



**Policy Roundtable for Child Care**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m. – Noon**  
**Conference Room 743**  
**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles**



**Proposed Meeting Agenda**

10:00	I.	Welcome and Introductions		Jacquelyn McCroskey Chair
	A.	Comments from the Chair		
	B.	Review Minutes from February 13, 2012 Meeting	Action Item	
10:15	II.	Consideration of Current Roundtable Ordinance		Jacquelyn McCroskey Dora Jacildo
	A.	Revised Mission Statement and policy on alternates <i>These changes have been endorsed by the Roundtable</i>		
	B.	Other changes		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roles and responsibilities</li><li>• Roundtable name</li></ul>		
11:00	III.	Joint Committee on Legislation Report		Adam Sonenshein Michele Sartell
	A.	Bills introduced related to early care and education		
	B.	Special meeting with participants on the CDSS Committee related to streamlining early care and education		
	C.	Impact of sequester on local services		
11:30	IV.	An Update on the Family Solution Centers		Libby Boyce Ayanna McLeod
11:50	V.	Announcements and Public Comment		Members and Guests
12:00	VI.	Call to Adjourn		Jacquelyn McCroskey

**Mission Statement**

The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care builds and strengthens early care and education by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement.

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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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WENDY L. WATANABE  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

March 4, 2013

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe  
Auditor-Controller

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy L. Watanabe".

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY  
ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care's (PRCC or Roundtable) sunset review date to June 30, 2016.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board established and has continued the Roundtable pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.75. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in May 2007.

The PRCC represents the County on all child care matters, and works in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, a State-mandated child care planning council. The PRCC makes recommendations to the Board to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County.

In May 2011, the Board authorized the PRCC to add representatives from the Departments of Mental Health (DMH), Public Health, and Probation, increasing the membership from 22 to 25, all appointed by the Board. Members include representatives from specified County departments, school districts, and other child care agencies, as well as outside experts in child care issues. Membership requirements are detailed in Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.75.

The County Code allows the PRCC to adopt bylaws, including how often the PRCC should meet. The PRCC's adopted bylaws require the Roundtable to meet monthly.

Roundtable members are not compensated for their service. The Chief Executive Office's (CEO) Office of Child Care (OCC) estimates that they spend approximately \$44,500 annually for PRCC staff support, parking permits, and services and supplies. These costs are paid from annual California Department of Education grants.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The PRCC met 37 times between January 2009 and March 2012 (approximately 11 times per year). The PRCC's average attendance between January 2009 and May 2011 was 11.7 (53%) members, and 15.3 (61%) members between June 2011 and March 2012. Although the average attendance was low in the past, attendance has recently improved. Additionally, the Roundtable successfully fulfilled its duties.

During this review period, the Roundtable's accomplishments included:

- Developing the Steps to Excellence Project, a quality rating and support system for child care programs.
- Providing input on the Child Care Policy Framework, and collaborating with the CEO to update the Framework in March 2011.
- Providing support for the collaboration between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start State Preschool, which resulted in the enrollment of approximately 200 foster children in Head Start State Preschools.
- Making recommendations to the Board to address the potential impact of legislative and budget proposals. For example, the Roundtable recommended that the Board support Assembly Bill 1872, which would require family child care homes to ensure that meals and snacks meet the recommended servings for the four basic food groups as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The Roundtable's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Work with the OCC to recruit public and private sector partners to advocate for funding to ensure the safety of children, promote school success, and strengthen families.
- Work with DCFS, Probation, and other stakeholders to find legislative solutions to facilitate access to child development services for at-risk or abused children, and identify new/non-traditional funding for child development services.

- Convene representatives of DMH and local child care resource agencies to explore using child development programs, locations, etc., to provide mental health services.
- Support Family Solution Centers to coordinate early child care and education services. Family Solution Centers provide housing and supportive services (e.g., employment development, child care, medical and mental health services, etc.) to homeless families.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RS:TK

Attachment

c: Jacquelyn McCroskey, Chair, Policy Roundtable for Child Care  
Kathleen Malaske-Samu, Director, Office of Child Care, Chief Executive Office  
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (PRCC or Roundtable). **CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The PRCC represents the County on all child care matters, and works in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, a State-mandated child care planning council. The PRCC makes recommendations to the Board to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County.

The Roundtable's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The PRCC met 37 times between January 2009 and March 2012 (approximately 11 times per year). In May 2011, the Board increased the PRCC from 22 to 25 members. The PRCC's average attendance between January 2009 and May 2011 was 11.7 (53%) members, and 15.3 (61%) members between June 2011 and March 2012. Although the average attendance was low in the past, recent attendance has improved to at least 60%. Additionally, the Roundtable successfully fulfilled its duties.

The Roundtable's meeting frequency and attendance are **SATISFACTORY.**

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this review period, the Roundtable's accomplishments included:

- Developing the Steps to Excellence Project, a quality rating and support system for child care programs.
- Providing input on the Child Care Policy Framework, and collaborating with the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to update the Framework in March 2011.

- Providing support for the collaboration between Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Los Angeles County Office of Education Head Start State Preschool, which resulted in the enrollment of approximately 200 foster children in Head Start State Preschools.
- Making recommendations to the Board to address the potential impact of legislative and budget proposals. For example, the Roundtable recommended that the Board support Assembly Bill 1872, which would require family child care homes to ensure that meals and snacks meet the recommended servings for the four basic food groups as specified by the United States Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program.

The Roundtable's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Roundtable's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Work with the Office of Child Care (OCC) to recruit public and private sector partners to advocate for funding to ensure the safety of children, promote school success, and strengthen families.
- Work with DCFS, Probation Department, and other stakeholders to find legislative solutions to facilitate access to child development services for at-risk or abused children, and identify new/non-traditional funding for child development services.
- Convene representatives of Department of Mental Health and local child care resource agencies to explore using child development programs, locations, etc., to provide mental health services.
- Support Family Solution Centers to coordinate early child care and education services. Family Solution Centers provide housing and supportive services (e.g., employment development, child care, medical and mental health services, etc.) to homeless families.

The Roundtable's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Roundtable members are not compensated for their service. The OCC estimates that they spend approximately \$44,500 annually for PRCC staff support, parking permits, and services and supplies. These costs are paid from annual California Department of Education grants.

The Roundtable's expenses appear to be WARRANTED.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE TO JUNE 30, 2016.**

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## Policy Roundtable for Child Care

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### MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Room 743

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, California

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#### I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey, Chair of the Policy Roundtable for Child Care (Roundtable), opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Members and guests introduced themselves.

##### A. Comments from the Chair

Dr. McCroskey reported on membership changes that will occur on the Roundtable. As a result of reorganization at the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Mr. Michael Gray has resigned from the Roundtable; a replacement is pending. And, the Department of Parks and Recreation has nominated Ms. Faith Parducho to replace Ms. Mika Yamamoto on the Roundtable. Dr. McCroskey welcomed Ms. Parducho, who was attending the meeting for the first time.

Dr. McCroskey noted the modification to the agenda to allow for a dialogue on the Governor's 2013-14 budget proposal with any actions with respect to recommended positions to be taken at the March meeting.

##### B. Review of Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2013

Ms. Michele Sartell offered corrections to the first paragraph under item A. Best Start, Place-based Initiatives and Connectivity The corrections are located on page three of the minutes, highlighted in gray, as follows:

For background, Ms. Tessa Charnofsky of First 5 LA recounted the Commission's strategic plan that includes investments in ~~countywide~~ place-based initiatives in 14 communities. ~~The majority~~ ~~Four~~ of the Best Start communities are located in South Los Angeles, ~~followed by a few~~; others are in East Los Angeles, the San Fernando and Antelope Valley, ~~Wilmington~~, and Long Beach. The focus in the Best Start communities to date has been on community organizing, strengthening the skills of community participants, and identifying community needs. The vision is guided by the idea of making a big difference by focusing on investments at the community level.

It was noted that the date of the minutes needs to be corrected from January 9, 2012 to January 9, 2013.

*Ms. Maria Calix entered a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Ms. Terri Nishimura seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **C. Policy Framework Update**

Dr. McCroskey referred members and guests to their meeting packets for their copy of the Fourth Status Report on the Child Care Policy Framework sent to the Board of Supervisors on January 31, 2013. Given that the timeframe for the current framework is 2011-13, she suggested that a small group be convened at a later date to begin work on the next iteration.

## **II. GOVERNOR'S 2013-14 PROPOSED BUDGET**

### **A. Proposals for Child Care and Development Services**

Ms. Sartell directed members and guests to their meeting packets for copies of the following materials: memo dated January 3, 2013 from Mr. William T Fujioka entitled "Development of County Positions on Legislation and State Budget Items and Advocacy of County Interests in Sacramento", which summarizes the procedures for developing County positions on legislation and State budget items; the Child Care Planning Committee and Roundtable's Public Policy Platform for the First Year of the 2013-14 Legislative Session, which sets forth the legislative items that are included in the County's Legislative Agenda under child care and development services; and the policy brief summarizing the Governor's proposed 2013-14 state budget for child care and development services.

