feedback. Commissioner Nurhan Pirim, member of the Ad Hoc, added that the updates to the Ordinance and Bylaws are timely and address long-standing needs.

4. Consent Calendar

- 4a. Approval of Minutes – February 14, 2024
- 4b. Approval of Changes to Policy Roundtable's Ordinance and Bylaws
- 4c. Dissolve Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc

Chair Albarran Moses presented the Consent Calendar which included the minutes from the Policy Roundtable's February 14, 2024 meeting, changes to the Policy Roundtable's Ordinance and Bylaws, and dissolving the Ordinance and Bylaws Ad Hoc. Chair Albarran Moses then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar; Commissioner Gloria Davis seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar passed with no abstentions.

Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

5. ECE In Transformation: Universal PreKindergarten and Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint Update

Chair Albarran Moses noted that the Infant/Toddler Early Care and Education System Blueprint (Blueprint) was submitted to the Board of Supervisors on March 1, 2024. Chair Albarran Moses emphasized that the Blueprint represents a joint effort, involving multiple County departments.

Debra Colman, OAECE Director, provided an update about the following activities:

- Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Los Angeles: In April 2024, the Child Care Planning Committee's Access and Parent Engagement Ad Hoc will lead discussions at the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) meeting to identify challenges parents experience in accessing early care and education (ECE) for children ages 3 and 4 years old.
- Blueprint: The Blueprint includes 20 short- and long-term recommendations to fortify Los Angeles County's infant/toddler ECE system. Colman outlined the Blueprint's five priority areas, amount of recommendations that are programmatic, legislative, or administrative, and types of care the recommendations focused on. In April 2024, OAECE will present the Blueprint to the California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference.

- ECE Board of Supervisors Delegation Teams: The ECE Board of Supervisors Delegation Teams will soon launch and will be an opportunity for Teams to share the Blueprint with Board of Supervisors Offices.

The PowerPoint presentation provides more detail. Colman opened the floor for questions and some of the points discussed included: the importance of disseminating information about available social services to all parents; who comprises the ECE Delegation Teams; Board of Supervisors can request further information and/or action regarding any of the Blueprint's recommendations; and some of the County recommendations are dependent on policy changes at the state level.

Public Policy

6. Joint Committee on Legislation Update

Vice Chair Justin Blakely provided an update on the Joint Committee on Legislation and reminded the group that the Joint Committee on Legislation is a subcommittee and must comply with Brown Act requirements. Vice Chair Blakely reviewed who is on the Joint Committee on Legislation and it was noted that Lester Garcia, a Planning Committee member, serves on the Joint Committee on Legislation even though his name was not listed in the PowerPoint. Commissioner Nurhan Pirim volunteered to participate on the Joint Committee on Legislation as a Policy Roundtable representative.

7. State Budget and Legislative Policy Updates

Christina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) Executive Director, provided an update about the Governor's proposed Budget, proposed legislation, and reviewed the ECE Coalition's 2024 advocacy letter. The ECE Coalition's "Budget Ask" requests the state to: 1) award and distribute the ECE spaces appropriated in the 2023-24 budget by June 30, 2024, and request a sustainable and equitable plan to reach the 200,000 spaces commitment by 2026-27, and 2) develop and implement an alternative rate methodology in collaboration with providers, families, and advocates by June 30, 2024.

Jen Baca Beltran, SEIU Local 99 Government Relations Associate Director, reviewed the state's timeline and progress toward developing and approving an alternative reimbursement rate methodology. She noted delays and deliverables the state has not completed on time. Baca Beltran noted the importance to hold the state accountable to its commitment to include the alternative reimbursement rate methodology in the California Department of Social Services Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Plan that will be submitted to the Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care by July 1, 2024. Further details about Alvarado's and Baca Beltran's presentations are in the PowerPoint.

Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion and the following highlights some of the comments provided:

- Need to explore ways to ensure Bridge funding is fully utilized prior to using Alternative Payment funding
- Given California's projected budget deficit, the State is considering funding reductions in social services such as CalWORKS
- Alternative reimbursement rate methodology discussions need to include the unique needs of centers, family fee threshold of 1%, and the July 1, 2025 expiration of "hold harmless" provisions
- It is important to stay informed about the progress of the alternative reimbursement rate methodology to ensure its inclusion in the CCDF Plan's submission on July 1, 2024

Vice Chair Blakely highlighted the policy priorities identified by the Commission at its June 2023 and February 2024 meetings. All policy priorities identified are included in the PowerPoint. Vice Chair Blakely proposed narrowing the priority issues to provide to the Joint Committee on Legislation. The narrowing of priority issues can help the Joint Committee on Legislation inform their discussions when developing Pursuit of Position recommendations for the Commission to consider. The narrowed policy issues include:

1. Develop and implement the Alternative Reimbursement Rate Methodology to be based on true cost of care and include in the State's July 1, 2024 submission of the CCDF Plan 2024-2027
2. Include Family, Friend, and Neighbor providers in the Alternative Methodology
3. Award and distribute the ECE spaces appropriated in the 2023-24 budget by June 30, 2024 — with a sustainable and equitable plan to reach the 200,000 spaces commitment by 2026-27

Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion regarding providing these statements as priority issues with the Joint Committee on Legislation. The following are some of the comments raised:

- The Pursuit of the Position needs to include a focus on developing a county wide integrated services strategy that supports children and families and aligns with efforts at the county level
- The May Budget Revise may result in additional cuts, potentially affecting child care. Considering the state's decision not to use rainy day funds and to "sweep/retain categorical funds" from the past year, it's necessary to combine resources and finances with other County departments.
- It is crucial to monitor federal legislation closely, including the recent increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant funding

8. Approval of Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc

Chair Albarran Moses provided an overview of the Commission's charge and commitment to developing a service coordination strategy. She recommended that an ad hoc is created to help develop the Commission's Service Coordination Strategy and the Strategy will include identifying what services related to child care and development are offered across County departments.

Chair Albarran Moses asked for a motion to approve a Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc. Commissioner Amber Rivas made the motion to approve the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc; Commissioner Lisa Wilkin seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc passed with no abstentions.

Chair Albarran Moses requested Commissioners to join the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc. Policy Roundtable Commissioners representing the Commission for Children and Families and Department of Children and Family Services volunteered to serve on the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc.

9. Creation of Ad Hoc

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

Wrap Up

10. Announcements and Public Comment

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Commissioner Mercedes Santoro announced that the Department of Parks and Recreation will offer free full-day summer camp ESTEAM (Environment, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Math) programs for youth ages 6-11 starting on June 12, 2024
- Commissioner Jaime Kalenik noted the California Early Care and Education Workforce Study includes Los Angeles County specific information. The more detailed [Los Angeles County data](#) was funded by First 5 LA and Los Angeles County Office of Education. Commissioner Kalenik encouraged the use of the Study and County data and invited people to contact First 5 LA if they would like more information.
- Jen Baca Beltran shared that Child Care Providers United is providing 1,000 free computers to eligible home-based child care providers
- Colman noted the OAECE is hiring a Senior Staff Analyst and a Staff Analyst, both are contract positions

11. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Blakely adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Gloria Davis, *Second Supervisorial District*
4. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
6. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
7. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
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. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
13. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. 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. Jess Guerra, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
6. Nicole Jain, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
7. Rachel Klein, *City of Los Angeles*
8. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
9. Michele Masjedi, *The Journey Begins, INC.*
10. Kelly Reynolds, *Early Edge CA*
11. Shay Scott, *Discount School Supplies*
12. Edilma Serna, *WestEd PITC*

Staff Attendance

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