



## Child Care Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2024

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Manuel Fierro, Chair of the Child Care Planning Committee began the meeting at 12:05 p.m. by welcoming members and the public. Chair Fierro shared the vision and mission statement and invited everyone to introduce themselves, share their affiliated organization, and their role within the Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee).

### 2. Los Angeles County Early Care and Education

Chair Fierro reviewed the Los Angeles County structure and how the Planning Committee fits within the broader framework of LA County.

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), presented on the various OAECE programs, including their roles and priorities. Colman explained the responsibilities of the OAECE within the Department of Public Health, focusing on the differences between and the roles of the OAECE Commissions and Committees, which include the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development (Policy Roundtable), the Planning Committee, and the Joint Committee on Legislation. She noted the following roles of the Planning Committee:

- Conduct Countywide Needs Assessment for Early Care and Education (ECE) every five years
- Develop a countywide ECE strategic plan every five years
- Prepare Local Planning Council (LPC) Local Funding Priorities annually
- Facilitate Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds between State-subsidized programs bi-annually
- Serve as a forum on Early Childhood Education issues and collaborate with stakeholders to foster partnerships
- Plan for Universal PreKindergarten Mixed Delivery System

Colman addressed the collective impact of the OAECE during fiscal year (FY) 2023-24. The following highlights some of the points discussed:

- Facilitated 87 Stakeholder Engagement Meetings and Input Sessions
- Stewarded the Adoption of 4 ECE Policy Positions by Los Angeles County
- Developed Blueprint to fortify the ECE system for infants and toddlers
- Coordinated the First Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Leadership Bridge Building Breakfast. 28 Local Education Agencies, 8 Resource & Referral (R&R) Agencies, the Planning Committee Leadership, and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) attended. More details were provided in the PowerPoint presentation.

Colman then opened the floor for discussion.



Member Sarah Soriano inquired about the process of being appointed to the Joint Committee on Legislation. Zenaida Meza, OAECE Staff Analyst, stated that the Planning Committee Chair and Vice Chair appoint Planning Committee members to the Joint Committee on Legislation and encouraged interested members to express their interest. The Joint Committee on Legislation is a public meeting and meeting information will be provided to members and the public.

### **3. Child Care Planning Committee 2024-25**

Chair Fierro provided an overview of the Planning Committee and noted that there is a Local Planning Council (LPC) in every county of the State, administered by the California Department of Social Services. He highlighted the primary mission of the Planning Committee, which includes:

1. Planning for child care and development services based on the needs of families in the local community.
2. Serving as a forum to address the child care needs of all families in the community and for all types of child care, both subsidized and non-subsidized.

Chair Fierro explained the governing process of the Planning Committee, emphasizing that it must adhere to both the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order. He provided an overview of the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order, including the process for proposing and voting on motions.

Chair Fierro then opened the floor for questions.

Member Isidro Villanueva asked whether a Planning Committee alternate counts toward quorum if present. Meza clarified that an alternate counts towards quorum and can vote only if the primary member is not in attendance.

Meza outlined the goals and priorities of the Planning Committee for FY 2024-25. She discussed the Child Care Needs Assessment and the Unified Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education, noting that OAECE will seek the Planning Committee's input on priorities for the new Unified Strategic Plan for Early Care and Education FY 2025-29. Meza also addressed the goals of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Planning Grant, which include:

- Goal 1: Increase parents' knowledge about their early education choices.
- Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships between school districts and ECE mixed delivery systems.
- Goal 3: Enhance partnerships to support children with special needs.
- Goal 4: Increase supports for the UPK workforce.

Member Erendira Doherty inquired whether family child care home (FCCH) providers would be included in the UPK system. Meza confirmed that FCCH providers are part of the system, but emphasized that their role still needs to be defined in collaboration with school districts. She noted that one of the Planning Committee's proposed Ad hoc groups will be working on a goal to explore existing UPK service delivery



models that successfully integrate community based center programs, FCCHs, and Family Child Care Home Education Networks (FCCHENs). There will be UPK Liaisons at each Resource and Referral (R&R) agency that will support the connection between mixed delivery providers and the school districts.

