



## **Child Care Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

June 5, 2024

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Lisa Wilkin, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) began the meeting at 12:15 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. Governance**

Nellie Ríos-Parra and Ancelma Sanchez, Governance Ad hoc Co-Chairs, presented the Planning Committee Membership Slate for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 and the Candidates for Officers for FY 2024-25. The Governance Ad hoc met on May 3, 2024, to review membership applications and develop a membership slate. Applications included: 36 Returning members, 14 Vacant seats, and 25 New applicants.

The applications were reviewed with special attention to the membership category, Service Planning Area, Supervisorial District, and Ethnicity/Race. Ríos-Parra noted that the proposed Child Care Planning Committee Membership Slate for FY 2024-25 aligns with the population race and ethnicity breakdown of LA County. Ríos-Parra introduced Manuel Fierro as the nominee for the office of Chair and Andrea Fernandez Mendoza and Humberto Estratalán as the nominees for the office of Vice Chair. More information is provided on the PowerPoint.

### **3. Approval of Officers**

#### **A. Election of Chair – Manuel Fierro**

#### **B. Election of Vice Chair**

Chair Wilkin presented the election of Chair Manuel Fierro for Planning Committee FY 2024-25. Chair Wilkin then asked for a motion to approve the election of Chair Manuel Fierro for Planning Committee FY 2024-25. Member Sarah Soriano made the motion to approve the minutes; Member Joelle Landazabal seconded the motion. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. The approval for Manuel Fierro as Nominee for the office of Chair passed with no abstentions.

Chair Wilkin presented the election of Andrea Mendoza Fernandez as Vice Chair for Planning Committee FY 2024-25 and asked for a motion to approve Andrea Mendoza for the position. Member Kelly O’Connell made the motion to approve Andrea Mendoza as Vice Chair for Planning Committee FY 2024-25; Member Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. Chair Wilkin called the vote, and the number of “ayes” and “nays” were counted, with no abstentions.

Chair Wilkin presented the election of Humberto Estratalán as Vice Chair for Planning Committee FY 2024-25 and asked for a motion to approve Humberto Estratalán for the position. Member



Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve Humberto Estratalán as Vice Chair for Planning Committee FY 2024-25; Member Jessica Guerra seconded the motion. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. Chair Wilkin called the vote, and the number of “ayes” and “nays” were counted, with no abstentions.

Zenaida Meza, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), announced Andrea Mendoza Fernandez approved as Vice Chair for the Planning Committee FY 2024-25.

Dianne Philibosian proposed that the Governance Ad hoc should amend the bylaws to consider appointing First and Second Vice-Chairs.

#### **4. Policy Update**

Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Joint Committee on Legislation Co-Chair, reviewed the Governor’s May Budget Revise for 2024-25, which was released on May 10, 2024. Key points of the Governors May Budget Revise included:

- Rescinding of CCTR Spaces
- Freeze on 200,000 Spaces
- State Preschool Special Needs Set-Aside
- CSPP and TK Facilities Grant Program

Mendoza discussed the proposed Public Policy Platform. Mendoza highlighted that the Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable) co-develop the Public Policy Platform, which informs the LA County Legislative Agenda. Chair Wilkin added that the Joint Committee on Legislation typically proposes updates to the Public Policy Platform, but due to a lack of quorum, the Joint Committee on Legislation was unable to meet in May. As a result, the Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable co-chairs developed the recommendations for the proposed Public Policy Platform. Mendoza outlined the next steps in the process for updating the Public Policy Platform, which include a vote by the Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable to approve the proposed changes.

Mendoza highlighted the proposed Public Policy Platform revision for item #10: Supporting efforts to ensure that children and their families have timely access to early care and education services during a local, state, or national emergency. More information is provided on the PowerPoint.

Stacey Lee expressed concerns about the Governor’s proposed revisions and mentioned that the legislature is pushing back on several items, such as rejecting the reduction of funding for the bridge program, modifying funding for CalWORKs home visiting, and restoring funding after a few years. She emphasized the importance of codifying the 200,000 slots and adding more check-ins for the rate reform process, highlighting ongoing advocacy opportunities with the ECE coalition.



Debra Colman, OAECE, informed that LA County had approved positions on several items which can be referenced in advocacy efforts:

- Three pursuits of position proposed by the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development have been approved by the County Legislative Affairs Office
- An emergency position was taken to oppose the bridge program changes.

