



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council  
Public Policy Committee  
November 2, 2009  
MINUTES**

*“The Mission of the Public Policy Committee is to support the mission of the Planning Council by monitoring and developing early care and education legislation, policies and regulations that impact children, families and child care providers and recommending appropriate action to the Child Care Planning Council.”*

*Attendees:*

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jennifer Freitas | 4Cs                |
| Paul Miller      | Kidango, Chair     |
| Darlene Johnston | Little Mud Puddles |
| Robin Michel     | Steering Committee |
| Daryl Hanson     | YMCA               |
| Melinda Martin   | ACOE, Consultant   |

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Maria Gomez      | Family Day Care/Corps       |
| Grace Blivin     | “ “                         |
| Beverly Reliford | Family Day Care/CCPC member |

*Planning Council Staff:* Ellen Dektar

**I. Welcome/Introductions/Announcements**

There were no major announcements.

**II. Review and Discuss State and/or Federal Legislation or Budget (Including ELQIS and ELAC) with focus on criteria for lower tier grants for ELAC**

Materials were shared that outline criteria for the anticipated Early Learning Challenge Grants and Early Learning Advisory Committee (ELAC) and the relation to the state appointed Early Learning Quality Improvement System (ELQIS). The Child Care Law Center (CCLC) provided many of them. *The Committee members would like to be sent copies of CCLC’s ELAC recommendations.* It is rumored that the Governor’s ELAC appointee announcement is imminent.

The purpose of ELAC is to serve as an advisory committee to the Governor on the universe of early care and education programs and issues. It is not a legislative committee. It has numerous duties including: submit an application for ARRA Head Start funding, develop a statewide plan for maximizing federal dollars, make recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, state and local child care and ece programs and make recommendations for a statewide professional development and career plan for early childhood education and care. Since it is mandated to do needs assessments it’s noteworthy that Planning Councils are mandated to do needs assessments and are not represented on the Council, and neither are the R&R’s, which keep supply and demand data. Likewise, the community colleges are not represented to advise on the workforce training issues.

A state needs ELAC and ELQIS in place to receive a federal challenge grant. Some states have already developed this infrastructure. We need to closely monitor California’s development of these major new initiatives. ELQIS is being staffed by Department of Education and supported with Packard and First Five money. No appointees are direct child care providers.

So what do we do as a committee around these issues? *The Committee expressed interest in being represented at ELAC and ELQIS meetings. The ELQIS will meet December 2 and in 2010 meetings are scheduled for March 2, June 16<sup>th</sup>, August 3, November 3, and December 7.* At a minimum, the Public Policy Committee should regularly check in with CCPC members attending meetings. Darlene and Jennifer have been involved in



various ELQIS subcommittees. Paul raised questions regarding which provider groups ELQIS recommendations will apply to and whether a quality rating scale will be voluntary or mandatory. If the provider group ELQIS applies to hasn't been determined we are starting backwards to come up with criteria for quality. If quality ratings apply to family child care providers, perhaps tax breaks could be an incentive. It would take a year or longer to implement a ratings system.

There are ongoing questions such as how we can be effectively represented at ELQIS by volunteers and how the Planning Council coordinators will share their perspective. The whole Planning Council needs to understand the development and direction of these new structures because they may have a major impact on our field. It was suggested that we try to weave the CCPC quality statement into the learning process. *Paul, Melinda and Rory expressed interest in exploring development of a training opportunity for the Planning Council on these new initiatives. Maria Gomez expressed interest in designing a workshop or presentation.*

### III. Review and Approve December Advocacy Presentation and Format for Child Care Planning Council meeting

Ellen shared the presentation that she and Robin developed. Some revisions were made to the chart which outlines the CCPC legislative process.

*Jennifer, Robin, Ellen and- Judy should coordinate the December 4<sup>th</sup> advocacy presentation to the Child Care Planning Council. It should stress the importance of one on one advocacy, as well as group advocacy. We should also remind CCPC Steering Committee members about who appointed them to the Council in the event they want to do advocacy with those officials. Robin said the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) uses Facebook well and could serve as a good model for us. Committee members using Facebook should "sign CDF up as a friend."*

### IV. Propose, Discuss and Approve Draft Child Care Planning Council Legislative Platform for 2010

The Committee reviewed the past two years platforms and made revisions that were relevant to our work and the current political climate.. We want the platform to be broad enough to give the CCPC flexibility to quickly take positions on issues.

The Committee streamlined the 2009 platform to read as follows:

## Alameda County Child Care Planning Council Proposed 2010 Public Policy Platform<sup>1</sup>

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Alameda County Child Care Planning Council advises and makes recommendations to policymakers to ensure that all children and families have access to quality child care that educates children and enriches their lives.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: "child care" and "early care and education" both refer to care of infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children by a licensed or legally license-exempt child care provider while parents or other relative caregivers work or are engaged in work-related activities.



