



**ALAMEDA COUNTY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PLANNING COUNCIL  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**November 20, 2020**

<b>Steering Committee Members Present: [20]</b>			
Katie Honegger	Erica Harrell	Susan Morris	Melanie Mueller
Kym Johnson	Victoria (Tori) Porell	Nancy Harvey	Kelly O'Lague Dulka
Nanette Gray	Makinya Ward	Jennifer Cabán	Yesenia Chavez
Alexandra Boskovich	Ana Del Aguila	Vincent Cheng	LaWanda Wesley
Kristina Adams	Briana Brown	Darlene Johnston	Michele Stillwell-Parvensky
<b>Steering Committee Members Absent: [5]</b>			
Neva Bandelow	Tiffany Rose Naputi Lacsado	Nancy Strohl (on leave)	Jessica Blakemore
Julie Nicholson			
<b>General Members &amp; Visitors Present: [10]</b>			
Trisha Barua (Oakland Starting Smart and Strong)	Ana Rasquiza (First 5)	Noni Galloway (Parent)	Clarissa Doutherd (Parent Voices)
Stephen Day (Lakeshore Learning)	Michele Rutherford (First 5)	Joni Chantigian (4Cs Alameda County)	Smita Bhushan (Student)
Janice Andrews (Student)	Seema Khushnood (Student)		
<b>Early Care &amp; Education Program Staff Present: [4]</b>			
Ellen Dektar	Angela Cabrera	Mara Goby	Lorita Riga

**Action Items:**

- PVO will share information about their new anti-oppression curriculum at the next Planning Council meeting.

**Notes:**

**I. Call to Order & Announcements**

- Katie Honegger called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions.
- Announcements:
  - Grant opportunities for child care centers:
    - Alameda County Board of Supervisors redirected \$5 million in CARES Act funding for a [Small Business Grant Program](#) in partnership with the East Bay Economic Development Alliance.
      - Prioritizes small, local, and emerging businesses who have experienced disruptions due to COVID between March and December 30, 2020.
      - One-time grant of up to \$5,000.
    - Alameda County is also providing [COVID-19 Business Assistance Grants](#) for unincorporated Alameda County businesses.
      - One-time grants of up to \$5,000 for small businesses to cover costs such as rent, mortgage, utilities, and payroll incurred during the pandemic.
  - Grant opportunity for Family Child Care (FCC):
    - Alameda County directed \$3 million in CARES Act funding in partnership with the Social Services Agency and First 5 Alameda County to provide [grants for open FCCs](#).
      - Priority for FCCs who have served a subsidized child in the past year.
      - Up to \$5,000 for small FCCs and up to \$10,000 for large FCCs.
      - Questions can be sent to [ACFCCgrant@first5alameda.org](mailto:ACFCCgrant@first5alameda.org).

- Ana Del Aguila shared that Las Positas College is registering students for next semester, including courses in Spanish and for those interested in specializing in children with special needs. Information was shared with Planning Council members.
- The Alameda County Health Heroes for Child Care Program will be continuing its programming next year and is looking for child care providers to register. Information [here](#).
- Recognition of Members Ending Term of Appointment
  - The group recognized Melanie Mueller’s leadership and wished her farewell as she ends her term on the Planning Council.
- Insight on the Ground from Makinya Ward, Kids Konnect
  - Prior to the pandemic, Kids Konnect served 65 children across two locations, but saw enrollment decrease at the start of the pandemic.
    - One site is now close to full capacity, serving children of essential workers, while the second site is beginning to see increased enrollment again.
    - Expenses increased as enrollments decreased, such as having to hire additional staff.
  - Have made strong efforts to communicate their health and safety measures to ease families’ fears, including by sharing research on COVID-19 for children, and have increased communication with staff.
  - Need financial support to ensure sustainability, as well as help ensuring that staff are taking care of themselves and their own health.

## II. Consent Calendar

- Approve the November 20, 2020 Meeting Agenda and September 18, 2020 Minutes
  - The Chair called for a motion to approve the agenda and minutes, Jennifer Cabán motioned and Melanie Mueller seconded.
    - The motion passed with 13 yes votes and two abstentions from Michele Stillwell-Parvensky and Briana Brown.

