



## **Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes**

February 12, 2025

### **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 10:03 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

### **2. Comments from the Chair**

Chair Albarran Moses acknowledged Black History Month and reflected on the Los Angeles County wildfires. She expressed appreciation for the Early Care and Education (ECE) Emergency Response Team for its rapid response to providing information and supports for ECE programs impacted by the fires. Chair Albarran Moses noted the transition to a new presidential administration and the potential impact on ECE policies. She emphasized the importance of continued advocacy and collaboration to ensure stability and progress within the ECE system.

### **3. Approval of Minutes – December 11, 2024**

Chair Albarran Moses presented the minutes from the Policy Roundtable's December 11, 2024 meeting. Chair Albarran Moses asked for a motion to approve the December 11, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Gloria Davis made the motion to approve the December 11, 2024 minutes; Commissioner Amber Rivas seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the December 11, 2024 minutes passed with two abstentions.

### **4. Presentation on Los Angeles County Early Care and Education Emergency Response Team**

Debra Colman, Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), provided an overview of the ECE Emergency Response Team. She acknowledged the collaboration among the multiple partners. The ECE Response Team includes:

Department of Public Health, OAECE	Los Angeles County Office of Education	First 5 LA	SEIU
City of Los Angeles, Community Investment for Families Dept.	City of Pasadena	City of Santa Monica	Drew CDC
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles	Options for Learning	Connections for Children	Child Care Resource Center

Colman highlighted key activities implemented during the first 30 days of the emergency. Some of the immediate actions by the ECE Response Team included mobilizing within 24 hours and developing a formal response plan within 72 hours of the fires.

Colman provided the number of centers impacted, destroyed, or non-operational based incident reports completed by ECE programs and submitted to California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD). She noted that CCLD received approval to provide



emergency licenses to expedite the re-opening of licensed ECE programs. Colman also shared that programs are starting to report challenges with obtaining fire and safety approvals. Cristina Alvarado, Executive Director of the Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA), provided details about the ECE supply distribution centers that were launched and the types of supports available for providers. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

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

- Interest in knowing how many children have been impacted and how this number is calculated
- The need for a system to identify programs with spaces available and to connect families to these programs
- Challenges with obtaining fire clearance for emergency licenses
- The need for more mental health supports and resources
- Acknowledged LA County Department of Parks and Recreation established Care Camps within 72 hours of the Eaton fire. The Care Camps operated across five sites providing services to children ages 4 to 17 and more than 2,000 youth registered for the Care Camps with approximately 60 youth attending daily.
- The City of Los Angeles issued an Executive Order that helps expedite the re-opening of ECE programs

## **5. Presentation on Status of Local, State, and Federal Public Policies and Joint Committee on Legislation**

Justin Blakely, Vice Chair of the Policy Roundtable, provided an update on the Governor's Proposed 2025-2026 Budget, which was released on January 10, 2025. He noted that the Proposed Budget does not include funding cuts to ECE programs; however, it is important to be cognizant of current and future factors that will likely influence final budget decisions. Blakely provided an update on the Alternative Reimbursement Rate Methodology, Cost of Care Plus Rate Payments, Child Care Spaces, and the Child Care Providers United Collective Bargaining Agreement. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

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

- Concerns were raised about potential reductions in federal funding that supports children with special needs and whether state funding could be allocated to fill the gap
- Reimbursement for subsidized child care needs to have greater flexibility such as allow reimbursement to be based on enrollment rather than attendance and allow unspent funds to carry over to the next fiscal year
- The California Department of Education receives approximately \$8 billion in federal funding which supports programs such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C, early intervention screenings, and other critical early childhood services



- Need additional information regarding what types of early childhood services are funded by which federal funding streams
- The Joint Committee on Legislation meeting will be February 19, 2025

#### **6. Presentation on Early Care and Education Supervisorial District 4 Delegation Update**

Chair Albarran Moses shared that Supervisor Janice Hahn – District 4 Delegation Team met with District 4 Deputies Maral Karaccusian, Nick Holden, and Vianca Campos-Serna on February 5, 2025. The discussion focused on updates regarding local ECE programs and policy changes at the State and federal levels. Chair Albarran Moses encouraged Delegation Team leads to begin scheduling meetings with their respective Supervisorial Offices for March 2025 or early April 2025. Further details can be found in the PowerPoint.

#### **7. Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee: Integration of the Early Care and Education Mixed Delivery System in Universal PreKindergarten**

Commissioner Andrea Fernandez Mendoza provided an update regarding Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) activities. Some of Fernandez Mendoza's highlights included a public policy presentation at the Planning Committee's February 5, 2025 meeting and the Planning Committee is exploring strategies to help increase the number of Family Child Care Home Education Networks in LA County. Further details can be found in the PowerPoint.

#### **8. Discussion and Possible Approval 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 Moses opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

- Commissioner Jennifer Cowan announced that Connections for Children is hosting a virtual town hall session on February 12, 2025 for providers impacted by the Palisades fire. The purpose of the session is to gather information to better understand ECE providers' immediate needs.
- Chair Albarran Moses shared that the Long Beach Early Childhood Symposium is scheduled for February 22, 2025.
- Leanne Drogin announced that LA County's Department of Economic Opportunity grant program for small businesses and non-profits impacted by the fires is currently accepting applications. The application deadline is February 24, 2025 and information about the grant is available on OAECE's website.
- Rachel Bocarsly shared that the City of Los Angeles opened four Impacted Worker and Family Recovery Centers to assist workers and families impacted by the fires. These Centers provide family, employment, small business, and youth services. The City also opened one One-Stop Rebuilding Centers to provide people impacted by the fires access to government services at one location.



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

Chair Albarran Moses moved to adjourn the Policy Roundtable meeting. Commissioner Justin Blakely seconded the motion. Chair Albarran Moses opened the floor for discussion. 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. 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. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
10. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
11. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *Child Care Planning Committee*
12. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*
13. Dean Tagawa, *LA Unified School District*
14. Fran Chasen, *S. CA Chapter – CA Association for the Education of Young Children*

### **Alternate Commissioners Attendance**

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

### **Guests Attendance**

1. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance Los Angeles*
2. Darlene Ayala, *United American Indian Involvement*
3. Rachel Bocarsly, *City of Los Angeles*
4. Jen Baca Beltran, *SEIU Local 99*
5. Manuel Fierro, *Catalyst California*
6. Sarah Fisher, *Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity*
7. Jessica Guerra, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
8. Mirel Herrera, *Early Edge California*
9. Samuel Lujan, *Department of Public Social Services*
10. Carmen Odom, *California Department of Social Services*
11. Lisa Wilkin, *Child Development Consortium of Los Angeles*



### Staff Attendance

1. Alejandra Berrio, *Staff Analyst*
2. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
3. Ida Legesse, *Staff Analyst*
4. Charli Lewis, *Management Analyst*
5. Simone Taylor, *Management Analyst*