### **B. Summary of Key Issues**

Referring to the policy brief, Ms. Sartell provided an abbreviated summary, highlighting some of the key issues of likely interest to the Roundtable for further discussion as follows:

- Streamlining the System

The Governor's budget proposal calls upon the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to convene a stakeholder group to assess the current structure and seek opportunities for streamlining and making other improvements to the child care and development system. According to the Child Development Policy Institute (CDPI), the meetings will be held in March and a final report is due in April.

It was noted that to date the CDSS has not confirmed the membership of the stakeholders work group nor has it issued an agenda for the yet to be scheduled meeting(s). Some thought is being given to convening local stakeholders to discuss the current structure and work towards a uniform set of recommendations to take to the CDSS work group meeting. Recommendations would be presented to the Roundtable for discussion as the timing permits

*Since the Roundtable meeting, the Joint Committee on Legislation is pursuing a strategy recommended by the Chief Executive Office's Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs by convening a meeting to gather recommendations from local stakeholders interested in state budget issues pertaining to child care and development issues. Invitees also will consist of those included in correspondence regarding the stakeholders workgroup sent by Todd Bland of CDSS.*

Mr. Dennis referred to item 6 of the Public Policy Platform and asked whether it is adequate to support a non-restructuring agenda. He expressed his curiosity with the Governor for placing

the conversation with CDSS when the dollars are in California Department of Education/Child Development Division (CDE/CDD). Mr. Dennis added that last year the Board of Supervisors opposed restructuring of child care and development services and expressed his concern that the Board retain this position.

- Potential Impact of Medicaid Options

Ms. Sartell reported that tucked into the Governor's proposals for expanding Medicaid as required by the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a reference to "shifting programmatic and fiscal responsibility for various human services programs, including subsidized child care to counties." Briefly, the Governor offers two options for Medicaid expansion, state-based or county-based. The rationale for making the shift is that under the state-based option, the state would need to capture county savings to finance the expansion. Ms. Olyvia Rodriguez of the Chief Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations and External Affairs added that during a stakeholder's call hosted by the Governor's Administration, it was clarified that child support and other programs in addition to child care and development services were on the table with respect to shifting responsibility. Ms. Rodriguez further stated that the current budget proposal is not the first time realignment has been suggested. Two years ago, the Governor proposed two phases of realignment, including child care and development services in the second phase. Dr. McCroskey reflected on last year's proposal for administrative restructuring, which prompted the convening of a small group to explore streamlining the current system as an alternative. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the CEO IGEA are closely monitoring this issue, however noted that it is a small part of a broader discussion that is occurring in relationship to the special session on Medi-Cal expansion as required under federal Affordable Care Act. The County's concern is the impact on the number of programs currently under multiple County departments.

Dr. McCroskey asked Ms. Kim Belshé to comment given her extensive expertise on publicly funded health care and working with the State Administration. Ms. Belshé stated that the Roundtable is right to pay serious attention when the Administration puts back on the table a proposal that has failed in the past. With respect to the ACA, expansion of Medicaid is a state option. California cares about universal coverage and reform, therefore the Governor proposes expansion. She noted, however, that the Governor has characterized expansion in an interesting way with respect to the mandated portion that will result in more people being enrolled. The bulk of increased costs would be to cover people currently eligible, but not yet enrolled. Later, there would be costs associated with expanding to persons not currently eligible. However for the first three years, the newly eligible would be covered by the federal government at 100 percent and then in following years at 90 percent. The Governor has expressed his plan to build upon the existing program or expand the state program, however expansion will mean additional costs.

As such, he is hoping to "repurpose County dollars" to cover other responsibilities. Ms. Belshé noted that the State cannot simply repurpose funds; rather, the State would need to reach agreements with the counties to take on responsibility of other programs. According to Ms. Belshé, the State Board is eager to quickly resolve Medi-Cal expansion.

- Plan for Quality Activities

Ms. Sartell relayed that there will be approximately a \$1.5 million reduction to quality activities funded by the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant. The CDE/CDD expects to complete its draft plan for quality activities by the spring. A stakeholders' review process will be

conducted prior to the plan's presentation to the Department of Finance for approval before it is then sent to the federal government.

- California School-Age Families (Cal-SAFE) Program

The Cal-SAFE program, which provides academic support and child care and development services to pregnant and parenting teens, is an educational categorical program. The Governor proposes to eliminate almost all categorical programs, including Cal-SAFE.

Per the Governor's proposal, funds for Cal-SAFE would be subsumed into the Local Control Funding Formula with schools making decisions on how to spend their allocation of funds based on community needs. Ms. Maureen Diekmann of Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) Early Childhood Education Division, which oversees four Cal-SAFE sites, spoke to the success of the Cal-SAFE at meeting the district's priority for impacting graduation rates. As such, it would not be logical for LAUSD to cut the program.

- Other Issue

Ms. Tessa Charnofsky of First 5 LA asked about Speaker Pérez's recent announcement to move \$10 million from the Assembly operating budget to continue supporting CalWORKs Stage 3 Child Care. Mr. Dennis answered that Stage 3 was eliminated under Governor Schwarzenegger; the Speaker championed the restoration of the program and allocated funding from the Assembly budget to help rebuild it. The current allocation of funds does not equal the cost of the program pre-dismantling.

### **III. NEW DIRECTIONS FOR FIRST 5 LA**

Dr. McCroskey introduced Ms. Kim Belshé, the new Executive Director of First 5 LA, who is on a listening and learning tour. Ms. Belshé thanked the Roundtable for the invitation to participate in the meeting and stated that she is looking forward to a long relationship. She recognized Mr. Dennis as the Roundtable's representative to the First 5 LA Commission, bringing to the table content expertise that can help guide and shape their work around early care and education.

Ms. Belshé's leadership has been in state government, with a deep knowledge in health care and child welfare. Ms. Belshé then provided a bit of background on how she arrived at her work. She comes to Los Angeles County by way of San Francisco and Sacramento. She is a proud Californian and has to date lived in Sacramento longer than her years in San Francisco. Her career choices are grounded in her love of California. All of her jobs have reflected her value of service and mission orientation to expand opportunities for low income and disadvantaged communities.

Los Angeles County and First 5 LA has captured Ms. Belshé's attention as follows:

- By its issues. Under Governor Wilson's administration, she served on the First 5 CA Commission where she gained an understanding for the importance of the early years.
- While Los Angeles County is daunting, it is also extraordinarily complex, rich, and diverse. What goes on in Los Angeles County is amplified throughout the state and nationwide.
- First 5 LA is driven by its fundamental values and missions. She noted the opportunity of having a dedicated funding stream to invest in communities that reflect the best

information, lessons learned, diversity of perspectives, and are strategic. She is impressed by the enthusiasm to invest dollars thoughtfully and strategically.

Ms. Belshé introduced the listening, learning and leading initiative by acknowledging that changes in leadership can be unsettling, particularly for an organization that has experienced one leader since its inception. Most unsettling is straddling between what was and where First 5 LA will be. Yet, this is a time of remarkable creativity and opportunity to impact the issues First 5 LA cares about. Ms. Belshé relayed that she is listening to the Commissioners, her staff, and the organizations funded by it to learn about First 5 LA's impact and how it can be used to inform future direction. She is seeking information both internally and externally through formal and informal surveys on what is and is not working. Internal surveys are underway; external surveys will be conducted in March and April. The next step from the listening and learning tours will be synthesizing and distilling the information to the Commissioners beginning in the spring and concluding in June 2013.

Ms. Belshé and the Roundtable were provided with a series of questions to consider during the discussion. The questions are listed here as reference, however the conversation did not closely follow the order.

- A. What does the Roundtable “point to with pride” when considering its accomplishments? How do those accomplishments and other “lessons learned” further the Roundtable mission.**
- B. What is the Roundtable’s experience in building connectivity among early care and education programs, and across early care and education to other family serving services?**
- C. What role has First 5 LA played in efforts to build and strengthen the early care and education system in Los Angeles County?**
- D. How can First 5 LA maximize its impact in the early care and education arena?**
- E. How can First 5 LA collaborate with the Roundtable and its members to advance:**
  - Policy development, advocacy and coalition building
  - Research
  - Place- based efforts with Best Start
  - Other

Ms. Belshé asked, “What role has First 5 played in a shared aspiration for building and strengthening the early care and education system?”

Dr. McCroskey offered a brief historical perspective, explaining that the Roundtable was created around the same time as First 5 LA. The Board of Supervisors appointed a policy body to consider what it could do for child care in Los Angeles County. While the County has a mandate to serve vulnerable children and families, it does not have a mandate to provide them with early care and education services. She noted that the Roundtable has evolved to including

representation from six County departments, four of which do not receive direct funds for early care and education yet have an important role in contributing to overall child and family well-being. It also has the attention of the Board of Supervisors as a voice for children and families beyond those that receive services directly from County departments. She noted, however, that the role of the Roundtable is relatively small compared to other County efforts.

