



Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2010

10:00 a.m. – noon

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Avenue, Conference Room 743

Los Angeles, California 90012

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves. During introductions, Ms. Sarah Younglove was acknowledged for her appointment by the Governor to the new State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. Ms. Younglove will represent Head Start. Mr. Whit Hayslip announced that on May 11, 2010 the Los Angeles Unified School Board approved their contract with the Steps to Excellence Project (STEP).

a. Comments from the Chair

Ms. Nishimura announced that the Roundtable's annual all-day retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Board Deputies have been notified of the date and received invitations to attend. Ms. Nishimura encouraged members serving as Board appointees to contact their Supervisor's Deputy to invite them to attend.

b. Review of Minutes

Ms. Nishimura noted that the minutes for the last three meetings had not been reviewed. There being no corrections, members considered the minutes in one motion.

- **February 10, 2010, March 10, 2010 and April 14, 2010**

Ms. Younglove made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Carolyn Naylor seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a unanimous vote.

c. Call for Nominating Committee

As in the past, the Nominating Committee tackles its assignment between the May and June meetings, announces the slate in June, and the vote is conducted in July. Ms. Nishimura stated that this Committee is generally able to complete its work using conference calls and emails. Ms. Arlene Rhine, Ms. Connie Russell and Ms. Naylor volunteered to serve on the Committee in response to Ms. Nishimura's request for volunteers. It was noted that Ms. Nishimura and Ms. Ruth Yoon are available for another year to serve as Chair and Co-chair, respectively.

d. Committee Reports

• County Departments/Child Development

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey reported on behalf of the Committee which met on March 15, 2010. Ms. Charlotte Lee and Mr. Michael Gray provided updates on key issues and progress in their departments, and were informed by Ms. Michele Sartell's presentation at the last Roundtable meeting on training for Probation Department staff. This led to a discussion on the underlying philosophy, as well as recognition that more information needs to reach the Roundtable members to better position the integration of efforts across County Departments.

Expansion of Committee Membership

Invitations to join the Committee are being extended to representatives from Probation and the Department of Mental Health (DMH). Dr. McCroskey solicited a recommendation from DMH and passed the information to Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu. Ms. Olivia Celis, Deputy Director for Specialized Foster Care at DMH suggested Mr. Sam Chan as the most appropriate member for the Committee. If possible Ms. Celis would also like to participate. Ms. Terry Ogawa also has been asked to join the Committee, both in her own right and as a representative of the Los Angeles County Education Foundation.

Follow Up with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

On March 29, 2010, Mr. Gray, Ms. Jennifer Hottenroth, Ms. Malaske-Samu, Ms. Sartell, and Dr. McCroskey met with the DCFS training staff to pursue the possibility of enhanced training for their workers. Speaking for the group, Dr. McCroskey relayed that there was a feeling that the Roundtable can help DCFS, but the task is more complex than just requesting "enhanced training". The Committee will need to meet soon to develop an operational vision for how enhanced child care would work and be resourced. This meeting also led to the conclusion that the retreat would be a good time to bring the entire Roundtable along both with the operational issues and the philosophical discussion.

Proposed Retreat Focus and Planning

The Committee has recommended that the July retreat focus on progress in County Departments. The group should probably meet one more time to help shape the agenda for the July retreat and discuss the next iteration for moving forward on implementation of the policy framework. Dr. McCroskey acknowledged the exciting work already underway at DCFS in terms connecting families with early childhood education.

Thus far, retreat invitations have been extended to:

- Kathy House, Interim Deputy, Chief Executive Office (CEO), Children and Families Well-being Cluster (participation confirmed)
- Ms. Maryam Fatemi and Ms. Norma Doctor Sparks (awaiting response)
- Mr. Phil Ansell, Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) (regrets, will be on sabbatical)
- Ms. Olivia Celis, DMH (awaiting response)
- Mr. Dave Mitchell, Probation (awaiting response)
- | <u>Board Deputies</u> | <u>Children's</u> | <u>Education</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| o First District | Martha Molina Aviles | same |
| o Second District | Sylvia Drew Ivie | same |
| o Third District | Lisa Mandel | Vivian Rescalvo |
| o Fourth District | Nick Ippolito | Gail Tierney |
| o Fifth District | Helen Berberian | Rita Hadjmanoukian |

Ms. Malaske-Samu added that she was reassured when Ms. House responded so quickly and enthusiastically to the invitation to attend the retreat. Ms. Malaske-Samu truly believes that Ms. House will be helpful to the Roundtable's efforts and will advocate at her level on behalf of child care and development. She is open to ideas and making things happen. Dr. McCroskey added that the focus is not exclusively with County Departments, but also with other key child care and development groups. She is interested in highlighting County Department activities and how those activities relate to the overall direction of the field. Ms. Younglove reported that she recently attended a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) conference and spoke to efforts underway to integrate Head Start and child care and development with child welfare and probation. Among the participants at the conference was Ms. Carmen Nazario, the Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), who is very interested the intersect between early childhood education and child welfare and probation. She has been asked to be kept in loop and requested something in writing. She also was contacted by a friend of Mr. Steve Sturm's (DCFS) who heard about this work; she and Ms. Younglove will meet when they both attend an upcoming research conference. Dr. McCroskey suggested a two to three page summary of activities be drafted.

