



Action Items for the 3/16/18 Planning Council Meeting

Action Item 1: AB 11 (McCarty and Bonta)

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

Background: Performance Measure # 1 Retained/Increased ECE Access

AB 11 requires screening services available under the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit for children in Medi-Cal to include *developmental* screening services for individuals zero to three years of age according to the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Guidelines. These Guidelines provide recommendations for preventive pediatric healthcare to ensure developmental, psychosocial, and healthy wellbeing of children, are the standard practice for pediatric preventive care, and are an important component of the Medicaid EPSDT benefit. However, in 2016, California ranked 43rd in the nation for developmental screening of all infants and toddlers. Only about 36% of infants and toddlers in Medi-Cal are receiving their developmental screenings, despite existing EPSDT requirements. AB 11 further implements the Bright Futures Guidelines by ensuring that developmental screenings, with a validated tool, are routinely occurring for infants and toddlers during Medi-Cal health care visits.

Pros: The Public Policy Committee felt this bill was relevant to ECE programs because developmental screenings are frequently conducted in ECE settings. Identifying young children with or at risk for developmental and behavioral delays is an essential first step toward ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their optimal physical, mental, and socioemotional health and well-being.

Cons: Some conservative groups feel that developmental screening compromises peoples' privacy.

Next Steps: Send letter of support from Planning Council. The County has already officially supported this bill through the request of the Department of Public Health and Social Services Agency.

Action Item 2: AB 1754 Preschool for All (McCarty, Bonta, Friedman, Eduardo Garcia)

Recommended by Public Policy Committee

Background: Performance Measure #1 Retained/Increased ECE Access

The Pre-K for All Act of 2018 would require the state to provide all 4- year-old children of low-income working families with access to early care and education programs.

Pros: The LPC platform and goals support increased programs for all age groups, and programs that meet the comprehensive needs of working families, including full day programs. This could be a vehicle to make these points and expand access to care.

Cons: The largest gap for care in Alameda County is for infant-toddler care, and this bill does not prioritize this age group.



Action Item 3: AB 2292 Child Care Reimbursement Rates/Infant Toddler Factor (Aguiar-Curry)

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

Background:

Planning Council Performance Measure #1 and #3.

Reimbursement rate mechanisms for programs that contract directly with the state or receive vouchers are specified in state law. This bill basically increases those rates for infants and toddlers with the goal of increasing the capacity of infant toddler centers. It would increase the adjustment factor for infants who are 0 to 18 months of age from 1.7 to 2.1, and toddlers who are 18 to 36 months of age from 1.4 to 1.7 and are served in a child day care center, and for infants and toddlers who are 0 to 36 months of age and are served in a family child care home from 1.4 to 1.7. In addition, it would establish in the California Department of Education (CDE) the Classroom Planning and Implementation Grant Program, to be administered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to reflect additional start-up costs of opening new general child care and development centers and California state preschool program classrooms or converting existing classrooms to serve a different child age group. Staff estimates that the adjustment factor increases could increase the infant rate in Alameda County by almost \$20 a day and the toddler rate by about \$15 a day.

Pros: Increasing the supply of infant-toddler care has been an ongoing priority for the Planning Council. The Zip Code Priorities consistently show the greatest gaps between available subsidies and families who qualify for the subsidies in this age group. This is one of the few recent bills that targets increasing resources for this population.

Cons: This bill might have a significant cost that is not politically viable this year.

Next Steps: Approve support, and request County support for the bill in Sacramento.

Action Item 4: AB 2514 Dual Language Learners (Thurmond)

Recommended by Public Policy Committee

Background:

Planning Council Performance Measure #1, #3, and #4: Increased ECE Access, Increased Quality Funds, and Percentage of Teachers with Improved Practice

Assembly Bill No. 2514 provides funding to districts and county offices of education to start or broaden pre-existing dual language (DL) programs through a new “Pathways to Success Incentive Grant Program.” While Prop 58 (passed by CA voters in 11/2016) requires school districts and county offices of education to “solicit input on and provide to pupil effective and appropriate instructional methods,” it does not provide additional funding to allow for it or require that they implement any plan. AB 2514 would require CDE to award 10 grants each year for three years, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 per grant, to school districts to implement DL-friendly practices. An additional \$20,000 could be awarded to districts which plan to establish a DL program for a language other than Spanish.

These grants can be used for districts to adopt programming and/or recruit teachers for grades P-12. Early education is a specified use of these funds. Some criteria are to be established but Districts would have to address two of the following: staff training specific to a DLL model; bilingual teacher recruitment; ongoing professional



development; ongoing outreach; establishment of DLL teacher learning communities; coaching; and/or instructional materials.

Pros: In an increasingly global society, bilingualism benefits all children. Research shows that DL instruction is most effective in a child's first language; skills learned in a non-English language will not hinder English-acquisition later on. Support for strong curriculum and bilingual educators is even more critical in early education, when children are learning the foundational literacy skills that will set them up for academic success in later years. There are high numbers of young DL children in Alameda County, where more than half of our births are to non-native English speaking mothers. Current ECE programs in our County may have interest in this work but not have resources to support it. San Lorenzo Unified School District reportedly has a successful Dual Language model but it was supported by a private foundation. If passed, this bill could show the positive impact of DL on child outcomes as well as expanding resources for this work in our County.

Cons: It is uncertain whether funding will be identified to implement this bill and Alameda County providers would have to compete for 10 grants statewide.

Next Steps: Vote to support, ask County to send Alameda County letter of support to legislature.

Action Item 5: AB 2023 Working Families Tax Credit (Caballero and Rubio)

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee

Background: Performance Measure #1 Retained/Increased ECE Access

The bill makes the child care tax credit refundable upon a future appropriation by the Legislature. The federal Child and Dependent Care Credit is a nonrefundable credit, equal to a portion of qualifying child or dependent care expenses paid for the purpose of allowing the taxpayer to be gainfully employed. To obtain the credit, the taxpayer must incur employment-related expenses to provide care for a dependent who has not attained the age of 13. The maximum amount of employment-related expenses to which the credit percentage may be applied is \$3,000 if one qualifying individual is involved or \$6,000 if two or more qualifying individuals are involved.

Existing California law provides a tax credit similar to the federal child-care credit, the Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit. State law limits expenses to care provided in California and income earned from California sources. From 2000 to 2010, the state Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit was refundable, allowing tax filers with no state tax liability to receive some benefit from the credit. Due to budget constraints, the refundable portion of the credit was repealed by SB 86 (Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 14, Statutes of 2011.

On April 7, 2016, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released a report providing options for modifying the state Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit. All options presented in the report would make the state Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit refundable. The LAO report concluded that if the state child-care credit were made refundable again, it would provide a noticeable income boost to California working families and also encourage, to some extent, additional participation in the formal labor market.



Pros: Due to the shortage of subsidies for low-income families, many low-income families must pay for child care out of their pockets or forego labor force participation because they cannot afford the costs. Middle-income families who don't qualify for state programs also struggle with expensive out-of-pocket child care expenses.

Cons: The new policy would likely have a high state cost. The Franchise Tax Board (FTB) estimates that this bill will result in an annual General Fund revenue loss of \$47 million in fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, \$80 million in FY 2019-20, and \$80 million in FY 2020-21.

Next Steps: Approve LPC support and request County support which would result in County lobbyist support in Sacramento.