**Alignment of Roundtable and First 5 LA efforts** – It was strongly suggested that First 5 LA would benefit from an overall vision for early care and education and by becoming a major participant in the broader discussions concerning the field. Consistent participation at the table contributes to the breadth and depth of relationships in Los Angeles County. While First 5 LA has funded early care and education initiatives and projects, its more significant focus has been and continues to be on preschool education for four year old children (a subset of children needing access to early care and education services) through its investment in Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP). Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu noted that the seat on the Roundtable reserved for a First 5 LA representative – Commissioner or staff member – has been vacant for an extended period. She hoped that Ms. Belshé and the Commission would consider nominating an individual to serve on the Roundtable.

Ms. Belshé commented on First 5 LA's significant investment in LAUP, both in their direct services and their quality rating system, and then the complimentary investment on workforce. Again, it was noted that investments in early care and education tend to be "build and implement". Emphasis was added for a unified vision that addresses the early care and education needs of and benefits to children from birth to five years old and their families that is informed by the early brain research and creates connectivity to other services, ultimately providing children with a fair chance at education and lifelong success.

**Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS)** – The issue of the three quality rating and improvement systems in Los Angeles County – LAUP, Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) and Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) – was raised with Ms. Belshé, stating that First 5 LA is committed to single system. While the LAUP and STEP systems have evolved differently, there is hope that RTT-ELC will result in a single, countywide system by 2015 when RTT-ELC funding is due to expire. As background, Ms. Dawn Kurtz of LAUP remarked that aligning the systems could not be accomplished by the time of application for RTT-ELC, which the Governor was not willing to sign if it was designed as a statewide system. RTT-ELC funding is supporting a consortium comprised of QRIS projects in 16 counties. As required by the federal funders, the consortium has reached agreement on three common tiers; each county has the option of creating two additional tiers. STEP and LAUP believe that the new framework could serve as the countywide system, pending its validation. The CDE/CDD will be releasing a Request for Qualifications for a statewide evaluator to complete a study by the middle of 2014.

Added to the conversation about the QRIS, an opportunity exists for the Roundtable and First 5 LA to explore the policy for tying quality to compensation. Nationwide, work is underway in this area. Furthermore, compensation needs to be part of the discussion as additional expectations are required of programs, including workforce issues. The policy could help influence future state and federal policy as it relates to the QRIS.

**Availability of Funding for Efforts Outside of Existing First 5 LA Initiatives** – It was suggested that there needs to be a mechanism for approaching First 5 LA for funding outside of their existing program initiatives. One thought is to create an entryway for organizations to propose ideas for funding that are consistent with and can generate the results desired by First 5 LA.

Ms. Belshé responded by stating that First 5 LA is one of the places in County government that has resources, particularly in an environment of great need. The Commission is in a unique position of deciding how to allocate funds, albeit limited funds that are declining. She noted that attention has been paid to unexpended revenues, however she relayed that the funds are committed. In fact, it is projected by the by 2015 the Commission's commitments will exceed its resources.

Given its current strategic plan, First 5 LA has been moving towards place-based investments and away from the open grant making approach that supported countywide strategies. Part of the listening and learning tour is to explore how to do it. The framework is intended to guide disciplined decision making in expending First 5 LA funds. She asked, "Are we an organization that wants a broad or more focused approach to grant making?"

Mr. Dennis added that as a grant making organization, there needs to be a framework based on principles and values through which it disperses funds. There was a time prior to the strategic plan when First 5 LA was investing in all sorts of things. First 5 LA has reached the point where it will need to make difficult decisions about whether to continue supporting certain programs, such as family literacy and school readiness, despite community support.

Ms. Belshé recognizes the history and tradition as well as the need and how First 5 LA has provided resources. She echoed Mr. Dennis's comments with respect to the difficult funding decisions facing the Commission. At Thursday's meeting she will be speaking about their work moving forward, recommending that decisions be based on analysis and evidence rather than who shows up to advocate for their interest.

**Sustainability** – An ongoing issue for the Roundtable is what families can count on long term. Multiple initiatives may include a sampling of good programming, however the question is what happens next when the funding expires, particularly to families trust in a particular service being available. Defining sustainability is an issue with which the Commissioners are now grappling. Currently, it is defined based on results and impact, separate from program delivery. It needs to be broader and focused on capacity development. In the end, it is less about the money and more about the leadership for sustained advancements.

**Best Start** – Members and guests participating in Best Start communities were asked to comment on their experiences. Dr. Olenick of the Child Care Resource Center (CCRC) spoke to the four Best Start communities located in CCRC's service area, which covers a 2,500 square mile area and includes the San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Antelope Valleys. Staff who are also residents of the communities are participating and relay four different stories, some of which is based on the dynamics of the particular community. As such, Pacoima was an entry community for families who moved in, stayed for a while and then moved out that has transitioned to a very low income, challenging community in which to live; Palmdale and Lancaster were initially combined and then separated due to the uniqueness of each city; whereas Panorama City has been gerrymandered to include the neighborhood around Northridge Hospital located in Grenada Hills, creating additional challenges due to sharp contrasts between the two communities. Implementation has been hurry up and wait with promises of things that did not happen, shifts in leadership, and outsiders saying what to do without any resources.

Ms. Mary Hammer, representing the South Bay Center for Community Development, addressed her organizations experiences with the two Best Start communities located in Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 and through its countywide community organizing efforts. The initial concepts seemed okay, but somehow got lost in implementation. Institutional partners and community

residents really believed they could be partners, bringing their passion and ideas on what could be achieved. However, they were also faced with stops and starts and changes in direction. She added, “the community wants to be proactive”.

Ms. Belshé admitted that the Commission paused last year to become clearer on its strategies and goals with reasonable expectations for making progress. At the Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, there will be some discussion relating to the underlying reason for moving from an initiative-based approach to a place-based initiative and how to help move it forward. The goal is transparency with community partners.

**Research** – First 5 LA has an exemplary research team. However, there is some confusion with respect to First 5 LA’s overall role – a funder? a research and evaluation entity? a County office? or a community development and investment group? As example, since 2000 First 5 LA has held various contracts for the school readiness program. Each program has had a research and evaluation component that has collected a tremendous amount of data. To date, First 5 LA has not reported on the findings and lessons learned. Ms. Belshé mentioned that First 5 LA released a learning and accountability report last year, which members and guests did not recall. She asked if there is a desire for deeper, more extensive evaluations. The response suggested a conversation on the First 5 LA’s overarching role guided by the strategic plan.

Ms. Belshé was thanked for her participation in the meeting as part of the listening, learning and leading initiative. She, in turn, expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and assured members and guests that their points are heard.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

- The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Head Start, Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), First 5 LA and the Office of Child Care are planning a “Dad’s Day” for May 18, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to be held at Los Angeles Unified School District’s (LAUSD) Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools (located at the site of the former Ambassador Hotel).

#### **V. CALL TO ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Ms. Jeannette Aguirre  
Ms. Maria Calix  
Dr. Sam Chan  
Ms. Fran Chasen  
Mr. Duane Dennis  
Dr. Robert Gilchick  
Ms. Karla Pleitez Howell  
Ms. Dora Jacildo  
Dr. Sharoni Little

Ms. Kathy Malaske-Samu  
Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey  
Ms. Stacy Miller  
Ms. Terri Chew Nishimura  
Mr. Nurhan Pirim  
Ms. Dawn Kurtz for Mr. Adam Sonenshein  
Ms. Nina Sorkin  
Ms. Ruth Yoon

86 percent of members were in attendance

**Guests:**

Ms. Cristina Alvarado, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
Mr. Kevin Anderson, USC School of Social Work  
Mr. Robert Beck, Department of Public Social Services  
Ms. Kim Belshé, First 5 LA  
Ms. Patricia Carbajal, Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Chief Executive Office  
Mr. Martin Castro, Mexican American Opportunity Foundation  
Ms. Rose Chacana, Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center  
Ms. Tessa Charnofsky, First 5 LA  
Ms. Jacquelyn Christensen, Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic  
Ms. Grace Crossette-Thambiah, Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Ms. Maureen Diekmann, Los Angeles Unified School District, Early Childhood Education  
Ms. Jessica Guerra, Crystal Stairs, Inc.  
Ms. Mary Hammer, South Bay Center for Community Development  
Ms. Patricia Herrera, 211 LACounty  
Ms. Kelly Makatura, Pathways LA  
Ms. Maribel Marin, 211 LACounty  
Ms. Patti Oblath, Connections for Children  
Ms. Terry Ogawa, Center for the Study of Social Policy  
Mr. Michael Olenick, Child Care Resource Center  
Ms. Alexandra Pearlman, Los Angeles City Attorney  
Ms. Faith Parducho, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Ms. Olyvia Rodriguez, Intergovernmental and External Affairs, Chief Executive Office  
Ms. Kate Sachnoff, USC School of Social Work/Advocate  
Ms. Melina Sanchez, Children Now  
Ms. Nancy Lee Sayre, UCLA Center for Improving Child Care Quality  
Ms. Angela Vazquez, Advancement Project  
Dr. Randi Wolfe, Tikkun Consulting

