



**Early Childhood Policy Council  
Parent and Workforce Advisory Committees  
Virtual Meeting**

Thursday, November 16, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Physical Meeting**

1000 G Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
WestEd, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Old Towne Room

**Agenda and Transcripts**

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**Agenda:**

**1. Introduction**

- Welcome
- Review of agenda

**2. Review Draft ECPC Budget Letter**

- Share draft letter

**3. Solicit input from committee members**

- Public comment

**4. Solicit Input on 2025-27 Child Care and Development Fund State Plan**

- Provide overview
- Solicit input from committee members.
- Public comment

**5. Review Advisory Committees' Policy Issues**

- Review policy issues
- Public comment

**6. Adjourn**

**Attendance:****ECPC Council Members:**

Kim Johnson, Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Robin Layton, Tonia McMillian, Miren Algorri, Mary Ignatius

**Parent Advisory Committee Members:**

Mary Ignatius, Yenni Rivera, Naima Facih, Patricia Lozano, Patrick McFarlane, Deborah Corley-Marzett, Cherie Schroeder.

**Workforce Advisory Committee:**

Tonia McMillian, Miren Algorri, Virginia Eigen, Patricia Alexander, AnnLouise Bonnitto, Zoila Toma.

**Guest:**

Becky Halligan

**Public Comment:**

Regina Cannon, Chanel Hamilton, Joanna Rocha

**Hosts:**

Veronique Baumbach, Karin Bloomer, Ya-Nan Chou (CZ), Jessie Liu (CZ), Elizabeth Magruder, Diana Orozco (SP), Giovanna Wormsbecker (SP), Diana Yactayo,

**Transcripts:****Karin Bloomer:**

Okay, well good morning. Welcome everyone who has joined us. Before we begin the ECPC joint meeting of the Parent and Workforce Advisory Committees, I'm going to explain a few Zoom features. In a few moments, we'll be offering the closed captioning feature in Zoom. To access this feature, you'll need to locate the live transcript button at the bottom of your zoom screen and then click show subtitle. This will allow you to view closed captions in English throughout the entire meeting. In a moment, we will also offer language interpretation services. I will now turn things over to our interpreters to describe how you can listen to this meeting in English, Spanish, or Mandarin.

**Giovanna Wormsbecker - Interpreter SP:**

In order to provide language access. This meeting will have simultaneous interpretation in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and if you're on a laptop or a desktop. After we're done with this announcement, you'll see a globe at the bottom right of your screen, please click on the globe icon that says interpretation and select English. If you're an iPad or similar device locate the three-dot menu on the upper right it says language interpretation, and then select English. When it's your turn to speak, please remember

to be loud and clear and speak at a moderate pace, as interpreter will be interpreting simultaneously into the other language.

**Giovanna Wormsbecker - Interpreter SP:**

[foreign language]

**Ya-Nan Chou - Interpreter CZ:**

[foreign language]

Thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much, interpreters. At this time, we'll now enable live transcription and interpretation. Please select your preferred language at this time. I'll make one more note that we will be posting the slides from today's meeting on the ECPC webpage within the week, so please look there if you'd like copies of them. And with that, I will turn things over to the chair of our Workforce advisory committee. Tonia McMillan.

**Tonia McMillan:**

Thank you, Karin. Hello and welcome everyone. I am Tonia McMillan, and I am the chair of the Early Childhood Policy Council's Workforce Advisory Committee. I am joined today by my colleague, Mary Ignatius, chair of the Early Childhood Policy Council's Parent Advisory Committee. I want to thank members of both advisory committees for being here today. I also want to acknowledge members of the council who are attending, and for the many members of the public who are here, we thank you. So, we will be keeping the chat feature open for the duration of the meeting so that members of the public can comment as we go. At the end of the meeting, we will devote time to verbal public comment. So, let's review today's agenda. The first item is about preparing a budget letter on behalf of the ECPC and our advisory committees to send to the governor and legislature as we did last time, last year at this time.

Mary will share a draft letter with you for your feedback. The second agenda item is about the child care and development fund state plan. Dr. Lupe, Jaime-Mileham is here to solicit the committee's feedback on parts of the plan. And for our final agenda item, we would like to show you the list of policy ideas the committees generated at our last meeting to make sure it looks complete. We would like to head into next year's state budget and policy development process with a good understanding of our priorities for providers and for parents. With that, let's move into our first topic. Mary, are you ready to get us going?

**Mary Ignatius:**

I am ready. Thank you. And I apologize I'm off camera because I am in a parking lot. So good morning, everybody. I just wanted to start my piece with two acknowledgements. One, it is Native American Heritage Month. So, we want to celebrate the incredible resilience and persistence and commitment of indigenous people holding onto their language and their cultural celebrations and traditions. And then I also wanted to

dedicate this meeting to somebody who recently passed away. Many of her name is Josephina Ramirez Notsinneh from Children Now. She's been a longtime advocate for children and families. She died suddenly a couple weeks ago and leaves behind two young children. And so, we just wanted, you know... She leaves some unfinished business behind for all of us to continue to carry on and ensure that children and families and early educators get what they need and deserve. So, I just wanted to start with that.

And now I will go into our agenda, which is, as you recall, our fellow ECPC member Robin Layton and I worked on a budget letter last year with the help of the advisory committees that we sent. And we are going to repeat that process this year. As Tonia mentioned, we're going to share a draft and get your input. And as Robin and I were meeting to draft some of this language, we really realized that a lot of what we asked for in last year's letter came true. And so, we thought this was an opportunity for us to really appreciate and acknowledge and thank the governor and the legislature for adopting nearly 3 billion dollars in investments over the next couple of years.

And this last state budget made historic investments. As you remember, there were record deficits going into last January. So, where we landed was really great. And at the same time, we know that we need to stay vigilant in holding the administration and legislature accountable to follow through on promises that they've made and to continue to prioritize families and providers in future budgets. So, what Robin and I would like to propose to you to the ECPC is to share this sort of thank you appreciation letter that we will send to the governor and legislature.

And then when the governor releases his budget in January, we'll be able to look at and compare what's in that budget versus what were some of the priorities that came out of our last joint policy committee where we talked about priorities from both parents and providers. So, we'll be able to do that early next year. And in the meantime, we will share this letter. And I think the other point we just want to make is we're in mid-November. A lot of what's in the governor's budget proposal that will come out January 10 is pretty baked. And so, I think it just makes sense for us to focus on our priorities in the January letter. Robin, do you want to add anything to that?

**Robin Layton:**

Sure. Yeah, thanks Mary. You captured it all. Also, just to reiterate the reason for the thank you, the last couple of years, we were really in a reaction mode, and I think we have a really good schedule now on. This will be a thank you. Hopefully in January it will also be a thank you, but if we don't know our ECPC schedule yet for next year, so that'll be how we would time the next budget letters. And this letter that we're going to share today will then go to the ECPC not until December 21. That is our meeting and that once that gets approved at the ECPC meeting, then that's when it would get sent out. So, we hope you like it.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay, so I am going to read this for you. I'll just start with the content. The Early Childhood Policy Council was established in law via senate Bill 75 (Chapter 51 statutes of 2019) to advise the Governor, Legislature and the Superintendent of Public

Instruction on statewide early learning care and policy. We are writing to express our appreciation for the Administration's and Legislature's commitment to California's youngest members, their families, and early childhood care providers as demonstrated in the 23, 24 State Budget. Specifically, we want to acknowledge the State's historic investments, including transforming the family fees, extending the hold harmless policy, and providing increased funding to child care providers and programs to keep their doors open.

