



## Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes

May 8, 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 10:02 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

#### **2. Comments by the Chair**

Chair Albarran Moses recognized the week of May 6<sup>th</sup> is Teacher and Nurse Appreciation Week and acknowledged the critical work of educators and nurses. She noted that the Governor will soon release his revisions to his proposed Budget. Chair Albarran Moses highlighted the Policy Roundtable's theme for fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 is Synchronized Systems and noted the importance of collaboration across departments and organizations.

### General Business

#### **3. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2024**

Chair Albarran Moses presented the minutes for the April 10, 2024 Policy Roundtable meeting and asked for a motion to approve the April 10, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Lisa Wilkin made the motion to approve the April 10, 2024 minutes; Commissioner Gloria Davis seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the April 10, 2024 minutes passed with one abstention: Commissioner Kanchana Tate.

### Our Unified Strategic Plan in Motion

#### **4. ECE In Transformation: Universal PreKindergarten and Infant Toddler ECE System Strategy 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 Infant Toddler ECE System Strategy. Some of Colman's highlights are listed below:

- UPK: On June 5 2024, OAECE, in partnership with the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee), Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles, will host the UPK Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast. The UPK Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast aims to build and/or strengthen relationships between school districts and community based early care and education (ECE) programs. The Planning Committee will review recommendations developed by its Access and Family Engagement Ad Hoc and UPK Workforce Ad Hoc at the June 2024 Planning Committee.
- Infant Toddler ECE Systems Strategy: Colman announced that OAECE's Infant and Toddler Facility Development Expansion Toolkit for ECE Providers (Toolkit) was released on April 15, 2024. This Toolkit includes seven key considerations for expanding infant and toddler care in Los Angeles. Examples of the topics covered in the Toolkit include licensing, staff qualifications, and business development. The Toolkit will be available in seven languages by summer 2024. Colman also presented information on the ECE-Birth Through Three Facility Development Fee Waiver Program (ECE Facility Fee Waivers). The program provides fee waivers for licensed child care providers in LA County's unincorporated areas and contract cities who incur facility development fees from the following LA County Departments: Regional Planning, Public Works, and Fire. Colman's PowerPoint presentation provides more detail. Colman opened the floor for discussion. The following are some of the points raised: OAECE is tracking progress of its infant and toddler child care initiatives and ECE programs are experiencing challenges in obtaining fire inspection approvals for various reasons.

## 5. Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc Update

Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, a member of the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc (Ad Hoc), provided an update on the second Ad Hoc meeting that was held on April 30, 2024. She shared that there is more attention on and support for prevention services for children and families, such as the Families First Prevention Act. Commissioner McCroskey added that child care is an essential element of well-being, that it helps to alleviate poverty, and it's important for the Commission to be part of prevention discussions. She shared that the Ad Hoc will use the following approach to develop a Service Coordination Strategy for the Commission to consider:

1. Identify child care and development services Commissioners' organization and County Departments are involved with
2. Identify additional key County partners
3. Identify 1-2 service coordination areas to focus on that are in alignment with Commission's responsibilities

Commissioner McCroskey opened the floor for discussion and some of the points raised included: the importance of distributing resource information to families, the need to streamline and unify data sharing to ensure families have information about resources they are eligible for, and the legal considerations of sharing data.

## 6. Department of Economic Opportunity

Kelly LoBianco, LA County Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Director, provided an overview of the DEO which was established in July 2022. Initially, the DEO was not going to focus on ECE; however, the DEO recognized ECE is essential to achieving a more equitable economy and enabling more women to participate in the workforce. DEO's work that focuses on supporting ECE includes its ECE Assistant Teacher apprenticeships, establishing an ECE Center of Excellence, high road training opportunities, and support for small business development for ECE providers. More information is provided in the PowerPoint. LoBianco opened the floor for discussion. It was noted during the discussion that the Apprenticeship Program is beneficial but some participants who complete the program do not stay with the organization because they can earn a higher wage in the fast food service sector.