**Staff:**

Ms. Laura Escobedo  
Ms. Michele Sartell

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## Proposed Changes to the Policy Roundtable for Child Care Ordinance

<b>Changes Approved by the Roundtable</b> <i>No action is required on these two items, but they will be included in the update to the ordinance</i>	
<b>1. Mission Statement</b>	
Language of Current Ordinance	Proposed Change
<p>The mission of the Roundtable is to serve as the official County body on all matters relating to child care, working in collaboration with the Child Care Planning Committee, to build and strengthen the child care system and infrastructure in the County by providing policy and recommendations to the board.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adopted by the Roundtable 11/9/11</i></p> <p>The Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development builds and strengthens early care and education by providing recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on policy, systems, and infrastructure improvement</p>
<b>2. Policy on Alternates</b> <i>This policy is reflected in the Roundtable by-laws.</i> <i>We have been advised to inform the Board of the proposed change the by-laws.</i>	
<p>The ordinance and previous bylaws were silent on the issue of alternates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Adopted by the Roundtable on 11/9/11</i></p> <p>D. Alternates</p> <p>1) Organizational Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Department representatives shall identify a specific alternate who can vote in the member’s absence. In the event that both the member and alternate are unable to attend a meeting, a department representative can fulfill the attendance requirement. This department representative will not be authorized to vote on Roundtable business.</li> <li>• Representatives from organizations other than County Departments shall have the option to identify an alternate to attend and vote in the member’s absence.</li> </ul> <p>2) Supervisorial Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of the Board of Supervisors will not have the option to use alternates.</li> </ul>

**Changes to be considered by the Roundtable**

**3. Duties and Responsibilities  
Adopted by the Roundtable on 3/13/13**

Language of Current Ordinance	Recommended Changes
<p>1. Develop a regional child care and development master plan for consideration by the board;</p>	<p><b>Delete this item</b> as the Child Care Planning Committee is required to conduct a countywide child care needs assessment every 5 years and follow that assessment with a strategic plan to meet the identified needs. Therefore, it may be more strategic for the Roundtable to focus its attention on items # 2 and # 4.</p>
<p>2. Develop child care policy recommendations based on solid research, economic forecasts, projected demographic shifts and trends, and federal and state policies, taking into account all forms of child care, including without limitation, faith-based, home-based, public, private, center-based, and employer-based;</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Develop child care and development policy recommendations based on solid research, economic forecasts, projected demographic shifts and trends, and federal and state policies, taking into account all forms of child care and development services.</p>
<p>3. Promote the coordination and integration of county-related child care, including all county departmental activity for employees and the public</p>	<p><b>2.</b> Advise and assist county departments in developing and implementing strategies to connect clients and/or employees to high quality child care and development services.</p>
<p>4. Work with the <i>chief administrative office</i> to develop recommendations for consideration by the board on state and federal legislation regarding child care;</p>	<p><b>3.</b> In conjunction with the chief executive office, develop recommendations for consideration by the Board on county, state and federal legislative and budget issues related to child care and development. The roundtable shall work with community stakeholders so as to understand the impact of those issues on the supply, quality and demand for early care and education services.</p>
<p>5. Identify strategies to help coordinate, leverage, and maximize all child care funding streams in the county;</p>	<p><b>4.</b> Working in collaboration with county departments and community stakeholders, identify strategies to secure and leverage, coordinate, monitor and</p>

Language of Current Ordinance	Proposed Change
	maximize funding for and access to high quality early care and education services
6. Develop recommendations to promote universal access to child care and development services, including but not limited to services for preschool care;	<b>Delete and incorporate into # 4.</b>
7. Identify strategies and recommendations to include faith-based organizations in the provision of child care;	<b>Delete and incorporate into # 4.</b>
8. Conduct and distribute an annual evaluation, or "report card" of the roundtable's work;	<b>5.</b> Develop, distribute in electronic format, and post on a county website, an annual report summarizing key issues, roundtable recommendations, and board actions.
9. Make quarterly status reports to the board.	<b>Delete and focus on the annual report in item 5.</b>
<b>4. Name</b>	
Policy Roundtable for Child Care	Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
<b>5. Defining our Terms</b> <i>Per Roundtable action of 3/13/13, definitions will be determined by the Roundtable, but not incorporated into the Ordinance</i>	
The ordinance is silent on the age groups to be addressed by the Roundtable.	The Roundtable could 1) remain silent; 2) define an age group in the Ordinance; or 3) define an age group in supporting documents. The following entities define their target populations as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> 5 LA focuses on children birth to 5 yrs</li> <li>• National Association for the Education of Young Children focuses on children birth to 8 yrs</li> <li>• CDE and CalWORKs provide subsidized care for children birth to 12 yrs or 18 if person has special needs</li> </ul>
In the Duties and Responsibilities section of the ordinance, item two calls for policy recommendations on "all forms of child care, including without limitation,	The Roundtable could 1) remain silent; 2) define the types of care it believes falls under their umbrella in the

faith-based, home-based, public, private, center-based, and employer-based.”	Ordinance; or 3) define these in supporting documents.
<b>Language of Current Ordinance</b>	<b>Proposed Change</b>
The Ordinance does not address child care quality.	The Roundtable could 1) remain silent on defining quality child care and development services; 2) incorporate a definition in the Ordinance; or 3) include a definition in supporting documents.

County of Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable for Child Care  
Joint Committee on Legislation

LEGISLATION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE - 2013

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
<b>California Assembly Bills</b>								
Watch	AB 41 (Buchanan)	Expresses legislative intent to enact legislation to create the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014, if approved by the voters, as a state general obligation bond act that would provide funds to construct and modernize education facilities.						Introduced: 12/7/12
	AB 260 (Gordon)	Authorizes County of San Mateo and City and County of San Francisco to make permanent individualized county subsidy plans developed as pilot projects and due to sunset July 1, 2014.		Ellen Hou 916.319.2024				Introduced: 2/7/13 Committee on Human Services Hearing: 4/2/13
Spot bill 1	AB 273 (Rendon)	States intent of Legislature to enact legislation that would redesign general child care and development programs for infants and toddlers to allow for the combination of child care and development services with home visitation services and would rename these programs the California Early Head Start Program.	Preschool California, California Child Development Administrators Association, ZERO TO THREE	Stacy Reardon 9163192063				Introduced: 2/7/13
Spot bill 1	AB 274 (Bonilla)	Expresses legislative intent to enact legislation that would simplify documentation that child care providers are required to submit to Alternative Payment (AP) Programs, authorize AP Programs to use technology to maximize service to clients and increase efficiency, and request Controller to pay child care contractors via direct deposit with electronic funds transfer.		Katie McCoy 916.319.2014				Introduced: 2/11/13

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
2	AB 290 (Alejo)	Would require director or teacher of child development center or family child care home to receive at least one hour of childhood nutrition training as part of the preventive health practices course(s). Content to include age-appropriate meal patterns based on the most current Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Training also to include information about eligibility, enrollment, and reimbursement for participating in the US Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program. Would become effective for licenses issued on or after 1/1/2015.	California Food Policy Advocates	Erika Bustamante 916.319.2030				Introduced: 2/11/13 Committee on Human Services Hearing: 4/2/13
1	AB 364 (Calderon)	Would require the CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct unannounced visits to licensed community care facilities no less than once every two years (an increase from the current once every five years).		Courtney Jensen 916.319.2057				Introduced: 2/14/13 Committee on Human Services Hearing: 4/2/13
Spot bill	AB 391 (Wieckowski)	Would make technical, non-substantive changes to the law regarding denying, suspending or revoking a license.		Dharia McGrew 916.319.2025				Introduced: 2/15/13
3	AB 547 (Salas)	Would add career exploration to list of possible activities that may satisfy the academic assistance element of the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Community High School After School and Enrichment for Teens program. The strength of this element would be amongst criteria for selecting participating grantees.	California Department of Education	Marisol Jimenez 916.319.2032				Introduced: 2/20/13 Committee on Education

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
3	AB 626 (Skinner & Lowenthal)	Would require After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs meals as well as snacks served to students conform to specified nutrition standards. Would allow food service expenses to be charged directly to the cafeteria account funds. Would specify food and beverages that may be sold to pupils before and after school.	California Department of Education	Tony Bui 916.319.2015				Introduced: 2/20/13 Committee on Education
1	AB 641 (Rendon)	Would enact legislation granting family child care providers the right to choose a representative to negotiate collectively with the state over the operation of the child care subsidy system.	SEIU, AFSCME	Bill Wong 916.319.2063				Introduced: 2/20/13
Watch	AB 646 (Cooley)	Would express intent of Legislature to affirm the employer-education partnership model of a regional P-20 council as a desired structure in CA to help align preschool, K-12, community college, 4-year college, and graduate and professional education programs and funding to advance strategic educational and economic outcomes.		Brendan Repicky 916.319.2008				Introduced: 2/21/13 Committee on Education
1	AB 812 (Mitchell)	Would amend existing sections of the Education Code relating to contracts between the California Department of Education (CDE) and its contractors for child care and development services. Amendments would strengthen the regulations regarding termination and suspension and appeals.	California Department of Education	Elise Gyore 916.319.2054				Introduced: 2/21/13 Committee on Human Services

