



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council
Public Policy Committee
November 4th, 2020
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:

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Jennifer Cabán	SSA	Michele Rutherford	First 5
Kym Johnson	Bananas	Trisha Barua	Oakland Starting Smart and Strong
Pamm Shaw	YMCA of the East Bay	Makinya Ward	Kids Konnect
Ana Del Aguila	Los Positas College	Katie Honegger	4Cs of Alameda County
Ana Rasquiza	First 5 Alameda County	Shruti Agarwal	Shruti’s Family Daycare & Valley Family Child Care Association
LaWanda Wesley	Oakland Unified School District	Nancy Harvey	Lil Nancy's Primary Schoolhouse
Paulene McCarthy	4Cs of Alameda County		

ECE Program Staff: Ellen Dektar, Mara Goby, Lorita Riga

Action Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE Program staff will summarize the discussion of COVID-19 lessons learned for an After Action Report.

I. Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

- Providers shared updates on the status of their programs:
 - Challenges providers are facing:
 - Losing staff and difficulty finding new staff
 - Tracking and understanding frequent PINs and other guidance from the State
 - Additional financial expenses & duties required for serving school-age children
 - Challenges purchasing supplies
 - Concerns about flu season
 - Families who are still weary of sending their kids to child care, especially infants
 - Unexpected and costly facilities needs at a time when programs don’t have the usual budget flexibility to cover these costs
 - Providers shared the high-level of support they have received from the R&Rs
 - None of the programs represented have had COVID cases in their programs thus far.
- Update on Alameda County ECE Emergency Response Team Effort:
 - Team is continuing to address emerging issues in the field, including supplying air purifiers and creating videos for parents on child care options.
 - Recent County data indicates that 72% of FCCs and 57% of Centers are currently open.



- Providers will be receiving additional stipends from CDE by the end of the month (\$65.89 per spot).

II. Report Out from State Contractors & Quality Committees

- State Contractors Meeting: On October 22nd, the group reviewed recent CCL PINs and CDE directives and discussed how programs are running their Parent Advisory Committees.
 - The advocacy letter on family fees was also discussed; the Executive Committee has since approved the letter and it is being sent to the Board of Supervisors.
- Quality Committee: On October 29th, the group worked on its QC principles and discussed equity issues with concrete examples, which will be on the agenda for the next Steering Committee meeting.
 - The group also discussed the QRIS letter, including how Quality Counts and First 5 are responding.

III. Update on Needs Assessment & Action Agenda

- The Needs Assessment Workgroup is continuing to make progress, including sending out a survey to providers to capture data on capacity and cost of care before and after COVID.
- The next Ad Hoc Needs Assessment Subcommittee meeting will be held on November 12th.
- Next steps include forming an action agenda to accompany the data analysis to help inform improvements to the system based on the data findings.
- The Steering Committee will also be asked to approve the LPC Needs Assessment Template in the upcoming meeting, although a more robust report will be developed.

IV. Update on Additional \$110 Million in State Funding for Child Care

- On October 21st, the Legislature and Administration reached a joint agreement to provide an additional \$110 million in CARES Act funding for child care, \$75 million for food banks, \$15 million for diaper banks, and \$200 million for homeless housing.
 - Child care funding will be used to augment state subsidized child care provider contracts for those serving essential workers and at-risk populations, including covering the cost of waived family fees for families not receiving in-person care.
 - Waiting on additional information from CDE and DSS on how these funds will be disseminated.

V. Review and Approve Planning Council Agency Annual Report

- Ellen Dektar provided an overview of the Planning Council Agency Annual Report, which describes the Planning Council's completion of state mandates.
- Kym Johnson motioned to approve the Annual Report and Katie Honegger seconded; 6 members voted to approve.

VI. Discuss COVID-19 Lessons Learned (After Action Report)

- The group engaged in small group discussions on lessons learned from the child care system's response to COVID-19, including regarding supplies, vouchers, financial support for providers, and coordination/planning.
- ECE Program staff will summarize the results of the discussion to inform recommendations for the County's Emergency Operations Center.
- The group also discussed the need to plan for different types of disasters, such as an earthquake, in which different preparation and response strategies may be necessary.



VII. Review and Discuss Preschool Development Grant Focus Group Report

- Last year, the Planning Council Coordinator conducted a series of focus groups with parents and school district representatives to fulfill a State directive associated with California's Preschool Development Grant, which provides funding for ECE strategic planning.
- A draft report with the focus group findings and associated recommendations has been completed. The report provides recommendations in the following areas: accessing high quality early learning & care, supports and services for diverse children, family engagement and participation, and transitions to TK and kindergarten.
- The report will be submitted to the State, inform the County's Needs Assessment, and be made available on the ECE Program website.

VIII. Adjournment – Propose Agenda items for Next Meeting — December 2nd, 10 am - 11:30 am

- The Chair adjourned the meeting.