- **Steps to Excellence Project (STEP) Promotion**

Ms. Arlene Rhine reported on behalf of the STEP Promotion Committee as follows:

Informing County Workforce

Planning is underway to disseminate information about STEP to the 90,000 plus persons working for the County. The display in the lobby of the Hall of Administration during Week of the Young Child was one such effort. Staff will be preparing an article for the County Digest and a presentation for Roundtable members to use with County bodies including:

- Education Coordinating Council
- Commission for Children and Youth
- Women's Commission

Ms. Rhine suggested other possible uses could include presentations at community schools and districts and their PTAs located in the pilot communities.

Public Information Campaign in Pilot Communities

STEP staff are working with the Board offices and CEO Public Information to prepare messaging strategies targeted to the pilot communities. The child care coordinators in these same communities – Pasadena, Santa Monica, Long Beach – will be enlisted to help guide efforts.

2. POLICY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVE

Mobilize County Departments and stakeholders to incorporate access to high quality child care and development services into services aimed at 1) preventing child abuse and neglect; 2) supporting family self sufficiency; and 3) promoting school and life success.

Ms. Sartell referred members to the PowerPoint presentation, which summarizes two implementation efforts to date consistent with the above-referenced Policy Framework objective.

a. Strengthening Families Conference and Follow-up

On March 19, 2010, the Office of Child Care with partners First 5 LA and the Center for the Study of Social Policy hosted the event, Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education. The purpose of the event was to foster links between early care and education programs, community-based organizations, and child welfare departments to build protective factors in families at risk for child abuse and neglect. Invitations were targeted to STEP participants, First 5 LA Partnerships for Families lead agency representatives and their network partners, DCFS leaders, Probation Department partners, the County Employee Child Care and Development Centers, Department of Mental Health staff, and more; 129 individuals attended.

Ms. Jean McIntosh of the Center for the Study of Social Policy presented an overview of the Strengthening Families Approach to child abuse and neglect prevention and challenged participants to change their way of thinking and doing business as they work with children and families. The program was then turned over to Ms. Jane Zink and Ms. Maureen Durning from the Idaho AEYC (Association for the Education of Young Children), which oversees their state's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS). Ms. Malaske-Samu added that they have integrated the Strengthening Families Approach into their QRIS. Ms. Sartell showed a few slides from their presentation to demonstrate their paradigm shift and integration of the approach.

Ms. Sartell summarized next steps to continuing building partnerships across systems and to infuse the approach throughout early care and education, key County Departments, and other large systems. Mr. Dennis noted the absence of the DPSS given the large number of children and families they serve and the likelihood that they may intersect with other service sectors. Ms. Malaske-Samu relayed that Ms. House had made the same point in the planning. Ms. Malaske-Samu added that First 5 LA was the driver, coming initially from a child welfare perspective, then adding on early care and education. Dr. McCroskey suggested working with DPSS to learn what would help to include them in the planning and how could these efforts be useful. One place to start might be the work that the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start is doing with the DPSS Homeless Coordinator. Ms. Charlotte Lee replied that she has been taking notes and is interested in seeing how they can participate.

b. Joint Training of Probation Field Staff

Ms. Sartell continued by providing an update on the trainings being offered to all of the Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs) serving juveniles. The trainings are conducted through a joint partnership of LACOE Head Start and the Office of Child Care and are intended to help support the Probation Departments move to a family engagement approach that identifies family needs and helps connect them with resources. To that end, the trainings are designed to introduce the benefits of high quality early care and education that includes an introduction to the Strengthening Families Approach and healthy brain development and provides staff with the resources to begin helping families navigate the child care and development system.

Since February, six eight-hour training sessions have been conducted and additional sessions are scheduled through the end of May. Approximately 30 DPOs attend each training session held at East Los Angeles College in Rosemead. LACOE brings lots of expertise to the training by engaging participants in small group exercises to help reinforce their learning. Ms. Sartell noted that the population of DPOs is diverse in that some only see the youth and some have very limited contact with any one youth on a regular basis, so making the information relevant is a challenge. Ms. Younglove reported that discussions with her staff have been around next steps to help move from introducing the concepts to actually integrating it into the DPOs daily work. Other members and guests offered their thoughts, including soliciting feedback from the training participants on the usefulness of the information, reconvening a meeting with the

Probation partners to discuss next steps, and possibly bringing together a group of participants to reflect on what they learned, how they may (or may not) be using the information from the training, and what else they think they need. There seemed to be some consensus among members and guests, however, that the seeds have been planted. Ms. Sartell concluded by reporting that Probation is exploring a method to register eligible families on the Los Angeles Centralized Eligibility List (LACEL) with a case management approach to facilitate families enrollment when they are called.