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
3	AB 1016 (Quirk-Silva)	Would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to issue a foreign language teaching credential for the sole purpose of providing foreign language instruction as part of an after school program voluntarily maintained by the school district. Would allow a high school pupil to demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English, for purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy award, by successfully completing four years of foreign language instruction from the credentialed person as part of the after school program.		Gina Frisby 916.319.2065				Introduced: 2/22/13 Committee on Education
1	AB 1152 (Ammiano)	Would exempt the California School Age Families Education Program (Cal-SAFE) from any new education financing proposal that would eliminate categorical education programs beginning with the 2013-14 fiscal year and all subsequent fiscal years. Funding from school districts, charter schools and county offices of education selecting not to maintain or re-establish Cal-SAFE programs shall be restricted to expanding existing or establishing new Cal-SAFE programs.	California Child Development Administrators Association	Wendy Hill 916.319.2017				Introduced: 2/22/13 Committee on Education

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
3	AB 1178 (Bocanegra)	Would establish the CA Promise Neighborhood Initiative to develop a system of 40 CA promise neighborhoods throughout the state to support children's development from cradle to career. Would specify services to be provided to the participating neighborhoods. CDE to designate 40 CA promise neighborhoods by January 1, 2016, selecting from applications that meet eligibility criteria and demonstrate that they will create a comprehensive, integrated continuum of solutions for community revitalization.						Introduced: 2/22/13 Committee on Education
1	AB 1187 (Mansoor)	Would require the CDSS to amend its foster care state plan to authorize the use of designated state child care and development funds administered by the CDE and ASES funds, in addition to county funds, as the nonfederal match for specified child care for children receiving child protective services, foster children, and children at risk of abuse and neglect.		Saulo Londono	916.319.2074			Introduced: 2/22/13 Committee on Human Services
Watch	ACA 2 (Nestande & Olsen)	Assembly Constitutional Amendment resolution pertaining to the required apportionments of state aid to school districts, county offices of education, charter schools, and community college districts.						Introduced: 12/18/12
<b>California Senate Bills</b>								
Spot bill	SB 154 (Berryhill)	Would make technical, non-substantive changes to the law regarding licensing of community care facilities.						Introduced: 1/31/13 Committee on Rules

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
1	SB 192 (Liu)	Would amend existing law by declaring that all children have access to high quality early learning and education support programs. Would require child care resource and referral (R&Rs) agencies to inform parents determined eligible for and receiving services through the AP Program and CalWORKs Stages 2 and 3 Child Care about the available types of care that offer safe, caring and age appropriate early learning and school support environments for children as well as environments that support parents' work activities. Would require the CDE to develop and certify a list of high quality early learning and school support resources to provide parents with information about high quality options, including information on quality rating and improvement systems, to be posted and maintained on their website; R&Rs may refer to postings on the website as resource for informing parents of their choices.	California Department of Education	Darcel Sanders 916.651.4025				Introduced: 2/7/13 Committee on Human Services  Committee on Education
Watch	SB 301 (Liu)	Expresses intent of Legislature to enact legislation that would create the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2014 to authorize an unspecified sum of state general obligation funds to provide aid to school districts, county superintendents of schools, community colleges, the University of California, the Hastings School of Law, and the California State University to construct and modernize education facilities.						Introduced: 2/15/13 Committee on Rules

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
3	SB 443 (Walters)	Would include "organized resident camp" and "organized day camp" within the definition of "organized camp". Would require the camps to provide written verification of accreditation by the American Camp Association or the Boy Scouts of America or develop a written operating plan and file the plan with the local health officer at least 30 days prior to operation of the camp. Would require camps to have adequate staff to operate the program including a qualified program director present during operating hours of the camp.		Stacy Cervenka 916.651.4037				Introduced: 2/21/13 Committee on Health
1	SB 464 (Jackson)	Would enact the Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Act and add it to the Child Care and Development Services Act. Would establish nutrition and physical activity standards for early childhood education, infant, and after school programs. Would express legislative intent to encourage all child care providers to implement educational programs that provide parents with physical activity and nutritional information relevant to the health of their children.	YMCA	Concepcion Tadeo 916.651.4019				Introduced: 2/21/13 Committee on Education Committee on Human Services

Level of Interest	Bill Number (Author)	Brief Description	Sponsor	Contact	County Position	Support	Oppose	Status (As of 3/12/13)
1	SB 528 (Yee)	Would give priority for subsidized child care and development services to minor and non-minor dependent parents who have not completed high school and require child welfare agencies, local education agencies, and child care resource and referral agencies help the minors access the services. Additional provisions proposed in the bill would ensure that 1) minors understand their rights to reproductive health care, 2) data is collected on pregnant and parenting minor and non-minor dependents and their children, and 3) minor and non-minor dependent parents have access to social workers or resource specialists trained in their needs and the available resources and that case plans are developed and updated through a team decision making process.	Children's Law Center of California, The John Burton Foundation, Public Counsel, Alliance for Children's Rights.					Introduced: 2/21/13 Committee on Human Services Hearing: 4/9/13
Watch	SCA 3 (Leno)	Constitutional amendment that would allow a school district, community college district or county office of education, to impose, extend or increase a parcel tax upon approval of 55% of voters voting on the proposition. Currently, approval of 2/3 of the voters is required.						Introduced: 12/3/12 Committee on Government and Finance  Committee on Education
<b>California Budget Bills (including Trailer Bills)</b>								
	AB 73 (Blumenfield)	2013-14 Budget						Introduced: 1/10/13
	AB 74-113 (Committee on Budget)	Budget Act of 2013 spot bills – pending content						Introduced: 1/10/13
	SB 65 (Leno)	2013-14 Budget						Introduced: 1/10/13
	SB 66-105 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review)	Budget Act of 2013 spot bills – pending content						Introduced: 1/10/13

To obtain additional information about any State legislation, go to [www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.htm](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.htm); for Federal legislation, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov>. To access budget hearings on line, go to [www.calchannel.com](http://www.calchannel.com) and click on appropriate link at right under "Live Webcast". For questions or comments regarding this document, contact Michele Sartell, staff with the Office of Child Care, by e-mail at [msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:msartell@ceo.lacounty.gov) or call (213) 974-5187.

**KEY TO LEVEL OF INTEREST ON BILLS:**

- 1: Of potentially high interest to the Child Care Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable for Child Care.
- 2: Of moderate interest.
- 3: Of relatively low interest.
- Watch: Of interest, however level of interest may change based on further information regarding author's or sponsor's intent and/or future amendments.

\*\* Levels of interest are assigned by the Joint Committee on Legislation based on consistency with Policy Platform accepted by the Child Care Planning Committee and Policy Roundtable for Child Care and consistent with County Legislative Policy for the current year. Levels of interest *do not* indicate a pursuit of position. Joint Committee will continue to monitor all listed bills as proceed through legislative process. Levels of interest may change based on future amendments.

**KEY:**

ACLU	American Civil Liberties Union	CCALA	Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
AFSCME:	American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	CTC	Commission on Teacher Credentialing
CAPPA	California Alternative Payment Program Association	CWDA	County Welfare Directors' Association
CAEYC	California Association for the Education of Young Children	DDS	Department of Developmental Services
CAFB	California Association of Food Banks	DHS	Department of Health Services
CCCCA	California Child Care Coordinators Association	DMH	Department of Mental Health
CCRRN	California Child Care Resource and Referral Network	First 5	First 5 Commission of California
CCDAA:	California Child Development Administrators Association	HHSA	Health and Human Services Agency
CDA	California Dental Association	LCC	League of California Cities
CDE	California Department of Education	LAC CPSS	Los Angeles County Commission for Public Social Services
CDSS	California Department of Social Services	LACOE	Los Angeles County Office of Education
CFT	California Federation of Teachers	LAUSD	Los Angeles Unified School District
CHAC	California Hunger Action Coalition	MALDEF	Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
CIWC	California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative	NASW	National Association of Social Workers
CSAC	California School-Age Consortium	NCYL	National Center for Youth Law
CSAC	California State Association of Counties	PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
CTA	California Teachers Association	SEIU	Service Employees International Union
CCLC	Child Care Law Center	TCI	The Children's Initiative
CDPI	Child Development Policy Institute	US DHHS	US Department of Health and Human Services