Meza along with Erica Torres-Ness, OAECE UPK Coordinator, provided an overview of the proposed FY 2024-25 Planning Committee Ad hoc groups and their purpose. The four Ad hoc groups for FY 2024-25 include:

- Governance: To oversee the Planning Committee's governance and reporting processes, and to review proposed changes to the Planning Committee Member Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Family Access: To assess families' early care and education (ECE) needs and preferences, barriers to access, and utilization rates of ECE services.
- Special Needs and Inclusion: To promote the inclusion of children at risk for disabilities or with special needs in early care and education environments that are the least restrictive.
- UPK Workforce: To support planning for the early care and education workforce serving preschool children, ensuring alignment with the Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) system.

A detailed description of each Ad hoc purpose, goals, and potential activities were provided to all members and public.

Member Edilma Serna asked about the future of the OAECE's Infant Toddler Workgroup. Elizabeth Jacoby, OAECE Staff Analyst, noted Planning Committee members will receive more information on the Infant Toddler Workgroup this fall. Meza clarified that the Infant Toddler Workgroup is not an Ad hoc of the Planning Committee.

#### **4. Consent Calendar**

Chair Fierro presented the Consent Calendar, which includes June 5, 2024, minutes and the creation of the Ad hoc committees, and asked for a motion to approve. Member Lisa Wilkin made the motion to approve the consent calendar; Member Sarah Soriano seconded the motion. Member Nellie Ríos-Parra requested an amendment to rectify the spelling of her surname. Two comments about the Ad hoc committees included: 1) a question on whether the Ad hoc roles will be expanded, and 2) if the schedule will be provided before signing up. To note in the minutes, Meza stated Ad hoc committees meet as needed virtually, and meetings are typically 1.5 hours every other month. Meeting schedule is determined by the Ad hoc committee. The motion on the consent calendar passed with no abstentions.

#### **5. Workforce Pathways Los Angeles**

Meliza Hernandez, OAECE Staff Analyst, highlighted the Workforce Pathways Los Angeles (WPLA) program, noting it is a state-funded grant directed to child care providers. She emphasized that 42% of California's family child care providers participate in one or more forms of public assistance and addressed



the wage challenges faced by these providers. Hernandez provided an overview of the Workforce Pathways grant goals, which include:

- Increasing the number of qualified early learning and care (ELC) professionals.
- Enhancing educational credentials, knowledge, and skills of existing ELC professionals.
- Supporting local, regional, and statewide quality improvement (QI) partnerships.
- Assisting providers participating in or interested in Quality Counts California (QCC).
- Offering training and education for Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers, Family Child Care Homes (FCCH), and center-based providers.

Hernandez discussed additional grant objectives, focusing on 1) licensing/health and safety, 2) permits, degrees, and professional development, and 3) workforce systems. She explained the Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) Stipend Program, outlining its eligibility requirements: 1) participants must receive a subsidy payment for child care services as a license-exempt FFN provider, and 2) participants must complete a Professional Growth Plan. Hernandez provided further details on the WPLA program timeline, noting that the WPLA application opens on September 16, 2024. More information was provided in the PowerPoint presentation.

Hernandez opened the floor for discussion.

Member Samitha Givens asked whether high school students who are dual enrolled in child development courses and working towards assistant teacher permits are eligible for the program. Hernandez clarified that participants must be working directly with LA County children to be eligible.

Member Dianne Philibosian raised concerns about students managing college expenses when stipends are distributed later. She noted that while many students qualify for grants and counselors share this information, first-time students often struggle to navigate the system. Hernandez responded by explaining that the advisement toolkit includes contact information for every community college, along with resources for students. She suggested the possibility of working with Partnerships in Educations, Articulation, and Coordination in Higher Education and other partners on advisement.

Member Edilma Serna inquired about how to better engage FFN providers, proposing a fair, promotions on platforms such as Facebook, or creating a stipend program solely for FFN. She emphasized the need for direct outreach to focus on FFN and foster stronger partnerships.

Member Kelly Reynolds highlighted the need FFN's have for one-on-one support and asked how the Planning Committee can connect with FFN providers who are not already in the WPLA program, such as utilizing libraries as connection points.



Member Lester Garcia mentioned that WPLA funding originated from State negotiations, specifically to help offset community college costs for providers. He expressed interest in collaborating on outreach efforts to FFN providers and in braiding resources together to maximize opportunities.

Member Sylvia Hernandez thanked WPLA but noted that when applications open many parents and assistants are unaware of the opportunity. She stressed the need for better outreach. Member Ríos-Parra suggested forwarding the application to all ECE networks and collaborating with Los Angeles City College for additional assistance.

