



Action Items—September 18, 2015 ECEPC Meeting

Consent Calendar #1: Approve July 24, 2015 ECEPC Meeting Minutes and September 18, 2015 ECEPC Meeting Agenda

Consent Calendar #2: Approve Letter to Alameda County Congressional Representatives to Increase FY 2016 Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Appropriations

Background: Congress passed the CCDBG Act of 2014 last year with bipartisan support. This reauthorized the CCDBG for the first time in 18 years. The program improvements include increased access to child care assistance for more families; the establishment of new health and safety requirements for child care providers; and expanded requirements to improve the quality of care. The federal FY 2016 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill freezes funding for the program which will greatly undermine recently secured provisions to strengthen CCDBG. Without additional funding, states will struggle to meet the new goals of CCDBG legislation. In contrast, President Obama proposed a \$370 million increase to child care funding early last year.

Pros: The National Women’s Law Center led an effort to send a similar letter to federal congress people, signed by about ten California wide advocacy groups such as Children Now, The Advancement Project, and Early Edge. This letter provides good localized numbers for our Alameda County delegation and reinforces their message.

Cons: Some might feel that progressive or ECE supportive members of the House of Representatives have little hope in the current conservative political climate.

Next Steps: If the Council approves this, a letter will be sent to the Alameda County delegation in the House of Representatives.

Action Item #1: Approve 2016-2017 Legislative Platform

Background: Every year the Planning Council adopts a Public Policy Platform which is then used to guide our Public Policy Committee when considering recommended positions on legislation and also to guide the County’s lobbyists when representing the County in the State Legislature and at the federal level. Past practice has shown that having broad statements about our priorities is an effective way to structure the platform. Every year the Council adds some specific priorities as well. This platform is based on the structure of the past platforms, but helps move the Council toward RBA by integrating with “Result” that is shared with other County departments via the Interagency Children’s Policy Council: “All



Alameda County Children Enter School Ready to Learn” and the strategy of “Expanding Access to Quality Early Care and Education.”

Pros: The Platform gives us a tool that showcases our priorities that we can use both internally and with external audiences, such as elected officials.

Next Steps: If the Council approves the Platform, ECEPC staff will integrate the language in the County Platform which needs to be finalized in October.

Action Item #2: Amend Bylaws to Reduce Steering Committee Membership from 35 to 25 Appointed Members

Background: Current Alameda County Early Care and Education Steering Committee bylaws require a 35 Steering Committee Membership. In recent years, it has been very difficult to meet quorum requirements (50% of all Steering Committee Members + one) in order to vote and complete Steering Committee business. Changing this requirement to a 25 Steering Committee Membership would provide efficiency in reaching quorum and competing Steering Committee business. Reducing membership requires amended bylaws be adopted.

Pros: Changing the membership requirement allows higher likelihood of reaching quorum when conducting business. This has been vetted by the Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent and received support.

Cons: Fewer members possibly reduce the number of perspectives heard on any given voting item.

Next Steps: If approved, finalize bylaws and send to Board of Supervisors and Alameda County Office of Education for final approval.