**DEFINITIONS:<sup>1</sup>**

Committee on Rules	Bills are assigned to a Committee for hearing from here.
First Reading	Each bill introduced must be read three times before final passage. The first reading of a bill occurs when it is introduced.
Held in Committee	Status of a bill that fails to receive sufficient affirmative votes to pass out of committee.
Inactive File	The portion of the Daily File containing legislation that is ready for floor consideration, but, for a variety of reasons, is dead or dormant. An author may move a bill to the inactive file, and move it off the inactive file at a later date. During the final weeks of the legislative session, measures may be moved there by the leadership as a method of encouraging authors to take up their bills promptly.
On File	A bill on the second or third reading file of the Assembly or Senate Daily File.
Second Reading	Each bill introduced must be read three times before final passage. Second reading occurs after a bill has been reported to the floor from committee.
Spot Bill	A bill that proposes nonsubstantive amendments to a code section in a particular subject; introduced to assure that a bill will be available, subsequent to the deadline to introduce bills, for revision by amendments that are germane to the subject of the bill.
Third Reading	Each bill introduced must be read three times before final passage. Third reading occurs when the measure is about to be taken up on the floor of either house for final passage.
Third Reading Analysis	A summary of a measure that is ready for floor consideration. Describes most recent amendments and contains information regarding how Members voted on the measure when it was heard in committee. Senate floor analyses also list support or opposition by interest groups and government agencies.
Third Reading File	That portion of the Daily File listing the bills that is ready to be taken up for final passage.
Urgency Measure	A bill affecting the public peace, health, or safety, containing an urgency clause, and requiring a two-thirds vote for passage. An urgency bill becomes effective immediately upon enactment.
Urgency Clause	Section of bill stating that bill will take effect immediately upon enactment. A vote on the urgency clause, requiring a two-thirds vote in each house, must precede a vote on bill.
Enrollment	Bill has passed both Houses, House of origin has concurred with amendments (as needed), and bill is now on its way to the Governor's desk.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions are taken from the official site for California legislative information, Your Legislature, Glossary of Legislative Terms at [www.leginfo.ca.gov/guide.html#Appendix\\_B](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/guide.html#Appendix_B).

## STATE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR 2013 (Tentative)

Dec. 03, 2012	2013-14 Organizational Floor Sessions
Jan. 1, 2013	Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
Jan. 7, 2013	Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51(a)(1)).
Jan. 10, 2013	Budget Bill must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
Jan. 21, 2013	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed.
Jan. 25, 2013	Last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
Feb. 18, 2013	Presidents' Day observed.
Feb. 22, 2013	Last day for bills to be introduced (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a)).
Mar. 21, 2013	Spring Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
Mar. 29, 2013	Cesar Chavez Day observed.
Apr. 1, 2013	Legislature reconvenes from Spring Recess (J.R. 51(a)(2)).
May 3, 2013	Last day for policy committees to meet and report to fiscal committees fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(2)).
May. 10, 2013	Last day for policy committees to meet and report to the floor nonfiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(3)).
May. 17, 2013	Last day for policy committees to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(4)).
May. 24, 2013	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(a)(5)). Last day for fiscal committees to meet prior to June 3 (J.R. 61(a)(6)).
May. 27, 2013	Memorial Day observed.
May. 28 - 31, 2013	Floor session only. No committee may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(7)). This deadline APPLIES TO ALL bills, constitutional amendments and bills which would go into immediate effect pursuant to Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c); J.R. 61(i)).
May 31, 2013	Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(a)(8)).
Jun. 3, 2013	Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(a)(9)).
Jun. 15, 2013	Budget Bill must be passed by midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).
Jul. 4, 2013	Independence Day observed.
Jul. 12, 2013	Last day for policy committees to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(10)). Summer recess begins at the end of this day's session, provided the Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(a)(3)).
Aug. 5, 2013	Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess (J.R. 51(a)(3)).
Aug. 30, 2013	Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(a)(11)).
Sep. 2, 2013	Labor Day observed.
Sep. 3 - 13, 2013	Floor session only. No committees, other than conference committees and Rules Committee, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(a)(12)). This deadline APPLIES TO ALL bills, constitutional amendments and bills which would go into immediate effect pursuant to Section 8 of Article IV of the Constitution (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c); J.R. 61(i)).
Sep. 6, 2013	Last day to amend bills on the floor (J.R. 61(a)(13)).
Sep. 13, 2013	Last day for any bill to be passed (J.R. 61(a)(14)). Interim Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
Oct. 13, 2013	Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature on or before Sept. 13 and in the Governor's possession after Sept. 13 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(1)).

## 2014

Jan. 1	Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
Jan. 6	Legislature reconvenes (J.R. 51 (a)(4)).

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Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority  
County of Los Angeles  
City of Los Angeles

## Family Solution Centers

March 13, 2013

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### OVERVIEW

- Family Solution Centers (FSCs) were established in collaboration with LAHSA, the County and City of Los Angeles.
- FSCs provide a coordinated regional system designed to quickly and efficiently link homeless families to needed resources within their own communities.
- FSCs will assess and triage homeless families and provide linkage to housing, supportive services and financial assistance.

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### OVERVIEW

- FSCs will utilize standardized assessments to create increased efficiencies within homeless systems.
- The ultimate goal of the FSCs is to divert families from homelessness (including Skid Row) and rapidly re-house them within their community of choice.
- FSCs will focus on engaging and/or re-engaging families with community services, schools, social networks, etc.

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### FUNDING COMPONENTS

- FSCs are funded by leveraging multiple resources:
  - L.A. County and City of Los Angeles ESG funding
  - Homeless Prevention Initiative
  - Cities of Compton and El Monte
  - Supervisorial District 2

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### FSC CORE SERVICES

- Standardized Housing and Supportive Services Assessment
- Development of Housing and Supportive Services Plan
- Diversion Services and Rapid Re-Housing
- Interim and Permanent Supportive Housing

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### FSC CORE SERVICES

- Collocated DPSS staff at 4 FSC sites
- Supportive Services and Linkages
- Information and Referral
- Financial Assistance (*Move-In, Rental Assistance, etc.*)

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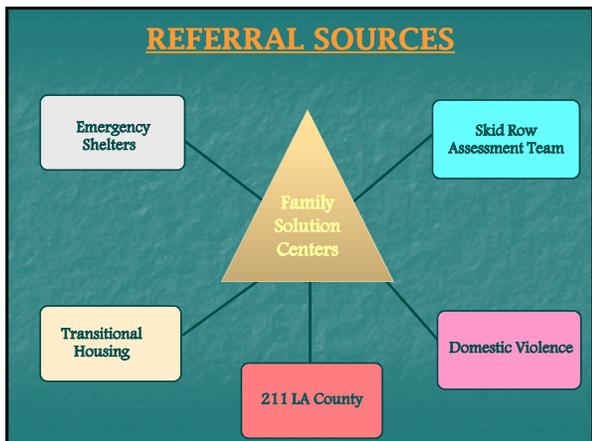
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### FSC PROVIDERS

FSC Provider	Service Planning Area	City
Valley Oasis	1	Lancaster
LA Family Housing	2	North Hollywood
Union Station Homeless Services	3	Monrovia
Volunteers of America – Los Angeles	3	El Monte
Volunteers of America – Los Angeles	3	Pomona
Volunteers of America – Los Angeles	3	West Covina
Beyond Shelter	4	Los Angeles
St. Joseph Center	5	Venice
Weingart Center	6	Los Angeles

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

January 2013

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing you today to stress the importance of providing early care and education (ECE) services to homeless children. Ensuring the well-being of our youngest children is essential to the work of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and is especially urgent when considering the vulnerability of young children experiencing homelessness.

In the United States, more than 1.6 million children, many under the age of six, live on the streets, in homeless shelters, in campgrounds, temporarily doubled up with others, or are otherwise without a stable home. A family's housing circumstances can change very suddenly as evidenced when natural disasters cause families to be at least temporarily homeless. Research shows that children who experience homelessness also experience higher rates of chronic illness, developmental delays, anxiety and depression than children who live in stable homes.

However, the numbers only tell part of the story. You have no doubt met families experiencing homelessness and understand the extent of the challenges these families face on a daily basis. Given what we know about the positive impact of a quality early care and education experience on both family stability and on a child's long-term health and development, it is critical that we prioritize this vulnerable population and reduce barriers to ensure they have access to available services. Additionally, given their unstable housing situations, it is also particularly important that homeless children have as much continuity and stability in their ECE settings as possible.

Whether you are in a Head Start program, administer the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), or work in another program that receives ACF funds, please reexamine how your programs are administered. Take a look at the ways you are already identifying and serving homeless children and identify additional strategies to do so. Through our training and technical assistance programs, we stand ready to help you provide homeless children with more quality experiences in ECE.