Lester Garcia questioned the absence of certain items in the policy platform, specifically eligibility alignment and increased affordable child care options.

Leanne Drogin clarified that:

- The county legislative agenda has 13 items.
- The policy platform only has 10, with items 11, 12, and 13 added by the county. These are embedded within the existing 10, particularly under item 5.

Garcia emphasized the importance of explicitly including living wage calculations and the true cost of care in the platform. Colman noted that bullet 1 under item 5 addresses true cost of care reimbursement rates and explained that the OAECE will consider the 10 platform headlines for the county legislative agenda. She questioned if the current wording sufficiently highlights true cost of care and reimbursement. Garcia disagreed, stating it does not explicitly mention "true cost of care."

Chair Wilkin outlined the amendment process for the policy platform, requiring approval from both the Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable.

Philibosian supported efforts to adequately fund high-quality child care and inquired about the consequences of delaying approval. Colman responded that without timely approval, there would be no submission to the legislative board this summer, resulting in a default.

Chair Wilkin proposed pulling the Public Policy Platform from the Consent Agenda. Chair Wilkin asked for a motion to approve pulling the Public Policy Platform from the Consent Agenda. Member Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve pulling the Public Policy Platform from the Consent Agenda; Member Veronica Torres seconded it. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. Pulling the proposed Public Policy Platform from the Consent Calendar passed with no abstentions.

## **5. Consent Calendar**

**A. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2024**

**B. Approval of Public Policy Platform**

**C. Approval of Membership Slate for FY 2024-25**



Vice Chair Manuel Fierro presented the Consent Calendar which included the April 3, 2024 minutes and the Planning Committee Membership Slate for FY 2024-25. Vice Chair Fierro then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve the minutes; Member Rachel Bocarsly seconded the motion. Vice Chair Fierro opened the floor for discussion. Member Kelly O'Connell noted a revision in the attendance section of to the April 3, 2024 minutes: Add Kelly O'Connell to attendance. Zenaida Meza, OAECE, noted two revisions on the membership slate: 1) Discretionary Kelly Dobson Garcia has since been approved by the First District Board of Supervisors office and 2) Change Rachel Klein's name to Rachel Bocarsly. Vice Chair Fierro opened the floor for discussion. The Consent Calendar to approve the revised April 3, 2024 minutes and the updated Planning Committee Membership Slate for FY 2024-25 passed.

Member Philibosian moved to approve the proposed Public Policy Platform. Member Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. Garcia stressed the importance of incorporating the true cost of care and recommended approving the platform now while planning a stronger stance for the next Public Policy Platform. Members supported the focus on true cost of care and high-quality care. Members inquired about amending the language, and Chair Wilkin explained the approval process and timing.

Fiona Stewart moved to amend the proposed Public Policy Platform first bullet under item five "true cost of quality care." Member Bocarsly seconded the amendment, which was accepted as a friendly motion by Member Philibosian. Chair Wilkin opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the proposed Public Policy Platform with the amended language passed.

- 6. Universal PreKindergarten Los Angeles (UPKLA)**
  - A. UPKLA Progress and Accomplishments FY 2023-24**
  - B. Access and Family Engagement Ad Hoc Update**
  - B. Workforce for 3- and 4- year-olds Ad hoc Update**

Debra Colman, OAECE, discussed the UPKLA Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast organized by OAECE in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles. The event was designed to create UPK solutions and foster connections between Community-based Early Care and Education Programs and Local Education Agencies, including School Districts and Charter Schools. Over the past year, efforts focused on integrating the ECE system into universal pre-kindergarten, including launching planning and leadership initiatives with LACOE, activating two Ad Hocs, and demonstrating a unified vision for partnership. This summer, a contract to support UPK with Resource and Referral agencies (R&Rs) will kick off, aiming to have a UPK liaison at all R&Rs to assist parents in understanding their options and building partnerships between mixed delivery systems and LEAs.



Ilyssa Foxx, co-chair of the Access and Family Engagement Ad hoc, summarized the group's activities which focused on two main goals:

1. Developing a plan to assess parent needs and preferences for ECE services, as well as the barriers that hinder access to those services.
2. Advising on the development of a plan to share Child Care needs assessment policy recommendations with the public in Winter 2024.

