



**Alameda County Early Care and Education Planning Council**  
**Public Policy Committee**  
**4Cs of Alameda, 22351 City Center Dr., Hayward, CA**  
**December 4, 2019**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:	AGENCY / ROLE:
1. Alex Boskovich	Steering Committee Member
2. Ana Del Aguila	Los Positas College, Steering Committee Member
3. Dulce Torres-Petty	Oakland Promise
<b>4. Jennifer Cabán</b>	<b>Social Services Agency, Co-chair, Steering Committee Member</b>
5. Kelly Dulka	Steering Committee Member
6. LaWanda Wesley	Oakland USD, Steering Committee Member
<b>7. Margaret Jerene</b>	<b>Alameda First 5, Co-chair, Steering Committee Member</b>
8. Michele Rutherford	First 5 Alameda County
9. Nancy Harvey	FCC Provider, Steering Committee Member
10. Nancy Strohl	Consultant, Steering Committee Member
11. Page Tomblin	First 5 Alameda County
12. Sarah Sun	WestEd, PITC Program
13. Susan Morris	CAPE/Retiree, Steering Committee Member

ECE Program Staff: Denise Turner, Ellen Dektar, Lorita Riga

**Action Items:**

1. Share hyperlink to LAO Blog to members and/or via weekly email blast
2. Share hyperlink to Federal Notice of Public Rule Making (NPRM) in weekly email blast
3. Request Planning Council action to send introductory letters to three Alameda County based appointees to the California Early Childhood Coalition.
4. Presumptive eligibility – Presumptive Eligibility – Questions arose regarding this topic that will require further research by committee members and ECE Staff

**I. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Resource Sharing:** Jennifer Cabán, Co-chair convened the committee meeting at 9:35 am

- Alex referenced new federal rule making that would bring back work requirements for the food stamp program and affect 700,000 recipients of Cal Fresh, the federally funded food stamp program. There were 114,000 comments against this rule.
- Jennifer noted that federal policy changes are increasingly being made through rules (vs. laws), what is referred to as NPRMs (see above, LPC will incorporate where relevant in weekly email “blast”).

**II. Report Out from State Contractors, Quality Committee**

- Both committees are tracking State Facilities and inclusion funding and reporting out at the committee level. State Contractors: The committee successfully hosted two of the four free DRDP Online trainings offered by WestEd on behalf of CDE; resulting from LPC efforts to advocate for the field with CDE. Public Policy members noted that the DRDP for infants is very cumbersome with respect to paper work required.
- Members received an opportunity to hear words of appreciation from Karen Monroe, County Superintendent of Schools and introduce themselves and their individual ECE related work as the Superintendent wrapped up the annual visit with her appointees prior to the November committee meeting.

Quality Committee: Conducted an informal discussion during the October 24, 2019, convening regarding ECE facilities needs assessment.

- The Committee's RFA for DLL Professional Development training's target audience are leaders and key staff, members were reminded of the application deadline of Friday, December 13, 2019.

### **III. Local, State & Federal Legislation & Budget**

Federal: Review First 5 Federal Register comments on Improving Access to Affordable, High Quality Child Care

- Members discussed comments submitted by various agencies noting that local issues are of course, national issues topics included: wages, homelessness, barriers to child care, compensation and the perception of the field as entry level/unskilled rather than a profession as well as the feasibility of annual licensing visits to license exempt providers.
- The intent of the request for comments, from one member's interpretation was to identify what could be eliminated or reduced.
- A member noted that local agencies, may be tracking Federal Notice of Public Rule Making, which involves federal public policy making outside of the legislative process.

