



Child Care Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

1. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Wilkin, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) began the meeting at 12:13 p.m. by welcoming members and guests. Wilkin shared the vision and mission statement and invited members to introduce themselves, share their affiliated organization, and their role within the Planning Committee.

2. Local Funding Priorities

Ilyssa Foxx, Access and Family Engagement Ad hoc Co-Chair, provided an overview of the Local Funding Priorities which is the process for determining State Child Care and Preschool Funds. This process requires the Local Planning Committees (LPC) to review local data and provide the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the California Department of Education with an updated list of their local child care and development funding priorities. The report compares the number of LA County children income eligible for subsidized early care and education services, to the number of children enrolled in subsidized early care and education programs per data from the American Institutes for Research Early Learning Needs Assessment Tool (ELNAT). The report is separated by zip code and by age group. The Local Funding Report for 2023-2024 report was developed using the ELNAT data from October 2020 and can be found at [Child Care Planning Committee Website](#). There is no change in the ELNAT data available this fiscal year and per CDSS the LPC may submit the priorities report submitted last fiscal year as the data is still valid. If the Planning Committee approves the prior Local Funding Report to be submitted to the state for the current fiscal year 2023-2024, the LPC Coordinator will submit the report to the California Department of Education & the California Department of Social Services by the due date of May 31st, 2024. More information is provided on the PowerPoint.

3. Consent Calendar

A. Approval of Minutes – February 7th, 2024

B. Local Funding Priorities Report Submission

Vice Chair Manuel Fierro presented the Consent Calendar which included the February 7, 2024 minutes and the Local Funding Priorities Report Submission; Vice Chair Fierro then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Andrea Fernandez Mendoza made the motion to approve the minutes; Member Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. Vice Chair Fierro opened the floor for discussion. Zenaida Meza, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Staff Analyst, noted a revision in the nominations section: the name Dianne Philibosian should be replaced with Kathy Schreiner. The Consent Calendar to approve the February 7, 2024 minutes and the Local Funding Priorities Report Submission with the revised names in the nomination section passed with no abstentions.

4. Governance



Nellie Ríos-Parra, Governance Ad Hoc Co-Chair, provided an update on the Child Care Planning Committee membership applications. The deadline to submit a membership application was extended from March 7, 2024 to March 21, 2024. OAECE has 13 membership vacancies and has received 37 applications from current members, along with 23 new membership applications. Ríos-Parra noted the Governance Ad hoc group will meet in April to develop a proposed membership slate and highlighted that quorum is needed on June 5th, 2024, to convene the Planning Committee to vote on the Membership Slate, the Chair, and the Vice Chair. Ríos-Parra noted the Nominees for Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair nomination includes Manuel Fierro and the Vice Chair nominations include Andrea Fernandez Mendoza and Humberto Estratalán. All nominees provided a brief background on their relevant ECE work.

5. Policy Update

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Joint Committee on Legislation Co-Chair, reviewed the purpose, the composition of members, and members roles of the Joint Committee on Legislation. She noted the Joint Committee on Legislation was formed by the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable) to inform on federal, state and local policy initiatives as they impact the County of Los Angeles and early care and education services available for Los Angeles County families. Mendoza highlighted the high interest and repurposed bills discussed at the Joint Committee on Legislation meeting in March 2024. Mendoza added the priority issues that were discussed and voted on at the Joint Committee on Legislation, which 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 CDSS Child Care Development Fund Plan 2024-2027.
2. Support Position for AB 1930 Reyes - This will allow Associate Teacher Permits to be renewable beyond 10 years.
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.

Mendoza reviewed the updates regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2024-25/Early Care and Education and highlighted ECE Coalition Letter 2024 in response to the Governor's Proposed Budget 2024-25. More information on all updates is included in the PowerPoint.

Mendoza opened the floor for questions and some of the points discussed included: the distinctions between the terms 'Support,' 'Monitor,' and 'Watch' when categorizing bills; the importance of bill AB 1930 Reyes; the ECE Voices and Every Child California Region II Meet and Greet; the signed bill from Biden increasing the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) by 9%.

