



Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

1. Welcome and Introductions of Commissioners, Alternates, and Guests

Vice Chair Justin Blakely opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:08 a.m. by welcoming members and guests.

2. Comments from the Vice Chair

Vice Chair Blakely expressed appreciation to Chair Alejandra Albarran Moses for her leadership and service during her two-year term as Chair. He acknowledged the challenges and trauma communities are experiencing. Vice Chair Blakely also recognized the launch of the Child Care Choices campaign and provided an overview of its objectives.

3. Consent Calendar

Vice Chair Blakely presented the Consent Calendar, which included a motion to approve minutes from the Policy Roundtable's May 14, 2025 meeting and dissolve the Service Coordination Strategy Ad Hoc. Vice Chair Blakely asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Dianne Philibosian made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar; Commissioner Jessica Perea seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the Consent Calendar passed with no abstentions.

4. Presentation of Proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027

Vice Chair Blakely presented the proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027. He noted the term of service for each position, Chair and Vice Chair, is two years spanning from July 2025 to June 2027. As of June 10, 2025, the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair included Commissioners Justin Blakely and Mercedes Santoro, respectively. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for additional nominations. No nominations were provided by the Commission.

5. Approval of Proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027

Vice Chair Blakely presented the proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027 which consisted of Commissioner Justin Blakey who was nominated for Chair and Commissioner Mercedes Santoro who was nominated for Vice Chair. Vice Chair Blakely asked for a motion to approve the proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027. Commissioner Andrea Fernandez Mendoza made the motion to approve the proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027; Commissioner Luis Bautista seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion to approve the proposed Policy Roundtable Leadership Slate for FYs 2025-2027 passed with no abstentions.

6. Presentation on Status of Local, State, and Federal Public Policies and Joint Committee on Legislation

Vice Chair Blakely provided an overview on the Governor's Proposed State Budget for FY 2025-2026, proposed State legislation, and Federal public policies. He noted that the Governor's Proposed Budget was released during the current Policy Roundtable meeting. Details about the presentation are available in the Policy Roundtable June 11, 2025 meeting PowerPoint. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner discussion. The following highlights some of the discussion:



- The May Revised Budget included funding cuts to community colleges, General Child Care (CCTR), and In-Home Supportive Services
- Federal funding for numerous public health programs, such as HIV prevention, chronic disease, and environmental health, have experienced significant funding cuts or the funding has been eliminated
- Community-based Universal PreKindergarten programs could increase their capacity to serve more children eligible for Transitional Kindergarten if school districts were allowed to contract with these programs

Leanne Drogin, Deputy Director of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE), provided an update on the status of the Commission's Pursuit of Position: Establish by July 1, 2025 an alternative rate methodology that reimburses early care and education (ECE) providers the true cost of providing state-subsidized child care based on Federal requirements; implement the new reimbursement rate structure by summer 2025; and allocate ongoing funding for the new reimbursement rate structure. She noted that Los Angeles County is assessing if it will support the Legislative Budget Agreement's \$24.7 million in one-time funds to support local and state administrative needs to prepare for the implementation of the Alternative Rate Methodology.

Drogin provided the status of the Commission's Pursuit of Position: Support AB 49 and similar measures that strengthen protections for immigrant children in California by prohibiting immigration enforcement officers from entering schools and child care facilities without proper legal authorization. Drogin shared that the County is not going to support AB 495. She also provided an update on ECE wildfire recovery and rebuilding efforts. She reported that there are no active bills directly addressing this issue for the County to support.

Drogin noted that Supervisors Horvath's and Mitchell's Motion "Implementing and Innovative Specialized Child Welfare Program for Young Children in Care" was passed on June 10, 2025. Commissioners Steve Sturm and Jacquelyn McCroskey provided an overview of this Motion. It was noted that this was a major step for the County to prioritize the birth through age five population in the child welfare system.

Drogin provided an update on the Joint Committee on Legislation (Committee) May 2025 meeting. The Committee reviewed the status of the Governor's Revised Budget, proposed state legislation, and federal public policies at the May 2025 meeting. The Committee determined that it was not going to provide a policy recommendation to the Commission to consider in June 2025. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner discussion and then public comment.

7. Presentation on Early Care and Education Supervisorial District Delegation Updates

Vice Chair Blakely reminded Commissioners that the Policy Roundtable created the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Delegation Teams to increase engagement and have a consistent voice with the BOS. The ECE Delegation Teams are comprised of Policy Roundtable Commissioners and Planning Committee BOS appointees. Once the Pursuit of Position was approved at the April 9, 2025 Policy Roundtable meeting, the BOS Delegation Teams were charged with meeting with their respective BOS Office. Vice Chair Blakely invited each Team to share the status of their engagement efforts with their respective BOS Offices.

- Supervisor Hilda Solis, District 1: The Delegation Team is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Supervisor Solis' Office.