To help, listed below are recommendations, some of which are required for Head Start, for increasing ECE services for homeless children:

- **Prioritize Access to Services for Homeless Families:** When deciding eligibility for enrollment in your ECE programs, give homeless families priority status. Head Start already has a requirement to prioritize homeless families, and while this is not a federal requirement for CCDF, we strongly encourage States to use their flexibility to prioritize homeless families.
- **Have Policies in Place for Families who are Temporarily Homeless after a Disaster:** Policies and procedures should ensure that these families have streamlined access to services that are essential to recovery in an emergency situation. For Head Start, any age-eligible child from a family that has had to abandon their home because of a disaster, such as from a hurricane, is considered homeless. In CCDF, each State has the flexibility to prioritize families made homeless by a disaster and to provide flexibility around necessary documentation.

- **Offer Flexibility to Homeless Families:** Examine the documentation required to enroll in an ECE program and, where appropriate, provide “grace periods” that give families sufficient opportunity to gather the required documentation, such as for immunization, within a reasonable time frame.
- **Coordinate with Homeless Education State Coordinators and Local Liaisons:** Per the McKinney-Vento Act, each State Educational Agency (SEA) designates a State Coordinator of Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY State Coordinators) and local liaisons are designated by all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in the State. Programs should work with these State Coordinators and local liaisons to reach out to homeless children and families and connect them to the available ECE resources as well as health and social services.
- **Work with Homeless Coalitions:** The ECE community should participate on homeless coalitions which bring together homeless programs with other community organizations. The purpose of these coalitions is to ensure that services available to homeless families (particularly support services beyond housing) reflect the needs of the community. ECE participation on these coalitions will ensure that the unique needs of young children are well represented.
- **Coordinate between Head Start and CCDF Policies:** Given the significant overlap between Head Start and CCDF children, many states consider it effective policy to align the regulations between the two programs to ensure that services to these vulnerable families are delivered in a consistent and family-friendly manner. While Head Start and CCDF are administered differently and have different requirements, the goals are the same: provide quality early care and education for all children. Therefore, to the extent possible, we encourage states to align policies to increase the opportunities for all homeless children to receive high quality ECE.

We have attached to this letter some materials to help you increase and improve ECE services for homeless children. They include fact sheets on: strategies/action steps, resources and relevant Head Start and CCDF laws, regulations, and policies.

The well-being of our youngest children is essential, not only for the development of the child and the stability of the family, but for the ongoing success of our nation. We thank you for your tireless efforts to serve our most vulnerable children and stand committed to supporting your work to further ensure that young homeless children and families have access to high-quality early care and education services.

Sincerely,

/Linda K. Smith/  
Deputy Assistant Secretary and Interdepartmental Liaison for Early Childhood Education  
Administration for Children & Families

/Shannon L. Rudisill/  
Director, Office of Child Care  
Administration for Children & Families

/Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes/  
Director, Office of Head Start  
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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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### ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600

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### Policies and Procedures to Increase Access to ECE Services for Homeless Children & Families

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Early care and education (ECE) programs provide tremendous benefit to all children, especially our nation's most vulnerable children. Children and their families who experience homelessness deal with a great many challenges. Quality ECE programs buffer the challenges and risks associated with homelessness by supporting children's learning and development in safe, stable and nurturing environments.

Strategies for improving services for young children experiencing homelessness will vary because each of the different funding streams for early childhood education is governed by different laws and regulations. Two of the major federal programs serving young children, Head Start and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), are administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

This document describes policies and related suggestions for how states and programs can serve homeless children and families through these programs. Some of these ideas are relevant to the administration of both Head Start and CCDF while others are requirements or recommendations specific to each program. We encourage you to take these into consideration as you evaluate your existing policies and procedures.

- **Prioritize Access to Services for Homeless Families:** When deciding eligibility for enrollment in your ECE programs, give homeless families priority status so that homeless children are more likely to receive ECE services. Head Start already has a requirement to prioritize homeless families. While CCDF does not have a similar provision in its regulations, CCDF programs have the flexibility to broaden their eligibility policies to include homeless children and families and are encouraged to do so.
- **Prioritize Families Who Are Temporarily Homeless after a Disaster:** Policies and procedures should ensure that these families have streamlined access to services that are essential to recovery in an emergency situation. For Head Start, any age-eligible child from a family that has had to abandon their home because of a disaster's effects is considered homeless. The Head Start definition of homeless includes families with loss of housing, living in emergency shelters, or residing with friends or relatives. In the case of disaster and emergency situations, Head Start allows a family that does not have the documentation ordinarily required for new enrollments to provide a signed statement attesting to the child's age, which should be included in the child's file. In CCDF, each State has the flexibility to prioritize families made homeless by a disaster and to provide flexibility around necessary documentation.
- **Coordinate Head Start and CCDF Policies:** While Head Start and CCDF are administered differently and have different requirements, they share an important common goal: providing quality early care and education for all children. Given the significant overlap between Head Start and CCDF children, many states have effectively aligned the regulations between the two programs to ensure that services to these vulnerable families are consistent and family-friendly.

Therefore, states are encouraged to design policies and procedures that work for both programs to increase the opportunities for all homeless children to receive high quality ECE.

- **Offer Flexibility to Homeless Families:** Examine the documentation required to enroll in an ECE program and, where appropriate, provide “grace periods” that give families sufficient opportunity to gather required documents, such as proof of income or other financial statements, within a reasonable time frame.
- **Provide Reasonable Flexibility in Meeting Immunization Requirements:** In some States, child care licensing regulations require immunization records prior to enrollment. Current CCDF regulations require Lead Agencies to “establish a grace period in which children can receive services while families are taking the necessary actions to comply with the immunization requirements” unless doing so conflicts with existing state or local law. Currently nearly two-thirds of States either offer some form of grace period in their licensing regulations or flexibility for documenting immunization in their child care subsidy intake process. In cases where state licensing standards do not provide a grace period, there can be a conflict in allowing flexibility to serve homeless children. Head Start allows families of homeless children to benefit from Head Start services while required documents, such as immunization, are obtained within a reasonable time frame. In order to comply with the Head Start requirement of removing barriers to serving homeless children and to also meet state licensing requirements, this means providing Head Start services to children in a mutually agreed upon setting until the child has the documents required to attend a center-based program.

Given the overlap between Head Start and CCDF families, ACF encourages Lead Agencies to work with their child care licensing agency to align policies and establish a grace period for the immunization requirement. We also strongly encourage programs to work closely with families to help them collect the appropriate documentation within a reasonable time frame. While ACF wants to reduce barriers to access, this should be done responsibly to ensure the health and safety of children in Head Start and child care settings.

- **Coordinate with McKinney-Vento State Coordinators for Education of Homeless Children and Youth and Local Education Liaisons:** Per the McKinney-Vento Act, there are State Coordinators of Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY State Coordinators) and local liaisons designated by all Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) in the State. Local liaisons identify homeless children and youth, and connect them to other programs and services such as Head Start, preschool, health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services. CCDF Lead Agencies and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies are encouraged to work with these State Coordinators and local liaisons to ensure that they have information on the full range of child care services available for families. The Head Start Act requires grantees to coordinate with McKinney Vento local liaisons to remove barriers and increase participation of homeless children in the Head Start program. While the McKinney-Vento Act only requires State Educational Agencies (SEAs) and LEAs to provide services to homeless children who are in programs administered by the SEAs or LEAs, the states are free to expand that coverage for all homeless children birth to five years old. For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Education’s Education for Homeless Children and Youth Grants for State and Local Activities website (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/contacts.html>), which provides links to regulations, policy guidance, FAQs, and a directory of State Coordinators for the Education of Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness.

- **Work with Homeless Coalitions:** The ECE community should participate on homeless coalitions which bring together homeless programs with other community organizations. The purpose of these coalitions is to ensure that services available to homeless families (particularly support services beyond housing) reflect the needs of the community. By participating on these coalitions, ECE representatives can ensure that the unique needs of young children are well represented.

#### **POLICIES SPECIFIC TO HEAD START**

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- **Prioritize Homeless Children for Enrollment:** The Head Start Act requires that programs assess community needs so they prioritize the highest need children for enrollment. Homeless children have unique and critical needs and are categorically eligible. This means that families experiencing homelessness should be enrolled regardless of income and that programs should make every effort to identify and enroll these children.
- **Allow Homeless Families to Enroll and Receive Services While Waiting for Documentation:** Head Start programs should enroll homeless children and provide Head Start services to the extent possible while waiting for documentation. Programs are encouraged to provide services in a mutually agreed upon location while waiting for documentation that will allow the child to attend a center-based program.
- **Foster Collaboration between Head Start State Collaboration Directors, State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care and McKinney-Vento State Coordinators:** To benefit Head Start programs, these entities should support local collaboration to ensure access to services for homeless children. Head Start programs are required to coordinate and work closely with community organizations and particularly the groups mentioned above to ensure that the needs of the community are being met. These organizations can help Head Start programs identify homeless children, and learn best practices and strategies for working with homeless families and children.
- **Partner with Neighboring Grantees to Serve Mobile Homeless Families:** Grantees can establish informal or formal agreements in working with other grantees to serve highly mobile families that are moving into new program service areas.
- **Utilize Program Options that Best Fit Community Needs:** Programs can consider program options that are the best fit for families in communities with high concentrations of families and young children experiencing homelessness. In such communities, full-day, full-year, center-based services in communities may be the best program option.

