



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council**  
**Public Policy Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**April 5, 2017**

*“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:*

Nancy Strohl	Steering Committee	Melinda Martin	Consultant
Diana Engel	Steering Committee	Phan Fong	Child Care Links
Pauline McCarthy	4Cs of Alameda County	Renee Herzfeld	LPC Chair, 4Cs of Alameda County
Margaret Jerene	Co-Chair, Public Policy First Five	Ramil Rivera	Steering Committee, SSA
Valerie Kane	SSA	Michele Rutherford	Consultant, SF OCD and E

*Ellen Dektar, LPC Staff*

**Action Items from April 5 Meeting:**

- Support AB 605 (Birth to Five license)
- Executive Committee and staff will review pros and cons and next steps for Enrollment and Eligibility Committee becoming an LPC standing committee.
- Use federal funding priorities document approved by LPC at March meeting: after May Revise and Trump’s budget at federal level, develop letters to federal elected officials; send with California Budget Center analysis of Trump ECE proposals
- Ask Sadaff with SSA for the AC Stage 1 uptake rate information and the CDE monthly report on CalWORKs children receiving Title 5 slots by County (CWDA)
- State Contractors: discuss Title 5 overlap with CalWORKs

**I. Introductions and Announcements**

Valerie will be specializing in federal issues and ECE issues among others as a new Management Analyst on the SSA Policy Team. She has been with SSA for two years.

The Immigration Forum for ECE providers will be on May 10 at 4Cs. It would be good (with providers’ permission) to collect general information on challenges families with young children are having with immigration in order to incorporate them in letters to federal elected officials in May.

**II. Report Out from State Contractors, Other ECEPC Committees**

No major updates. The Enrollment Task Force wants to become a Committee of the LPC and understands administrative implications (more formality). The issue will go to Executive Committee.

**III. Review, Discuss and Possibly Take Action on Local, State and/or Federal Legislation and Budget**

- a) AB 11 (McCarty): Watch: the grant program would be a positive; but the state and local commissions (which do not require LPC representation, and duplicate First Five roles) are redundant
- b) AB 605 (Mullin): Support (AB 1897 from last year, failed due to Montessori opposition). Makes a lot of sense for program operations and leaves ratios and other health and safety safeguards in place.
- c) AB 676 (SEIU): Watch. There could be a need for health and safety training but our County field has had conflicting feelings about working with unions. There was also concern about: requiring license exempt providers to have training and whether it would decrease their supply; sharing license exempt provider's names with training organizations; whether it would duplicate some information collected for the state registry which includes information on individuals.
- d) Tailor and disseminate LPC approved federal framework: use federal funding priorities document approved by LPC at March meeting; after May Revisé and Trump's budget is announced, develop letters to federal elected officials. New California Budget Center overview of Trump ECE proposals was shared and available on LPC website on Twitter feed.

#### **IV. Review San Francisco Stage 1 Practice and Discuss and Identify Possible Alameda County Next Steps to Increase Utilization of Stage 1 Child Care**

These discussions were partially prompted by some recent statewide information about low Stage 1 uptake and best practices to increase it. It is a strategy to support LPC performance measure of increasing quality ECE access. One reason for low uptake is that the state has underfunded it. Statewide estimate is 24% uptake. State calls it an entitlement but in reality the financing is capped. One local voucher administrator's experience is not that people are not served.

Simultaneously, the Alameda County Stage 1 contract will be up for rebidding soon. Services or deliverables won't change but there will be an opportunity for a bidder to show extra activities. Contract is initially 3 years with option to renew. Factors related to Stage 1 Uptake:

##### Data

- No consistent way to compare data across counties on uptake rate; since welfare reform she's seen sea change about importance of early education to both families and children's development;
- The uptake rate calculation does not factor in percentage of CalWORKs families who eligible for ECE; eg, some counties have higher numbers of teenagers; eligible=0-12 year olds
- CWDA receives monthly CDE reports monthly on CalWORKs children using Title 5 slots: some lack of clarity about precise CalWORKs status

##### Train CalWORKs staff

- Have parents who have benefited from child care share their experience; find ways to train CalWORKs staff; culture shift to embrace early education is helpful with new workers

##### "Stable" definition

- Another challenge is each county defines stability differently—SF=stay in Stage 1 until off aid; if can't transfer the child, you can hold them in Stage 1

SF has one stop at Children's Council to help Transition families from Stage 1 to 2

- Common for County to provide Stage 1 access and Alternative Payment agency to provide Stage 2

##### Paperwork

- Some clients are not interested in doing all the paperwork involved; some people use caretaker who is on SSI who couldn't report the income or an undocumented relative or neighbor

##### Eligibility

- Provide a month bridge of eligibility or presumptive eligibility for six months for full time voucher
- In SF plan submitted to state in 97 or 98 Parent had 30 days to reengage when not eligible
  - People commented that they think this would work in Alameda County
  - Barriers: limiting child care eligibility to training days, job search days, assessment days, days of college classes
  - Moving them into Title 5 could help



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- Pilot/24 mo eligibility redetermination will help with the uptake problem
- Collocate CalWORKs and Child Care Staff
- SF had child care staff person on floor with the caseworkers, expert on rules, trouble shooting; Children's Council would call SF child care staff to help resolve issues with the CalWORKs worker or the supervisor
- Automate referral process/technology
- Then can see whether referral made
  - In SF MCT: does child care admin/tech apps/dashboard of developmental assessments by color; w feedback loop to parents for parent engage
  - Subsidy systems, child enrollment need to have one automated link;
  - Interest at state on tech solutions for days of enrollment, attendance
  - Welfare reform never funded R and Rs to do outreach; referrals; now maybe tech can help
- Building costs
- SF underwrote cost of building site and underwrote more for infant sites
    - All these sites are still operating and built capacity for all children with and without vouchers
- Research where children of CalWORKs clients are if they are not in cc
- Ask welfare recipients;
  - Labor intensive for CalWORKs staff
- Plan for summer
- In March—outreach strategy for summer;
  - SF pays RRs to help with outreach. Rec and Park camps that are free;
  - LA used CalWORKs allocation to do after school care and summer care;
- Emergency back up program
- Funded by SF DSS through state funds augmented by local funds
  - 12 days of emergency sick care a year and in home sick care provided
- Other—effective strategies and observations:
- SF, Santa Clara and rural counties are notoriously strong at helping families access ECE
  - SF has spent down employment and training money for child care so can go after state close out funds
  - SF seeing group that at or under 85% of the SMI growing
  - Child Care Links seeing shrinkage in Stage 1 as clients move outside of Alameda County or state
  - CalWORKs parents currently under 48 mo timeline; 60 month bill under consideration;
  - **Once family leaves aid have entitlement for 24 months so how do we reach them**
  - Engage families early; they may need to be convinced about value of quality ECE
  - Contra Costa developed their own center

#### V. Next Meeting Agenda

- May Revise, Alameda County CalWORKs Stage 1: Local contractor perspective on best practice and uptake rate, draft letter to federal elected officials re: ECE policy and priorities

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2017 9:30-11:30 \*\*4Cs of Alameda**

