

Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2026

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

Chair Justin Blakely opened the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Commission (Policy Roundtable) meeting at 10:09 a.m. by welcoming Commissioners and guests.

2. Comments from the Chair

Chair Blakely welcomed to the Policy Roundtable newly appointed Commissioner Karla Rivas for the Fifth Supervisorial District and Alternate Commissioner Mary Melvin for Los Angeles Unified School District. Chair Blakely noted that the Policy Roundtable's June 2026 meeting will be the last meeting for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 and encouraged Commissioners to think about what the Policy Roundtable should focus on for FY 2026-27, particularly as it relates to its Service Coordination Strategy and impacts of H.R. 1.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2026

Vice Chair Mercedes Santoro presented the minutes for the March 11, 2026 Policy Roundtable meeting and asked for a motion to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes. Commissioner Alejandra Albarran Moses made the motion to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes; Commissioner Jessica Perea seconded the motion. The motion to approve the March 11, 2026 minutes was approved unanimously.

4. Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee Activities for FY 25-26 Update

Debra Colman, Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Director, provided an update regarding some of the Child Care Planning Committee's (Planning Committee) activities. Colman informed the group that the Planning Committee is mandated to submit Local Funding Priorities (LFP) annually to the California Department of Education (CDE) which uses the LFP to inform funding allocation decisions for subsidized early care and education (ECE) programs in LA County. LFP data compares the number of children eligible for publicly subsidized ECE services to the number of children enrolled in subsidized ECE. Colman shared that a public hearing was held on April 1, 2026 to review and discuss the LFP data. On that same date, the Planning Committee approved the LFP to provide to CDE. Some of the data highlighted at the LFP Public Hearing included the following:

- Between 2020 and 2025 the number of infants and toddlers enrolled in subsidized ECE programs increased by 5.3%
- Between 2020 and 2025 the number of preschoolers enrolled in subsidized ECE programs increased by 21.3%

Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation.

5. Presentation on First 5 LA Commission Activities for FY 25-26 Update

Chair Blakely shared that he has attended two First 5 LA Commission meetings since his appointment to the First 5 LA Commission representing the Policy Roundtable. He reviewed key topics discussed at the First 5 LA Commission meetings such as the continued decline of First 5 LA's Proposition 10 funding. This decline in revenue is requiring First 5 LA to adjust its programmatic budget. Chair Blakely noted that First 5 LA is a key organization in LA County's ECE system and the Policy Roundtable and First 5 LA Commission are aligned in needed public policy changes. Chair Blakely also shared that Measure of America presented data from its Portrait of LA County 2026 report at First 5 LA's March 2026 Commission meeting. Chair

Blakely noted that it would be beneficial to have Measure of America provide a similar presentation to the Policy Roundtable to help inform the Policy Roundtable's equity-centered decision-making.

6. Presentation on Service Coordination Strategy: Partnering with Community Colleges

Commissioner Jessica Perea, Dean of Student Wellness and Resources at Rio Hondo College, provided information on the types of supports public institutions of higher education (IHE) are mandated to offer to parents who are college students. Commissioner Perea highlighted that in California one in five college students (approximately 400,000 people) are also parents. Multiple California bills have been enacted that require California community colleges (CCC), California State Universities (CSU), and University of California campuses (UC) to recognize and offer supports to student parents. For example, Assembly Bill (AB) 2033 (Reyes) chaptered in 2024 requires each CCCs and CSUs and requests UCs to have a Basic Needs Center and staff a Coordinator position. This bill also codified the definition of basic needs to include child care, housing, food access, clothing, technology, and mental health services; reinforces that child care is a core component of student success policies for student parents; and child care is an educational access requirement. The types of supports offered by IHEs for student parents includes but is not limited to: subsidized free child care and priority access for student parents; early childhood education services; and priority registration, counseling, grants, book assistance, and academic supports for low-income students. Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation. Vice Chair Santoro opened the floor for Commissioner discussion and some of the points raised are listed below.

- It would be helpful to know more about the history of developing and obtaining approval for public policies that require IHEs to provide support services for student parents
- CCCs, such as Rio Hondo College, can partner with ECE programs to provide staff training in which staff can earn college course credit from the training and as an enrolled CCC student can access additional resources and supports offered by the CCC
- Some of the support services offered to student parents includes developmental screenings for children
- LA County Departments would benefit from Commissioner Perea's presentation and having more familiarity with IHE supports for student parents
- Rio Honda College Basic Needs Center staff participated in OAECE's Child Care Choices training

Vice Chair Santoro opened the floor for public comment and some of the comments provided are highlighted below:

- Resource and Referral agencies are currently working with community colleges and there are opportunities to strengthen these partnerships
- The City of Los Angeles has: 1) Family Source Centers that provide social, educational, work, and family support services to parents, and 2) a program to increase the ECE workforce. A collaboration between the City and IHEs could be valuable given the number of student parents involved in these programs.

