



Master Plan for Early Learning and Care Briefing

June 17, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 – Opening Remarks

Chair Halvorson called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

Commissioners Present: George Halvorson
Molly Munger
Mayra Alvarez
Shana Hazan
Jackie Majors

Commissioners Absent: Muntu Davis
Monica Fitzgerald

Ex Officio Member Present: Kris Perry

Chair Halvorson provided opening remarks, which included requesting the Commission to think about how to minimize the negative impact of racism on children and how the Commission can contribute to providing children the best start possible.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment

None.

Information Item 3 – Master Plan for Early Learning and Care Briefing

Jannelle Kubinec, from the Early Childhood Policy Council, facilitated the briefing and provided the following overview:

What are the values the Master Plan is espousing?

- Advance equity
- Respect a parent's role as a child's first teacher

- Respect childcare and early learning professionals
- Know each child and each family

California's early childhood racial equity problem:

1. 1 in 4 children live in families below the poverty line.
2. Children who are persistently poor growing up are more likely to face problems as adults.

What do we need to focus on as an early childhood system to change the trajectory, not just slightly but significantly?

The focus of the Master Plan is on those who have the least opportunities.

More kids are eligible for subsidized care (which means they are low income) than the state has services for. There are significant gaps in actually who is enrolled in state programs across all groups. How do we fine tune the way our programs work so that children who are eligible have access to them?

- Provide high-quality care and support to all children living at high risk for persistent poverty, and eliminate negative impacts of implicit bias
- Provide support and prepare childcare professionals to meet the diverse and critical needs of young children
- Address racial disparities in compensation and career advancement

How do we think about all this work through a racial equity lens and build a system that is focused on the whole child and the whole family with a significant value around equity?

The goals are to provide all families access to quality care and support, affordable quality care and support, and comprehensive and coordinated health and wellness support.

The state spends over \$5 billion on childcare. Parents contribute over \$5 billion, as well. We know that childcare is expensive. How much do we need, what will it cost, and where does it come from? We know from the data that childcare is already difficult for parents to afford. We can't expect parents to contribute more, and our state is looking at cutting funds, not adding to them.

We are looking to build a system that the state can fund. How do we make the most of the dollars that are there right now?

1. We need to look for efficiencies.
2. Ensure that what we do in the future is aligned with our vision. What is our target? What is the vision that we need to align with on the way we fund?
3. Identifying new revenue sources. How can we partner with public and private resources?
4. Simplify. What does it really mean to fund early childhood?

Ms. Kubinec concluded by stating First 5 California (F5CA) gets good ideas started and works as a catalyst for these conversations and serves as a connector, collaborator, and coordinator to bridge gaps in supporting the whole child, exploring public/private partnerships and leveraging statewide reach through local F5s.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Alvarez shared that the timing of this conversation is good due to the Budget Retreat meeting the following week. She stated it will be a broader conversation that includes the Strategic Plan and how the priorities of the plan are perfectly aligned with the Master Plan. She said there is a tremendous opportunity to ensure what F5CA does moving forward and what it commits to, reflects a lot of the work the Master Plan and F5CA Strategic Plan has done thus far.

Commissioner Majors stated it's nice to see the similarities and alignment with F5CA's focus and that every organization/agency has a different leverage point, which creates the greatest impact.

Commissioner Hazan proposed the Commission think about the following: What is F5CA's unique value proposition and what are those few things where it can be the most impactful? Without diluting the impact, recognizing funding is limited, where should F5CA focus its time, energy, and efforts?

Commissioner Munger shared that it was heartbreaking to see the chart between who is eligible and who is receiving support which connects to all the inefficiencies in the system. She stated the result of what agencies have been doing, is that the children who need the resources the most, often do not get them because parents can't manage the complexities. She further stated the system is not equitable because of the complexity and that families in persistent poverty need help. She said some children are more expensive to serve, it's more complicated, and there are a lot of difficulties, so the system tends to shrink away from these kids. She

stated she would like to see F5CA focus on children in persistent poverty-stricken families.

Ms. Kubinec added that WestEd is looking at the conditions of the children in persistent poverty and what this would look like if we viewed children as they are, instead of parts of a system.

Commissioner Hazan stated that to really do this work through an equity lens, F5CA may not be able to focus on all children, but rather a small portion that need help the most.

Commissioner Munger stressed that the Commission needs to focus on persistent poverty, and to think about the families that are consistently involved, usually in a negative way, because it affects the child.

Commissioner Majors responded by stating that we know who these families are, and that poverty is multi-generational. She stated families are scared, and they're very hard to get ahold of. She concluded by saying there is a need to "bring the net in," and focus our efforts on those who need it most.

Commissioner Munger stated that F5CA will always have a wide net because it has a legislatively required budget for mass communications, so F5CA doesn't need to feel that it is abandoning California's children. She said F5CA will still be out there doing a lot of things, but in terms of the high touch service work, that's where the focus should be.

Chair Halvorson mentioned that the Commission is a steward of resources, and that Commissioners are going to be looking at and talking about those resources at the next meeting. He stated the Commission may end up making some decisions at that time or it may be a learning process and they get smarter collectively about moving forward.

Member Perry shared that behind the scenes many of the same experts who are working on the Master Plan and Preschool Development Grant are also working with F5CA. She suggested that perhaps they could work together to align recommendations as the Commission moves forward in narrowing its priorities. Member Perry stressed that deep engagement with county commission partnerships is important, and that the Commission should make time to process the Master Plan and how it will work with county partners.

Commissioner Munger added that when the Commission thinks about partnering with local counties, there are political challenges that county partners would be understanding of if the focus was moved to children who need the most help.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Action Item 4 – Adjournment

MOTION: Commissioner Hazan moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Majors.

VOTE: The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is June 22, 2020.