



Public Policy Committee Minutes September 1, 2021

"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 childcare providers and recommending appropriate action to the Early Care and Education Planning Council."

Attendees:

Jennifer Cabán (Alameda County SSA), Neva Bandelow (Alameda COE), Kym Johnson (Bananas), Diana Garcia (First 5), Jane Najera (SEIU 521), Michele Rutherford (First 5), Pamm Shaw (YMCA East Bay), Page Tomblin (ACOE Consultant), Makinya Ward (Kids Konnect Preschools), Melanie Mueller (YMCA East Bay), Anna Miera (First 5), LaWanda Wesley (Oakland USD), Michele Stillwell-Parvensky (Kidango), Ana Del Aguila (Las Positas College), Ana Rasquiza (First 5), Lisa Forti (First 5), Kristin Spanos (First 5)

Welcome/Introductions/Announcements

- Jennifer Cabán began the meeting at 10:03 a.m. and facilitated welcome and introductions.
- No announcements

Consent Calendar

- Review and approval of Agenda
 - Jenn motioned to approve the agenda. All approved the agenda.
- Review and approval of Minutes
 - Jenn moved to approve the minutes. All approved the minutes.

Federal, State, Local Policy and Legislative Updates

- AB 1294
 - This is the bill where Alameda and Santa Clara counties are requesting permanency for their local pilots. Alameda county has received an extension to June 2023 and has been removed from the bill. Although removed, a report element has been requested. Santa Clara county has a sunset date of June 2022. Information related to AB 1294 can be found at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1294
- Federal Update
 - Infrastructure Bill - \$1 trillion Infrastructure Bill will not be moved to the House by the Speaker of the House until the budget reconciliation bill is passed. On August 11th the Senate passed the budget resolution process to initiate the budget reconciliation process. Party leaders have been instructed to continue writing pieces for legislation through September 15th. A final vote for both the Infrastructure Bill and the legislation that is going to the budget resolution is expected for September 27th.
- State Update
 - RMR Increase - The Alameda County Child Care subsidy pilot was extended through June 30, 2022 in the California budget. Rate increases effective January 1, 2022 for licensed child care providers reimbursed through voucher programs will be compensated at up to the 75th percentile of the 2018 regional market rate; license exempt at 70% of the RMR ceiling, a 4.05% cost of living increase for applicable programs.
 - Provider Stipends - There is an increase in what providers may receive for the subsidies. This increase is still below market rates of the October 2020 survey.
The one-time stipends that will be provided for child care providers and centers are as follows:

- \$600 per subsidized child stipend
- \$3,500 stipend for licensed child care homes
- Licensed child care centers will receive one-time tiered stipends based on license maximum capacity
 - \$3,500 for centers up to 14 children
 - \$4,000 for centers with 15-24 children
 - \$5,000 for centers with 25-60 children
 - \$6,500 for centers with 61+ children
- Incentive: \$500 for newly licensed home providers that remain open after completing 12-months as a licensed family child care home
- Other Legislation
 - SB 50 - This bill is still moving forward. It will be on the Senate floor early next week.
 - AB 22 - This bill was made into a two year bill in the Senate appropriations committee, so it is not moving this year but could potentially move next year. Information related to AB 22 can be found at: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB22

Facilities

Consideration being made to do a facilities needs assessment. Proposed having the LPC re-convene the Facilities Ad-Hoc committee.

Brown Act Update

- We are currently under a waiver in regards to meeting virtually. That waiver expires in October. Preparation is being made to meet in person if an extension is not granted.

Strategic Planning/Policy Platform (October)

- This is currently in the brainstorming phase. Some of this work may be handled by the Steering Committee. As in previous times the steering committees will work together and then look at what they might want to bring down to the other LPC committees that would be relevant to planning for goals, strategies, and outcomes that also meet our mandate.
- No member updates at this time.

Agenda items for October

- Information regarding Washington D.C. updates on reconciliation bills
- Legislative platform and overall planning
- Provider stipends

Adjournment - Jennifer Cabán adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m

Next Meeting - October 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.