



# Sacramento County Local Child Care & Development Planning Council

Public Hearing Minutes

February 8, 2007 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sacramento County Administration Building, Board Chambers, 700 H Street, Sacramento, CA

## Meeting Attendance

LPC Members	Staff	Members of the Public	
Alix Hall	Marianne Knoy	Julie Ball	Carmen Garcia
Theresa Roberts	Donna Sneeringer	Souzie Fonte	Shirley Matthews
Jana Saastad	Marge Tomczak	Sylvia Egan	Flor Pajuelo
Anne Kress	Jaci White	Ruby Lovan	
Marta Suarez	Joyce Wright	Belinda McQueen	
Norman Tanaka		Li Li	
Tracy Tomasky		Katheen Tibbals	
Jane Dankbar		Tonya Vorobets	
		Marista Jordan	

## Meeting Summary

Welcome & Introductions	Vice – Chair Tracy Tomasky called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.  Council members were asked to stand and be recognized.
Child Care Plan Overview	Vice Chair Tomasky presented an overview of the Council’s Child Care Plan. <i>A copy of the script is attached.</i> Ms. Tomasky then reviewed the rules for public comment. The floor was then opened for public comment on the child care plan.
Public Comment	<b>There was no public comment at this time.</b>
Conclusion	Vice Chair Tomasky thanked everyone in attendance for coming to the public hearing and noted that written comment on the plan would be accepted through February 22, 2007.  The hearing concluded at 7:00 p.m.



The Sacramento County Local Child Care & Development Planning Council

## Promoting Excellence in Child Care and Education

*A Strategic Plan for  
Child Care and Development  
in Sacramento County:  
2007-2012*



### Public Hearing

February 8, 2007 , 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

County Administration Building  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
700 H Street, Sacramento, CA

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## What is the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council?

Local Planning Councils are mandated by Education Code 8499.3-8499.7. Each of California's 58 counties has a Local Planning Council.

Members to the Council are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Education.

Membership is comprised of:

- 20% Consumer Representatives
- 20% Child Care Provider Representatives
- 20% Public Agency Representatives
- 20% Community Representatives
- 20% Board Discretion Appointees

Sacramento County Local Child Care & Development Planning Council



Local Planning Councils were established by the state legislature in 1991, and are mandated by Education Code 8499.3 – 8499.7. They are funded by federal Child Development Block Grant Dollars, which are administered through the California Department of Education, Child Development Division.

All 58 counties in California have planning councils.

In Sacramento County, we have 20 members, ten appointed by the Board of Education and ten by the Board of Supervisors.

Membership is comprised of five categories, with four representatives from each category serving on the Council. Detailed information on the categories, as well as a listing of Council members may be found in the packet handed to you as you entered the room.

Would all the Council members in attendance, please rise and be recognized?

Thank you!

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## What is the purpose of the Local Child Care and Development Planning Council?

- *Identify local funding priorities for child care*
- *Develop policy recommendations to meet needs identified within priorities*

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State Education Code requires the Council conduct a needs assessment, at a minimum every five years, to identify existing gaps in services for children ages birth to thirteen within the county

Out of the needs assessment, the Council then identifies areas of priority which the California Department of Education will use in making decisions regarding allocation of new state child care funds.

The Council then develops policy recommendations addressing child care issues and concerns raised by the needs identified within the priority areas, and presents those recommendations in a five year plan.

The Council provides a forum for public participation in the planning process, including focus groups, participation on LPC committees, and this evening's opportunity for public comment on the draft of the new child care plan.

The Council also serves as an advisory body to the Board of Education and Board of Supervisors.

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## Who uses the Child Care Plan?

- Board of Supervisors
- Board of Education
- Businesses
- Policymakers
- Early Care and Education Professionals and Support Agencies

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As an advisory body to the Board of Education and Board of Supervisors, the Local Planning Council's Child Care Plan serves as a resource to these boards regarding the child care needs of families in Sacramento County.

Businesses utilize the plan whether it is to start or expand a child care program or to identify services it may provide to parents, providers, or their own employees.

Policymakers utilize the Child Care Plan as a source of information when discussing legislative action at the city, county or state level to address Sacramento's child care needs. The Plan may also serve as a resource for city and county planning bodies to help identify services needed by families living in areas of development or redevelopment.

Early Care and Education Professionals and support agencies utilize the plan to identify and coordinate services needed within Sacramento County

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## Planning & Development Timeline:



The planning and development of this child care plan has taken a little over a year and a half.

- The Council established a committee to oversee the plan development in October of 2005.
- Working with the County Office of Education, a needs assessment was conducted, and funding priorities determined.
- The committee and staff then worked on development of the plan throughout 2006.

Which brings us to today, at our forum for Public Comment on the Child Care Plan Draft.

- After this evening, the committee will meet to review comments and discuss any changes the plan may require.
- It then goes before the full council for final approval on February 28, 2007
  - It is then scheduled to go before the Board of Education for approval on March 28, 2007
  - And the Board of Supervisors on April 3, 2007
- Once all three bodies have approved the document, it will go forward with Publication Design and Printing
- And we are planning for distribution at the start of the new fiscal year, July 2007, when the new plan will take effect.

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## What does the Child Care Plan address?

- The Status of Child Care in Sacramento County
- Five Main Elements
  - Child Care Consumers
  - Child Care Supply and Demand
  - Early Learning Workforce Development and Training
  - Building Excellence in Child Care
  - Community Collaboration and Relations

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The Child Care Plan is a document that addresses a number of issues regarding child care in Sacramento County.

Tonight we will have an overview on the Status of Child Care in Sacramento County And, then address the Five Main elements the Council has identified as the focus for this new plan.

Child Care Consumers

Child Care Supply and Demand

Early Learning Workforce Development and Training

Building Excellence in Child Care

Community Collaboration and Relations

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## Child Care in Sacramento County

### ● Successes

- \$3.5 million in CARES stipends awarded since 2001
- Technical assistance and training for providers and parents to assist with the development of inclusive services for children with special needs
- Preschool Expansion
- Centralized Eligibility List (CEL)
- Quality Child Care Collaborative (QCCC)

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Since 2002, Sacramento County has experienced several successes in the development of programs serving both child care providers and parents.

These successes include:

- The Comprehensive Approaches to Raising Education Standards (CARES) program which, since 2001, has awarded over \$3.5 million in stipends to child care providers committed to professional development
- Funding from the state to provide technical assistance and training for providers and parents to assist with the development of inclusive services for children with special needs. The Council was also funded to develop a report identifying the barriers and challenges in child care for children with special needs.
- Preschool Expansion encompassing collaborative efforts throughout the county to support School Readiness programs, develop content standards for preschool, and expand preschool capacity in low Academic Performance Index areas.
- The development of the Centralized Eligibility List (CEL) which consolidated individual waiting lists maintained by state funded programs into a single point of entry for parents seeking to enroll their children into subsidized care.
- The Quality Child Care Collaborative (QCCC) which provides free information, resources and consultation to child care centers and family child care homes to help them provide quality child care programs.

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## Child Care in Sacramento County

### ● Challenges

- Freeze on Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Funds
- Changes in CalWORKs Requirements

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The continued success of these programs, and others, is challenged by funding reductions.

•Due to across the board funding freezes, the federally funded Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) has not kept pace with inflation, leaving fewer dollars available to fund child care quality initiatives. Funds for quality improvement programs have declined by over \$2 million in the last five years, impacting services to providers and parents.

•Additionally, new work participation requirements for families receiving CalWORKs increases the number of families and children in need of child care assistance, with no increase in funding.

## Child Care Consumers

- 300 parents participated in five focus groups and an on-line survey
  - 68% believe child care programs are required to be licensed
  - 45% believe child care programs are inspected annually
  - 64% identified child care as the largest household expense after rent/mortgage
  
- Workplace Policies
  - Family Friendly policies help in retention and recruitment of employees

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As the child's first teacher, parents affect their child's future and well-being not only through their own interaction with the child, but also through their choices about the type of early care and education program in which they may place their child/children.

Over the summer of 2006 the Council conducted focus groups and an on-line survey to gain insight into what considerations parents take in selecting child care, including assumptions about the regulatory systems. 68% believe child care programs are required to be licensed, and 45% believe child care programs are inspected annually. Neither of which are true.

Many parents believe licensing requirements and oversight are in place and occur on a consistent, if not annual basis. Parents are unaware of the impact of recent licensing regulation changes and cuts in funding for licensing services.

Parents noted that a quality child care setting was the single most important factor in selecting child care, with 64% identifying child care as the largest household expense after rent/mortgage.

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The trend towards family friendly workplace policies has grown as employers seek ways to recruit and retain employees. Employers are noticing cost benefits to offering flexible work schedules, dependent care reimbursement, on or near site child care, family leave and, yes, even breastfeeding support.

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## Child Care Consumers

- Expand high quality early care and education programs and the funding for these programs
- Support parents and community rights to participate in the planning process
- Facilitate supports for working parents
- Support more parent education on licensing requirements, and high quality child care criteria

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The Council recommends the following to address Child Care Consumer issues:

- Expand high quality early care and education programs and the funding for these programs
- Support parents' and the community's rights to participate in the planning process
- Facilitate supports for working parents
- Support more parent education on licensing requirements, and high quality child care criteria

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## Child Care Supply and Demand

- Current available licensed child care spaces = 54,761, which only serves 35% of the children with parents in the workforce.
- The population of 0-13 year old children will increase by 18% by 2010 to 311,460 children.
- As the population of 0-13 year olds increases, the number of licensed child care spaces needed just to maintain serving 35% of children with parents in the work force:
  - By 2010 = 64,438 licensed child care spaces
  - By 2020 = 82,939 licensed child care spaces
  - By 2050 = 116,127 licensed child care spaces
- Areas of new development lack child care facilities and programs

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Licensed child care capacity currently serves 35% of the overall population of Sacramento County children with parents in the workforce.

The County experienced a population growth of 10% between 2000 and 2004, and the state Department of Finance estimates an 18% increase in the zero to 13 population by 2010. An additional 10,000 more licensed spaces will be needed in the next three years just to maintain the current level of licensed child care spaces.

Population growth, continuing development and redevelopment of residential and commercial areas within the county, and, a family child care home workforce reaching retirement age are factors that will impact child care capacity in Sacramento County.

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## Child Care Supply and Demand

- Develop convenient and accessible child care services
- Encourage partnerships in the planning of child care services in growing neighborhoods
- Advocate for the inclusion of child care in regional, city and county planning and development

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Council recommendations include:

- Development of child care services that are convenient and accessible to families throughout the county and provide equal access to child care services regardless of income or needs.
- Partnerships that will participate in the planning of child care services in growing neighborhoods in Sacramento County. These partnerships should include child care providers, school districts, commercial and residential developers and policy makers.
- Advocacy for the inclusion of child care in planning and development in Sacramento regional, county and city government general and transportation plans, and for zoning that incorporates child care services in residential and commercial zones.

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## Early Learning Workforce Development and Training

- Sacramento County has an early care and education workforce actively involved in professional growth, training and education
- This workforce is more diverse ethnically and linguistically than Sacramento's K-12 teachers
- Low wages and language barriers for English language learners present barriers for professionals attempting to pursue AA's and BA's

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The education level of Sacramento County's early education workforce is higher than Sacramento County's entire adult female population. This can be attributed, in part, to the nationwide trend to raise teacher qualifications to meet requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Sacramento County's early care and education workforce is more diverse ethnically and linguistically than their K-12 counterparts, and more reflective of the diversity of children in their care.

However, low wages contribute to high staff turnover, and make balancing the expenses of daily living and pursuing an Associate's or Bachelor's degree increasingly difficult. For English language learners, language also presents a barrier for completing early childhood education and child development courses.

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## Early Learning Workforce Development and Training

- Pending retirements in the next five years will leave a significant gap in licensed care provided by family child care providers

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The family child care workforce in Sacramento is an aging population, with the majority in their mid-forties. The average length of time a family child care provider offers care is 8 – 12 years. With 42% of licensed child care provided by family child care providers, we anticipate a significant reduction in available licensed child care spaces as the number of family child care providers decreases and new providers are not brought into the field.

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## Early Learning Workforce Development and Training

- Support efforts to develop quality child care services and retain an experienced and skilled workforce reflective of the diversity of Sacramento County's children
- Streamline post-secondary education systems to promote and assist in obtaining degrees
- Expand opportunities for professional development
- Recruit and support Family Child Care Providers

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Early Care Workforce Development and Training recommendations include:

- Support of efforts to develop quality child care services and retain an experienced and skilled workforce reflective of the diversity of Sacramento County's children
- Streamlining post-secondary education systems to promote and assist in obtaining degrees
- Expanding opportunities for professional development
- Recruitment and support of Family Child Care Providers.