We also recognize and appreciate the Administration's establishment of the Rate and Quality Workgroup - and now the Rate and Quality Advisory Panel - to address the state's woefully and adequate reimbursement rate structure. We look forward to the Administration's and Legislature's adoption of the Panel's recommendations in the forthcoming report expected July 1, 2024, to establish a regionalized reimbursement rate that: one, compensates all teachers and child care providers for the true cost of providing care by reimbursing them at rates that reflect the economic diversity of California. Two, recognizes the cost of meeting varying quality standards and regulations. And three, strengthens the ability of the state's mixed delivery system to provide quality options.

As you embark on the State Budget development process for State Fiscal year 24, 25, we look forward to the Administration and Legislature upholding the investments cited above, as well as expanding access to child care for the tens of thousands of families still in need and providing ongoing funding support to attract and retain members of the ECE workforce. As your partners in helping California families with young children navigate the challenges of today and supporting the early care and learning workforce, provide essential services that support California's economy. We look forward to working with you to ensure our children remain a top priority. The end. So again, just acknowledging what was done, reminding them of what is left to be done and that we will be there to hold them accountable and work towards achieving those promises. Does anybody have anything they'd like to ask or suggest? Is everyone comfortable with this language? You can raise your hand and we will call you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Tonia, this is Karin. I'm just wondering as chair of the Workforce advisory committee, what reactions you have to the draft letter? Can you hear me? Tonia? You are muted. Just curious if you have reactions to the draft letter.

**Tonia McMillian:**

I can hear you and... Let me think a minute. Please.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Of course.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Give me a second.

**Robin Layton:**

Tonia, that's exactly how Mary and I were. We went round and round on, I wouldn't say round and round. I think we were in agreement of, well, how should we approach it this year? And we're always in such a fight mode and getting the disappointments and this year really felt different. And we have the Rates Committee and it's really important to thank our Legislature for hearing us, but we're ready to change up the letter in the winter if he doesn't carry through, especially with the Rates panel that's happening now. That's really important that he mentions it in January and so we just really didn't feel like we needed to push back on anything because definitely we're not done. But it was very successful budget.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And from the parent perspective, I think in January we are also looking for a commitment to undo the pause of those 20,000 slots and that there's a reflection or recognition that commitment remains and will be part of the next budget. But we can't hold him accountable on that until we see what he's put in January.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Thank you, Robin. And thank you Mary, especially for giving me a little insight on how you guys came to putting this letter, this draft together. I was a little concerned that there was no mention of different organizations, the roles that they played, but I get it. And so, I'd like to hear what other members of the workforce and parents, what are your thoughts?

**Karin Bloomer:**

I see Deborah Corley Marzett's hand.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Thank you for that. Good morning, everyone. Well, listening to... I have the draft here reading it as well and I've read over it but listening to Mary read it just really flowed. And then listening again to Robin and Mary, how they came about this because at times I do remind myself as a provider, I have to put my guards down, take my gloves off sometimes, because here in this position, yes, I'm always in that defensive mode because my fight is hard. It's a hard fight for me, but sometimes I know I have to put it down because at the same time, no matter what, I want to be heard as well as understood. And then taking this turn here a little, I'm not going to say softer approach, but a little different approach and still being heard. So, I appreciate that. I thought it actually was well done, especially understanding and knowing that if we don't hear what we want to hear in January that you're ready to change up. So, thank you for that.

**Robin Layton:**

Thanks, Deborah. Yeah, that's why it's super important to have and be ready with... I believe this afternoon, the end of this meeting, you're going to be going over your priorities again. I've requested that the ECPC also have a priority session agenda item because we've actually haven't done that since I believe the master plan came out and that was also reactionary. Remember that was also drafted by somebody else and not

us. And then, so I think it's really important that hopefully the first meeting in 2024, the full ECPC council can have a priority session. And then the next letter we'll have a list of asks and priorities. We weren't really ready for that right now. I shouldn't say we weren't ready. We all have our priorities and asks; it hasn't been formalized through this committee and the full ECPC.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Mary and Tonia and Robin, I see a chat from committee member Patricia Lozano and thank you Patricia for giving your feedback and it sounds like your support for this. And then she has a few questions about when would the letter be sent and can you have access to the letter and I'll just mention as a support staff on that latter question. Yes, thank you for asking about that Patricia.

What we did last year that we're repeating at this point, unless I am given other direction, is to, once the chairs today hear from the Advisory committee members, and I think ultimately whether you support moving this letter forward for ECPC consideration, this letter would be sent to the ECPC members, and all of these committee members would be copied on that email. So, you'd all have copies at that time. In terms of wanting to send the letter, Robin, Mary, I believe the way again we would repeat this year is after seeking feedback at the December 21st ECPC meeting from members, again, if there is support for the letter, then support staff actually on behalf of the council, sends it to all of those individuals named at the top of the letter immediately following the meeting. So, within the few days after the ECPC meeting in late December.

**Robin Layton:**

That's my understanding as well. And I'll just put in another plug that we did have to discuss this last December at the ECPC meeting that once you all, these two committees approve it and it goes in December, if there's typos, and I'm saying this now because I can't be at this December 21 meeting. I'm actually hoping it gets changed to the week before the holidays, but it can't get changed too much without coming back to you guys and then going back to the ECPC. So hopefully it'll be a clean approval and then it can get sent, otherwise it doesn't make sense to... Otherwise, we'll have to wait until, well, hopefully the first meeting will be in January, but again, we don't have the schedule. So that's the process that we've done it before, the way we've done it before.

**Karin Bloomer:**

So again, I think with that, just echoing Mary's and Robin's request for more feedback and I see committee members have provided some in the chat and thank you Deborah and Tonia for sharing your feedback. I imagine it would be helpful just to hear some more voices from the committee in terms of supporting moving this letter forward. And if not, what are your reservations about doing so. Virginia, thank you for your mention in the chat and I see Zola's hand.

**Zoila Toma:**

Good morning, everyone. I think it's really important to give thanks for the accomplishments. I think anything that have happened, major or small, it's very important and it does create impact, but I don't know who exactly and how many members were involved in creating this letter. I think it's also important to involve more members to get a little bit more feedback to add or delete or other stuff that we also might have in mind because we as parents, you might have some ideas as providers and other. So, everybody, it's navigating a different situation in our industries or with our families. So, I think it's also important to address all those issues when the letter is being draft. Thank you everyone.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thanks Zoila. Again, this is just Karin Bloomer support staff. Just by way of making sure we've explained process well enough just in terms of abiding by Bagley-Keene public meeting rules. Only two members of the ECPC can work together on a topic without breaching the public meeting laws. And so that's why Robin and Mary were good enough to take the lead on this and I think very much looking for your input right now in this public meeting. So really welcome that.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Thanks Karin. I was about to jump in with that.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. Sorry. I see Deborah's got her hand up, but please go ahead.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Yes, thank you. Mary, can you put that letter back up for me one more time? I think I missed something there that you had said, if you don't mind, just one more time for me and just scroll it from the beginning. Yes, I'm sorry.

**Karin Bloomer:**

No, it's no problem.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Okay. Because as you read, it was great. And yeah, just scroll down for me. If you just do that slowly for as well as those who are looking can see the same thing I'm looking for. Thank you again for that. I just wanted to take a good look on that. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yeah, and I would just say I think Robin and I got together one-time last month because of the rules and limitations of what we're allowed to do came up with this draft and we're presenting it to you all for the first time. So, there's not a lot of process or conversation or meeting. We were just the two ones that volunteered. So, this is kind of what we're stuck with as process. So, this really is the time. If tone is an issue or there's words that



are missing that would make folks from either of the Advisory committees to feel better about the letter that goes forth. This is really the time to share that and then we can adapt those notes.

