



Alameda County Child Care Planning Council
Public Policy Committee
May 17, 2017
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:

Joan Bayston	4Cs	Melinda Martin	Consultant
		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	Lorita Riga	Consultant

Ellen Dektar, Lawanda Wesley, LPC Staff

Action Items from May 17 Meeting:

- At future meeting review the First Five School Readiness study as a group (one focus should be understanding access to preschool for different ethnic/racial groups).
- Add specific contractor names to the overview of Alameda County funding streams (“Early Care and Education Public Funding Landscape”) that the Planning Council produces annually after the new Stage 1 contracts are awarded so people have a better understanding of local agency involvement.
- Margaret Jerene will bring data she has about Stage 1 to a future meeting.
- Ellen send LAO overview of child care budget and power points to Public Policy

I. Introductions and Announcements

The meeting opened with an hour long conference call on the May Revise impact on ECE from Children Now, the California Budget Center, and the Legislative Analyst’s office. The materials have been forwarded to the Planning Council and in addition to the May Revise, they outline the number of children in poverty, the cumulative decrease since 2007 in child care funding and slots, and some facts about the CalWORKs program.

LPC members anticipate that last year’s reimbursement rate of \$38 will increase to \$46.73 for CSPP as of July 1 (full day preschool) and to \$46.18 for infant, toddler and school age care (CCTR). These base rates are adjusted by various factors.

The Legislative Analyst staff noted the rate increases, their recommendation to allow new full day state preschool slots to be available to contractors who are not based at school sites, and the 1.56 COLA to non CalWORKs child care among other items. The May Revise modifies a couple of proposals the Governor made to lower the standards for State Preschool programs but does not revoke them.

She thinks CalWORKs Stage Two was overestimated and caseload will not grow so that total costs will drop by \$15 million; caseload assumptions are the main reason for the differences.

She says the state is required to increase spending by \$7 million to comply with federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) requirements. The provision driving this increase cannot be altered by a waiver. However, if the budget committees do not approve this increase in the next few weeks the funds can be added back mid-budget year.

Debrief with Committee:

Committee members discussed the importance of increasing the State Median Income exit threshold and the perverse incentive for families of having to reject slight pay increases or lose child care subsidies to retain care. The Legislature needs to understand the urgency of approving AB 60 or some alternate mechanism for increasing the threshold.

II. Report Out from State Contractors, Other ECEPC Committees

Among other items the State Contractors Committee has been discussing adapting the 801 (a) form to collect data that aligns with the AB 833 pilot so contractors can enter new children by their age or (higher than current state standards) income.

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

- Letters to federal elected officials on federal ECE budget issues will be written in June after the federal budget is released.
- May Revise was discussed above. The Planning Council does not have time to develop a response that can be approved by the LPC on Friday but our lobbyist can take action on items that correspond to our January Budget request, which is still relevant, and members can take individual action. We support restoring the \$210 million from the previous agreement but we are still \$500 million short of 2007 and would like spending to increase and the SMI to be adjusted upward. We also oppose the program change proposals from the Governor related to lowering State Preschool standards.
- Federal budget: The Committee discussed several ECE increases in the Continuing Resolution (“skinny”) budget: CCDBG will receive a \$95 million increase, Head Start will receive an \$85 million increase (\$80 million of this is a COLA), and 21st Century Learning Centers will receive a \$25 million increase. Additionally, \$75 million was approved for Promise Neighborhoods. There will be an RFP at the end of this month and reportedly Hayward will be applying for the same Promise Neighborhood or a different neighborhood.
- AB 752 (Rubio) Preschool Expulsion: The group supported the intent of the legislation which is to reduce expulsions of preschool students in State Preschools based on specifying that a plan should be developed to retain the children and to reduce licensing citations for children’s behavior based on the presence of a plan. However, there was concern expressed that Title 5 Contractors do not have the level of Head Start resources to offer supplemental supports and develop a plan and that programs with the least resources would be hurt the most. Young children and staff in this situation need coaching and training. They need funding to identify the best alternative placement for the child which is often a smaller program. However, private sector programs have twice the expulsions. They would support the bill with funding attached.

ACTION: share our concerns at LPC. Give feedback to bill sponsor informally.

IV. Debrief from May 10th Immigration Forum



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- About 15 providers from all areas of the County attended and several would like the legal aid staff person to attend meetings at their centers. The evaluations were very favorable and the facilitation was great thanks to Margaret Jerene.

V. Stage 1 Access Discussion

The Committee reviewed the purpose and status of our Stage 1 conversations. The intent of discussing this issue is to maximize a categorical funding stream. We don't know yet whether it is being maximized in Alameda County so we are increasing member understanding about the structure, and local and state best practice (from San Francisco and California Department of Social Services). Since the Stage 1 contract is currently being rebid, we will defer the conversation and let the agencies applying for the contract focus on that for the moment.

Stage 1 Data:

- 4Cs has data that the majority of people who receive vouchers in southern Alameda County choose licensed facilities- centers and FCCH;
- Margaret has information from a poll with Resource and Referral Agencies and Stage 2 providers and will bring it to a future meeting;
- People questioned the accuracy of the Stage 1 utilization data provided by Social Services
- Many programs in Alameda County are collocated and after the proposals for Stage 1 contracts are submitted we should review the current practice: for instance, Child Care Links is in Oakland SSA building on San Pablo Ave and in the Eastmont Mall. 4Cs is in the Hayward Amador SSA building and the Fremont Family Resource Center.

VI. Updates on Visits with Board of Supervisors and ACOE

- Staff is awaiting return calls from schedulers from ACOE, Chan, and Miley's offices.

VII. Next Meeting Agenda

- Review Trump ECE Budget and corresponding letters to federal elected officials

Next Meeting: Monday, June 7, 2017 9:30-11:30 **4Cs of Alameda Cou