## Public Policy

### 7. State Budget and Legislative Policy

Vice Chair Justin Blakely shared that the OAECE submitted the Pursuit of Position approved by the Commission in April 2024 to LA County's Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations branch (LAIRS) for review and approval. Vice Chair Blakely added Supervisor Solis' Office is submitting a motion to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to direct LAIRS to support the following two policy issues in the Pursuit of Position:

- Award and distribute ECE spaces appropriated in the 2023-24 budget by June 30, 2024 and include a sustainable and equitable plan to reach the 200,000 spaces commitment by 2026-27
- Include in the state's Child Care Development Fund Plan Federal FY 2025-27 an alternative rate methodology based on the true cost of care by the July 1, 2024 submission

LAIRS is reviewing if it will support the third policy issue in the Pursuit of Position: Require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to remove the Child Development Associate Teacher Permit renewal restriction.

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Joint Committee on Legislation Co-Chair, provided an update on the Governor's proposed FY 2024-25 Budget and that the Governor's May Revise Budget will likely be released on May 14, 2024. Mendoza reviewed high interest bills discussed at the April 2024 Joint Committee on Legislation meeting. More information is included in the PowerPoint.

Leanne Drogin, OAECE Deputy Director, provided an overview of the Public Policy Platform. She shared that it was developed and approved by the Commission and Planning Committee and informs LA County's Legislative Agenda. Colman added that policy recommendations to the BOS must be consistent with the LA County Legislative Agenda. Drogin shared that if the Commission and the Planning Committee want to make modifications to the

Public Policy Platform then the modifications need to be approved by both bodies by June 2024. Drogin noted that the Joint Committee on Legislation will develop recommendations at their May 2024 meeting for the Commission and Planning Committee to consider in June 2024.

#### **8. Board of Supervisors ECE Delegation Teams Update**

Vice Chair Blakely reminded Commissioners that the Policy Roundtable created BOS Delegation Teams to increase engagement and have a consistent voice with the Board of Supervisors. Delegation Teams are comprised of Policy Roundtable Commissioners and Planning Committee BOS appointees. Once the Pursuit of Position was approved at the April 10, 2024 Policy Roundtable meeting, the BOS Delegation Teams were charged with meeting with their respective BOS Office. Vice Chair Blakely invited each Team to share the status of their engagement efforts with their respective BOS Offices.

- Supervisor Hilda Solis, District 1: The Team is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Supervisor Solis' Office.
- Supervisor Holly Mitchell, District 2: BOS Delegation Team Lead Commissioner Gloria Davis reported that the team met with Human Services and Child Welfare Senior Deputy Yadira Flores and Senior Deputy Flores sought clarification about the status of subsidized ECE spaces in LA County. The Delegation also reviewed the Pursuit of Position and Infant/Toddler Blueprint submitted to the Board of Supervisors in March 2024.
- Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, District 3: The Team is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Supervisor Horvath's Office.
- Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4: BOS Delegation Team Lead and Chair Albarran Moses reported that the Team met with Supervisor Hahn's Children and Human Services Deputy Maral Karaccusian and discussed the Pursuit of Position. Deputy Karaccusian inquired about how the Commission is synchronizing systems and requested quarterly meetings with the Team to stay updated on ECE developments.
- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, District 5: BOS Delegation member and Commissioner Dean Tagawa reported that the Delegation Team met with Supervisor Barger and topics they discussed included: staff shortages, low ECE workforce wages, and the immediate need to open more infant/toddler ECE spaces.

#### **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 Dean Tagawa acknowledged Andrea Fernandez Mendoza for her update on the Governor's Budget and high interest bills. Commissioner Tagawa also thanked Commissioner Gloria Davis for organizing the community gathering at the Girls Club of Los Angeles with Michelle Kang, CEO of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Jen Baca Beltran highlighted that the California Department of Social Services convened a Rate and Quality Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel), the Advisory Panel meets every other month, and the meetings are open to the public. She also announced that there will be another opportunity for eligible home-based child care providers to receive free computers in June 2024.

#### **11. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn**

Chair Albarran Moses adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

## Attendance

### Commissioners Attendance

1. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
2. Gloria Davis, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*
4. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
6. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
7. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
8. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
9. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Care Planning Committee*
10. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
11. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
12. Dean Tagawa, *Los Angeles Unified School District*

### Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Steve Sturm, *Department of Children and Family Services*
2. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
3. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

### Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Jen Baca Beltran, *SEIU Local 99*
3. Melita Ferguson, *Compton College*
4. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *California Children's Academy*
5. Sarah Fisher, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
6. Nicole Jain, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
7. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
8. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 Los Angeles*
9. Shay Scott, *Discount School Supplies*
10. Edilma Serna, *WestEd PITC*

### 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*