3. POLICY FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVE

Identify opportunities for Los Angeles County to promote collaboration among service providers and advocates on behalf of needed legislative or regulatory changes.

Ms. Nishimura asked Mr. Adam Sonenshein to present key legislation for the Roundtable's consideration.

a. Consideration of State Legislation

Mr. Sonenshein referred members and guests to their meeting packets for copies of analyses on two state bills and two federal budget items with recommended pursuits of position for consideration by the Roundtable members.

- **AB 2592 (Buchanan): Quality Rating Scale**

This bill would institutionalize the idea of a quality rating scale (QRS) per the recommendations of the California Early Learning Quality Improvement System Advisory Committee (CAEL QIS). Mr. Sonenshein explained that the bill intentionally does not contain the details of the QRS, rather outlines broadly criteria to include. The bill would also establish the role of the new State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care to conduct annual reviews and develop recommendations for improvements. Mr. Sonenshein relayed that the Joint Committee on Legislation suggests that the Roundtable recommend to the Board of Supervisors a position of support on AB 2592.

There was some discussion among members and guests to the fiscal implications of the bill and whether a cost analysis has been conducted. Others noted that passage of this bill would help the State meet eligibility for federal funds if and when those funds would become available. Without the development of a quality rating scale in statute, California could be ineligible to apply for funds. The upshot of the discussion led to language that needs to be incorporated into the analysis as follows:

- The Roundtable and Planning Committee are cognizant of the current fiscal climate; this bill does not address the costs of a system and how it will be financed
- The bill is critical to ensuring that California is eligible to apply for federal funds to develop and implement a quality rating and improvement system if and when those funds become available
- As stakeholders, the Roundtable and Planning Committee have been contributing to the program design of the QRIS undertaken by the CAEL QIS Advisory Committee
- Discuss STEP in the body of the bill analysis, not the paragraph that actually recommends the position. Mention that STEP is a three-year pilot, thus the importance of a statewide system that would sustain the efforts begun at the local level.

Mr. Dennis made a motion to send to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that they pursue a position of support on AB 2592 (Buchanan); Ms. Rhine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 1126 (Liu): Higher Education Transfer of Credits for Early Childhood Education

Mr. Sonenshein briefly summarized the bill as outlined in the analysis included in the members and guests meeting packets. SB 1126, if passed, would help facilitate the articulation of coursework completed by students in child development and early childhood transferring from the community college to a four year college, i.e. a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC). The purpose of the bill is to reduce the barriers students face when transferring units earned at the community college to the four year institution as they pursue their baccalaureate degrees. The bill would also require a report on the feasibility of attaining a baccalaureate degree in child development, early education, or a related major at a community college in collaboration with a CSU or UC.

A question was raised on the latter part of the bill regarding achieving a four-year degree at a community college. Ms. Reynolds stated that over the past five years she has participated in conversations about students' efforts to earn Bachelor of Arts degrees. This bill would remove the barriers that currently exist around transferring units between the community colleges and the four-year institutions. She stated that there is confusion and a lack of communication that often results in students being ill-advised as to what classes will transfer and counted, resulting in students enrolling in classes that cover the same content covered at the community college and extending the time it takes for them to earn their degree. The primary intent of this bill is to reduce those barriers and support students working towards degrees.

Ms. Reynolds made a motion to send to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that they pursue a position of support on SB 1126 (Liu); Ms. Rhine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **AB 2705 (Hall): Physical Activity for School Age Children**

Ms. Nishimura asked Ms. Mika Yamamoto to address this bill supported by the County Department of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Yamamoto explained that AB 2705 would promote physical activity among children in grades kindergarten through ninth by adding at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity as an element in the Afterschool Education and Safety (ASES) Program. Ms. Yamamoto added that the Department of Parks and Recreation is interested in the flexibility of joint use agreements involving school districts and is tracking SB 1210 (Florez), which would impose a tax on beverages in which sweeteners have been added. Ms. Kate Sachnoff mentioned that First 5 LA also interested in SB 1210.

b. Consideration of Federal Budget Items

Mr. Sonenshein referred members and guests to their meeting packets for the handout outlining President Obama's Fiscal Year 2011 federal budget recommendations for child care and development services. The President proposes increasing funding for both the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Early Head Start/Head Start.

