

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024

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 led a moment of silence to honor those lost and impacted by 9/11. She then shared that the Commission's theme for FY 2024-2025 will continue to be Synchronizing Systems. Chair Albarran Moses welcomed Andrea Mendoza Fernandez as the new Commissioner representing the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee).

3. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2024

Chair Albarran Moses presented the minutes for the June 12, 2024 Policy Roundtable meeting and asked for a motion to approve the June 12, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Paul Pulver made the motion to approve the June 12, 2024 minutes; Commissioner Fran Chasen seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the June 12, 2024 minutes passed with three abstentions.

Chair Albarran Moses made a motion to suspend the rules and move Agenda Item #7: Public Policy Update, to be the next Agenda Item. Commissioner Dianne Philibosian seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion and then asked if there were any objections. The motion to suspend the rules and move Agenda Item #7: Public Policy Update passed with no objections.

4. Public Policy Updates

Vice Chair Justin Blakely provided an update on the policy issues included in the Commission's Pursuit of Position FY 2023-2024. The Pursuit of Position included the following policy issues:

1. **Award and distribute early care and education (ECE) spaces appropriated in the 2023-2024 budget by June 30, 2024 and include a sustainable and equitable plan to reach the 200,000 spaces commitment by 2026-2027.** Vice Chair Blakely shared that the Governor restored 11,000 previously awarded spaces, however, with the State's budget deficit, the full amount of allotted spaces may not be funded until 2028.
2. **Include in the State's Child Care Development Fund Plan Federal FY 2025-2027 an alternative rate methodology based on the true cost of care by the July 1, 2024 submission.** Vice Chair Blakely noted the alternative rate methodology is set to be implemented by July 2025; however, budget volatility may impact this timeline. Negotiations between the State and Child Care Providers United (CCPU) will include a focus on establishing a baseline for the alternative rate methodology. The Hold Harmless provision that provides subsidized funding based on enrollment instead of attendance will continue through next year.
3. **Require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to remove the Child Development Associate Teacher Permit renewal restriction.** Vice Chair Blakely shared that AB 1930, which eliminates the Associate Teacher Permit requirement, passed both chambers and is waiting for the Governor's signature.

Vice Chair Blakely noted a recent amendment to the Office of the State Fire Marshall Title 24 Building Code caused ECE centers serving children under 36 months extensive delays in obtaining approvals for certain types of fire clearances and required these ECE centers to make extensive and expensive fire safety changes. As a result, some ECE centers serving infants and toddlers decreased the number of children they serve, delayed opening new centers, or shuttered. Vice Chair Blakely shared passage of AB 176: Education Omnibus Trailer Bill addressed this issue by including directives for the State Fire Marshal to continue to use provisions from the 2022 California

Building Standards Code rather than the amendment that requires new fire safety regulations for ECE centers serving infants and toddlers. AB 176 also requires the State Fire Marshall to consult with the Department of Social Services to create new regulations for child care centers by January 1, 2027. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion and the following highlights some of the comments provided:

- Obtaining approvals in a timely manner for fire, building and safety, zoning, and licensing requirements has been a persistent issue for ECE providers for decades
- The importance of tracking the alternative rate methodology contract negotiations between CCPU and the State and implementation of the alternative rate methodology

Leanne Drogin, Deputy Director of Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), shared that LA County's State Legislative Agenda 2024 (Legislative Agenda) is posted on LA County's website. Drogin reviewed changes to the Legislative Agenda as it relates to the Commission's Public Policy Platform and noted that the Legislative Agenda is shorter and broader than the previous Legislative Agenda. Drogin highlighted that the Legislative Agenda does not include a statement that reflects the focus of the Public Policy Platform. In response to this, the OAECE submitted to the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Legislative Affairs Office a proposed statement to include in the Legislative Agenda that broadly reflects the Public Policy Platform. The following is the proposed statement, "Support efforts to increase access to high-quality early care and education services provided by a qualified and well-compensated workforce." DPH Legislative Affairs Office submitted this request to LA County's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIRs). A decision from LAIRs is expected in a few months. More details are provided in the PowerPoint presentation. Drogin opened the floor for discussion and the following highlights some of the comments provided:

- Pursuit of Positions must be consistent with the Legislative Agenda and if child care and development is not included in the Legislative Agenda then this will severely affect the scope of policy recommendations the Commission can submit to the County
- Clarity is needed regarding the timeframe the Legislative Agenda covers; for example, is it a calendar year or a legislative session
- The Commission's Board of Supervisors (BOS) Delegation Teams need to inform the BOS that the Legislative Agenda does not include a focus on child care and development and it needs to be added. OAECE will provide BOS Delegation Teams meeting prep materials.

5. Collective Impact: Policy Roundtable, Child Care Planning Committee, and OAECE

Debra Colman, Director of OAECE, presented an overview of the roles and relationship between the Policy Roundtable, Planning Committee, and OAECE. Colman also highlighted results of their collective impact during FY 2023-2024. More details are provided in the PowerPoint presentation.

