



## Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

**Minutes: October 1, 2008**  
**12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Los Angeles County Office of Education  
2830 Clark Avenue  
Downey, California

**Members in Attendance:** (26) Kathleen Pompey, Ana Cubas, Rocio Bach, Ancelma Sanchez, Peggy Sisson, Diane Philibosian, Joy Cyprian, Jenny Trickey, John Berndt, Bobbie Edwards, Michael Ladjevic, Gay Macdonald, Nellie Rios Parra, Randi Wolfe, Atalaya Sergi, Pat Mendoza, Sylvia Parra, Nurhan Pirim, Holly Reynolds, Holly Daasnes, Ofelia Medina for Angelica Solis, Guillermina Maldonado for Rosa Arevalo, Jan Isenberg, Sarah Soriano, Pamela Kwok, and Patrice Wong.

**Guests and Alternates:** Lisa Wilkin, Kathy Schreiner, Fiona Stewart, Lorraine Gutierrez, Susan Savage, Diana Carreaga, Sam Kirk, Gabriela Chavarria, Lloyd Kajikawa, Carol Hiestand, and Celeste Salinas.

**Staff:** Laura Escobedo

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. She introduced herself and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Ms. Reynolds read the opening statement.

### II. Approval of Minutes from September 3, 2008

**The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2008 meeting. A motion to approve was made by Peggy Sisson and seconded by Nellie Rios Parra. The Chair called for a vote. The motion passed with one abstention.**

### III. Office of Child Care Update

Laura Escobedo provided an update on the development of a child care policy framework per the motion of the Board of Supervisors. The draft of the policy framework was distributed via e-mail and was available at the meeting. Laura Escobedo walked those present through the sections of the draft policy framework and pointed out that unlike other service sectors within County government, child care and development has no one entity with funding oversight. Part of the impetus for developing a policy is to develop a cohesive strategy that allows programs to maximize resources available for child development services and effectively connect families needing such services with appropriate service providers. This policy framework seeks to engage County departments and stakeholders from child development and other disciplines to strengthen the child development system and increase its capacity to meet the needs of children and families throughout Los Angeles County.

The policy framework envisions the Office of Child Care working with Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services, Department of Children and Family Services among others to ensure better, more accessible child care and development services for client families. The policy framework has four main goals: 1) increasing access to high quality child care and development to prevent child abuse and neglect, support family self-sufficiency, and promote school and life success; 2) advancing public policies to ensure that children and families receive high quality child care and development services; 3) facilitating the capacity of child care and development programs of all types to meet the needs of children and families in Los Angeles County; and 4) reviewing the implementation of the policy framework and update goals every two years. Comments on the policy framework will be conveyed to

the Director of the Office of Child Care to consider when the framework is reviewed with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable).

#### New Rules for Setting Priorities.

The California Department of Education (CDE) is requesting that all counties determine their priorities in a uniform way that can be explained to the legislature by:

1. using the same geographic units (zip codes)
2. using the same type of data to determine unmet need
3. using standard formulas for sorting priorities
4. assigning only one priority per zip code
5. determining separate priorities for State Preschool and for General Child Care

The methods used by Los Angeles County have now been proposed as the standard. These include: using numbers of children from households with incomes at or below 75% State Median Income (SMI); counting the numbers of children currently served in CDE-contracted programs and the spaces available in other types of subsidized programs as appropriate; and selecting a benchmark number of un-served children and a percent of un-served children as the determinants of which priority is assigned to each zip code.

Understanding that each county's population is different, the number/percent benchmarks will differ by size of county. Los Angeles County is the largest and will determine its own numbers. Previously we have developed zip code priorities for each age group. CDE has requested that there be only one priority per zip code, so while we can conduct the data review by age group, we can no longer submit a report with different priorities based on age. Given that condition, new number and percent benchmarks have been developed with the Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment Work Group. **These new proposed benchmarks are:**

Priority	Number of un-served children (all ages)	Percent un-served
Priority 1	2000 or more	50%
Priority 2	1000 or more	50%
Priority 3	500 or more	50%
No Priority	Less than 500	NA

Using this new guideline will result in 73 Priority 1 zip codes (25%), 43 Priority 2 zip codes (15%), 42 Priority 3 zip codes (15%) and 135 zip codes with no priority (45%). The number of Priority 1 zip codes, when determined using age as a factor, was between 93 and 128 (high priority for infants).

After much discussion, the Planning Committee referred the matter back to the Strategic Planning and Needs Assessment Work Group to set alternative benchmarks that could result in more Priority 1 areas.

#### IV. State Budget Update and Federal legislative Agenda for 2008-09

Patrice Wong, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Legislation reported that a budget had been signed and that it appeared most of the funding for child care and development had remained the same as the previous year. There will be no cost of living adjustments. Specifically, the Investing in Early Educators Stipend Program budget will remain the same so that at least as many participants have the opportunity of earning a stipend. In addition, SB 1629 (Steinberg) was signed by the Governor. This will enable the state to create an advisory committee to develop quality standards for child care and

development programs in California. The Jones bill, AB 2957, was also signed into law. This bill will alter the contracting and some of the implementation rules for CDE-contracted programs serving preschool-age children.

Patrice Wong presented the revised federal legislative agenda to the Planning Committee. She pointed out that it was different than the state agenda in that it was much more specific. She noted the language changes in bold on page 3. It was suggested that the following be substituted for language in the last paragraph dealing with workforce: "education and competencies" in place of "skills and education".

**The Chair called for a motion. A motion to approve the recommended legislative agenda for 2008-09 with the amended language was made by Bobbie Edwards and seconded by Nellie Rios Parra. The chair called for the vote. The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions.**

The agenda will be forwarded with the language change to the Roundtable and then to the Board of supervisors.

#### V. Annual Self-Review for Local Planning Councils (LPC)

Laura Escobedo referred to a form that had been distributed to meeting attendees which listed the compliance standards, the section of education code which describes them and the activities of the Planning Committee that demonstrate our compliance.

Holly Reynolds reviewed each item with those present and invited comments and concerns. The group agreed by consensus that the Planning Committee is compliant with all items based on this self-review. A report will be prepared by the staff and submitted to CDE by the November deadline.

#### VI. Announcements and Public Comment

Holly Daasnes, representative of the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) reported that the department's budget had been cut with the approval of in the new state budget and CCLD would not be able to fill a number of vacancies including managers of local offices. In addition, the department is waiting to hear whether there will be additional cuts and whether they must maintain a 20% or 30% unannounced visitation rate. There is currently a huge backlog of visits to be made up and the department will have to do this with even fewer staff. New licenses, expansions and relocations will not have first priority. Individuals needing a final licensing visit for a new or expanded site will need to be diligent in contacting the department to schedule an evaluator for an inspection.

Holly Reynolds asked those in attendance to remember Esther Sutton and Helen Coffey, both of whom died in the previous week. They were tireless advocates for young children and used their professional and personal time in trying to make a difference in the lives of the young.

#### VII. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.