Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development Meeting Minutes
September 9, 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 9:05 a.m. by welcoming Commissioners and guests.

2. Comments from the Chair
Chair Blakely welcomed newly appointed Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles Policy Roundtable Commissioner Cristina Alvarado and Alternate Commissioner Jackie Clarke. Chair Blakely shared that it is important for the Policy Roundtable to identify policies that can influence long-term changes in LA County and to be prepared to respond to the changing policy environment. Chair Blakely emphasized utilizing the composition of expertise that exists on the Policy Roundtable to help identify strategies and policy solutions to make the early care and education (ECE) an interconnected system. Chair Blakely also highlighted that the Policy Roundtable and Child Care Planning Committee (Planning Committee) will continue to focus on children, families, and the workforce in FY 2026-27.

3. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2026
Chair Blakely presented the minutes for June 10, 2026 Policy Roundtable meeting and asked for a motion to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes. Commissioner Nurhan Pirim noted that he did not attend the June 10, 2026 Policy Roundtable meeting and Samuel Lujan, Commissioner Pirim's Alternate, attended as the representative for the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Commissioner Jennifer Cowan made the motion to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes that includes changing the DPSS representative that attended the June 10, 2026 Policy Roundtable to Alternate Commissioner Lujan; Commissioner Gloria Davis seconded the motion. The motion to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes and include changing DPSS representative that attended the June 10, 2026 Policy Roundtable to Alternate Commissioner Lujan not Commissioner Pirim was approved unanimously.

4. Policy Roundtable Annual Report FY 2025-26 and Plan for FY 2026-27
Chair Blakely reviewed the process for approving the Policy Roundtable Annual Report. Chair Blakely highlighted key points of the draft Policy Roundtable Annual Report FY 2025-26. The following are some of the key points Chair Blakely reviewed.
<u>Policy Roundtable Goals FY 2026-27 identified by the Policy Roundtable in June 2026</u>

1. Strengthen Commission's collective knowledge about issues, such as:
    - Understanding ECE landscape at County, state, and federal levels
    - Interconnection between ECE and other social safety net programs
    - ECE workforce
    - Family access to ECE mixed delivery system
    - Special needs
2. Collaborate with other efforts, such as:
    - Continue to invest in understanding, developing, and strengthening inter-County department relationships and promoting shared goals
3. Strengthen ECE Board of Supervisor Delegation Engagement
    - Utilize additional tools to influence support for Policy Roundtable priority issue areas and policy recommendations

4. Continue to support a strong partnership with the Planning Committee

Policy Roundtable FY 2026-27 Key Activities

1. Promote Public Policy Priority Issues
   - Develop at least one Pursuit of Position for a policy issue, submit policy recommendation to LA County Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, and engage with Board of Supervisors Offices to elevate priority policy issue areas and recommendations
2. Strengthen LA County Service Coordination with ECE System and Services
   - Promote integration across early childhood services and develop strategies that connect early childhood education with other child/family support systems
3. Strengthen Policy Roundtable Infrastructure
   - Continue increasing Policy Roundtable's collective knowledge, select Commissioners to serve on subcommittee Joint Committee on Legislation, and select Policy Roundtable's leadership for FYs 2027-29

Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner Comments. The following comments were provided:

- The Annual Report includes the importance of expanding ECE systems coordination to include other issue areas
- The Annual Report elevates current and on-going challenges related to reimbursement rates

5. Policy Roundtable Vice-Chair FY 2026-27 Nominations

Chair Blakely shared that Vice Chair Mercedes Santoro resigned from the Policy Roundtable and recognized her for her contributions to the Policy Roundtable. Chair Blakely reviewed the process for electing a new Vice Chair for FY 2026-27. Chair Blakely nominated Commissioner Dora Jacildo for Vice Chair and opened the floor for additional Commissioner nominations and discussion. No additional nominations were provided and Commissioner Blakely noted that nominations can be sent to Department of Public Health (DPH) Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education (OAECE) Deputy Director Leanne Drogin and nominations can also be provided at the October 2026 Policy Roundtable meeting. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