## III. Planning Council Business

- Action Item #1: Approve Annual Meetings Calendar 2020
  - The Chair called for a motion to approve the Annual Meetings Calendar for 2020, Yesenia Chavez motioned and Tori Porell seconded.
    - The motion passed with 14 yes votes and one abstention from Melanie Mueller.
- Action Item #2: Approve LPC State Reporting: Annual Self-Evaluation Report(s)
  - The Chair called for a motion to approve the Annual Self-Evaluation Report(s), Kym Johnson motioned and Vincent Cheng seconded.
    - The motion passed with 15 yes votes.
- Action Item #3: Approve Submission of Template to CDE
  - The LPC Needs Assessment Template is a state mandate for LPCs to conduct every 5 years.
  - The template provides a snapshot of what is happening in our County related to young children and our child care system.
    - The Alameda County ECE Program team and First 5 Alameda County are also working on more comprehensive needs assessment that will show how our County has changed over time and provide a more detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of our system, to be completed in early 2021.
  - Council members reviewed the LPC template and additional data.
  - The Chair called for a motion to approve the LPC Needs Assessment Template, Kym Johnson motioned and LaWanda Wesley seconded.
    - The motion passed with 17 yes votes.

## IV. Committee Reports

- State Contractors (Erica Harrell): Meetings have focused on recent guidelines from CDE and CCL.

- Quality Committee (LaWanda Wesley): Recent meetings have included discussion on issues of quality in direct services, anti-bias and anti-racist practices, and current challenges with the QRIS system. Committee is also working on a Quality Advisory Platform, similar to the Public Policy Platform.
- Public Policy Committee (Jennifer Caban): Meetings focus on local, state, and federal policy related to early care and education. Group recently reviewed the needs assessment, discussed funding from the State for child care, and discussed lessons learned from the emergency response to COVID-19.
- Executive Committee (Katie Honegger): During recent meeting, discussed the agenda for the Steering Committee meeting, selection of new members, and recommendations from each committee.

## V. Community and Staff Reports

- Parent Voices Oakland Update
  - Parent Voices Oakland has been engaging in significant work to support families and children, including through their robust social media platforms.
- Coordinator's Report
  - Ellen Dektar provided a review of the Planning Council's accomplishments in the past year as they relate to each of the 6 performance measures: access, teacher practice, quality, facilities, and LPC member understanding and action.
  - General accomplishments:
    - 5 committees continued to meet regularly with over 100 community members.
    - The COVID Emergency Response Team convened over 200 coordination meetings.
    - LPC met all state mandates.
    - LPC added 3 new members.
  - Access:
    - Lorita Riga has continued to support our pilot agencies and is working to extend and make permanent our subsidized pilot program.
    - County provided \$750,000 for essential worker vouchers and \$3 million for operational grants for FCCs.
    - Equity work is underway, focused on program and policy changes.
    - Supported access to care for school-age children through regulatory overviews.
  - Quality:
    - Quality coaching pivoted to distance learning.
    - DLL work continued with 18 program administrators who work with 230 children representing 21 home languages.
    - Designed a reopening website for Alameda County child care providers.
  - Teacher practice:
    - Engaged in inclusion coordination and co-facilitation of professional learning opportunities for coaches, administrators, and teaching staff.
    - Provided 906 teachers with stipends for PD through AB 212 and secured a \$551,000 Workforce Pathways Grant from the State.
  - Facilities:
    - Planning Council wrote State elected officials to advocate for facilities funds.
    - Produced numerous facilities reports.
    - Ad Hoc Facilities, Land Use, and Business Supports Committee met four times to monitor issues and develop new resources.

## VI. Alameda County ECE Reports, Resources and Correspondence

- Mara Goby shared the results of the Preschool Development Grant Focused Conversations Narrative Report, which was a State mandate and covers topics including access to high-quality child care and transitions to kindergarten.

- Ellen Dektar shared a letter from Supervisor Carson to Congressional representatives on the importance of child care funding from the federal government, which is a result of the Planning Council's advocacy.

## **VII. Presentations & Discussion**

- Mara Goby provided a presentation on Elections, Budget, and Legislative Overview
  - The presentation provided an overview of local, state, and federal election results as they relate to child care, including President-Elect Joe Biden's child care proposals, and an overview of recently proposed federal appropriations bills for the Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start.
- LaWanda Wesley and Angela Cabrera provided a presentation on Equity and Anti-Racist Programs, Policies, and Practice
  - The presentation focused on actionable tools and strategies that child care programs and planners can use to advance anti-racism.
  - Planning Council members engaged in discussion on the tools they use in their daily work.
  - PVO will be launching new anti-oppression curriculum, which will be shared at the next meeting.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

- The Chair adjourned the meeting.
- Next meeting: Friday, January 15, 2021 from 10 am – 12 pm