- Supervisor Holly Mitchell, District 2: Vice Chair Justin Blakely, BOS Delegation Team Lead, reported that the Delegation Team met with Supervisor Mitchell's Senior Deputy of Health and Human Services LaJuannah Hills for the first time since she started in this role. Relatively new to this position, the Delegation Team informed Senior Deputy Hills about the Policy Roundtable and its role to support her in partnership with OAECE for all ECE related matters. The Delegation Team points of discussion also included sharing the Policy Roundtable's Pursuit of Position and a high-level update on the overall landscape of ECE in LA County.
- Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, District 3: The Delegation Team reported at the Commission's May 2025 meeting.
- Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4: Chair Albarran Moses, BOS Delegation Team Lead, reported that the Delegation Team met with Supervisor Hahn's Office on June 2, 2025 and points of discussion included updates on federal funding, the Commission's focus on improving systems coordination, and OAECE as a central source of information for ECE systems topics.
- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, District 5: The Delegation Team reported at the Commission's May 2025 meeting.

8. Policy Roundtable 2024-2025 Reflections and Goals for 2025-2026

Vice Chair Blakely highlighted some of the Policy Roundtable's accomplishments for FY 2024-2025 and invited Commissioners to: 1) share FY 2024-2025 reflections, and 2) identify FY 2025-2026 goals for the Policy Roundtable. Commissioners identified the following.

Reflections on FY 2024-2025: Commissioners were asked "What are you most proud of this year?"

- There was stronger communication overall in meetings, sharing of information, identifying other systems to work with, and learning more about the work other Commissioners are engaged in
- Commission was informed about upcoming policy issues earlier in the year and regularly, such as immigration, and this was helpful to be more prepared as policies were proposed or enacted
- Joint Committee on Legislation updates were helpful
- Board of Supervisors continue to support ECE and the ECE Delegation Team meetings with Supervisor Offices helped keep the BOS Deputies informed about ECE issues and the importance of these issues
- Service coordination recommendations were strong and a result of extensive Commission discussions and work conducted by the Ad Hoc
- Commission's ability to be flexible to elevate critical and timely issues, such as the wildfire response and immigration
- Meetings were well managed and facilitated

Goals for FY 2025-2026: Commissioners were asked "What would you like to strengthen for next year?"

1. Strengthen Commission's collective knowledge about issues such as:
 - Integrated ECE mixed delivery system
 - Be more familiar with other legislative agendas
 - How other states are addressing ECE issues
 - Increasing usage of data in decision-making
2. Collaborate with other efforts such as:
 - Continue to invest in interdepartmental relationships



- Engage with cross-departmental initiatives
- Utilize common language and shared goals across LA County departments
- 3. Support families experiencing trauma by identifying tangible supports for families
- 4. Follow up on and build on the progress of the Infant and Toddler ECE Blueprint
- 5. Strengthen ECE Board of Supervisor Delegation engagement

9. Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee: Update on Developing Strategies to Strengthen the System of Supports for Children with Exceptional Needs, Increase Families Awareness Regarding Child Care Options, and Support Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) Programs Ability to Meet Quality Standards and Expand UPK Community-Based Services

Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza, Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) Vice Chair, provided an update on the Planning Committee's goals for FY 2025-2026. The Planning Committee goals range from developing UPK mixed delivery system improvement strategies, to informing the development of a centralized child care referral system, to strengthening the support system for children with exceptional needs. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

10. Announcements and General Public Comment

Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for announcements and public comment and the following was provided:

- It was announced that Commissioner Dean Tagawa and Alternate Commissioner Debi Anderson will retire before the next Policy Roundtable meeting in September 2025. They were recognized for their decades of dedicated work and service to supporting children and families in LA County.
- Rachel Bocarsly shared that the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks plans to transition eight of its twelve child care centers to non-city operators by the end of 2025. A Request for Proposals is available on the Department's business opportunities webpage.

11. Meeting in Review and Call to Adjourn

Vice Chair Blakely moved to adjourn the June 11, 2025 Policy Roundtable meeting. Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza seconded the motion. Vice Chair Blakely opened the floor for discussion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no objections. The Policy Roundtable meeting was adjourned at 12:04 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. Dianne Philibosian, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
7. Jennifer Hottenroth, *Department of Children and Family Services*
8. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
9. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
10. Luis Bautista, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
11. Jacquelyn McCroskey, *Commission for Children and Families*



12. Dean Tagawa, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
13. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *Child Care Planning Committee*
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. Dora Jacildo, *Commission for Children and Families*
4. Debi Anderson, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
5. Ranae Amezcuita, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
6. Jaime Kalenik, *First 5 LA*

Guests Attendance

1. Rachel Bocarsly, *City of Los Angeles*
2. Sarah Fisher, *Department of Economic Opportunity*
3. Samuel Lujan, *California Department of Social Services*

Staff Attendance

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