



Action Items for the 11/16/18 Planning Council Meeting

Action Item 1: Approve Planning Council Comments on Public Charge

Recommended by the Executive Committee and Public Policy Committee

Background: “The public charge test has been part of federal immigration law for over a hundred years. It is designed to identify people who may depend on the government as their main source of support. If the government determines that a person is likely to become a public charge it can deny a person admission to the U.S. On October 10th, the Department of Homeland Security proposed to change this policy by excluding anyone who is likely to use certain health care, nutrition or housing programs in the future and expands the forms of public assistance that are counted in a “public charge” determination.”¹ The discussion, coupled with other recent adversarial federal immigrant policies and practices such as child separation at the U.S. border has already had a chilling effect on immigrant participation in assistance programs and an increase in trauma in their communities according to local early care and education (ECE) staff. Children who could benefit from quality ECE will needlessly miss out, and low-income and immigrant families could needlessly suffer, which would also make supporting the school readiness of children who do attend ECE programs more challenging. The draft letter included in the packets is based on a recommended template from well-respected national advocacy groups.

Pros: Public pressure about this rule reportedly already caused the federal government to reduce the number of public benefits that were included in the expanded definition so has been seen to have an impact on federal agency action.

Cons: One could argue that since public charge changes do not include child care in the broader interpretation of public charge

Next Steps: Approve Draft Letter included in packets and have staff submit to Department of Homeland Security.

Action Item 2: Approve Merger of ECE Quality Committee and Quality Counts Advisory Committee

Recommended by the Executive Committee and ECE Quality Committee

Background: The Quality Counts Advisory Committee and the ECE Quality Committee both focus on various aspects of providing high quality ECE throughout Alameda County. They are both staffed by the County ECE Program with QCAC receiving additional support from First 5. Many members of ECE Quality also attend QCAC. The Planning Council Executive Committee members annually review the Council’s subcommittee structure and recommended that the Quality Committee be merged with QCAC for efficiency purposes, and to provide a broader tent to elicit feedback on QC and non-QC related activities in one setting.

What Would Change:

- Meetings would be subject to the Brown Act (open to the public with an agenda 72 in advance)
- QCAC would have two co-chairs who serve on the Planning Council Steering Committee appointed by the Council Chair (currently Melanie Mueller)

¹ From “Public Charge: A New Threat to Immigrant Families,” Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), National Immigration Law Center.

- In addition to QC-focused agenda items, we would add non-QC items as appropriate
- We would add a few new members to QCAC that previously served on ECE Quality

What Would Not Change:

- Meeting Time, Date, Location (currently the last Thursday of every other month from 10-12pm at First 5)
- Main focus on eliciting QC-related input from stakeholders
- Staffed by the County ECE Program with support from First 5 staff

Next Steps:

- Planning Council Executive Committee has already approved
- Presented to QC Leadership on October 10, they recommend
- Presented to QCAC October 25, they recommend
- **Will be taken to the full Council for approval November 16**
- If approved, Co-Chairs will be appointed in November
- First merged meeting will be February 28

Tentative Future Calendar:

November 29

February 28

April 25

June 27

August 29

October 31