#### **POLICIES SPECIFIC TO THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) provides states with the flexibility to develop policies that increase access to services for the homeless population. Each state or territory has a Lead Agency that administers CCDF. This list of policy options includes:

- **Offer Priority Eligibility for Homeless Children:** Within current CCDF regulations, States and Territories can establish additional eligibility conditions or priority rules as a method of targeting their programs, as long as federal eligibility criteria are met and the additional conditions or rules

do not discriminate, or limit parental rights. By using the flexibility to define priority categories and vulnerable populations, Lead Agencies can offer priority access to homeless children and in some instances, waive the eligibility requirement for income and the requirement that the parent be working or attending a job training or educational program. Lead Agencies should contact the OCC policy division to learn more about available options for expanding eligibility.

- **Exempt Housing Assistance from Countable Income:** States/Territories have the flexibility to exclude the value of housing assistance when determining income eligibility for CCDF. This means that homeless families do not have to worry about losing their child care subsidy if they accept housing assistance.
- **Waive Co-payments for Low-Income Families:** States have the flexibility to waive co-payments for families if they are living below the poverty line. This provision would eliminate the financial contribution usually required for accessing a child care subsidy. States also have the flexibility to target this policy to a subset of families living in poverty, such as homeless families.
- **Expand the Definition of Working to Include Job Search:** Lead Agencies have flexibility to include “job search activities” in their definition of “work, job training and education activities” that are supported by child care subsidies. Retention of eligibility during a job search can alleviate some of the stress on families, and offer additional stability to homeless families with parents that are looking for both employment and housing. Currently almost two-thirds of all states and territories have adopted this policy.
- **Leverage Job Training in Other Federal Programs:** Many programs that serve the homeless population include job training services (e.g. Supportive Housing Program (HUD), Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals Program (HHS)). Job training is considered a qualifying activity for CCDF eligibility (provided they meet other eligibility criteria). Programs serving homeless families that include a job training component should inform these families that they may be eligible for a child care subsidy. Lead Agencies should coordinate with homeless service providers so that if families are actively pursuing the self-sufficiency activities outlined in those plans, those activities will count as working or job search for CCDF eligibility. If service providers and benefit programs do not coordinate, homeless families can be faced with multiple service plans with which they need to comply to maintain their services and benefits. Failure to coordinate could create a situation where the family is overwhelmed by uncoordinated goals and obligations. By working with homeless agencies to allow some or all of the family’s activities to count for CCDF eligibility, child care subsidy programs can create a more seamless path back to a stable work and living situation for families.
- **Use Grants and Contracts to Build Supply of Child Care for Vulnerable Populations:** Grants and contracts can play an important role in increasing the capacity and provide greater financial stability for providers working with underserved populations. Currently, 21 states use grants or contracts to provide direct child care services. Some already use this strategy to work directly with organizations that serve homeless families and other vulnerable populations to ensure the supply and availability of child care services for the neediest children and families. Since grants and contracts allow Lead Agencies to develop stable partnerships with organizations and build targeted capacity, Lead Agencies are strongly encouraged to use this as a strategy for better serving families experiencing homelessness.



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### Strategies for Increasing ECE Services for Homeless Children

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A variety of federal laws and policies impact the ability of homeless families to access early care and education programs. Service providers and advocates at the state and local level can better coordinate existing policies, reaching across programs to ensure that young homeless children are served in America's early care and education (ECE) programs.

**At the State level**, collaboration and coordination amongst Head Start Collaboration Directors, State Child Care Administrators, State Homeless Education Coordinators, State Advisory Councils on Early Childhood Education and Care and statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies can help to ensure that young children experiencing homelessness are accessing quality early childhood programs.

**At the local level**, many partners play a role in supporting young homeless children. These collaborations and individual partnerships within these networks can expand an agency's capacity to meet the needs of families and children experiencing homelessness. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Local early intervention or early learning councils;
- Local educational agencies/school districts/local homeless liaisons;
- Head Start and Early Head Start programs;
- Local child care providers;
- HUD Continuums of Care;
- Domestic violence shelters;
- Homeless coalitions; and
- Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

**Reaching the homeless community** requires positive, respectful, and goal-oriented relationships by staff and providers with families experiencing homelessness, both at intake and throughout participation in early childhood programs. Listed below are additional strategies for improving access and services to ECE programs for families experiencing homelessness.

- Provide ongoing training for staff related to serving families experiencing homelessness.
- Serve on task forces or coalitions on homelessness in your community. ECE programs are important voices to have at the table for strategic planning to address the needs of homeless families and children. Your community assessment data can play a vital role in strategic planning with partnering agencies and local homeless coalitions.
- Work with families and local health programs to acquire medical records and to ensure that children receive appropriate immunizations, health, medical, and dental services.
- Identify potential resources for providing transportation to ECE programs for homeless children.

- **Contact your homeless education State Coordinator or local liaison** and establish routine communication to coordinate services for young children, wherever possible. State Coordinators (for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program) and Local Educational Agency homeless liaisons help support the educational rights of homeless children as part of the implementation of the McKinney-Vento Act. These State Coordinators and local liaisons are key partners in building effective services for families experiencing homelessness.
- **Think broadly about community partnerships** that may be supportive to helping homeless families:
  - Local Housing Authority will have information on public housing and housing vouchers to assist with rent;
  - Civic and faith-based organizations and local businesses may provide volunteers to help renovate family housing and facilities or can donate clothing, toys, food, and furniture; and
  - Free household items may be available through various internet resources.
- **Consider innovative program and policy solutions.** For example, innovative program options for Head Start and child care include adjusted hours, home-based, center based combinations, and mobile programs. Innovative human resource approaches include specialized staffing patterns and mental health consultation enhancements that support homeless families. Health and school readiness strategies can offer innovative solutions to serving this highly-mobile population, including the use of portable child and family files that families can take with them for sudden moves.
- **Facilitate a smooth transition for highly mobile children and families** by considering placement with another Head Start grantee or other early education provider, or continuing to serve the child/family for the remainder of the program year with an ongoing transition plan.



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### Early Childhood and Family Homelessness Resource List

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#### 2013 ACF LETTER ON INCREASING ECE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The purpose of this letter is to reinforce the importance of access to quality early childhood services for young homeless children and their families. The letter and the accompanying materials clarify policy options for State Administrators of Child Care and Head Start Directors in order to ensure that more young children and their families are served in child care and Head Start programs.<sup>1</sup> ([ACF Letter](#))

#### HEAD START INTERACTIVE HOMELESSNESS LESSONS

These lessons on homelessness will give Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant and Seasonal programs information about serving families who are experiencing homelessness.<sup>2</sup> The lessons will help programs to better understand eligibility and enrollment requirements. The lessons provide useful information for all early childhood providers in terms of pinpointing outreach and identification strategies, evaluating positive options for working with families, and identifying ways to work with community partners. (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>)

#### HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

In addition to providing direct services to homeless children and families, Horizons for Homeless provides training and technical assistance to providers of homeless services, early care and education services, teachers, Early Intervention specialists, social workers, homeless education liaisons and others who work with young homeless children and their families. (<http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/>)

#### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (NAEHCY)

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is an organization dedicated to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. NAEHCY accomplishes this through advocacy, partnerships, and education. (<http://www.naehcy.org/>)

#### THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION (NCHE)

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Center serves as a clearinghouse of information for people

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<sup>1</sup> Issued: January 2013 - Prepared by the ACF Early Childhood Office, Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start [<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/expanding-early-care-and-education-for-homeless-children>]

<sup>2</sup> <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Crisis%20Support/Homelessness/homelessness.html>

seeking to remove or overcome educational barriers and to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Center also supports educators and service providers through producing training and awareness materials and providing training. (<http://center.serve.org/nche/>)

#### NATIONAL CENTER ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

The National Center on Family Homelessness offers a training institute to improve the skills and knowledge of people working with families experiencing homelessness.<sup>3</sup> Online core curricula, distance learning courses and face-to-face instruction are all available on a variety of topics which can be viewed online. (<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/>)

#### NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

The mission of the Law Center is to prevent and end homelessness by serving as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to end homelessness. To achieve its mission, the organization pursues three main strategies: impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. (<http://www.nlchp.org/>)

#### U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness. (<http://www.usich.gov/>)

#### ZERO TO THREE

ZERO TO THREE has produced a short video with highlights from a recent Congressional briefing on supporting homeless infants and toddlers. *Starting Life Without a Home* calls attention to the negative effects of family homelessness upon the developmental needs of young children.<sup>4</sup> (<http://www.zerotothree.org/>)

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/training.php?p=sm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.zerotothree.org/public-policy/newsletters/spotlight-on-homeless.html>