**Robin Layton:**

This is Robin. I just was looking at some of the chats. So, one of the questions is about the intent of recognizing the cost and what is the action we're expecting. I think we're all expecting that the Legislature and the Governor's budget reflect the recommendations that come out of the rate in quality panel. And I believe that's in there in the letter that that's our expectation. That's always been our expectation. Hopefully at first it was a stakeholder's group and now it's a panel. Hopefully we're done after this. And they just do what they said they were going to do, which is take the recommendations, which that panel and that work group are well represented with people from the field and parents and providers in both family child care and also center-based. So hopefully you all feel that with Mary and I volunteering to do this, that we've taken into consideration the last three years of committee members comments as well as the many members of the public that attend these meetings.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And I also see there are suggestions and recommendations for policy recommendations for the letter and that's where we want to capture that. In the letter we put out post governor's budget proposal, really combining it with what our last subcommittee joint advisory committee meeting, the sort of policy recommendations that came out of that. Plus, things that we'll be discussing in the committee will be reflected in the next letter. But we will note all of the things that are in chat.

Okay. Any last thoughts from committee members before we move on?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Oh great, we've got Patrick who was kind enough to join me in this meeting room today is here and has something to say.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

It would be great to see the letter, I think, beforehand so that we can prepare feedback and comments. And I know that there's maybe reasons we can't do that, but I did want to say I think it would be valuable in the letter to call out by name some of the leaders within the administration who have been so instrumental over the last couple of years in working with the field and being responsive. And I think the governor and his team I think would appreciate that kind of acknowledgement if that wasn't in the letter if I missed that.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I'm happy to put it back up on the screen, too. Patrick, here is who the individuals to whom the letter was sent last year and that we've put again at the top of this letter.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Yeah. I mean, aside from who it's addressed to, I just think acknowledgement for some of the leaders within the administration who've been so instrumental in implementation, I think there's value in acknowledging that work.

**Karin Bloomer:**

So, Mary and Robin, hearing Patrick's suggestion, I imagine we'd be looking for who those individuals might be that you're suggesting that get named or... So, I think we're trying to take those suggested edits now if we can, or at least conceptually now, but again, defer to Robin and Mary on how you want...

**Robin Layton:**

Patrick, that's a really good point. Are you talking about staff members within the administration? I'm looking at the second paragraph, and I know we're lumping everybody, but what I would caution is if we do start listing names that we don't want to leave anybody out.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Right, yeah-

**Robin Layton:**

So...

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

As much as it would be great to list specific names, I see the challenges with that. Maybe we list departments, I'm not sure. Maybe it's not the right place for that, but I just thought...

**Robin Layton:**

Yeah. The administration does include, correct me if I'm wrong. I don't know. I think Lupe's on the call. I believe the administration does include CDSS. Is it CDSS? And CDE.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

CDE is not part of the administration. They're part of the state superintendent.

**Robin Layton:**

So, Patrick, were you thinking those two departments? Is that who you wanted to call out or actual names?

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

I don't know.

**Robin Layton:**

Yeah, it's tough. It's tough.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Yeah.

**Robin Layton:**

And that's why we thought long and hard, the same thing with priorities because this could end up being a 60-page thank you letter if we start listing because we wouldn't want to leave any of the priorities out either, but we definitely need a priority list.

**Mary Ignatius:**

I wonder if we are writing to express our appreciation for the administration and legislature's commitments we could add, and department staff or administration and legislatures...

**Robin Layton:**

Now that I think about it, though, that could be tricky because the department staff carry out what the administration and legislature pass. They don't actually help develop the budget. But we are grateful. We are grateful for you, Lupe, and whoever else is on the call from the two departments. But I don't know if we're thanking the departments. I think we are thanking the administration and the legislature.

**Karin Bloomer:**

So, I wonder, Mary and Robin, if it would be worth just asking if there's a committee member who feels uncomfortable bringing this to the ECPC, you would appreciate just hearing that now. Is there a committee member who doesn't feel comfortable forwarding this to the ECPC for consideration? It might just be helpful to make sure we've confirmed.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Are there any committee members that are uncomfortable sending the letter as is to the full ECPC? And actually, sorry, just by reading it through again out loud, I realize we don't have any language related to racial equity or the impact that the investments have made on a predominantly BIPOC workforce and family. So, I might want to just add something related to that because that's missing.

**Robin Layton:**

That's a good point, Mary. And I think we've had it in our previous letter.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yeah, it might've gotten edited out by accident. AnnLouise has her hand up.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Just following suit with what she said is tribal pieces is huge just because the tribes are not racially based with the sovereignty piece. So, when it's not named specifically in some of these things, unfortunately it gets shipped to the side. So, I think the same thing. I think some of that language maybe didn't travel over to this and I would love to see at least something mentioned in there, because what happens with the rates that go out, sometimes they don't take into consideration tribes and what they have to go through and the inequities that they go through as far as the child care rates for teachers and supply for even qualified teachers.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And I'm going to claim ignorance. On that number one, where it says compensates all teachers and child care providers for the true cross of providing care, I don't know if the conversation for tribal early educators is included in that, but maybe that's where we can say all teachers and child care providers including tribal early educators. I don't know what the language is, AnnLouise, but if you see in the letter where it would be important to highlight that, that would be helpful.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Perfect. I'll put it in the chat.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And the one and two, that whole paragraph is actually taken from the rate and quality panel charge. So maybe somewhere else. I'm trying to find the...

I think AnnLouise might be writing in the chat for us.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

It might be easier if I state it by the time, you type it out. So [inaudible] we go to [inaudible] structure affecting [inaudible].

**Mary Ignatius:**

Are others having a hard time hearing AnnLouise? You're pretty choppy. It's getting broken up.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Let me undock because sometimes that happens.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Oh. That's perfect. You sound much clearer. Thank you.

Oh no, now we can't hear you at all. Oh, sorry, AnnLouise. You were on your way.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I wonder if-

**Robin Layton:**

I found it in the May 2021 letter, and so if we want to just wordsmith that later, but I can read what it says and see if you guys are okay with this. Do you want me to read that paragraph? It's listed as a priority.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Sure.

**Robin Layton:**

Yes? It says we must ensure there is equitable access to services and supports for families to ensure a successful recovery from the pandemic. Which by the way, just side note, we decided not to add too much about the pandemic. Particularly marginalized populations including black, indigenous, and people of color, BIPOC families, immigrant families, homeless families, foster children, children of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated parents, children with disabilities, dual language learners, and low-income families, including those experienced generational poverty. So, we could, if you guys, that obviously got approved before. Is that something you want to add?

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Personally, I think that would be great to do. Unfortunately, as you know, when it comes to legislation and the law, if it's silent and not said, it didn't happen, and we just definitely want to make sure that these particular groups are not siloed off to the side by accident. And I apologize that you could not hear me earlier.

**Robin Layton:**

So, reading that paragraph, did you want to, if everybody goes to the website, it actually lists the past budget letters and it's a bolded, in the May, 2021 letter and it's bolded as a priority what I just read.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yeah, and I think we can be really strong that all policies investments must take into consideration and be inclusive of all of these communities.

**Robin Layton:**

And if Karin and Mary type it, Mary can, I'm sorry, I just blanked on the person that was requesting the addition.

**Karin Bloomer:**

AnnLouise.

**Robin Layton:**

Mary can talk to her. We just can't, the three of us just can't talk.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Right. I can meet with AnnLouise and make sure-

**Robin Layton:**

Right. Make sure the wording is good.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And I've just pasted into the letter here that language, Robin, you read out that could be perhaps modified a bit in terms of-

**Mary Ignatius:**

Well, it's families and the workforce, right? Because I think AnnLouise's point was that in conversations around rates and things related to the workforce, if we are not specifically naming tribal child care, it can be left out.