6. Policy Roundtable Goals FY 2024-2025

Chair Albarran Moses presented the FY 2024-2025 goals the Policy Roundtable identified in June 2024. The goals included:

- Identify how the Commission can be more active in moving policy issues forward
- Identify other sectors to advocate for early care and education
- Continue to focus on foster children
- Include a focus on mental health in early care and education
- Engage school districts regarding universal pre-school
- Focus on early care and education workforce sustainability
- Continue to have alignment and clear role clarification between the Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable

- Resume Joint Committee on Legislation meetings in January

To provide more structure to these goals, Chair Albarran Moses presented that the Policy Roundtable will continue using the following framework for its goals:

1. Promote Public Policy Priority Issues
 - Utilize Pursuit of Position and other methods as appropriate
 - Continue BOS Delegation Teams
2. Advance Unified Strategic Plan Priority Area 2
 - Synchronizing Systems: Continue to develop a Service Coordination Strategy
 - Contribute to the Development of the Strategic Plan 2026-2030
3. Strengthen Policy Roundtable Infrastructure
 - Obtain BOS approval of Ordinance changes
 - Resume Joint Committee on Legislation meetings in January 2025

Chair Albarran Moses shared that the detailed goals and framework will be included in the Policy Roundtable Annual Report FY 2023-2024. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. Some of the points raised focused on the importance of the Commission achieving these goals.

7. Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc Update

Commissioner Steve Sturm, a member of the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc (Ad Hoc), provided an update on the September 3, 2024 Ad Hoc meeting. The Ad Hoc reviewed information gathered by OAECE staff during summer 2024 to help inform the development of the Service Coordination Strategy. The Ad Hoc will review additional information at its next meeting and will begin to narrow down possible issue areas to focus on. Chair Albarran Moses then opened the floor for discussion and the following highlights some of the comments provided:

- County departments continue to work in isolation and departments need to collaborate with one another to support the development of the whole child
- Some types of funding streams, such as federal funding, reinforces silos making it difficult for departments to be collaborative and abide by funding guidelines

8. Child Care Planning Committee Update

Manuel Fierro, Chair of the Planning Committee, provided an update on the September 2024 Planning Committee meeting. He shared that the Planning Committee will have the following four Ad Hoc committees for FY 2024-2025: 1) Governance, 2) Family Access, 3) Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Workforce, and 4) Special Needs and Inclusion. Fierro also provided an update on implementation of the UPK Plan, which includes establishing UPK Community Liaisons at eight Resource and Referral (R&R) agencies. UPK Community Liaisons will 1) help increase parents' knowledge about UPK options for 3- and 4-year-olds, and 2) strengthen partnerships between local school districts, charter schools, and the ECE mixed delivery system.

9. Creation of Ad Hoc

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

10. Announcements and Public Comment

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

- Lisa Wilkin acknowledged Commissioner Paul Pulver for raising the fire code changes at a Commission meeting which resulted in this issue being elevated quickly with state-wide advocacy groups and contributed to obtaining a successful resolution
- Commissioner Amber Rivas shared that many foster care agencies are experiencing challenges in obtaining insurance and this will significantly affect agencies' ability to serve this population

- Rachel Bocarsly announced that LA City will host a webinar to present findings from its Caring Cities report. The webinar will be held on September 12, 2024 at 10 a.m. and findings from the report will help shape LA City's Community Investment for Families Department child care agenda.
- Commissioner Dean Tagawa invited members to attend Los Angeles Unified School District's Children and Families in Early Education Committee meeting. The meeting will be held on September 19, 2024 at 10 a.m. The meeting will include a focus on the importance of play in early childhood development.

11. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Chair Albarran Moses moved to adjourn the Policy Roundtable meeting. Commissioner Robert Gilchick seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion and then asked if there were any objections. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed with no objections. The Policy Roundtable meeting was adjourned at 12:01 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. Sylvia Jauregui, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
8. Dianne Philibosian, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
9. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
10. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
11. Jeannette Aguirre Carrillo, *Department of Probation*
12. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
13. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
14. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
15. Luis Bautista, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
16. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
17. Dean Tagawa, *LA Unified School District*
18. Ofelia Medina, *First 5 LA*
19. 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. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
3. Dora Jacildo, *Commission for Children and Families*
4. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Rachel Bocarsly, *City of LA*
3. Kelly Fountain, *Lancaster School District*
4. Jessica Guerra, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
5. Nicole Jain, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*



6. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
7. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 LA*
8. Edilma Serna, *WestEd PITC*
9. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles*
10. Marcie Villaseñor, *Foothill Family Services*

Staff Attendance

1. Alejandra Berrio, *Management Analyst*
2. Debra Colman, *Director*
3. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
4. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*
5. Ida Legesse, *Management Analyst*
6. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*