

Figure 9

## Summary of Recommendations

### Access

- ✓ **Priority.** Continue to give families new to CalWORKs priority for subsidized child care. Guaranteeing child care for these families helps overcome a key barrier to employment.
- ✓ **Time Limit.** Cap number of years families may receive subsidized child care. Set time limit between six and eight years. (Allows more low-income families to benefit.)
- ✓ **Choice.** Give families similar levels of choice in selecting care. Allow families to choose among licensed centers and family child care homes (FCCHs) as well as license-exempt providers.
- ✓ **Service Levels.** Provide similar levels of access across the state. Reestablish CELs.

### Standards

- ✓ **School Readiness for Four-Year-Olds.** Require centers and FCCHs serving low-income four-year-olds to include educational components for three hours per day. Require families to opt-out of licensed care.
- ✓ **Developmentally Appropriate Activities for Children Birth Through Age Three.** Require centers and FCCHs serving children birth through age three to provide developmentally appropriate activities for three hours per day.
- ✓ **Health and Safety for School-Age Children.** Repeal Title 5 requirements for school-age children but retain Title 22 health and safety standards.

### Payments

- ✓ **Vouchers.** Subsidize child care primarily using vouchers. Continue to contract directly with LEAs, however, for preschool.
- ✓ **New Rate Structure.** Rather than 58 unique county rates, provide three rates based on cost of care in low-, medium-, and high-cost counties. Use a standard reimbursement rate for LEAs.
- ✓ **Rates by Age.** Provide highest reimbursement rate for infants/toddlers, next highest rate for preschool-aged children, and lowest rate for school-aged children.
- ✓ **Update Rates.** Assuming total funding remains the same, new reimbursement rates would reflect 70<sup>th</sup> percentile of most recent (2012) regional market survey.
- ✓ **Future Rate Adjustments.** Update reimbursement rate in order to meet standards described above.

### Administration

- ✓ **CalWORKs.** Merge CalWORKs child care Stage 1 and Stage 2 into one program and administration to the Department of Social Services.
- ✓ **New CalWORKs Child Care Grant.** Remove child care funding from counties' single allocation and create new child care grant.
- ✓ **Monitoring.** Develop regional system to monitor programs serving children birth through age four.

CELs = Centralized Eligibility Lists and LEA = local educational agency.