



Early Childhood Policy Council Meeting Summary: August 25, 2021

Attendees: Kim Johnson, Antoinette Jacobs, Carola Oliva-Olson, Cheryl Polk, Cheryl Schroeder, Dean Tagawa, Deborah Corley-Marzett, Donna Sneeringer, Khydeeja Alam, Kim Patillo Brownson, Laura Ruhstaller, Lissete Frausto, Lupe Jaime, Mary Ignatius, Miren Algorri, Natali Gaxiola, Patrick MacFarlane, Paula Merrigan, Robin Layton, Sarah Neville-Morgan, Scott Moore, Sheryl Shushan, Stephanie Myers, Sonia Jaramillo, Tonia McMillian, Virginia Eigen, Zoila Carolina Toma

1. Welcome and Introductions (Kim Johnson)

- In her opening remarks, Chair Kim Johnson welcomed the Council and members of the public to the meeting. Chair Johnson presented an overview of the meeting structure and a high-level overview of investments in the California 2021–22 budget for the child care and development and early learning space. Highlighted investments included (1) efforts to support financial security through CalWORKs grant increases, family fee waivers, the Golden State Stimulus, and a pilot related to guaranteed income; (2) initiatives to support eviction prevention, protections, and affordable housing, and (3) initiatives to support optimal health and behavioral health.
- Chair Johnson introduced Council members Scott Moore, Patrick MacFarlane, and Miren Algorri, who shared insights regarding the experiences of parents with young children and the early childhood workforce. Moore, MacFarlane, and Algorri elevated the needs and experiences of the field, where parents and child care providers try to make the best decisions to support young children’s health, safety, and well-being.



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2. Advisory Committee Report Out

- ECPC Workforce Advisory Committee Chair Tonia McMillian delivered a report out from the August 17 meeting. The Committee convened to learn about the role of shared services networks and discussed how they could support California’s early childhood workforce.
- The meeting centered around a panel of federal, national, state, and local experts. The panel gave presentations on shared services networks, focusing on models, benefits, and how they can be applied across different levels of the system.

3. Child Care Program Transition Quarterly Report

Dr. Lupe Jaime-Mileham, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Deputy Director of the Child Care and Development Division, presented an overview of the Child Care Program Transition Quarterly Report. Her presentation included updates on transitioning and supporting the onboarding of new staff, Child Care Bulletins (CCB) focused on family fee waivers, Hold Harmless, paid non-op days, and family fee schedule. Dr. Jaime-Mileham also shared highlights of some of the recently released state investments, which include \$9 million to fund a statewide direct deposit payment system, investments in new construction and repairs, and increased funds for subsidized child care. [Select this link to view Dr. Lupe Jaime-Mileham’s full presentation: Child Care & Development Division Transition Update—August 25, 2021.](#)

4. Conversation on Equity

- Dr. Shantel Meek from the Children’s Equity Project delivered an in-depth presentation on needs, priorities, and recommendations for dismantling systemic racism in early care and education. Dr. Meek described three key policy areas to advance these efforts: (1) harsh discipline, (2) lack of inclusion, and (3) inequitable access. Cross-cutting themes that underpinned racial disparities across these policy areas fueled by bias include teacher preparation, common segregated learning, underfunded programs that serve historically marginalized children, large



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policy differences, federal and state equity monitoring, and data gaps.

Recommendations to combat these inequities include funding, planning for equity and being accountable for meeting those plans, prioritizing inclusive learning, and focusing on data to make informed decisions. [Select this link to view Dr. Shantel Meek's full presentation—Start with Equity: From the Early Years to the Early Grades.](#)

- Julia Caplan, Program Director, Public Health Institute—Health in All Policies, presented an overview of the Capitol Collaborative on Race and Equity (CCORE)'s initiatives, which are focused on learning about, planning, and implementing activities that embed racial equity approaches into institutional culture, policies, and practices. [Select this link to view Julia Caplan's full presentation—California State Government Action for Racial Equity: The Capitol Collaborative on Race & Equity \(CCORE\).](#)
- Rohan Radhakrishna from the Department of Public Health's Office of Equity described the department's efforts to develop a detailed equity action plan that works to ensure all Californians have equal opportunities for optimal health. [Select this link to view Rohan Radhakrishna's full presentation—Advancing Equity and Antiracism: From Data to Action.](#)
- Marcela Ruiz from the California Department of Social Service's Office of Equity presented an overview of CDSS's efforts to serve and protect children, families, seniors, and adults. Ruiz shared CDSS's vision and priorities to create a society in which everyone can reach their highest level of health and potential for a successful life regardless of their background or identity. [Select this link to view Marcela Ruiz's full presentation: DSS Office of Equity Presentation.](#)
- Dr. Daniel Lee, Deputy Superintendent of Equity at the California Department of Education (CDE), presented an overview of the CDE's efforts to integrate equity throughout agency practices and operations. [Select this link to view Dr. Daniel Lee's full presentation.](#)

A high-level, thematic summary of Council discussion and public comments received during the meeting can be found in the following pages.



