



**Alameda County Child Care Planning Council  
Public Policy Committee  
September 2, 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:**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>
<b>Jennifer Cabán</b>	SSA	<b>Neva Bandelow</b>	ACOE
<b>Kym Johnson</b>	BANANAS	<b>Trisha Barua</b>	Oakland Starting Smart and Strong
<b>Pamm Shaw</b>	YMCA of the East Bay	<b>Ana Rasquiza</b>	First 5 Alameda County
<b>Kelly O’Lague Dulka</b>	Hively	<b>Makinya Ward</b>	Kids Konnect
<b>Kristina Adams</b>	Hayward Unified School District	<b>Michele Stillwell-Parvensky</b>	Kidango
<b>Claire Chase</b>	Via Nova	<b>LaWanda Wesley</b>	OUSD
<b>Ana Del Aguila</b>	Las Positas College		

ECE Program Staff: Ellen Dektar, Mara Goby

<b>Action Items</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program leaders to share family engagement resources with Jenn Cabán to use as models</li> <li>• Additional ideas for County funding can be sent to Jenn Cabán at <a href="mailto:Jennifer.caban@acgov.org">Jennifer.caban@acgov.org</a></li> </ul>

**I. Welcome/Introductions/Announcements**

- Update on Alameda County ECE Emergency Response Team Effort:
  - Group is focused on improving data collection across agencies
  - Health Heroes Program with Samuel Merritt University has placed over 150 student nurses with over 100 child care providers since June

**II. Report Out from State Contractors & Quality Committees**

- State Contractors Meeting: group is continuing to work through regulatory changes
- Quality Committee: group discussed the following -
  - Alameda County’s Workforce Pathways Project, including qualifications and eligibility for stipends. Application deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup> and those who are interested or have questions can contact Angela Cabrera at [Angela.Cabrera@acgov.org](mailto:Angela.Cabrera@acgov.org).
  - The Early Learning Symposium led by Oakland Starting Smart & Strong for providers in Oakland; many of the attendees are a part of the Quality Committee;
  - Structural racism from an ECE lens

**III. Local, State, & Federal Legislation and Budget Updates and Action**

Local:



- Update on Executive Committee Letter to County on Retaining Funding for Child Care
  - Executive Committee wrote a letter asking the County to retain \$600,000 in unspent money for child care needs related to COVID-19, as a result, the money will be rolled into this fiscal year after the Board of Supervisors approves the request
  
- Update on Status of County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot
  - Alameda County currently has a waiver that allows state contractors to have more flexibility to meet the local cost of living using existing contract funds
  
  - The County lobbyist is working with Assemblyman Bonta to make the pilot permanent; the effort was not successful in this legislative session, but Assemblyman Bonta is committed to addressing the issue as soon as possible
    - The issue has also been included in the County's upcoming platform and legislative priorities
  
- Update on Modified Shelter in Place Order from Alameda County Department of Public Health
  - The group size limit has been increased to 14, among other updates
  
  - Committee members shared challenges with increasing the group size due to a lack of staff capacity, while other programs are not reaching child capacity even when offering distance learning
    - Also shared concerns about the new limitation on having only two adults with each group and how to handle instances of staff getting sick, either with COVID or a cold, or needing to take care of their own children
    - The group also shared concerns about how to distinguish between COVID-19 symptoms and a common cold and raised a potential need for a public health campaign on understanding symptoms
  
  - The group discussed strategies for family engagement, including sharing videos and other communications to help parents understand health & safety precautions and meeting with parents
    - Jenn Cabán requested that programs share the resources they have developed for family engagement to use as models
  
- Discuss Recommendations to County on Priority Community and Child Care Needs
  - Jenn Cabán shared information on a potential opportunity for the County to rethink how SSA addresses pressing needs for families and communities during this time and solicited ideas from the group
  - Committee members suggested support for: technology and internet connection, purchasing household items, undocumented families, child care program staffing issues, expedited COVID testing support, and hazard pay, among other recommendations
  - Members can email Jenn with additional ideas - [Jennifer.caban@acgov.org](mailto:Jennifer.caban@acgov.org)
  
- Discuss School-Age Child Care During COVID-19 Policy Issues
  - Community Care Licensing shared new guidance on school-age care and when a waiver is needed for licensed and license-exempt programs
    - The Alameda County ECE Emergency Response Team is engaging in advocacy for existing child care programs on school sites to reopen



- Kristina Adams raised the importance of highlighting the value of ECE educators during this time as they are working under very difficult circumstances
- Discuss Impact of Recent Fires on Child Care System & Partners
  - Program leaders shared that they are having to keep children inside unless the air quality improves while others have considered closing until the air gets better
- Update on City ECE Funding & Policy Efforts
  - Berkeley has a detailed plan for supporting child care and recently conducted a survey of the field to understand needs

State:

- Update on State Budget and Legislative Priorities
  - Discuss SB 820 Budget Trailer Bill: this bill, passed by the Legislature and awaiting signature by the Governor, includes important policy and funding changes for ECE, including providing an additional 14 non-operational days for programs that have to close due to COVID
- Update on Action to Request State Re-Investment in Infrastructure
  - The County's Policy Council asked the Legislature to retain funding for ECE infrastructure but the request was not successful; however, a statewide coalition is now forming around child care facilities and infrastructure issues
- Debrief and Possible Action on State Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC)
  - During the last meeting, the Council discussed the connection between PDG and Master Plan and shared that the Master Plan report will be released in October
  - The Planning Council will consider engaging with members of the ECPC from Alameda County after the Master Plan report is released

Federal:

- Update on Federal COVID-19 Relief Negotiations
  - Congress is out on recess until after Labor Day and has not made progress on COVID-19 relief negotiations; the latest 'skinny' relief package proposed by Senate Republicans does not include funding for child care

**IV. Update on 2020-21 Public Policy Platform One-Pager**

- Jenn Cabán shared the newest draft, with minor updates since the previous meeting

**V. Adjournment – Propose Agenda items for Next Meeting — October 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 11:30 am**

- The Chair adjourned the meeting