



Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee

Minutes: October 7, 2009

2:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location:

LACOE Head Start
10100 Pioneer Boulevard
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Members in Attendance: (32) Ofelia Aguilar, Rocio Bach, Jo Carcedo, John Berndt, Rebecca Patton for Atalaya Sergi, Holly Reynolds, Karla Pleitez, Nurhan Pirim, Jenny Trickey, Tara Henriquez for Randi Wolfe, Lisa Wilkin, Sam Kirk, Bobbie Edwards, Deborah Gatti, Diane Hackett, Andrea Joseph, Pamela Kwok, Carolyn Wong, Moises Roman, Sylvia Flores, JoAnn Shalhoub Mejia, Sarah Soriano, Mary Helen Vasquez, Fiona Stewart, Cynthia Zarate for Ofelia Medina, Kathleen Pompey, Nellie Rios Parra, Joy Cyprian, Gay Macdonald, Susan McCombs, Ree Harris for Anita Tetrault, and Patrice Wong

Guests and Alternates: Darlene Cabrera, Ancelma Sanchez, Diana Hechinger, Elaine Waldman, Mike Leighs, Elvie Matias, Nadia Varela, Pam Schmidt, Ruth Mahajan, Edilma Serna, Araceli Sandoval, Natalia Kustura, Kathy Shreiner, Regina Glasgow, Sandy Escobedo, Adrienne Gunn, Debra Colman, Lou Orr, JJ Johnston, Myra Fregoso, Vanessa Mendez, and Ezequiel Castro

Staff: Laura Escobedo

I. Welcome and Introductions

Holly Reynolds, Chair, opened the meeting at 12:15 p.m., welcomed the group, and requested that everyone introduce themselves. She informed the group that two of the scheduled presentations would be postponed since the presenters, Holly Daasnes of the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division and Nancy Watson of First 5 LA, had to cancel at the last moment. The Chair read the opening statement.

II. Approval of Minutes from the September 2, 2009 Meeting

The Chair called for a motion. Bobbie Edwards moved to approve the minutes of September 2, 2009; the motion was seconded by Lisa Wilkin. The Chair called for the vote. The motion was approved with no abstentions.

III. Office of Child Care Update: Proposed Procedure for Implementing the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds (TVTF)

Laura Escobedo provided a PowerPoint overview of the process requirements based on statute and California Department of Education (CDE) guidelines. Karla Pleitez, a member of the TVTF Ad Hoc Work Group, which developed the proposed procedure, informed the Planning Committee that they had met with a small group of current CDE contractors to provide background on current CDE contract implementation and feedback on ways that Los Angeles County might implement the guidelines provided by CDE. Following that session, the TVTF Ad Hoc Work Group developed the procedure that is described in the handout.

The procedure for Los Angeles County is very closely aligned with the framework provided by CDE. Karla broke down the process into five components: 1) designated point person or lead; 2) agencies must self-identify; 3) objective criteria for determining the matches between transferred funds and requested funds; 4) lead person must connect with CDE staff to ensure there are no impediments to transferring funds; and 5) CDE has the final approval for any transfer of fund. Specifically, the TVTF Ad Hoc Work Group is recommending that the Child Care Planning Coordinator (Laura Escobedo) be designated as the point person to conduct outreach to contractors, handle the requests that come in and prepare the requests

for submission to CDE. The TVTF Ad Hoc Work Group also recommended a way of prioritizing requests if more funds are requested than are offered for transfer. Requests would be evaluated based on the priority of areas to be served, agency readiness to use the funds, and feasibility of using a lesser amount of funds if there are insufficient funds to meet all demands.

CDE contractors interested in participating would contact Laura Escobedo and complete a TVTF Request Form, providing information needed to complete a transfer. These contractors must be able to use the funds for increased service to children immediately and no funds can go into a reserve account. For the first cycle (November 1-15), contractors must submit a request by October 27, 2009. At the end of the year the Child Care Planning Coordinator must provide a report on the progress in implementing the TVTF process.

Bobbie Edwards moved to approve the procedure to implement the Temporary Voluntary Transfer of Funds (TVTF) procedure as developed by the TVTF Ad Hoc Work Group. The motion was seconded by Gay Macdonald. There was a short discussion about possible conflict of interest for those who are CDE contractors. Pam Schmidt from Public Counsel advised the group that since the vote was only to approve the procedure that was developed based on CDE's very proscriptive framework, and not to approve any actual fund transfer, there should be no conflict. The Chair called for the vote. Motion passed with no abstentions.

IV. Update on the H1N1 Flu Epidemic and a Discussion on Planning for Alternate Care Arrangements When Children in Child Care Become Ill

Mike Leighs of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update on the H1N1 flu virus by saying that this strain resembles the seasonal flu strains causing mild to moderate flu symptoms, but has had an earlier onset. Cases are very common at this point. This strain seems to have a greater impact on younger children than on older adults, which is unusual. Prevention includes frequent hand-washing, covering up coughs, and staying at home if ill. The flu vaccine will become available this month to priority groups, including infant caregivers and adults between 25 and 64 with underlying health conditions. The vaccine will be available in the next few months for anyone who wants to have it.

Elaine Waldman of the DPH led a discussion about how to assist families in finding or developing alternative arrangements when their children become ill since they should not be attending group care in centers or family child care homes. Some participants stated that when children are enrolling, they make sure the family has arranged for back up care. Others help foster social connections among families so that they can help one another. It is most difficult for low-income working families who do not have any sick leave. Taking time off from work means losing pay and in some cases can lead to lay-offs. State/federal legislation was suggested that would require all employers to allow/pay for some sick days each year.

V. Call for an Ad Hoc Work Group to Develop the Annual Self-Review Process for the Planning Committee

This Work Group would meet once to develop the process and then bring it before the whole Planning Committee for approval. Sam Kirk, Susan McCombs, Joy Cyprian, and Jenny Trickey volunteered. A meeting will be set up for sometime in October.

VI. Announcements and Public Comment

Infant Toddler Learning Development System training will be offered this year. There will be two learning academies specifically for college faculty. Visit the WestEd website at www.pitc.org for more information.

The staff at UCLA announced the publishing of "Science in Preschool" developed by the staff of UCLA Early Education and based on the teaching approach seen on "Sid the Science Kid" on PBS. Proceeds will be used to support scholarships at the UCLA centers.

LACOE Head Start will be hosting a Learning and Resource Fair on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the LA Expo Center. There will be exhibits, games and activities for children and their parents.

VII. Adjournment

The Chair called for a motion to adjourn. Sarah Soriano so moved. The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.