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Summary of Comments and Questions by ECPC Council Members and the Public

The following sections provide a high-level overview of themes from the August 25, 2021 Early Childhood Policy Council (ECPC) meeting.

The ECPC is an advisory body to the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning, care, and child development. It will provide recommendations on (1) all aspects of the state’s early childhood system, including equity—with consideration for demographic, geographic, and economic diversity—focusing on family-centered, two-generation approaches; (2) opportunities to incorporate a support model of accountability—as opposed to a compliance model of accountability—into the state’s early childhood education system; and (3) ways that the State’s Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and the 2019 California Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education’s (ECE) Final Report can be updated and improved.

The following sections provide a high-level overview of Council discussions and public comments.

Conversation on Equity

Supporting Equity and the Elimination of Racism

Several council members highlighted the need to keep in mind certain student and family populations who have historically been underserved and underrepresented, including children with special needs, children in the foster care system, children and families of color, and children with guardians or parents who are or have been incarcerated. There were also comments in support of a subcommittee or standing committee that focuses on equity.

Funding and Investments that Support Equity

Council members elevated the need to leverage partnerships and the need to focus on the workforce. There was also an interest in knowing how and when to access funds that support equity and the elimination of racism. Illustrative quotes from Council members and the public included the following:



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- “We are really excited for the budget that was passed and its impact on early childhood. That being said, part of the plan is to improve wages for the early childhood workforce. I am curious if there is anything in the budget to ensure the money does make it to the workers, caregivers, and providers—and not just into the bureaucracy?”
- “How do we bring that urgency to get these dollars out the door, to bring the relief that they need? It’s not reparations, but they need this funding now.”
- “...the role of the new census data and how are we planning to use that to focus our investments on how this could be something that can help us, understand the needs, and advocate for equity?”
- “...standing as equity and advocating for the urgency for us to actually utilize these funds and have clarity on where we access them.”
- “How do we raise urgent issues to actually tackle these equity issues with the current investments in the budget?”

Inclusion of Stakeholders

Council members and attendees elevated the need to include stakeholders in the planning and implementation efforts mentioned during speaker presentations; recommended stakeholders included early educators and practitioners, institutes of higher education and organizations that can support career development, and community-based organizations. Illustrative quotes from Council members and the public included the following:

- “Please consider adding early educators and practitioners to accountability work groups so that we can determine REAL ways to hold early educators accountable to public funds and ensure equity for families and early education practitioners across the parent choice spectrum.”
- “Please include the teacher preparation groups, particularly Community Colleges (CCC) and State Universities (CSU), as they prepare ECE practitioners and offer professional learning for career development, as well as connecting with the



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Commission for Teacher Credentialing (CTC) regarding Child Development Teaching Permits and Credentials.”

- “We're so super excited to see a huge investment in community schools. I would love to work with the department to make sure that early education and our partners are part of that conversation and not just focus on K to 12 but also our community-based organizations (CBOs) on the ground.”

Resources

The Zoom chat contained several resources that meeting attendees and presenters shared. Resources provided in the chat are listed below.

- [Health and Human Services 2021–22 Budget Summary Budget \(PDF\)](#)
- [Children’s Equity Project \(CEP\) Home page on the Center for Child and Family Success website](#)
- [CEP Initiatives page on the Center for Child and Family Success website](#)
- [Capitol Collaborative on Race & Equity \(CCORE\) page on the California Strategic Growth Council website](#) (with more information and list of participating entities)
- [California Strategic Growth Council \(SGC\) Racial Equity Resolution Implementation and Capitol Collaborative on Race & Equity \(CCORE\) Update—April 29, 2021 \(PDF\)](#) (update on racial equity progress from the SGC and its seven participating agencies)
- Meeting minutes where Healthy Places Index (HPI) was considered:
 - [First 5 California: Children and Families Commission Emergency Meeting draft minutes—March 10, 2021 \(PDF\)](#)
 - [First 5 Los Angeles \(LA\): 2020-2028 Strategic Plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [Policy Action page on the California Healthy Places Index \(HPI\) website](#)
- [California Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities: Strategies and Practices for an Equitable Reopening and Recovery \(PDF\)](#)



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- [Office of Health Equity page on the California Department of Public Health website](#)
- [Roundtable Series on Early Care and Education Facilities page on the Build Up California website](#) (announcing upcoming roundtables in the greater Los Angeles area)
- [Registration link for November 16, 2021 ECPC Quarterly Meeting](#)
- [Preschool through Third Grade \(P-3\) Alignment page on the California Department of Education website](#)