Okay, well interest of time. Yeah. Can we move forward?

**Karin Bloomer:**

I saw some explicit expressions of support from committee members in the chat, and again, haven't heard of AnnLouise's addition has been added, at least conceptually, that now would be the time if any other committee member does not feel they're ready to support moving this forward.

All right, wonderful. Well, I'll just mention just in my support role, I want to thank Robin and Mary again for shepherding this and thank you committee members for your input today. So, Tonia, I think, there you go. Turn to you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Yes, back to me. Okay. So let me pull up my agenda. So, for our next agenda item, okay, we have the Department of Social Services joining us as they begin their process of the development of the 2025-'27 child care and development fund state plan. One of the department CCDF objectives is to work collaboratively with the ECPC tribal partners, other state agencies, and community partners in drafting the plan. This is the third of eight input sessions CDSS has scheduled to invite input from a variety of partners throughout the state. Dr. Lupe Jaime-Mileham, deputy director of the Child Care and Development Division at CDSS, that's a long title, at CDSS and fellow ECPC member is here to facilitate this input session. Let's welcome Dr. Lupe.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you and good morning and thank you for that wonderful introduction. I'll not repeat my name and title again as I think that will take another 10 minutes. Thank you for doing that. Let's go ahead and bring up the PowerPoint. Perfect. Let's jump to the next slide so we can get going. So, thank you everyone for joining us this morning. It is a federal requirement that we draft the '25-'27 child care and development state plan and collaboration with partners both at the state level and local level. So, we're very excited to be with you today and not just because this is a requirement, but most importantly because we want to gain your insight to ensure that we are drafting the very best plan

for California. And of course, your expertise is very much in support of making sure that we have voices represented in this plan.

So, with that, let's get started and go to the next slide. So, the Child Care and Development Fund is a federal block run administrated by the administration for children and families for states, territories, and tribal governments. And it provides support for children and their families and subsidizes the child care that fits the needs of families and will prepare children to succeed in school and beyond. The requirements for the CCDF are found in Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 98, which includes the requirement for the submission of the trinomial plan referring to as the CCDF state plan. That was just a little bit of background.

Let's go to one more slide with some more background on this. What we all refer to as the CCDF state plan is technically known as the ACF 118 report. So, everything you want to know about CCDF, we're covering it in just a minute here. And the report serves as California's application and agreement between the lead agency, in this case CCDF, and the federal government as to how our child care and development programs will be administrated in conformance with the legislative requirements pertinent to federal regulations and other instructions and guidance issued by ACF. The report is prepared every three years for the three years federal fiscal year period, and it is due July 1 of 2024 prior to the reporting period. CCDF 2025-'27 state plan is effective October 1st of 2025 through September 30 of 2027.

So, with that background, I'm going to dive into some questions that we have for you about the plan itself. I have one more slide just to make sure that I cover what the sections are, so I'll put that thought on pause for a minute. There are eight separate sections to the state plan based on the requirements of CFR 45, part 98. In each of these areas, the lead agency is expected to explain how they will use the funds to meet the requirements, and those sections that we gave the full title here, but I'm just going to read a couple of them, is leadership and coordination, family engagement, stable child care, equal access, standards and monitoring, retention and recruitment, continuous quality improvement, and grantee program integrity and accountability.

Today we will be focusing on a few of these topics that are related to families and the workforce, so that is section three and four and section six and seven. But I want to add a caveat that although we're tying this session to those, we want your feedback on any of the sessions, and I'll get to the end of the slide at a later time regarding where you can continue to provide this feedback. So, this is not just your only time to provide this feedback on any sections that we may not cover today because of time.

Let's go to the next slide. So here we go. So, we're going to start jumping into the sections I've mentioned, and we have a couple questions for you regarding those sections. So, in section three of the state plan, it discusses the policies and procedures related to providing stable child care through financial assistance to families. Currently, the requirement for receiving child care services is that the family must meet one of the identified eligibility categories and have a need. The lead agency has the authority to identify some other eligible conditions above the federal requirements. A recent notice of proposed rulemaking released by the administration of children and families, ACF, introduced the possibility of adding the options of presumption eligibility. Presumption

eligibility would allow families to receive available child care services prior to collecting and submission of all documents of eligibility for predetermined period of time.

Let's to the next slide where we dive into these we're questions then. We're seeking comments regarding the following questions. So how would the use of presumption eligibility benefit families in California? What are your concerns, if any, of this topic, or support? And is three months a reasonable amount of time to allow families to collect and submit documentation? So let me just do a quick recap of that. So, presumption eligibility is possibly being proposed. We're seeking feedback in regard to that new development. If it is something that the federal government does include, then our questions to you is family comes in, they're found that they're eligible, they don't have to walk in on the first day with all their documents, we decide on X amount of days for them to submit those documents. But the child care starts pretty immediately based on their attestation of their application, and then they have X amount of time to gather those documents, work with the agency, and then be able to continue with their child care.

So that would be an example of presumption eligibility, which works different. Right now, family has to come in with all their documents and then they're issued a notice of action and then they're certified for need with X amount of hours and then providers are notified and et cetera. So, a little bit differently. I'm going to pause there, and at this point I do have Becky Halligan, our CCDF lead, in the background who's going to continue to take notes and a few others and open up the floor for any feedback for these questions. Go ahead.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yeah, maybe I'll just stop sharing my screen-

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

So, I can see.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Is that better? Okay, great.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

That would be wonderful. I'm going to jump first to Deborah.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Thank you, Dr. Lupe. And always good to see. Just want to make sure what you had mentioned was you're wanting feedback on what you had just went over, correct? So, this is my thought here. I think it's great, a great idea for family daycare providers, assuming for families to be able to become immediately eligible as long as they meet those requirements. But my question there is as the family becomes immediately eligible and they say, okay, this is the provider that I would like to use, will the provider immediately receive the paperwork through email and or mail? And along with that, as long as the family gets, let's say the family does not get all the paperwork together in



that three-month period. Will the provider be reimbursed for the services that they paying... I thank you for shaking your head yes, but the problem is that that does not even happen to this day.

Even if it's not receiving service immediately per se, a provider is told that they're going to be able to, our parent is told you can go get your child care, get it started, et cetera, and turn around and provide services for a few months. And literally the agency will come back and say, oh, if something went wrong, you're not going to be paid. That still happens to this day. So that still needs to be corrected. And if we're going to implement this, we're talking three months. We need to make sure to hold the agencies accountable for that, called out and corrected, because there's no reason why a provider should have to provide services for all those months and is told they're going to be reimbursed. And if something happens and the parent fails to do something, the provider loses. We want to make sure that doesn't happen for any provider in this state. Thank you.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you for the feedback. I want to just make sure that I'm hearing you as I'm taking notes for this is, supportive of the presumption eligibility, but want to make sure that there is additional language in regard to the immediate notification of the provider upon the family being deemed eligible for the perception eligibility. Also want to make sure that we note with further policies regulation that the provider is paid for that full period of time regardless of whether that family comes through with paperwork or not.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Right.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

And then one more last thing, which is our current system right now, you're giving us feedback that we need to continue to monitor and support because it's something that is currently is not happening in regard to the payment and so we need to strengthen that a bit more.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Yes. Along with that, the paperwork needs to go out immediately to the provider, as a parent can change their provider immediately and a notice has to go out the same day because that's regulation. The same day that a parent will tell a case manager, I want to switch providers, that letter is supposed to go out immediately the same day that parent tells that case manager. In the same respect that when that parent walks in and say, this is the provider that I would like, for these services to begin, that paper should go out the same day as well. There's no reason it shouldn't. Thank you.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you for that feedback. Mary?