The Ad hoc's recommendations for Planning Committee activities in FY 2024-25 regarding goal #1 included:

1. Conducting a study of existing centralized ECE platforms to create reliable findings about user experience, platform effectiveness, and provider participation rates.
2. Partnering with a marketing professional to determine the most effective outlets for reaching LA County's parents of 3-and 4-year-olds.
3. Developing an advisory process to ensure parents, ECE providers, and trusted messengers are involved in the development of a potential centralized system.

For goal #2, the recommendations included:

1. OAECE hosting a press conference or convening with various community members.
2. Developing a toolkit with shareable infographics, action cards, and social media-ready elements.

Rachel Bocarsly and Brittie Crawford, co-chairs of the Workforce for 3- and 4-year-olds Ad hoc, provided a summary of the group's activities from their FY 2023-24 meetings. The Ad hoc aimed to advise on the development of an assessment of available professional development and workforce supports to identify gaps and establish training goals for early educators serving 3- and 4-year-old children. Activities included reviewing a report from the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, which informed the focus areas: non-wage compensation, professional development, and well-being. The Ad hoc identified ideal and existing resources and supports, resulting in recommendations for Planning Committee activities in FY 2024-25, which included:

- Mapping existing professional development (PD) and workforce supports in LA County to identify gaps and establish training goals.
- Identifying characteristics that enhance the user experience (UX) of web-based platforms and uplift strategies to improve the ECE workforce member's experience.
- Convening PD intermediaries and programs to review findings and areas for improvement, exploring the potential for PD program and support service integration at the systems level.

More information is provided on the PowerPoint.

- 7. Consent Calendar – Approval to Dissolve Ad hocs FY 2023-24**
  - A. Access and Family Engagement**
  - B. Workforce for Preschool Age Children**
  - C. Governance**



#### **D. Special Needs and Inclusion**

Vice Chair Manuel Fierro presented the Consent Calendar which included the approval to dissolve the Planning Committee Ad hocs for FY 2023-24. Vice Chair Fierro then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Member Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve the minutes; Member Brittie Crawford seconded the motion. Vice Chair Fierro opened the floor for discussion. The Consent Calendar to approve dissolving the Planning Committee Ad hocs for FY 2023-24 passed.

#### **8. Gratitude, Announcement & Public Comment**

Vice-Chair Fierro opened the floor for expressions of gratitude, announcements, and public comments. He extended his appreciation to the UPK ad hocs and the Planning Committee for their dedication.

- Zenaida Meza and Debra Colman expressed their gratitude to Chair Wilkin for her role as Chair of the Planning Committee and acknowledged her significant effort and leadership.
- Fiona Stewart acknowledged Kelly O'Connell, noting it was her last Planning Committee meeting.
- Lester Garcia announced that Child Care Providers United and SEIU California is holding a rally on June 11, 2024 to advocate for maintaining and expanding investments in ECE.
- Ilyssa Foxx discussed the collaboration with Gina Rodriguez in launching the Dual Language Learning Communications Campaign celebrating dual language learners. She highlighted the expansion of languages included.

#### **9. Call to Adjourn**

Chair Wilkin reminded attendees to consider that the ECE sector includes both subsidized programs and those that are privately funded. Chair Wilkin adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Public Agency**

1. Maria Mora, alternate for 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. Evelyn Garcia, alternate for Scott Herring

**Early Educator**

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

**Parent/Caregiver**

1. Marcela Torress, alternate for Christina Moore
2. Mariel Kyger Doerfel, alternate for Eli Pessar

**Discretionary**

1. Dianne Philibosian
2. Helen Davis
3. Ivy Chang
4. Lester Garcia, alternate for Jen Baca Beltran
5. Jessica Guerra
6. Kelly O'Connell
7. La Tanga Hardy
8. Sarah Soriano
9. Veronica Torres

**Community Organization**

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

**Guests**

1. Gaby Acosta
2. Rebecca Bernard
3. Justin Blakely
4. Ariella Butcher
5. Fernando Carrillo
6. Joanna Clifton
7. Norma Graciano
8. Bobby Guerrero
9. Shannon Hustan
10. Nicole Jain
11. Mercedes Rosales
12. Shay Scott
13. Chrystal Thompson
14. Albert Vajera
15. Jackeline Vasquez

**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*
8. Erica Weiss, *Intermediate Clerk*