

Alameda County Early Care and Education Child Care Planning Council Steering Committee Meeting Minutes January 15, 2021

Three new members were introduced:

- Trisha Barua, policy analyst with Oakland Staring Smart and Strong. She started working with ECE in April.
- Shruti Agarwal, who is a family childcare provider in Livermore.
- Noni Galloway, who is a representative of Parent Voices.

The consent calendar was motioned by Jennifer Caban and seconded by Briana Brown.

Discussion and Presentation:

The topic for discussion was **Master Plan for Early Learning and Care: Making California for all Kids.**

Ellen Dektar presented a detailed outlook of the plan to the group. The Master Plan is a comprehensive early learning program for infants and toddlers and is family driven, promoting school readiness, and paying attention to the workforce.

Four breakout groups were formed based on the four goals of the Master Plan. The feedbacks will be used to prepare a Master Plan report to be submitted to the State on behalf of the ECE.

The following feedbacks were received from each group:

- Group 1/Goal 1- Unifying and strengthening programs and services to support children's learning and development- Programs.
 - The group pointed out that cultural bias was not addressed well in the Plan. Incorporating early learning and mandatory education on the topic of cultural bias will do much to curb it. The minimal reference to this issue on page 52 of the Plan can be easily missed by the reader.
 - Serving children with disabilities more efficiently was also addressed. Fund should be provided to train children with disabilities instead of sending them to school districts, which are already so bogged down. This will ensure better quality training to such children.
- Group 2- Enhanced educator competencies to support child development-Workforce.
 - The complications of union and nonunion labor not being aligned with education was addressed under this heading.
 - The question of what kind of tools besides degrees will be used to assess educator competencies was also discussed.
- Goal 3/Group 3- Unify funding to advance equity & opportunity-Funding.
 - The two components of funding – reimbursement and family fee structure were considered in the discussion.
 - The fact that the formula proposed by the Plan is not fair in that all providers are not paid the same rate for serving the same child. This is especially true if there is an adjustment to quality of education based on the fees.
 - Another issue of concern was the copay some subsidized families must pay the provider to cover for the amount not covered by the government voucher that is paid to the providers.

The sliding scale of payment causes the families to pay even though they are subsidized or has income below the 39% of the State Medium Income level.

- Goal 4- Streamline early childhood governance and administration to improve equity. - governance and administration.
 - The group was apprehensive as to how the Plan will endure after Gov. Newsome leaves office. There was concern that governance of ECE was not addressed under this goal while administration was.

Brief Overview of the Proposed Federal and State Budget:

- Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act: Child Care
 - Passed on 12/21/20.
 - \$10 B for childcare through the Child Care and Development Block Grant
 - This will help cover increased costs during the pandemic.
 - The CARES Act provided \$350 M for California for childcare of which approximately \$1 B will be received in funding.
- Relief Act: Education
 - ESSERF will provide an estimated \$1.15 B across Alameda County school districts.
- FY 2021 Federal Appropriations that was passed in conjunction with the COVID 19 relief package.
- President Elect Biden's main childcare proposals
 - \$8000 annual childcare tax credit for children up to age 13
 - 14 weeks parental paid leave for closed childcare or school

Recent State Investments and Proposals:

\$2 B Safe Schools for all plan to support schools in reopening by Spring:

First phase focuses on TK-2 as these children as most impacted.

Summary of Governor's Budget proposal in childcare: \$44 M in childcare ongoing funds.

\$15 M for the Cradle to Career Data System.

State Legislation: AB 22 McCarty-TK for all 4-year-old by 2030; AB 92 Reyes- to alleviate childcare family fees on low income families.

Katie H. encouraged everyone to provide feedbacks on the above budget proposals which will be send out as a letter from LPC. Feedbacks could also be provided on the Quality Counts meeting and the letter is time sensitive.

Trisha B. recommended wording out specific language to address problems like racism, inaccessibility of childcare for many and impacts of COVID will be helpful. Ensuring that folks who are most impacted have their data collected and used by the Cradle to Career Data System would also be necessary.

Makinya W. mentioned the call with member McCarty's office which ensued a response that they will not be subcontracting TK. Makinya W. raised concern that the providers are considered "disposable" at such a time of crisis.

The discussion was motioned by Tiffany Rose Naputi Lacsado and seconded by Dr. Lawanda W.

Updates:

First 5: Anna M. updated on Needs Assessment. It is a core mandate of LPC. They are trying to do a comprehensive NA report to be used for advocacy, by compiling data on family demographics, subsidies, parent choices, among others.

Quality Advisory Updates: Dr. Lawanda W. updated that the discussions were on anti-racism approach to programs during the last meeting in October. Upcoming meeting on January 28th.

Public Policy- Jennifer C. - Work was mostly on state budget, federal relief, AC childcare relief grants that went out to family childcare providers, vaccination on childcare providers being priority when the vaccines are rolled out.

State Contractors- Lorita Riga- focusing on the notifications from State. Also discussed matters like how the programs have been running, closures that have had to happen, reopening processes, testing of staff and children. There has been a discussion on sending a letter off to CDE in regard to how LEAs are able to continue to receive their funding and remain closed and while non LEAs have to be open to receive funding.

Parent Voices-Noni Galloway- The litigation by IRS was ruled in favor of Measure C. Therefore, we can push the Board of supervisors to start collecting taxes. Parent power meetings are held on Saturdays and Leadership Academy is starting on January 26th.

Changes to ECE:

ECE is moved under Social Services Agency. Staff is reduced from 8-3.

Press Reports:

Bananas, one of our partner agencies was featured in the Chronicles on receiving funding from Vice President Elect Mrs. Kamala Harris.

4Cs was mentioned in Ed Source responding to the Governor's budget proposal.

Meeting adjourned.

Attendees:

Katie Honegger
Kristina Adams
Makinya Ward
Jenn Cabán
Erica Harrell
Trisha Barua
Kym Johnson
Mara Goby
Neva Bandelow
Nancy Strohl
Tiffany Rose Lacsado
Stephen Day
Ana Rasquiza
Darlene Johnston
Briana Brown
Rowena Kamo
Yesenia Chavez
Vincent Cheng
Shruti Agarwal
Ana Del Aguila
Noni Galloway
Julie Nicholson
Susan Morris
Anna Miera
Kelly O'Lague Dulka
Michele Rutherford, First 5

Early Care & Education Program Staff Present:

Angela Cabrera
Ellen Dektar
Lorita Riga