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yeah, agree with everything Deborah said, and we parent voices submitted comments on the proposed rule and one of the things we said about presumptive eligibility, I mean, listen, we believe anything that, any policy that removes and makes it much more simpler for families to apply for services, we are in support of. And one of the things we had mentioned also is that if a family had already applied for another service that was income-based, that they had to prove and show documentation within the last 12 months, they should also be made eligible based on that documentation that's already been submitted.

The fact that families are constantly having to submit and resubmit documentation and then that documentation gets lost or somebody didn't receive it or it wasn't blah, blah, blah, blah, that's how families keep falling through the cracks and they just throw up their hands and walk away from the system instead of that system receiving them and wrapping their arms around them to make it simpler and easy for them to experience. So, if there was any way to also include, I don't know if it's automatic eligibility if you've already provided documentation in the last 12 months, and then they would be held to the law in CCDF that says if you are over 85% of SMI you have to report. Yeah.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you. So categorical eligibility, if you're referencing that if I'm capturing the notes correctly, as the suggestion for presumption eligibility, which means that the family would not need to resubmit their paperwork again since they have already established the categorical eligibility in the last 12 months. And so, recognizing that note on here.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yes, you got it.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Okay, thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Lupe, I think you've got what, two-

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Lupe. I think you've got what, two more categories to go and I don't want to rush this, but also watching time, so turn to you for whether you want to move on.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Yeah, let me move on. But I will say that even though we have two other sections to go at the end of the sections, if you want to go back to another section to continue to give feedback or something we didn't cover that anyone wants to also add to, we'll open it up

there. And also want to add that this is not your only time too, so please know that I'll cover a slide about where you can continue to send updates and feedback for us on the entire plan too. So Perfect. All right, so let's then jump to the next slide. So, the next slide is the waiving of the family fee, which ACF reference as copayment. So, family fees are referenced to a contribution or copayments in the blueprint. The federal regulations allow state to waive family fees for families whose income are below or at the federal poverty level for a family of the same family size or for families who are receiving or needing to receive protective services or who meet other criteria established by the lead agency, which is CDSS.

Currently CDSS waives family fees for families who are below 75th percentile. So, everyone here take a bow as we were champion this staff work. So, state media income which includes families with an income at or below the federal poverty level, which would code 102-900 and then section E and section two with children who are receiving child care protective services or have been identified as at risk of abuse, neglect, exploited or may be exempt from paying a family fee for 12 months when a referral indicates that the family fee is waived. And then receiving Cal Works cash aid as well as receiving child care and development services for children with special needs and then enrolled in a federally based migrant program which we reference as CMAC and eligible for children based on experiences homelessness in a pilot counties where that has been approved by in place that would supersede the state law.

Let's go to the next slide. So, for the questions in regards to this is two questions. Given the new family fee schedule that sets fees at no more than 1% of the family income, is there still a need for additional family fee exemption? And if so, what populations would you suggest? So, I will turn it over to questions and if we can go, I'm sorry we're going back, but I love the dialogue and seeing everybody. Naima.

You see a hand raised with Naima, I'm not sure if you are able to unmute.

**Naima Facih:**

I'm sorry I didn't raise my hand.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Oh okay. Okay.

**Karin Bloomer:**

We'll try a work for you. There you go.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Lupe, can I ask a clarifying question?

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Yeah.

**Mary Ignatius:**

So, you are asking the committee because basically those fees are eliminated for all below 75% of SMI, but there are particular groups that have already been identified who even if they started to make income between 75 and 85 would not have to pay fees. And so, you're asking who else in that or what other populations might want to be included in those.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

You got it Mary. So exactly. So other considerations as a former would like to be able to receive the feedback on this.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Do we have survivors of domestic violence named.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Don't.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yeah, somebody else said DV families. Having watched a family go through that right now, real fears about income and what's allowable and what's not is really a determining factor of if they're going to flee. And so, if there was a way to include them, that would be great.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you. Any other feedback in regard to copayment/ family fees. Virginia?

**Virginia Eigen:**

Does it take into consideration at all the area of where the people are living because California is so diverse and the cost of living in different sections is extremely diverse as well. So, for example, I'm in the Bay area and 1% of somebody's income still might be too much because it's so expensive yet.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

So really looking at possibly some feedback on the high-cost counties then. Noting that down.

I don't see any hand raised. So, I'm going to jump to my next question but please know that we are happy to go back to any of the previous questions, just want to make sure that that we're able to at least get through these and not using my best but as a teacher wait time, I understand that too.

So, the last question in regards to this is the state plan section six and section seven with this two. So currently CCDF is utilized to target the mixed delivery system, which is the family friends and neighbor, family child care homes and center-based workforce. And it's a system of support that supports the training and professional development, the mixed delivery system, which includes the workforce pathways for example, Quality

Count California, language project, infant family mental health consultation and many other supports.

Does this group have any feedback on the offering of topics, access to the array of offering additional supports missing, the vehicles of houses are being offered, et cetera? So, this is more of an overarching piece to say we offer professional development, coaching and support and would like to receive any feedback regarding what we're currently offering and seeing if there's anything missing or anything you can provide us. And then we'll go back, thank you for going back and forth.

Virginia.

**Virginia Eigen:**

Having recently gone back to school to transition from preschool to TK, I was looking for grants and things like that and I don't know that it was that easy to find anything. I actually didn't find anything besides student loans. So, making it easier for people to access and find that information is imperative to get people into the field.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you for that feedback. So, want to ask the few that are mentioned or and others that many of you have also been connected with, if there is any that you'd like to do a shout out for and say yes, we should continue to invest in this particular program, et cetera, that we also want to hear that type of feedback too.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And just to note the wording from that slide, Becky Halligan from DSS at 11:09 pasted the questions from the slide in chat. So, if you go to 11:09 Becky Halligan, if anyone wants to have a reference again to some examples for there.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Deborah.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Thank you. Thanks again Dr. Lupe. I think it would be great to add a training of support, especially to our new providers that are going into this field. A support on how to create and have a strong contract with your parents. When a provider, when a person decides to go into this field and they go to the orientations et cetera, and you know, thank God for CCPU and all the other providers out to support providers, but that's there to help and to inform. But it would be great if the state took an extra step to supporting those providers and after they have their orientation and saying the state is well would like to help you of the importance of a solid contract. Of course, we can't tell you what to put in the contract, but yet it's important how to create a great solid and secure contract between the provider and the parents.

And I'm going to also say I think it's also important that the state takes the time to teach providers how to manure. Manure? Bless my heart, maneuver through DSS website. That's important. Again, if you do not know where to find the information, how can you

be expected to know the information? So, I wish that you all would take the time to provide trainings on how to maneuver through and find those things at DSS. Thank you.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you for that feedback.

So, I'm now opening it up to going back to any of the questions that were just raised or anything outside of these questions that anyone would like to contribute to. Patricia.

**Patricia Lozano:**

Hi, good morning. I just think that in terms of trainings for family, friend and neighbors, we have a work group, and we hear that they are really interested in, accessing trainings but sometimes it's hard to know where to go. I know there are some, so kind of like working on make them more accessible and especially those who are interested in getting licensed right. It feels like overwhelming sometimes on where to go, how to access that information. I know there's work going on in that, but there is interest but sometimes it's just accessing the opportunities to get those trainings and how to do it.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Okay, so thank you for that feedback. So targeted approaches for family, friends and neighbors to ensure they know where to access information and of course for accessibility to. Thank you for that. Zoila.

**Zoila Toma:**

I know that training fund, it's doing great when it comes to paying, helping with tuition reimbursement, business training and many other stuff that we're working on that also helped with contracts and all the things that were mentioned. But also, as long as we continue to receiving those funds, hopefully we can work in our contract for the future years. I think we can expand all this; members just need to go or even anybody just needs to go and sign up and the website for mailing for those emails that keep receiving so they can stay up to date on what's happening. It's kind of also provide with technical support like devices and things like that, hotspots, all this stuff. So, it's just matter of going to sign up for those newsletters and all that so you can keep receiving. But I think the support that will come with making sure that we continue to receive those funds when we have to renew our contract, that will be just great. Thank you.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you, Zoila. So, noting down the importance of the CCPA training fund and of course the talk about making sure that it's ongoing. Any other feedback?

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

I have some.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Patrick McFarland here in the room has one, Lupe.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

So, I'm not sure which-

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Sure-

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Which question this would really apply to, but the things that keep coming up for me are, for the workforce, having access to child care and then access and support as it relates to housing. And then also for providers and programs to be able to have the training and the resources to make the families that they're serving aware of resources related to housing and support related to housing.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Got it. So more of a whole child, whole family approach, right?

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Yeah.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

That come in perhaps for child care needs, however, identifying that we go the extra support to be able to make them aware of those resources including housing.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Yes, and for the family fees. Also, to ensure that early educators are not burdened by family fees and that also if they have housing issues, that they have access to resources immediately so that they're not faced with housing insecurity as much as possible.

**Lupe Jaime-Mileham:**

Thank you for that feedback. Noting that down. Perfect. So, let's go ahead and go back to the PowerPoint and as we can jump to slide number four because I do want to do a quick plug of where we are continuing to do sessions at. So, in case as you're thinking about today's conversation and more feedback keeps coming, then want to make sure we plug that in. So, we've had already two sessions so far. One in Fresno, one in red, and then this would be the third. We have one more regional session in Southern California at Riverside County office of Ed on November 20, 2023, from 10 to noon. And then for those who are not able to make any of the in-person regional meetings, we'll also provide an in-person session at the CVS headquarters in downtown Sacramento on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, from 10 to 12. And then they will also be a virtual session via Zoom on December 7, 2023, from 10 to 12. And a zoom link will be set as we register, and we get closer. Let's go to the next slide.

So, after the first draft of the plan is released in early February, there will be an opportunity to re-review the draft and offer more written comments during the 30 day

public comment period. Also as required by the federal law, CDSS will also hold a public hearing sometime during the 30-day comment period and more information about these public comment periods. And the public hearing will come out through our listserv in January 2024.

The information we gather in the input session will inform the final draft of the plan, which will be submitted on July 1, 2024. And to RSVP to any of these remaining sessions or if you have any questions, please email us at StatePln, you'll notice that there's no A, @dss.ca.gov. And then just let's go to the next slide so then everybody can, there's a QR code in case you want to continue to receive any information with us or you're not signed up yet for our listserv. And also know that if you're not able to attend any of those, you can always email us your feedback, your written feedback, and that same email. So, we just want to make sure we provide all mechanisms of being able to receive feedback for anyone that would like to provide that, as for drafting this plan. With that I thank everyone for their time, and we'll turn it over to Karen.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much, Dr. Jaime-Mileham. And all I do now is turn it back over to the chairs, which I think perhaps is to you Tonia.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Thank you. Thank you, Karen. And thank you Dr. Lupe. So, for our final agenda item, Mary and I want to loop back to a discussion that we all had at the last committee meeting in August. In that meeting we asked committee members to identify the policy issues that you felt were the most important ways to support parents and providers.

The reason for generating this list is so that we have a common understanding of what's important to all of us and then raise these issues as we respond to the governor's budget and as we decide what topics to focus on in our meetings in the coming year. Mary and I did our best to capture in writing what we heard in the last meeting and after we show you this list, we would like to know a couple of things. Number one, is there an issue near and dear to your heart that you don't see on the list?

And number two, is there an issue on this list that you would like to add more description to or clarify? I hope that's okay with everybody. I'll repeat that one more time. Number one, is there an issue that is near and dear to your heart that you don't see on the list? And number two, is there an issue that you would like to add more description, or you'd like for us to clarify more? So I'm going to ask Mary if you don't mind, if you could read that list once it's on the screen and I'm going to ask if we can post the list. There we go.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay. So, the first one is to create career pathways for providers with continued pay increases. Two is establish free education programs and loan forgiveness opportunities for early educators to enable them to get degrees without going into terrible debt.

Ensure all types of early childhood provider voices are represented and heard in discussions on the impacts of UPK and TK on the early childhood field. Ensure school



bond funding includes investments in the early childhood education infrastructure, expand the paid family leave program by extending the period of paid leave and wage replacement. Increase availability of infant toddler care by offering higher pay for these providers and consider a specialized license to serve infants. Enable a family child care license to follow the provider when they move rather than linking the license to the home address.

And also, in that discussion we also talked about the voucher or slot should follow the family when they move. That didn't get into these notes, sorry. And eight, increased access to special needs evaluations, both in terms of having more evaluations available and making them affordable as well as training for early educators who are serving these children.

Thank you for adding that. Karen, is there anything after eight is that's,

**Karin Bloomer:**

That's it. That's it. So far these were what we understood to be raised in the last meeting.

And so, I think as Tonia laid out at the beginning, perhaps we start with whether there are any additional policy issues that should be added to this list.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Karin, while we're waiting for raised hands, there is one policy that I would like to add to this list and it's about supporting our currently incarcerated and recently released mothers to get access to child care subsidies. I'm thinking, because here's what I think I'm thinking, it could read something like, expand access to child care subsidies targeting specific populations such as currently incarcerated and recently released mothers.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Sorry.

Does that look like what you said, Tonia? Yes,

**Tonia McMillian:**

Yes.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

I'm seeing comments, I'm seeing folks are adding stuff in the comments too, so that's great.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And we just came from a retreat of 50 parents and some of the issues they raised were around changing the state median income to area median income, which is something I think Virginia sort of raised earlier. I think it was related to, I'm not sure if it was related to income eligibility but adjusting income eligibility to be based on area meeting income rather than state meeting income because of the significant cost of living. There's also the -

**Karin Bloomer:**

Mary, Mary, Mary. I'm so sorry. I probably should have been trying to type as you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

I can type it. I can type it in the chat. I'll type it in the chat.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Another thing was area meeting income. The not to pause the slots in the governor's budget so to continue expansion and I'll try and remember them and put them in the chat as well.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Great, thank you. I see that Deborah has her hand up. Deborah, please.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Yes, thank you. A concern is that I think something that should be added in policy needs to be the word paid needs to be included in the two week notice because it was pointed out to me that when a parent gives a two week notice in policy, it does not say or mention that it's a paid two-week notice. Therefore, leaving that responsibility perhaps on the parent for that program. So that's something to look into and to make changes I felt. Thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. Deborah. Just forgive me so that I capture this accurately. I don't know if you can see it on the screen here, but the mention of paid, perhaps you could just help me a little bit more or if it's too challenging, feel free to just say you're going to think about it and put it in the chat. I just don't want to butcher your concept here.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Clarify that the provider should be paid I Karin, you're [inaudible] this than me.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Got it. Thank you, thank you,

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Thank you.

But that word paid needs to be included in that language. It's not there submitted.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. Okay.

**Deborah Corley Marzett:**

Thank you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Advisory committee member Patricia Lozano put supports for multilingual learners, their families and providers in the chat.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

I had like to add one more, don't type this yet, but I'm going to toss this out there. We know that currently we have a licensing advocate for providers for centers with licensing. And this is Tonia. This is me. I think it would be amazing to have a parent and provider advocate at resource and referral agencies.

In particular providers like the providers who are on this Brady Bunch screen who joined us today, who have been in this business a very long time, for parents who understand the process and have been participants in changing the process to help new providers, to help new parents navigate their way or answer questions that only a parent or only a provider can answer because we are professionals in this or have been participants and understand it. So, I'm tossing that out there.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And Tonia, can you just summarize for me sort of one more time for the nature of it.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Create spaces within resource and referral agencies for parent and provider advocate advocates.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you. And chairs, I think you've got a few hands. We've got Zoila and then Miren and then Patrick.

**Mary Ignatius:**

... And Miren and then Patrick.

**Zoila Toma:**

I see the outdoor and recreation space advocate for policies that support the creation of safe and accessible outdoor space for children in both residential institutional child care settings. I say this because unfortunately when licensing comes sometimes through our doors, sometimes we think that we have the appropriate play areas and sometimes they ask us to dismantle everything, and we have already spent money into all that. So, I think it'll be great if we have some sort of support on that area so we can know exactly and we are not wasting resources, money and things that have to be dismantled because it's not appropriate. Another one that I'm seeing and I'm being have getting right now with me, special needs inclusion, implementing policies to ensure that children with special needs have equal access to child care services and appropriate support. I have to be sending a letter to my sub program every time I'm submitting the attendance sheets. That assistance support is ongoing with the special needs. That's everyday support. So, telling them every month the same thing, it's a bit questionable. So, I think probably that will be helpful. Thank you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Thank you, Zoila. We'll go to Miren next. And then Patrick.

**Miren Algorri:**

Zoila read my mind. I was going to bring up the fact that when we talk about parents' choice, it should be respected, but when it comes to parents' choice, they're very limited when their children need some type of support because the children must be enrolled in the district to receive such support. So, we need to work on policy that ensures that children, regardless of the type of early care and education setting they're attending, get the resources that they need in order for them to thrive. And I love the multilingual student parents and providers support that Patricia Lozano brought up. Thank you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Thank you, Miren. Patrick, you want to go next.

**Patrick MacFarlane:**

Yes, I would like to see access for more families, perhaps for families that are above the current income eligibility, but I think more families being served is an important goal. And then the second thing is around the findings from the reparations task force and doing something in a policy area to incorporate reparative justice for black Californians as it relates to child care.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yes. Wonderful. Thank you for lifting that up. Patrick, are there any other hands that I can't see?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Not yet.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay. And Karin, I still had my two in there from the chat. Don't forget to add those.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you so much. For some reason I can't copy out of the chat today.

**Mary Ignatius:**

I can't either. I was trying to copy and paste it back for you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I end up selecting all, every time.

**Mary Ignatius:**

You can just put 18. You could put area median income instead of state median income.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yeah, thank you. I've got a placeholder up above, so I'm going to go back through the chat for all.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay. You'll put them in. Perfect, thank you.

**Karin Bloomer:**

And I see Cherie Schroeder's hand.

**Cherie Schroeder:**

Yes, you've kind of mentioned it, but I think having the voucher follow the child instead of for our foster children, if they change placements, they also most often lose their child care because it's based on their provider, their caregiver. So again, if we could just be inclusive of our dependent children, I should have kept the number, but that it does follow that dependent child because again, it's just another disruption upon another disruption. And perhaps even we're lucky that we have child care available for most of, at least in our county, but not all up and down the state. So certainly, just putting dependent children in as another one of those vulnerable populations stating it out loud.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thanks, Cherie.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And I just want to let the folks in the chat know I just put it in who are watching. Right now, members of the committees are providing their priorities and then all of you can do that in chat as well as there will be a moment for public comment when you'll be allowed

to go off of mute and then share those verbally. But as long as you get them in the chat, we'll be able to capture them.

**Karin Bloomer:**

I'll just scroll down slowly again for committee members to review for additions or clarifications. Okay, so we have the 17 thus far.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Committee member AnnLouise to add that tribal children should be duly eligible for both the state and tribal funding programs. Oh, sorry AnnLouise, did you want to go off mute and say that?

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

There are a couple other ones that I also included. I'll finish typing that. The other one is there's a state... Sorry, management bulletin that encourages R&Rs to include tribal child care providers in their system. I would like it to be stronger, go from a management bulletin to actually having it as part of what they do when they do referrals and, in their system, because we found at the local levels it really leads it up to the local agencies and sometimes, they do, sometimes they don't. And then the other one, if you have thoughts and then they flip your mind quite easily, it happens to me now. And also, for tribal child care providers to have the ability to get the information regarding the workforce pathways, the state trainings, things like that. Which right now it's hit-and-miss.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And AnnLouise, forgive me that I'm not looking at chat right now, but if you haven't named all of those in the chat, would you please do so? And again, I will be going back through the chat log for all the committee input. I just want to make sure it's in writing so that I articulate it accurately.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Yes, it's all in writing there for you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Great. Thank you so much.

**AnnLouise Bonnitto:**

Thank you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Karin, can you go back up to the top of the list? The paid family leave program right there. So, I do want to add this. For those who don't know, effective January 1, 2024, employers are now expected to pay five paid sick days instead of three. And that's paid sick days or safe days. And safe days would include women who are escaping domestic

violence or something of that nature. So, I'd like to take number five. I don't know how to reword it.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Well, Tonia paid sick days and paid family leave...

**Tonia McMillian:**

Family leave...

**Mary Ignatius:**

Are different.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Yeah, exactly. That's why I'm trying to figure an addition or just make it a whole brand new...

**Karin Bloomer:**

Okay. And so, Tonia, given that that will be enacted or active in law at the first of the year, is there something additional you want us to add or just be watching that to see how it...

**Tonia McMillian:**

Yeah, I think I'd like to be watching it. And the reason why I'm adding, I want that something to address that is because as a survivor of domestic violence myself and being a provider, I had to go in front of my families and my kids with two black eyes because I could not close. And that's hard. That was hard. That was difficult. It was... I don't want to see anybody else have to go through that.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thanks for sharing that, Tonia.

**Mary Ignatius:**

And Yenni in the chat included in this topic really just talked about the ridiculous waiting times and the families who are just in crisis seeking assistance and the runaround that they're put through. So, we can make sure to double check Yenni's comments so they're reflected in this section.

**Yenni Rivera:**

Thank you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

I see, Miren, you have your hand up.

**Miren Algorri:**

Yes. When we talk about equity and equity in how children are viewed, how families are viewed and how early childhood educators are viewed, I believe it's important and I know that there are groups out there that are already working towards this. We need to change the age for infants in child care settings to 18 months just like centers. Children are children, doesn't matter the setting. And this is hindering families and it's hindering family child care providers because we have a lot of parents out there who are struggling to find infant care for infants who are three, four months old and we have the slots in our family child care homes.

However, we have four 23-month-old that are taking those infant spots and that has to do with equity. How is it that infants are 18 months and below and a center, but they're 24 months and below for family child care? Like I said, I know there are groups out there that are already working. I'm part of some of them that are trying to make this policy change. And I think it's important because parent should not have to commute 100 miles a day in order to have child care services for their infant children. Thank you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Mary, I'm noting the time and it's 11:45. I just want to make sure that we leave room for verbal public's comments.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Yenni has her hand up so she could be the last one in the committee.

**Yenni Rivera:**

Thank you, Mary, thank you for bringing attention to my comments. I've been having issues, 10 issues this morning, but I also want to, if you can, Karin, not only about DV but also different maybe tab for homelessness. Honestly, it's similar, but it's to different traumas and different needs and we need to keep that attention because it does affect getting up documentation three months grace doesn't really align. If we and other systems in California or even federally, are understanding and respectful of the needs of not only DV families but also those surviving homelessness or being evicted knowing that we have... I just represent Los Angeles, so I'm the family coordinator for the county that works next with our mayor and our supervisors. So, I can tell you there's thousands, at least we've calculated about 15, 20 thousands that are in our services. Whether for us is HUD definition of income for the education system, who I work with hand in hand is a different, it's the McKenney.