Local: Discuss Planning Structure for Local Tax Measure - Children's Health and Child Care Initiative

- Michele Rutherford provided an informational update regarding the Local ECE Tax Measure.
- Members emphasized the importance of parent input and participation from across the County and different stakeholder groups. In addition, input should not be limited to formal meetings but draw on story banking and videos.
- Planning on technical aspects of programs will happen in different groups such as the State Contractors Committee, Parent Voices, a newly convened facilities group, etc. Key planning group information will be available through Planning Council meetings and on their website starting in January.
- Members discussed potential useful training opportunities for the new program including trauma informed care training to address families experiencing homelessness/adversity. Jennifer suggested considering linking this with the navigation network that she has created. Training on working with unhoused families should also be integrated in new workforce training initiatives led by the County ECE program, First 5, County Office of Education and others.
- Members discussed the potential for enhanced rate projection which could help providers meet their true cost

### **IV. Steering Committee Member and Candidate Visits with Appointers**

This item was not addressed.

### **V. Discuss CalWORKs 12 Month Eligibility Implementation**

Jennifer Cabán provided an informational update regarding Social Services Agency's (SSA) implementation planning following the October 1, 2019 effective date.

- SSA convened Stage One providers; SSA did trouble shooting and created a manual; regular check-ins are held on a monthly basis; communications plan for announcement to families remains in development however, the agency has prioritized new families and those being recertified for initial entry.
- Members discussed current and potential challenges including: the challenges of an unfunded mandate, both Parents must be seeking work to qualify, transition issues each county has different definitions of stable. Two agencies are involved. California Department of Social Services (CDSS) administers Stage 1, while California Department of Education (CDE) administers Stage 2 and 3. The County Cal Works Workgroup may review and reevaluate the County definition of stable.
- A member requested estimates of the number of beneficiaries: according to Jennifer, San Francisco saw a 30% increase in child care. State estimates are needed. Over time, there has been an overall decrease in Stage 1 families.  
Anecdotally, providers are generally more willing to fill full time and twelve month slots. State reimbursements for subsidized slots usually have a lag time of two months.



**MEETING MINUTES**

**VI. Review Highlights of State Blue Ribbon Recommendations and Local Stance and/or next Steps ...**

- Members discussed alignment of the LPC Platform with the Blue Ribbon report.
- The Committee recommended the LPC send letters to Alameda County appointees to the newly established State Early Childhood Policy Council with the goal of informing them of relevant Alameda County policies and perspectives.
- Ellen and Nancy S. will develop an outline that aligns key Blue Ribbon recommendations with the LPC Public Policy Platform. The Platform should be woven into the letter to EC Commission appointees. It should also include a push for regional rate reform and link with Blue Ribbon recommendations. Invite them to meet with an LPC group after they convene for the first time.

**VII. 2020 Public Policy Platform Phase 2**

Time did not permit addressing this item although it was integrated into the planned letter to CA Early Childhood Commission appointees.

**VIII. Discuss and Possibly Comment on Recent State Planning and Budget Initiative**

Implementation of Recent State Policy:

- Presumptive eligibility – Questions arose regarding this topic, which will require further research by committee members and ECE Staff. Sarah Neville-Morgan recently referred to implementing this new policy, which generally was intended to allow school based state preschools to qualify children who lived in the catchment area of a school where more than a designated percentage of students received free and reduced price lunch. ECE program staff analyzed which schools would qualify and the preponderance were in Oakland. Implementation questions included the following: would there be less documentation, eligibility determination, does it apply to sites operated by non-local education agencies?
- Modified licensing for school run state preschools: The LPC has tracked and opposed this policy. It has been limited to classrooms serving only four year olds. Lorita thinks this will preclude most programs from taking advantage of the modified licensing because a typical classroom is a mix of three and four year olds. The Planning Council should consider advocating for California Department of Education to report to the relevant Budget Committee on the adverse impacts and/or implementation of this new policy.
- A facilities work group will meet on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Anyone is welcome to attend, and new participants need to get oriented with staff ahead of time so work can keep moving forward.

**IX. Develop Agenda for January Meeting**

Members were encouraged to forward proposed agenda items for consideration by the Co-chairs.

**X. Adjournment**

Committee adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM