Regular Meeting
Early Childhood Development and Early Learning Task Force
Wednesday, June 1, 2022
5:00 P.M.

Task Force Members Present: Chair Vera Vignes, Geoff Albert, Toni Boucher, Lila Guirguis, Dr. Dianne Philibosian, Marie Poulsen, Tony Santilena, Melani Smith-Hill, Susan Wood, Carla Hegwood (Ex-Officio), Ree Harris-Hudson, Efren Aguilar

Task Force Members Absent: Blanca Siebels (Excused)

Staff Present: Michelle Garrett, Danica Borja, Pat Bowie (Consultant), Dion O'Connell, Vannia de la Cuba

1. **Call To Order/Roll Call**
   Chair Vignes called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. **Approval of Minutes – May 18, 2022**
   A correction was made to the minutes of the May 18th meeting to add "...children with Medi-Cal no longer need to have a medical necessity to receive specialty mental health treatment services for 60 days while medical necessity is being determined. If medical necessity is not determined, a referral will be made to appropriate services in the community, such as Region Center Services or Medi-Cal managed care."

   It was moved (Philibosian) to approve the amended meeting minutes for May 18, 2022 and seconded (Wood). (Motion carried)

   In Favor: Chair Vera Vignes, Geoff Albert, Toni Boucher, Lila Guirguis, Dr. Dianne Philibosian, Dr. Marie Poulsen, Tony Santilena, Melani Smith-Hill, Susan Wood
   Opposed:
   Abstain:

3. **Public Comment**

   No public comment.

4. **Key Themes & Agreements from Past Meetings – Vera Vignes, Task Force Chair**

   Chair Vignes provided a summary of the previous meeting.

   No Public Comment.

5. **Early Childhood Development Policy Framework & Elements Review (Building Block 2) – Vera Vignes, Task Force Chair**

Chair Vignes opened the discussion on Core Element #2: Building Partnerships and Collaborations by asking task force members 4 guiding questions: 1) Do we agree with this policy element? 2) Do we have the correct policy element? 3) Can we agree on a policy statement or agree to the removal of this element? 4) If not, what more information would you need to be able to make that determination? Task Force members acknowledged the need to clarify the key purpose of each of the building blocks and carefully consider how each of the building blocks were related to and support one another but they would also need to have a distinct and relevant purpose to remain in the policy. When consider the partnerships/collaborative building block, it was clear to the group that building partnerships was critical but should be tied to a clearer purpose and more specific goals. Lila Guirguis recommended combining partnerships and collaboration with the first building block of an Aligned System for Young Children. The task force discussed collaboration across all child care sectors including the health department, libraries, parks and recreation, nonprofits, public works, fire department, police department in order to create an aligned system that focuses on the multiple dimensions of human development. After much discussion and suggestions of combing other building block elements, there was consensus that we do combine Building Block 1 & 2, with the need to re-write the policy element description. The task force did not want to wordsmith the new description but wanted to emphasize that in combining these two building blocks the main purpose would be to foster partnerships & collaboration among a diverse and inclusive community of stakeholders invested in being aligned in vision and linked in action to improve the healthy development and welfare of young children and families. Dr. Poulsen suggested using the words aligned and linked versus a wrong door. We are aligned in vision and linked in action.

No public comment.

6. **Policy Element Review (Building Block 4-6) – Vera Vignes, Task Force Chair**

Chair Vignes opened discussion on Building Blocks 4-6 (Health and Wellness Strategies for Infants/Young Children; Access to High-Quality Early Education Experiences in a Variety of Settings; Neighborhoods-Based Parent Engagement & Family Supports). Considering these building blocks together opened a larger dialogue as to the scope of the policy. Dr. Poulsen provided a comment about how the State Department of Education and Social Services combine to have a commitment to include children with disabilities in regular childcare and preschool in step to be more inclusive. Starting the discussion, Efren suggested expanding the definition of health and the task force agreed that each building block needs to be more inclusive of all the issues faced by early childhood development and care. The group was asked how can these building blocks be aligned and how do they link together in order to improve the quality of contact based on the policy framework. Task Force members had been using the language of touchpoints and care pathways to foster the healthy development of children. The group was asked to consider of these policy elements provided a vehicle to support this as a systems approach. Overall, the group found the policy stressing more related to children's school success rather than a more holistic view of children's development. The group agreed that

considering a more holistic view of child health and development was needed. Also, there needed to be a better understanding of creating a system of support for families and children that went beyond service delivery. The group agreed to revisit the protective factor framework, that is still considered relevant in fostering communities of support for healthy family and child development. Toni Boucher also emphasized the need to be more explicit about addressing social justice issues, racism, bias and the impact of violence on children and families. Efren Aguilar offered the Capability approach offered by Amartya Sen and J.A. Powell's work within the Othering and Belonging Institute out of UC Berkeley. The task force suggested that there should be a kind of democratization of power and authority that gives parents the ability and strength to take charge when engaging parents as partners.

The task force did come to consensus that building blocks 4,5, & 6 should be brought together under a larger umbrella. Yet the need to set a policy to fosters organizing the work around the key areas of health & emotional well-being, early childhood settings, and neighborhood supports is still relevant.

No public comment.

7. Adjournment

It was moved by (Toni Boucher) to adjourn the meeting and seconded (Tony Santilena) to adjourn the regular meeting. (Motion carried)

Roll Call

In Favor: Chair Vera Vignes, Efren Aguilar, Geoff Albert, Lila Guirguis, Dr. Dianne Philibosian, Melani Smith-Hill, Susan Wood, Ree Harris-Hudson
Opposed:
Abstain:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

X _____
Michelle Gakett
Assistant to the City Manager

X _____
Danica Borja
Recording Secretary