



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

Action Item 1: Approve Local Child Care Planning Council Self Evaluation

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Background: The state requires an annual state evaluation due in November per the Planning Council's contract requirements.

Pros: Maintain contract obligation and communicate findings.

Cons: We would be reporting that we are out of compliance with contract guidelines.

Next Steps: One approved by Steering Committee staff will collect required signatures and submit to the state.

Action Item 2: Approve Comments on the California Department of Education Quality Expenditure Plan for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Quality Rating Improvement Plan

Recommended by the Public Policy Committee and Executive Committee

Background: The Child Care and Development Fund is the primary Federal funding source for quality supports and child care for low income families. On November 19, 2014 President Obama signed legislation that updated the CCDBG Act for the first time in 20 years. The law made changes to strengthen child care and the regulations to implement this law were finalized this fall. The goal was to increase national standards because the CCDBG implementation varies across the United States. Key new requirements that California is not implementing include:

- annual monitoring for CCDF licensed and license exempt providers
- annual eligibility redetermination for subsidized child care programs

These items from the Planning Council platform support the comments in the letter:

- 1) Monitor, take positions and make recommendations on federal, state and local issues, legislation and initiatives that significantly impact ECE quality, access and affordability
- 4) Specifically in 2017, the Planning Council will advocate to:
 - A) Continue to advocate for policies covered in the pilot and support (legislative) efforts to support successful implementation of the pilot
 - H) Increase the frequency of Community Care Licensing visits to annual visits

Pros: Alameda County has been at the forefront of reforming the child care system with AB 833 and changing state guidelines to reflect our practices can help sustain our work.

Cons: If Alameda County does not comment, there is less chance the state will prioritize policy changes that are important to our child care system and families.

Next Steps: If Planning Council approves letter, it will be sent to the California Department of Education by November 30th.



Action Item 3: Approve Comments on First Five Strategic Plan

Recommended by Public Policy Committee and Executive Committee

Background: Since the passage of Proposition 10 in 1998 which added a .50 cent tax to cigarettes and founded First Five Commissions, the Local Planning Council has been involved in discussions about expenditure plans for young children's services. The Strategic Plan has been periodically updated, and the Alameda First Five Commission just introduced their most recent Strategic Plan in October. The Public Policy Committee reviewed and discussed the plan, which makes funding recommendations in the light of long anticipated declining revenue. The recommendations are found in the letter that accompanies the Planning Council packet.

The recommendations correspond to the following provisions of the Planning Council platform:

- 2) Initiate and promote efforts to protect and increase local, state, federal and private funding for ECE—prioritizing infants and toddlers
- 4) d) Continue to improve quality in ECE, including addressing facilities, staff, wages and Quality Rating System funding

Pros: The role of the LPC is to advise policy makers on how to increase quality early care and education. The report notes stakeholder input about the need for quality ECE but ECE does not receive priority funding in the plan. School Readiness research commissioned by First Five also correlates a child's participation in preschool programs as a key link with higher rates of school readiness.

Cons: We could defer to their staff, other groups with important priorities like home visiting, and the reality of their declining revenue and not advocate for ECE. The First Five staff have carefully considered program and funding options and recommended their best thinking to the Commissioners in the plan. Home Visiting advocates have organized and been outspoken about the need to retain up to \$3 million that is being cut from these programs and First Five is facing a tougher financial situation with declining revenue.

Next Steps: Approve and send letter to First Five Commission. Designate members and/or staff to share letter in person at First Five Commission meeting on or before December 15th.

Action Item 4: Approve Planning Council Survey to Take Individual Action

Recommended by the Executive Committee

Background: The committee wanted to measure the Steering Committee performance measure of individual members taking action.

Pros: This helps further define our success in meeting our results.

Cons: It may create more work for members and staff.

Next Steps: Submit input for LaWanda prior to December 15th to support an online survey to be distributed shortly after.