**THREE-YEAR GOALS 2007-2010 \*not in priority order\***

- Educate and advocate on policy issues and legislation that impact children, families and child care providers
- Retain and increase funding
- Support the child care community in meeting the needs of our diverse child and family populations
- Increase the awareness of the Child Care Planning Council

THE ALAMEDA COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL'S PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA  
2010-2011: APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL, DECEMBER 4, 2009

- 1) Support increased revenue-generating options and efficiency measures to close local, state, and federal budget shortfalls, including efforts to rescind the state's 2/3 vote requirement to pass a state of California budget and/or raise revenues.
- 2) Promote efforts to protect and increase local, state, and federal funding, and attain new resources for Early Care and Education (ECE) and ECE higher education. Examples are: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and CalWorks, Head Start, Early Head Start, Community Development Block Grant, Social Services Block Grant, First 5 local and state commissions, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Federal Early Learning Challenge Grants, and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- 3) Monitor and take positions on federal, state and local issues, legislation and initiatives that significantly impact **ECE quality, access and affordability**. Examples are Community Care Licensing, subsidized child care funding, local business planning, ECE professional development, facility financing, , public and private funding resources, community planning and regulations, and land use issues.

The Committee then discussed the benefits and disadvantages of this platform per our previously recommended policy.

Pro—The proposed platform has simplicity, clarity, and flexibility. It doesn't lock us in, covers all levels of government, these three issues could be distilled into a postcard or "elevator speech."

Con-- The Committee didn't see a downside to the platform; Ellen will discuss it with a couple members who were not present at the meeting. Simplicity is beauty. It took several years to distill it to get to this point.

**V. Discussion and Report (update) on March Legislator event**

Recent polls show that the public does not currently support repeal of the two-thirds vote requirement for state budgets. The Planning Council had wanted to focus on this issue in March. Members thought that the margin of public opposition is not so great that it could not be turned around by the right message. For instance, Superintendent O'Connell led efforts to lower the number of legislative votes needed for school bonds to 55 which shows that people can be supportive of a lower vote threshold for certain categories. *Jennifer will send the Committee a presentation she saw recently which demonstrates how if a message is crafted a certain way voters would support tax increases.* Melinda recommended the recent Chronicle Insight section on taxes and governance. Perhaps a theme of the breakfast could focus on "unintended consequences" of the restrictive 2/3rds vote requirement for budget passage."



Alameda County Child Care Planning Council  
Public Policy Committee  
November 2, 2009  
MINUTES

The breakfast will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Pleasanton Veteran's Hall. One goal is to get more influential people from East County involved in child care issues. To assemble the invitation list, we should ask for contact information from the resource and referral agencies and League of Women Voters via Beverly asking Suzanne Barba. Robin will help design the invitation. *Beverly will ask Suzanne for local officials contact information for a mailing list.* Becky and Darlene will plan catering. ACOE should be able to share email for all school board members. *We should brainstorm with people we are inviting so we see how to interest them in our agenda. Ellen said she would send Darlene last year's catering budget if it is still relevant.*

The group discussed the potential agenda:

- Present platform
- Highlight parent child care issues still, and link to 2/3 barrier in terms of continued success
- Use licensing as example as how baseline protection for kids has been destroyed:  
What used to be  
What is now: 300 cases each  
We're moving well and fast on quality issue in theory, but we have no foundation. The Governor would say they are trying to help licensing finance itself. In Arizona licensing fees were raised to \$1300 dollars and essentially everyone stopped getting licensed.
- 2/3 vote discussion.

**VI. Set Agenda for December, Adjourn**

In December we need to *elect new cochairs*, discuss the March event, discuss an ELQIS/ELAC training if one is not already planned and an ELQIS/ELAC update.

|  |
|--|
| Next Meeting: Monday, December 7, 2009 6:30-8:30pm <b>**Every Child Counts**</b> |
|--|



Alameda County Child Care Planning Council  
Public Policy Committee  
November 2, 2009

**MINUTES**

|   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Ongoing  | Public Policy Committee<br>(Jennifer Greppi-Freitas—lead)   | Monitor proposed State and Federal budget issues and make recommendations, when necessary, to the Steering Committee or Executive Committee for action.   |  |  |  |  |
| 2. At the September 18, 2009 Steering Committee meeting | Public Policy Committee<br>(Darlene Johnston-lead)  | Investigate the possibility of having two legislative breakfasts, one in North County and one in South County and make a recommendation to the Steering Committee for action.   |  |  |  |  |
| 5. By December 1, 2009                                  | Public Policy Committee<br>(Ellen Dektar-lead)  | Identify and present to the Steering Committee for direction ways to streamline the advocacy process, including exploration of potential uses of County lobbyist and individual agencies, and/or changing the approval processes. |  |  |  |  |
| 6. By December 1, 2009                                  | Public Policy Committee<br>(Darlene Johnston –lead)   | Plan (date, location, agenda) the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Staff Appreciation Breakfast in March 2010.  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. By December 1, 2009                                  | Moira Kenney and Robin Michel   | Facilitate a large group discussion at a general membership meeting to strengthen the internal understanding of the LPC's advocacy role.  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. At the December 4, 2009 Steering Committee meeting   | Public Policy Committee<br>(Darlene Johnston-lead), working with representatives and from centers and family child care | Identify and present to the Steering Committee for action one or more strategies to promote visibility of center and family child care to local legislators and their staffs.   |  |  |  |  |
| 3. By November 1, 2009                                  | Public Policy Committee<br>(Krishen Laetsch-lead)   | Coordinate and present a symposium for policymakers, providers and funders on funding early care and education programs in Alameda County.  |  |  |  |  |