4. Universal PreKindergarten Los Angeles (UPKLA) **A. UPKLA Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast**



B. Access and Family Engagement Ad Hoc Update

C. Breakout and Discussion

B. Workforce for 3- and 4- year-olds Ad hoc Update

Debra Colman, Director of OAECE, announced the UPKLA Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast scheduled for June 5th, 2024. This event is organized by OAECE and will be led in partnership with the Child Care Planning Committee, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. The event was developed to create UPK solutions and to foster connections between Community-based Early Care and Education Programs and Local Education Agencies, including School Districts and Charter Schools.

Ilyssa Foxx, co-chair of the Access and Family Engagement Ad hoc, summarized the group's activities from their March 20, 2024, meeting. They reviewed data on parent preferences, needs, and barriers to accessing early care and education, discussed these findings, identified key data for a comprehensive assessment, and pinpointed consistent themes regarding barriers to program access. The four themes include:

1. Families value responsive and sensitive teacher-child interactions. Educators who can build strong relationships with the children lay a foundation for successful learning and development.
2. Families value culturally and linguistically responsive programs. They prefer providers who can offer care that respects and incorporates cultural, linguistic, and racial diversity.
3. Families value accessibility during non-traditional hours. Providers offering flexible hours to accommodate families working non-standard schedules addresses a significant need among low-income and working-class families.
4. Families primarily receive child care information through their personal networks (followed by an internet search and then through schools). Resource and Referral (R&R) services and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are most used for information about subsidies.

The Planning Committee members completed the 5 Whys activity to discuss the top barriers to accessing early care and education to address solutions. The top ten barriers to accessing early care and education include:

1. Families don't know how to find child care.
2. Child Care tuition is too expensive for families.
3. Child Care is not available all of the hours it is needed, especially for families who work non-traditional hours or have long commutes.
4. Burdensome enrollment paperwork prevents families from applying for subsidized child care.
5. Child Care subsidies are hard to understand and navigate
6. Robust information about child care services are not available in languages other than English and Spanish.



7. Current information about child care is fragmented by program type and not user-friendly.
8. Families who have children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) have limited options and are presented with even fewer choices.
9. Undocumented families are too fearful to apply for subsidies because they don't want to share their information.
10. Families don't know they're eligible for child care payment assistance.

Rachel Klein, co-chair of the Workforce for 3- and 4-year-olds Ad hoc, provided a summary of the group's activities from their March 21, 2024 meeting. She highlighted the Ad hoc's focus on supporting early care and education workforce planning for preschool children, in line with Universal PreKindergarten. Their initial review included educator needs from the Center for Child Care and Employment. The group then focused on three key areas: Professional Development, Non-wage Compensation, and Well-being. Klein also mentioned next steps, including evaluating current supports and formulating assessment recommendations.

5. Infant Toddler Blueprint

Leanne Drogin, OAECE Deputy Director, introduced the Infant Toddler Child Care Blueprint (Blueprint). Drogin announced that on September 12, 2023, the LA County Board of Supervisors passed a motion that directed the OAECE, in partnership with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), to develop in 180 days a Blueprint to fortify the infant toddler child care system in LA County. Drogin addressed the levels of community engagement completed by the OAECE team over the past 4 months, which included more than 50 meetings such as holding public listening session, conducting multiple provider focus groups, surveying parents & providers, and meeting with local and national experts in the ECE field to inform the policy recommendations. OAECE engaged with over 300 people to receive input on the priority issues and to develop recommendations to include in the Blueprint. OAECE submitted the Blueprint on March 1, 2024 and the Blueprint includes 20 short- and long-term recommendations to fortify Los Angeles County's infant/toddler ECE system. Drogin outlined the Blueprint's five priority areas, amount of recommendations that are programmatic, legislative, or administrative, and types of care the recommendations focus on. In April 2024, OAECE will present the Blueprint to the California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. Drogin added 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. More information included on the PowerPoint.

Mendoza opened the floor for questions and comments.

- Kimberly Dobson Garcia raised a concern about the absence of state-building codes for infants and toddlers in the Blueprint. She asked if this could be a topic for further research. Drogin suggested sharing these concerns with OAECE and noted the existing infant toddler development strategy.