Member Fiona Stewart shared that the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles provides year-round advisement to all child care providers who are interested and that advisement is funded by the Balmer Group. She noted that assistance with applications or professional growth plans is available in English, Spanish, and other languages as needed.

Member Leidy Milla Bernasconi recommended a multilingual campaign, noting that many providers prefer applying in their native language. She highlighted that many providers who are 45-65 years old may benefit from using videos to assist them with the application process.

Member Lisa Wilkin noted the challenge of engaging FFN providers, as many do not view themselves as professional ECE providers. She emphasized that parents asking them to participate can help encourage their involvement. Wilkin highlighted that for UPK and the mixed delivery system, FCCH providers must have a permit and complete coursework to join a FCCHEN, which often offers better pay. She suggested encouraging FCCH providers to obtain child development permits.

## **6. Announcement & Public Comment**

Chair Fierro opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Rachel Bocarsly mentioned an upcoming webinar on Thursday, September 12, from 10 to 11 a.m., to discuss the findings and impact of the recently released Caring Cities report. The session will provide insights from providers about their experiences and challenges, helping shape the City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department child care agenda.
- Colman announced the LA County Productivity and Quality Award for OAECE program ECE Birth-to-Three. The award highlights efforts to streamline facility development across LA County.
- Lester Garcia noted SEIU Local 99 and Child Care Providers United (CCPU) will begin bargaining with the State soon, focusing on priorities such as increased rates and the true cost of care. SEIU Local 99 will host information sessions to bring partners up to speed on childcare bargaining priorities. Also, SEIU Local 99 plans to engage with voters in Arizona and Nevada regarding the upcoming election. Garcia asked to be contacted if anyone is interested in engaging with voters about the upcoming election

## **7. Call to Adjourn**

Chair Fierro adjourned the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

**Attendance**

**Public Agency**

1. Alicia Rivas
2. Ana Lopez
3. Regina Angelo Tarango, alternate for Ana Lopez
4. Isidro Villanueva, alternate for Jessica Kim
5. Gus Bribiesca
6. Kristina Qualters
7. Nellie Ríos-Parra
8. Rachel Bocarsly
9. Ranae Amezquita
10. Tracey Washington, alternate for Ranae Amezquita
11. Vanessa San Martin
12. Rebecca Lynch, alternate for Vanessa San Martin

**Early Educator**

1. Brittie Crawford
2. Zivia Munoz, alternate for Brittie Crawford
3. Mariel Kyger Doerfel, alternate for Eli Pessar
4. Erendira Doherty
5. LaShon Tillie-Hones
6. Leidy Milla Bernasconi
7. Lisa Wilkin
8. Ancelma Sanchez, alternate for Lisa Wilkin
9. Rocio Bach

**Parent/Caregiver**

1. Anne Blackstock-Bernstein
2. Marcela Torres, alternate for Christina Moore
3. David Roman
4. Eli Pessar
5. Mona Franco
6. Sasha Duarte
7. Natalie Anguiano, alternate for Sasha Duarte

**Discretionary**

1. Bobby Guerrero
2. Dianne Philibosian
3. Gina Rodriguez
4. Ivy Chang
5. Lester Garcia, alternate for Jen Baca Beltran
6. Jessica Guerra
7. Kimberly Dobson Garcia
8. Norma Herrera, alternate for Kimberly Dobson Garcia
9. Sarah Soriano

**Community Organization**

1. Edilma Serna
2. Monica Hernandez, alternate for Edilma Serna
3. Stephanie Orozco
4. Ilyssa Foxx
5. Fiona Stewart, alternate for Ilyssa Foxx
6. Kelly Reynolds
7. Manuel Fierro
8. Samitha Givens
9. Victoria Tarrango

**Public Attendance**

1. Chris Sears
2. Jackeline Vasquez
3. Amanda Hsu
4. Devon Turner
5. Shay Scott
6. Albert Najera
7. John Deporto
8. Veronica Medruno
9. Crystal Thompson
10. Shannon Huston
11. Vanessa Macias

12. Cristina Gonzah

13. Sirena Ly

14. Gaby Acosta

**OAECE Staff Attendance**

10. Debra Colman, *Director*

11. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*

12. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*

13. Betsy Jacoby, *Staff Analyst*

14. Zenaida Meza, *Staff Analyst*

15. Meliza Hernandez, *Staff Analyst*

16. Erica Torres-Ness, *Management Analyst*