So, I love that Mary brought up the area median of income compared to the state because it does affect, I've seen a hint when we had two different definitions. It's so puzzling, but out of the 20,000 families that are just in a county, there's many that don't because of embarrassment, because of many trauma, they don't necessarily come to our doors, but they are living off vehicles, shelters double up, constantly moving. So, we do want to advocate respectful other needs. For example, given that grace period, longer extended grace period of being able to obtain a commendation or also that voucher following the families or the child because they're constantly moving. Even our case managers have a hard time finding families. Can you imagine families themselves



having to figure out, "Wait, what document am I missing? What shelter did I leave that on?" Sometimes they have to leave without even being able to take all of their items.

So, when they're double up, I survive being double up. You're not able to keep a closet, you don't have a closet over your own where you could keep documents. So, we have to be respectful, especially if we're saying that we have to be a trauma-informed care system federally. This is a way that we are respectful and provide that graciously to our families who are surviving all this system. I'm not even mentioning him mental health by the way, or like Patrick mentioned about being the whole system, the whole child system. So at least we can provide them that. So that's what my 2 cents that I wanted to share.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Well, that was definitely worth more than 2 cents. That is exactly why we have these committees, these subcommittees that are centered around the needs of families and centered around the needs of the workforce. Because we are all breathing these systems every day. We're the closest to the problems and the closest to the solutions. So that is why we lift up everybody's expertise to move these policies forward. Miren, we are cutting into public comment. So, is your comment like it has to be said out loud or can we move?

**Miren Algorri:**

I just hope that Des Martinez gets a chance to give public comment what she brought up on the comments. They're important. Thank you.

**Mary Ignatius:**

Okay, Des please. We're going to, I believe we're going to open up public comment now. So, Des, make sure you get off of mute and I think it's a hand raise as well. I'm not sure. Karin, do you handle that part?

**Karin Bloomer:**

Yes, yes. Happy to. There should be now an option for attendees to use the raise hand feature in order to request to speak verbally. Tech team let me know. Oh, sure enough. There's a hand. So, it's working. Wonderful. So, we'll just move through. Obviously, you can just keep your comments brief just to allow as many other members of the public to speak. That would be gracious of everyone. I'll just call on you and invite you to unmute. And with that I'll turn to Chanel Hamilton, please unmute.

**Chanel Hamilton:**

Hi. Thank you all for the opportunity to speak today. So, one thing that I also wanted to chime in about what Yenni mentioned with the three-month grace period for documentation. So, it already takes eight weeks in order to get a birth certificate and then another two weeks in order to get a social security card. So that's already pressing up against that three-month grace period. So, I definitely think that should be extended because she mentioned families that are constantly moving or even families that are

waiting for out of state documentation. If they're not from LA County or from California, it might take much longer to get that documentation.

And then also I did want to mention as far as the infant ratios, even changing the age to 18 months, you can only offer a space for four infants at a time if you're only offering infant child care. So, then maybe adding some language similar to school age children where you can increase to have the six children if there's two providers at any time. And then I also did want to mention funding opportunities for providers that want to have startup costs because it's extremely difficult to navigate how to open up a program, but also where to get that financial assistance because the majority of providers don't have that education starting out. So, I know that the resource and referral agencies do a really good job of providing workshops and opportunities to collaborate, but the need for the financial assistance is really prevalent.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you, Ms. Hamilton. Thank you so much. Okay. I'm seeing Regina Cannon. We're going to invite you to unmute. Regina, you should now be able to unmute yourself.

**Regina Cannon:**

Okay, thank you. Thank you for letting me speak. I appreciate this time. I would like to see a bridge with providers and the community college. So, because it's hard for us as great daycare providers to find people that have passion like we do for our daycares. And we could bridge the gap where if the community college, if the state would pay the people that are near ending their degree in child development to come into our homes and see if they want to be a daycare provider, but also be an assistant to us like maybe 200 hours every six months so we could bridge the gap so the daycare providers can find people that have passion like us. We need to do that because here where I'm at, it's hard for me to find someone that love kids like I do. Thank you for the time.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you, Regina. All right. I see Joanna Rocha; we're going to invite you to unmute.

**Joanna Rocha:**

Hi everybody. I just want to say thank you for taking the time to listen. I just have two minor concerns. Well, they're not minor, but concerns. So here in the area where I live in the Monterey County, we have a lot of children that don't have providers, but then there's a lot of providers that have spaces, and this is because we are using our home. So sometimes they get a violation and if they get a type A or a type B, the funded programs don't hire the providers. So, then we have a lot of providers with a lot of spaces. But then there's these programs in the Monterey County where I live that don't hire you because you have a type A or a type B. So, we have providers that only have five children in the capacity of 14, but then the programs don't want to hire them.

So, we're left with a lot of spaces that are not being filled and a lot of children in need of daycare. And then a lot of providers are just quitting, are closing their doors because they're not getting full because there's two or three programs that if you have a type A, they won't hire you. They'll just call you and tell you, "Oh, you're not going to be hired

because you have a type A violation. So now you can't be working with us." But they're state funded programs for low-income families. So, we have a lot of space, and they don't want to hire us due to that. Is there something that we can change in that? Because there's a lot of need for children here that don't have providers, so the families are staying home and not working. Another thing that is a concern is that when you do have a program, these programs go and ask the families for a bunch of papers.

A lot of my families are migrant workers that don't know how to fill out papers, don't know how to write in Spanish, because they are [foreign language 01:50:48] and the bosses of them are also [foreign language 01:50:53] that don't know how to fill out the paper. So, if they make a mistake that doesn't consist with the program, what they're asking, the program turns them off because the explanation that they give is that "Oh, there's something wrong with this because it doesn't make sense." Well, you don't understand. Not everybody has the school that you do to understand computers, understand papers. A lot of them are just normal people that come from Mexico and don't know how to fill out paper. So, they just fill whatever they know. And for the programs, there's a mistake. It doesn't consist with this, and they get rejected. So, we have a lot of families that are being rejected because of the paperwork that they're requiring and because the boss doesn't know how to fill it up.

And I've had a couple families already being rejected with those programs in the Monterey Counties, and there's nothing I can do. All I can say is that I'm sorry. I'm sorry, that's all I can say. There's no explanation I can give them. So, is there something that we can do about that with these? We do use our home. There's a type A violation that they won't hire you. So, we're losing a lot of providers in my county because of that. It's so hard not to get a violation because we have our children, we have our families. When the children leave before 6:00, our house goes back to normal.

But then if the licensing comes in and you have a soap out there, that's the type A, and then you don't have any children, but still, you're in the hours of operation. So, it's so hard with licensing and the requirements and the hours of operation. So sometimes a lot of providers want to close sooner. They want to close around 4:30 and that it's a bad thing for parents because a lot of migrant people get off at almost six o'clock, so now they're struggling to work and meet work requirements. I just wanted to bring it up because I am so tired of seeing these families get rejected and then the providers get rejected because of a violation that you have.

**Karin Bloomer:**

Thank you, Ms. Rocha. Thank you very much. Appreciate your comments. All right, Tonia I'm not seeing any other hands and I'm noting it's just before the top of the hour, so let's just turn back to you.

**Tonia McMillian:**

Okay, so members of the public, thank you, thank you, thank you for all your written and your verbal input today. Your participation is so important to this process and to my fellow members of the ECPC Parent and Workforce Advisory Council Committees, thank you for your continued dedication to this work and for your time today. And with that, this meeting is adjourned. Happy holidays, everybody.

**Karin Bloomer:**  
Thank you.