- Colman mentioned plans to present the Blueprint to all Children's Deputies in May and noted the possibility of a Supervisor favoring a specific recommendation and proposing a motion.
- Drogin urged everyone to engage in dialogues about infants and toddlers with leadership and emphasized the potential impact of strengthening connections within our systems.

6. Announcement and Public Comment

Vice-Chair Fierro opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Dianne Philibosian proposed that the Governance Ad hoc should amend the bylaws to consider appointing First and Second Vice-Chairs.
- Elsa Leal announced the Social Emotional Development and Self-Regulation of Infants and Toddlers Workshop hosted by the Program for Infant and Toddler Care (PITC).
- Ilysa Foxx discussed the collaboration with Gina Rodriguez in launching the Dual Language Learning Communications Campaign celebrating dual language learners and announced the expansion into three additional languages. She is seeking connections with early learning programs to support multilingualism.
- Jen Baca Beltran discussed the State meeting on April 8, 2024 focusing on alternate methodology. She urged community and stakeholder participation. Also, Baca Beltran shared that Child Care Providers UNITED is providing 1,000 free computers to eligible home-based child care providers.
- Joanna Lafuente encouraged making connections with those who have General Child Care and Development (CCTR) programs.
- Gaby Acosta announced the Celebration of the Young Child event in Long Beach on April 27, 2024, mentioning they are looking for 5 additional vendors.
- Crystal Jones announced the first online training being offered from May 15-17, focusing on parents as leaders and community resources, especially for children aged 0-3. She highlighted the introduction of a Spanish cohort starting in July.
- Christina Moore emphasized the significance of the ECE Voices region II Meet and Greet on April 22, 2024, mentioning that senators will be present. She pointed out it's a chance to share experiences and staff requirements, underscoring ECE Voices' dedication to fostering teacher development.
- Zenaida Meza announced that the deadline for the Voluntary Temporary Fund Transfers requests for CDSS contract are due to the OAECE by April 5th, 2024 and requests for CDE contracts are due by April 19th, 2024.
- Manuel Fierro announced the 2024 Birth to 12th Grade Water Cooler Conference, hosted by Catalyst California, will be held in Sacramento from April 24-25.

7. Call to Adjourn

Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

Attendance

Public Agency

1. Alicia Rivas
2. Ana Lopez
3. Regina Angelo Tarango, alternate for Ana Lopez
4. Nellie Rios-Para
5. Gus Bribiesca, alternate for Nora Garcia-Rosales
6. Rachel Klein
7. Heesu Kim, alternate for Rachel Klein
8. Rebecca Lynch, alternate for Vanessa San Martin

Early Educator

1. Andrea Fernandez
2. Brittie Crawford
3. Lisa Wilkin
4. Rocio Bach

Parent/Caregiver

1. Christina Moore
2. Crystal Jones
3. Eli Pessar
4. Misha Mims, alternate for Sasha Duarte

Discretionary

1. Dianne Philibosian
2. Jen Baca Beltran
3. Jessica Guerra
4. Kimberly Dobson Garcia, alternate for Kelly O'Connell
5. La Tanga Hardy
6. Sarah Soriano
7. Veronica Torres

Community Organization

1. Edilma Serna
2. Monica Hernandez, alternate for Edilma Serna
3. Gina Rodriguez
4. Stephanie Orozco, alternate for Gina Rodriguez
5. Ilyssa Foxx
6. Fiona Stewart, alternate for Ilyssa Foxx
7. Maribel Z. Gonzalez, alternate for Joelle Landazabal
8. Kelly Reynolds, alternate for Luis Molina
9. Manuel Fierro

Guests

1. Gaby Acosta
2. Shantil Alexander
3. Amy Battle
4. Yecenia Cardenas
5. Michelle Dancy
6. Joana Lafuente
7. Elsa Leal
8. Alyssa Mercado
9. Shay Scott
10. Chris Sears
11. Ed Sudario
12. Sirenal
13. Yong Chun Ye

Staff Attendance

10. Debra Colman, *Director*
11. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
12. Meliza Hernandez, *Staff Analyst*
13. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*
14. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*
15. Zenaida Meza, *Staff Analyst*
16. Erica Torres-Ness, *Management Analyst*