6. Brown Act Requirements and Robert's Rules of Order Practices Review

Chair Blakely provided an overview of revisions to the Brown Act and reviewed some of the most frequently used Robert's Rules of Order practices. Chair Blakely shared that SB 707 made revisions to the Brown Act that focused on expanding teleconference and language accessibility for Commissioners and the public. Chair Blakely highlighted that Commissioners who are unable to attend Policy Roundtable meetings in person and want to participate in their formal role as Commissioner must meet "Just Cause" criteria. The Just Cause criteria and additional information are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

7. Presentation on Child Care Planning Committee Activities for FY 26-27 Update

Commissioner Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, Child Care Planning Committee Chair, provided an overview of the Planning Committee's responsibilities for FY 2026-27. Planning Committee responsibilities include the following:

- Identifying the Local Funding Priorities
- Coordinating Voluntary Temporary Transfer of Funds
- Providing input on policy issues through the Joint Committee on Legislation
- Developing LA County's ECE Strategic Plan

- Supporting the implementation of a Universal Prekindergarten Mixed Delivery System
- Developing a Child Care Needs Assessment every five years

Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza encouraged Commissioners to attend at least one Planning Committee during FY 2026-27.

8. Presentation on Fiscal Pressures and Impact on LA County and State Budgets

Chair Blakely reminded the group that in FY 2025-26 the Policy Roundtable shared it appreciated having a presentation on LA County's budget and wanted to continue this practice in FY 2026-27. Dr. Jeremiah Garza, LA County DPH Senior Advisor to DPH Chief Deputy Director, presented an overview of how LA County's funding and DPH's budget are structured, current fiscal pressures, how DPH is managing these fiscal pressures, and high-level DPH program implications. Dr. Garza also provided an update on the implementation of Measure ER which is expected to generate approximately $100 million annually for four years. Measure ER funding is intended to support LA County services impacted by federal funding changes such as access to vaccines; disease prevention; services for refugees, immigrants, and people experiencing homelessness; promoting violence prevention and community safety; and sustaining essential operational and administrative capacity. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation.

Dr. Laura Pryor, California Budget and Policy Center Research Director, presented an overview of the FY 2026-27 state budget and implications for child care in California. Dr. Pryor noted that while the final state budget is approximately $17 billion higher than projected in the January 2026 forecast, the state continues to face operating deficits through 2030. The state budget includes 22,770 new child care slots; however, this only partially fulfills the state's prior commitment to adding 44,000 slots. Dr. Pryor also highlighted that the expansion of new spaces to California State Preschool Program (CSPP) was made possible by right-sizing CSPP funding and shifting community-based CSPP programs into Proposition 98. Further details are available in the PowerPoint presentation. Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner comments. Some of the Commissioners' discussion included points regarding the process to identify and allocate Measure ER funding; infant and toddler child care subsidized reimbursement rate is too low; and California's new Governor will influence the direction of ECE policies in the state.

9. Presentation on Local, State and Federal Public Policies, and Joint Committee on Legislation

Alternate Commissioner Colin Legerton presented updates on state and federal public policies. Alternate Commissioner Legerton provided the status of bills included in the FY 2025-26 Pursuits of Position and other legislation and trailer bills. Alternate Commissioner Legerton shared that the California Department of Social Services will start holding FY 2028-30 Child Care and Development Fund State Plan listening sessions starting in Fall 2026. Alternate Commissioner Legerton also reviewed the status of the federal funding Continuing Resolution, delays in federal Uniform Guidance, and the status of public comment for Head Start's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking changes.

Chair Blakely reviewed the structure and purpose of the Joint Committee on Legislation (JCL) and responsibilities of JCL members. Chair Blakely presented the slate of Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners to serve on the JCL as representatives of the Policy Roundtable. The proposed slate included Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza, Alternate Commissioners Legerton, Jaime Kalenik, and Mary Melvin. Additional information is available in PowerPoint. Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner comments regarding public policy updates and the JCL overview. The comments focused

on the importance of California Governor candidates need to have a clear policy agenda regarding California's ECE system. Chair Blakely opened the floor for public comment. No comments were provided.