- **Reauthorization of Child Care and Development Block Grant**

The budget proposes a \$1.6 billion permanent increase to CCDBG. It was noted that the CCDBG funds are critically important to the child care and development infrastructure in

California, providing for subsidized services for working families through the California Department of Education-contracted programs. In addition, a portion of the funds are allocated specifically for quality activities.

- **Increase Funding for Early Head Start/Head Start**

The President proposes increasing Early Head Start/Head Start by \$989 million. The increase to Early Head Start/Head Start would maintain the expansion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Mr. Dennis made a motion to send to the Board of Supervisors a recommendation that they pursue a position of support for increasing funds to the CCDBG and Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. Ms. Connie Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. What's Ahead

- **Governor's May Revise (due for release: May 14th)**

Mr. Sonenshein relayed that the State continues to face a budget gap of nearly \$20 billion, so "terrible cuts" are expected in the Governor's May Revise to be release on Friday, May 14th. He added that the Governor is not proposing any new taxes or sources of revenues. Rather, he is expected to propose major cuts to health and human services and education.

- **Other Legislation of Interest**

Mr. Sonenshein referred members and guests to the updated legislative matrix included in their meeting packets. He offered a mix of good news and bad news in that a number of bills are now in their respective house's Appropriations Committee, where a number of bills may also die. Mr. Sonenshein reported that anything with fiscal implications will not happen.

Mr. Dennis reported that the California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division has proposed new licensing inspection protocols. He has asked the Joint Committee on Legislation to review the protocols and return to the Roundtable with a report. Briefly, CCL is proposing unannounced annual inspections of child care centers and biennial inspections of family child care homes. The recommendations including raising annual licensing fees by ten percent and imposing a \$100 re-inspection fee.

4. COLLEAGUE AGENCY REPORTS

- Ms. Younglove reported that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is rumored to plan release of a report documenting major fraud relating to enrolling families in Head Start programs. Apparently the report is the result of "undercover investigations". Efforts are underway involving U.S. Representative George Miller and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to schedule hearings in response to the report.
- Mr. Dennis reported that First 5 LA has adopted its strategic plan, which contains a "place-based" approach to funding over the next five years. Criteria for the distribution of funding at the community level will be decided at the meeting scheduled for May 13, 2010, then the communities targeted for funding will be designated in June. Ms. Sachnoff added that First 5 LA has not defined the number of communities for funding. Rather, they will be looking at how communities cluster. She continued that

funding will be contingent on having a funding source; the Governor is likely to propose diverting First 5 funds to other health and social service programs. Updates regarding funding and distribution will be posted on First 5 LA's Web site at www.first5la.org.

- Ms. Nishimura encouraged members to speak with their local political candidates about issues important to the Roundtable.
- Ms. Ruth Yoon announced that the LAUSD Board of Education approved the \$125,000 contract to support participation of 50 early childhood education sites in STEP. She publicly thanked Ms. Helen Chavez, STEP Project Coordinator, for her support.
- Ms. Younglove mentioned that all Head Start delegate agencies are required to have a health advisory committee that meets two to three times per year to address community issues. LACOE is establishing one as well to look at what Head Start is doing globally. They are seeking qualified candidates with experience serving children birth to five and their families.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Sonenshein announced that Dr. Gary Magnifico, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) Chief Executive Officer (CEO), has accepted a position as the Associate Dean of Business at Pepperdine University. Dr. Celia Ayala has been offered the Interim CEO position effective June 26, 2010.
- Ms. Reynolds thanked those who passed on registration information for their two-day conscious discipline event. She added that if anyone has questions regarding the power of social networking, the event is testament to its value – a number of participants from out of state learned about the event through Facebook and Twitter. Participants were excited to learn about a new approach to helping children learn social skills.
- Fairplex Child Development Center has an application for funding pending with the U.S. Department of Education to work with Pomona Unified School District.

6. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Commissioners Present:

Mr. Duane Dennis
Ms. Ann Franzen
Mr. Michael Gray
Mr. Whit Hayslip
Ms. Charlotte Lee
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey
Ms. Carolyn Naylor
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura
Ms. Holly Reynolds
Ms. Arlene Rhine
Ms. Connie Russell
Ms. Mika Yamamoto
Ms. Ruth Yoon
Ms. Sarah Younglove

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Guests:

Ms. Ellen Cervantes, Child Care Resource Center
Ms. Heather Carrigan, Westside Children's Center
Ms. Jennifer Cowan, First 5 LA
Ms. Liz Diaz, City of Los Angeles, CDD
Ms. Leila Espinoza, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities
Ms. Sylvia Drew Ivie, 2nd Supervisorial District
Dr. Carrie Miller, Education Coordinating Council
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Education Coordinating Council
Mr. Angelo Reyes, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, First 5 LA
Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)
Ms. Veronica Torrez

Staff:

Ms. Kathleen Malaske-Samu
Ms. Michele Sartell