Regular Meeting
Early Child Development and Early Learning Task Force
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
5:00 P.M.

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

Task Force Members Absent: None

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 5:01 P.M.

2. **Approval of Minutes – June 1, 2022**
   A correction was made to the minutes of the June 1st meeting to change "across all child care centers to across City Departments."

   It was moved (Geoff Albert) to approve the amended meeting minutes for May 18, 2022 and seconded (Lila Gurgius). (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, Blanca Siebels
   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. The task force discussed the core elements of Building Block 2, Partnerships and Collaborations, and whether it should be combined with Building Block 1, Elements of An Aligned System for Young Children. The task force agreed to the should be combined. The discussion continued about combining Building Blocks 4, 5, and 6 and that the policy should contain a more holistic

view of children's development. It was recommended that the combination of these building blocks should be organized around areas of health and emotional well-being, early childhood settings, and support.

No Public Comment.

5. **Revisiting the Existing Policy – Continued Discussion of Building Blocks 4, 5, & 6; New Discussion of Building Blocks 7 & 8 – Vera Vignes, Task Force Chair**

Chair Vignes opened the discussion on the five protective factors framework becoming an umbrella for Building Blocks 4, 5, & 6 and the reading materials provided to the group. Dr. Poulson discussed how research in Head Start pointed out that childhood outcomes are directly related to parent involvement, which supports strengthening the importance of families. Over 35 states have adopted measures to strengthen families in the protective areas in early care, education, family support, and home visiting. The group also discussed how the protective factor framework can provide support for families, allowing them to feel empowered while establishing infrastructure to promote resiliency amongst families. The task force agreed that it is important to track barriers experienced by families, equip institutions with the ability to support families better, and that conversations about the policy should be centered around the parents. Lila Gurigius asserted that the task force is not adopting the strengthening families model but rather using the language as an important factor to consider within the policy. Much of the task force acknowledged what Lila discussed about the protective factors, but wanted to keep the family structure in mind and adopt policy language that is more inclusive. Efren Aguilar suggested shifting language away from what is currently being used so that it acknowledges broader influences and focuses on languages surrounding families and community. Chair Vignes will finesse Building Blocks 4, 5, & 6 as well as creating a simple definition for protective factors.

Resuming discussion of Building Blocks 7 & 8 (Culturally Specific Programs for English Language Learners & Transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten), Chair Vignes posed several questions to the task force: if they agree with the policy element; if they have the correct policy element description, can they agree on a policy statement or agree to the removal of this element; if not, what more information is needed to make that determination? During the previous meeting, there was a general consensus among task force members about including language from Building Block 7 in an overarching framework. Chair Vignes asked the task force if Building Block 7 should remain a standalone or allow it to permeate into all of the building blocks. Some task force members believe that Building Block 7 should remain both a standalone and provide overarching language through the entire vision. Efren Aguilar asked whether the current building blocks are a statement of values or are they efforts to be achieved? Pat Bowie responded that building blocks may not be the appropriate policy description and that it will become necessary to revisit the policy's vision and core principles. Chair Vignes will return with suggestions for re-organization and more inclusive language for building block 7. Efren emphasized using available data as a measure of accountability and feedback on the implementation of the policy.

In a previous discussion of Building Block 8, Transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten,

few task force members believed that it should be removed. Chair Vignes asked the task force if this core element should remain within the City's purview. Some task force members agreed that Building Block 8 should be folded into Building Block 5. Blanca Siebels emphasized the need for a transitional support for families and children entering kindergarten. Dr. Philibosian questioned whether the responsibility for Building Block 8 belongs to the City or School District. Pat Bowie offered that the city can model communication citywide. Task force members were unable to come to a come to a consensus on Building Block 8. Chair Vignes and Pat Bowie will develop an approach to Building Block 8 and return to the group for future discussion.

No public comment.

6. **Review of the Policy Vision Statement, the Master Plan for the Young Child, and the Role of the Office of the Young Child – Vera Vignes, Task Force Chair**

   Chair Vignes asked the task force to consider if the current vision statement for the policy is the right vision for the policy. Chair Vignes also tasked the group to look at the master plan for the young child statement to determine if it is a five-year plan.

   No public comment.

7. **Adjournment**
   Chair Vignes adjourned the meeting at 6:47 PM

X _____
Michelle Garrett
Assistant to the City Manager

X _____
Danica Borja
Recording Secretary