7. Presentation on Status of Local, State and Federal Public Policies, Joint Committee on Legislation, and Proposed Pursuit of Positions

Alternate Commissioner Colin Legerton presented updates on state and federal legislation. He reported that California bills AB 1981 is designated as urgency legislation and AB 2379 was amended and renamed. At the federal level, Alternate Commissioner Legerton noted that the President's budget was released and proposes flat funding for Head Start and the Child Care Development Fund and H.R. 5334 Supporting Early-Childhood Educators' Deductions (SEED) Act unanimously passed the House Ways and Means Committee. SEED would allow early childhood educators to deduct on their taxes educator expenses. Alternate

Commissioner Legerton also shared that changes have been proposed to require federal grant recipients to commit to abiding to all Presidential Executive Orders and DEI and immigration prohibitions.

Chair Blakely provided an update on the Joint Committee on Legislation (JCL) and Pursuits of Position. He noted that JCL did not meet in March 2026 and the April 2026 JCL meeting will focus on: 1) identifying priority legislation to track, and 2) determining if modifications are needed to the Public Policy Platform. Chair Blakely shared that the Pursuits of Position have been submitted to LA County Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIRs) office. Leanne Drogin, OAECE Deputy Director, stated that letters of support are needed for Pursuit of Position #2: Support Immigration Protections for ECE Providers and the Children They Serve (AB 2379 and similar measures). Drogin shared that without these letters of support LAIRs is unable to support this Position. Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation. Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner discussion and no points were raised by other Commissioners. Chair Blakely opened the floor for public comment and the following is one of the comments provided: SEIU California is launching a revenue campaign that includes bills focused on increasing accountability, closing tax loopholes, and generating funding that could support ECE.

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

Chair Blakely introduced the Board of Supervisors (BOS) ECE Delegation teams and shared that Delegation meetings are designed to provide consistent and coordinated ECE updates to Supervisorial District offices. The Delegations are comprised of BOS appointees from the Policy Roundtable and Planning Committee, along with organizational representatives from the Policy Roundtable. The Delegations are encouraged to meet with their respective Supervisorial Offices in April 2026 and share the Policy Roundtable's Pursuits of Position during these meetings. Drogin will distribute guiding materials, including a template agenda and supplemental documents. Delegation representatives will present at the next Policy Roundtable meeting what was discussed in Delegation meetings with Supervisorial District offices. Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation.

9. Announcements and General Public Comment

Vice Chair Santoro opened the floor for announcements and public comment and the following were provided.

- Commissioner Albarran Moses shared:
 - UCLA Public Health Bachelor Program is seeking internship placements and she offered to connect interested organizations with the Program
 - Appreciation to Early Edge California and Learning Policy Institute for their efforts to elevate Universal Prekindergarten at the state level
- Jen Baca Beltran with SEIU Local 99 shared:
 - Information about technology benefits and how to access updates regarding Child Care Providers United (CCPU) training funds
 - There is a possible strike by Los Angeles Unified School District service employees and school staff and administration on April 14, 2026
- Rachel Bocarsly with the City of Los Angeles announced that the City has expanded food distribution efforts and information is available on its Community and Family Development website
- Colman noted that the Planning Committee is stewarding requests for Voluntary Temporary Transfers of Funds for organizations that are not earning their full contract to serve children



eligible for subsidized child care or have over-enrolled the number of children who qualify for subsidized child care per their state contract

- Drogin announced that the Policy Roundtable meetings for May 2026 and June 2026 will not be held at 510 South Vermont Avenue

10. Call to Adjourn Meeting

Vice Chair Santoro made the motion to adjourn the April 8, 2026 meeting; Commissioner Amber Rivas seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no objections. The Policy Roundtable meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Attendance

1. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
4. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
5. Karla Rivas, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
6. Olga Vicuna, *Department of Children and Family Services*
7. Kanchana Tate, *Department of Mental Health*
8. Mercedes Santoro, *Department of Parks and Recreation*
9. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*

Alternate Commissioners Attendance

1. Steve Sturm, *Department of Children and Family Services*
2. Colin Legerton, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
3. Mary Melvin, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
4. Samuel Lujan, *Department of Public Social Services*

Guests Attendance

1. Mirel Herrera, *Early Edge California*
2. Jen Baca Beltran, *SEIU Local 99*
3. Carlyne Crolotte, *Early Edge California*
4. Rachel Bocarsly, *City of Los Angeles*
5. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
6. Nicole Jain, *Department of Economic Opportunity*

OAECE Staff Attendance

1. Diana Alvarado, *Policy and Program Specialist*
2. Debra Colman, *Director*
3. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*
4. Sergio Fierro, *Senior Operations Liaison*
5. Sheronda Helton, *UPK Research Specialist*