10. Approval of Commissioners to Serve on Joint Committee on Legislation

Chair Blakely presented the proposed slate of Commissioners/Alternate Commissioners to represent the Policy Roundtable on the JCL (JCL slate). Chair Blakely asked for a motion to approve the JCL slate and Commissioner Alejandra Albarran Moses made the motion to approve the JCL slate; Commissioner Jennifer Cowan seconded the motion. Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner discussion.
The following discussion included:

- The JCL slate of nominees were invited to share why they are interested in serving on the JCL
- Alternate Commissioner Melvin, representing Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) on the Policy Roundtable, shared that as the LAUSD representative she can provide a large school district experience and perspective to inform JCL discussions
- Commissioner Cowan said Alternate Commissioner Kalenik has been an active participant in the ECE Delegation meetings with Supervisorial District 3
- Alternate Commissioner Legerton noted that he has been attending JCL meetings for more than three years and understands the importance and role of the JCL
- Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza noted that as a member of the Early Childhood Policy Council and Every Child CA she can share relevant updates with the JCL

The motion to approve the JCL slate was approved unanimously.

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

Chair Blakely shared that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) ECE Delegation Teams (Delegation Teams) were created to ensure consistent engagement, messaging, and information sharing with the BOS. Chair Blakely invited Delegation Teams to share any new activities Delegation Teams have had with their respective BOS Office since July 2026. The following Delegation Teams provided an update on their engagement activities.

- Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4: Delegation Team Lead Albarran Moses shared that Supervisor Hahn's Office scheduled a meeting and facilitated the conversation with LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Delegation Team Lead Albarran Moses, and OAECE Deputy Director Drogin. The purpose of the meeting was to learn more about the respective work of OIA and the intersection of immigrant issues and resources with ECE.
- Supervisor Kathryn Barger, District 5: The Delegation Team Lead Breeda McGrath shared that the Delegation Team met with Supervisor Barger and her staff in person during the summer. Commissioner McGrath noted that Supervisor Barger was very engaged in the discussion which included a focus on the LA County ECE landscape, mental health needs and resources in Supervisorial District 5, recovery and rebuild efforts to support ECE providers impacted by the Eaton Fire, and concerns regarding lack of services in Antelope Valley.

Chair Blakely shared that BOS Deputies will be invited to attend and present at Policy Roundtable meetings in FY 2026-27. Additional information is available in the PowerPoint presentation. Chair Blakely opened the floor for Commissioner Comments. No comments were provided.

12. Announcements and General Public Comment

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

- Chair Blakely read the Policy Roundtable Equity Statement and emphasized the need to stay committed to addressing the holistic needs of children and families in LA County

- OAECE's Child Care Choices Program was selected for LA County's 39th Annual Productivity and Quality Special Commission Customer Service Award

13. Call to Adjourn Meeting

Chair Blakely made a motion to adjourn the September 9, 2026 meeting. Commissioner Fernandez Mendoza seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed with no objections. The Policy Roundtable meeting was adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Attendance

Commissioner Attendance

1. Jessica Perea, *First Supervisorial District*
2. Justin Blakely, *Second Supervisorial District*
3. Gloria Davis, *Second Supervisorial District*
4. Amber Rivas, *Third Supervisorial District*
5. Jennifer Cowan, *Third Supervisorial District*
6. Alejandra Albarran Moses, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
7. Ricardo Mota, *Fourth Supervisorial District*
8. Breeda McGrath, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
9. Karla Rivas, *Fifth Supervisorial District*
10. Olga Vicuna, *Department of Children and Family Services*
11. Andrea Fernandez Mendoza, *Child Care Planning Committee*
12. Robert Gilchick, *Department of Public Health*
13. Nurhan Pirim, *Department of Public Social Services*
14. Cristina Alvarado, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
15. Dora Jacildo, *Commission for Children and Families*

Alternate Commissioner Attendance

1. Rebeca Hurtado, *Department of Mental Health*
2. Colin Legerton, *Los Angeles County Office of Education*
3. Mary Melvin, *Los Angeles Unified School District*
4. Steve Sturm, *Department of Children and Family Services*

Guests Attendance

1. Eva Rivera, *City of Pasadena Office of the Young Child*
2. Thomas Sullivan, *Cayton Children's Museum*
3. Jeremiah Garza, *Department of Public Health*
4. Freddy Zavaleta , *Department of Parks and Recreation*
5. Jess Guerra, *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles*
6. Rachel Bocarsly, *City of Los Angeles*
7. Maryam Voskanga, *ASCC Pomona Valley*

OAECE Staff Attendance

1. Diana Alvarado, *Policy and Program Specialist*
2. Debra Colman, *Director*
3. Sheronda Helton, *UPK Research Specialist*
4. Leanne Drogin, *Deputy Director*