



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes
October 9, 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 10:04 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments by the Chair

Chair Albarran Moses led a moment to honor those lost and impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. She then shared that Commission meetings will incorporate more distinction between Commissioner discussion and public comment to strengthen the Commission's Brown Act practices. Public Comment will be incorporated throughout the agenda.

3. Consent Calendar

3a. Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2024

3b. Policy Roundtable Commission Annual Report FY 2023-2024

Chair Albarran Moses presented the Consent Calendar which included the minutes from the Policy Roundtable's September 11, 2024 meeting and Policy Roundtable Commission Annual Report FY 2023-2024. Chair Albarran Moses asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar; Commissioner Sylvia Jauregui seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar passed with no abstentions.

4. Presentation of Families Experiencing Homelessness and Intersection with Early Care and Education

Chanel Smith, Senior Advisor for the Department of Public Health (DPH) Women and Family Homelessness Office, provided an overview of the DPH Women and Family Homelessness Office and highlighted its two main goals which include: 1) identify DPH's role in homelessness, and 2) align LA County's response to women and families experiencing homelessness. She shared that some of the major homeless systems in LA County include: 1) LA County (e.g.: Homelessness Initiative and LA County Development Activity), 2) LA City (e.g.: City of Los Angeles Housing Department), and 3) Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) which is co-governed by LA County and LA City. She added that LAHSA is the entity charged with coordinating supportive services (e.g.: shelter, food, medical and mental health, child care, etc.) for people experiencing homelessness. Smith noted that there are 3,520 homeless families; 6,414 children under 18; and 106 unaccompanied minors in LA County. Smith highlighted points of intersectionality between early child care and education (ECE) and people experiencing homelessness and the need to have better systemic coordination and alignment between these two systems. Smith pointed to other types of services, such as mental health, that have formal referral processes established with the homeless support system. Further details can be found in the PowerPoint.

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Commissioner discussion. The following highlights some of the discussion:

- It would be helpful to have data regarding the number of children ages birth to five years old who are experiencing homelessness in LA County



- Investment in Emergency Child Care Bridge Program Navigators is critical because they can help connect families with child care
- It is important to work with other LA County efforts, such as Prevention and Promotion Systems and Governing Committee (PPSGC), focused on improving systems coordination for early childhood
- The success of Department of Children and Family Services Emergency Child Care Bridge program in providing referrals and quickly enrolling children into child care was noted
- Some of the challenges that need to be addressed include staff turnover in Resource and Referral agencies (R&Rs) and among Homelessness Providers; communication between LA County Departments; and paperwork families must provide to enroll in child care programs
- Another challenge identified is that while children are referred to child care programs often they do not enroll or do not remain enrolled

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Public Comment. The following highlights some of the comments provided:

- There are various reasons why families are reluctant to enroll their child in child care
- Enrollment paperwork is daunting for families
- There are model programs to build from to offer more streamlined access to child care, such as the CARES program that provided vouchers to families
- ECE programs often help families experiencing homelessness establish roots in the community which can help reduce a family's continuous movement
- Important for LA County staff to provide easy transitions for families to participate in other LA County programs

5. Presentation on Department of Children and Families Services Child Care Supports

Commissioner Steve Sturm, Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) CSA III Program Director, provided an overview of DCFS ECE programs that support child care referrals and payment assistance: 1) Emergency Child Care Bridge Program, 2) DCFS Child Care (CC), and 3) Early Education Partnership. DCFS is working on reducing inefficiencies and redundancies within the programs. Further details regarding each program can be found in the PowerPoint.

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Commissioner discussion. The following highlights some of the discussion:

- Significant number of calls to DCFS are for children under age 5
- It is important to fully spend Emergency Child Care Bridge funding provided to LA County
- DCFS contracts with Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA) to operate the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program
- DCFS wants to increase collaboration with the R&Rs and CCALA to increase utilization of child care services

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Public Comment. The following public comment was made: Need to increase referrals for families.



6. Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc Update

Commissioner Sturm, a member of the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc (Ad Hoc), provided an update on the October 1, 2024 Ad Hoc meeting. The Ad Hoc reviewed the intersection of child care with other LA County Departments and issue areas. Some issue areas included: homelessness, mental health, and poverty alleviation. The Ad Hoc will develop 1-2 service coordination areas to focus on and present a recommendation to the Commission in November 2024. The Ad Hoc will consider the information provided in the Families Experiencing Homelessness and DCFS presentations when developing recommendations for the Commission.

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Commissioner discussion. The following highlights some of the discussion:

- Need to investigate if a statewide verification hub can be developed
- Multiple funding streams are in the process of changing and the Commission should identify how it can influence these changes
- ECE needs to inform other initiatives, groups, Commissions, etc.

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for Public Comment and one point was raised: discussions need to include consideration of immigrant families.

7. Presentation of Public Policy Updates

Vice Chair Blakely provided an update on the Education Trailer Bill AB 176, which includes the following key items:

- Codified California State Preschool Programs to enroll eligible two-year olds through July 30, 2027
- Paused enforcement of updated fire code regulations regarding water suppression systems and group size limits for children ages 0-36 months until January 2027 during which local agencies will continue to follow the 2022 California Building Code
- Required California Department of Social Services to release a plan to establish a new reimbursement rate based on a cost of care model no later than July 1, 2025

Vice Chair Blakely highlighted the following bills that were signed into law or vetoed by Governor Newsom on September 30, 2024:

- AB 1930 (Reyes): Teaching Credentials: Child Development Teacher Permit: Renewal
- AB 1808 (Nguyen): Child Care and Development Services: Eligibility
- AB 2343 (Schiavo): CalWORKs: Child Care Programs
- SB 1112 (Menjivar): Child Care: Alternative Payment Programs

The following bills were vetoed:

- AB 1947 (Rivas): California State Preschool Programs: Contracting Agencies: Staff Training Days
- AB 2381 (Bonta): California State Preschool Programs: Reimbursement Rates

8. Discussion of the Creation of Ad Hoc Committee

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



9. Announcements and General Public Comment

Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment. Chair Albarran Moses reminded Commissioners to submit any announcements to OAECE to send to its distribution list. There were no public comments.

10. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Chair Albarran Moses moved to adjourn the Policy Roundtable meeting. Commissioner Paul Pulver seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion and asked if there were any objections. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed with no objections. The Policy Roundtable meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
2. Gloria Davis, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
4. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
5. Sylvia Jauregui, *Fifth 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. Paul Pulver, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
10. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *Child Care Planning Committee*
11. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
12. Luis Bautista *Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Steve Sturm, *Department of Children and Family Services*
2. Dora Jacildo, *Commission for Children and Families*

Guests Attendance

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
2. Darlene Ayala, *United American Indian Involvement*
3. Betty Collins, *United American Indian Involvement*
4. Manuel Fiero, *Catalyst California*
5. Monica Hernandez, *Program for Infant Toddler Care*
6. Nicole Jain, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
7. Heesu Kim, *City of Los Angeles*
8. Esther Nguyen, *First 5 LA*
9. Zoenda Parks, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
10. Edilma Serna, *WestEd Program for Infant Toddler Care*
11. Chanel Smith, *Department of Public Health*
12. Nicole Tacher, *City of Los Angeles*
13. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles*



Staff Attendance

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