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## Building Excellence in Child Care

- Dependable high quality child care services are crucial for a child's healthy development of social-emotional, language, cognitive and physical skills
- Quality of care is closely related to the education, compensation and retention of staff
- Quality enhancement programs assist early care and education professionals in meeting and exceeding basic quality standards

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A high quality child care environment is crucial for a child's healthy development. Excellence in child care and education is characterized by practices that reflect a deep commitment to fostering the development of children's skills and proficiency in the physical, social, emotional and cognitive domains.

Evaluation tools, and utilization of technical assistance and training services assist providers in identifying and implementing the quality practices necessary to achieve excellence.

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## Building Excellence in Child Care

- Maintain and expand funding for child care and development programs
- Fully fund state and county licensing to facilitate oversight and enforcement of regulations
- Increase training and technical assistance resources through collaborations
- Promote smooth transitions for children from child care to kindergarten, as well as after school programs.
- Explore development of Quality Rating Systems

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Included in the Council's Recommendations on addressing issues relating to Building Excellence in Child Care are to:

- Maintain and expand funding for child care and development programs
- Fully fund state and county licensing to facilitate oversight and enforcement of regulations
- Increase training and technical assistance resources through collaborations
- Promote smooth transitions for children from child care to kindergarten, as well as after school programs.
- Explore development of Quality Rating Systems

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## Community Collaboration and Relations

- Encourage parent participation in planning and development of child care services
- Utilize child care providers as liaisons to parents
- Promote collaborations to support child care services
  - Systems Level
  - Grassroots Level

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Establishing relationships between parents, child care providers, public and private agencies, and neighborhood groups is integral in building a strong foundation of support for quality child care in Sacramento County. The importance of child care and early education has brought many new partners to the table. This offers opportunities to share ideas and resources, but also the risk of duplication of efforts.

It is critical for community leaders working on child care issues to be in an ongoing dialogue and work in partnership to create services which meet the needs of families in the Sacramento Community.

Towards this end, the Council supports:

- Parent participation in the planning and development of child care services
- Involving providers in the communication process, as a direct link to parents to provide parents with information about services available to them in the community
- And, an increased emphasis on collaborations, both at the systemic level with public and private agencies, and at the grassroots level, through neighborhood and faith based groups.

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## The Public Comment Process

### Public Hearing –

Members of the public wishing to make comments at the public hearing will need to:

- Complete a public comment card to speak
- Limit comments to three minutes

### Written comments –

- Will be accepted through February 22, 2007
- May be submitted to the Chair at the public hearing
- May be submitted via email to [info@sac-lpc.org](mailto:info@sac-lpc.org), or
- May be faxed to (916) 369-0318, or
- May be mailed to: LPC Coordinator, 9961 Horn Road, Sacramento, CA 95827.

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Now for a review of the public comment process, which you will also find on this evening's agenda.

- Members of the public wishing to submit oral or written comments must complete a public testimony registration card, included in the hearing packet handed to each of you as you entered. Once completed, please hand the card to a Council or Staff member who will forward it to the Chair.
- You may also submit written comments at this time.

### Oral Comments:

1. Will be limited to three minutes per public speaker. *The Chair reserves the right to reduce or extend the time limits for oral comments, dependent upon the number of individuals registered to present oral comment. Total allotted time for oral testimony is 90 minutes.*
2. The Chair will recognize each speaker. *All remarks made must be germane to the business at hand and must be addressed to the chair.*
3. All comments are to be directed to the chair. *No person other than the person having the floor and members of the Council and Council staff, as directed by the Chair, will be permitted to enter the discussion.*
4. Public speakers may not relinquish their time to others without the approval of the chair.
5. Demonstrations, banners, and distribution of literature will not be permitted before or during the public hearing, nor will solicitation of signatures for petitions be permitted.

## Comments

- Speakers please complete a public comment card and present it to a Council representative.
- You may approach the podium when recognized by the Chair.
- Please limit comments to three minutes.

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We are now ready to accept public comment on the Sacramento County Local Child Care & Development Planning Council's Five year Strategic plan for addressing child care issues in Sacramento County.

**Mouse Click (after testimony)**

## Contact:

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For additional questions please contact: