

SAN FRANCISCO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, January 10, 2024

TIME: 4:30pm – 6:30pm

PLACE: 1650 Mission Street, Suite 312, San Francisco, CA 94103

PUBLIC ACCESS (if not attending in person)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87360252915>

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Webinar ID: 873 6025 2915

Public Comment Email: sfdec@sfgov.org

1. Call to order
2. Roll call Present: Commissioner Lambert, Supervisor Melgar, Commissioner Winograd, Chair Malawa, Commissioner Su, Commissioner Crawford, Commissioner Armstrong (arrived at 5:10)
Absent: Commissioner Miller
3. Discussion and possible action to approve the November 1, 2023 meeting minutes (Action item)
[Commissioners provided with the following: draft minutes] Commissioner Lambert moved, and Supervisor Melgar seconded. Passed unanimously.
4. General public comment
Janis Conallon w/ Safe and Sound: On behalf of the Family Services Alliance thank you so much for the published questions and answers for the FRCI. Super grateful for the responses that is really helpful. We are hoping that DEC will consider publishing another round there, and guaranteeing that everyone will have the same access, the same information. There are a number of questions from our family resource centers that remain confusing and require additional clarification. We'll follow up by email. Thank you so much.
5. Agenda Item public comment
Jenny Pearlman w/ Safe and Sound: On behalf of what was the Family Resource Center Alliance and is now the family Services Alliance expanding us to about 40 plus family support organizations. Generally, there is a budget item, or there's an update on prop 10 funding so I guess I'm just anticipating what that item is going to be about. But my comment is that we really would like to be able to work with the Department on transparency around, whether there are going to be cuts as a requirement result of that decreased funding to the FRC. Initiative. We know that there is a certain amount of money that has been allocated through the RFPs. We are not asking for any further

conversation around that, but we are asking for clarity around what the budget is going to look like. So, we know how to advocate with the city this year. Based on potential prop 10 funding repercussions as well as other city budget cuts.

Thank you.

6. Update on current Prop 10 funding solicitations for family support, early intervention and early childhood mental health (Discussion Item)

Commissioner Crawford recused himself. Supervisor Melgar moved, and Commissioner Lambert seconded.

Theresa Zighera: Two out of three of the RFP's which were approved by this Commission have been released the Family Resource Center Initiative and the Early Intervention and Specialized Services System of Cared. They are out now and live in the community. And for both of those we have had bidder's conferences, and the turnout for those bidder's conferences has been great. So a really good turnout is expected and a large pool of applicants and applications for both of us initiatives. The due date for the family resource center RFPA Will close at the end of this month, and early intervention will close mid-February. Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation is the last of the three left and is expected to be released any day.

Chair Malawa: Can you address the question about the question and answers? Can you speak to the comment about cuts of funding?

Theresa Zighera: It's written into both of those RFPs that there's a specific question and answer period written into both of those that ties with the pre-proposal conferences. Which have both happened and following that, we can accept questions regarding technical support but not questions to the content. I don't see how we could be able to adjust that. The amount of funding that was released for both RFPs represented increases visive our last funding round. So if we look at the last time, we did a family resource Center initiative application and an early intervention application. Both applications represent increases of those funding amounts

7. Department of Early Childhood Early Childhood Policy Agenda review (Action Item) [Commissioners provided with the following: DEC Policy Agenda] See Appendix A

Supervisor Melgar: This is a new department and a new effort of how we take positions on legislative efforts at the State, how that interacts with our own legislative efforts, what our relationship is with the city lobbyists in Sacramento, what our relationship is with Parent Voices, Bananas, all these folks who are very active in that State politics. I would like to know how we're making these decisions, how we're being intentional, and leveraging the work of others. It seems like we should have that documented.

Jenny Lam: Each department does get to meet with the State lobbyists and so through that process of the meetups, we can certainly also put forward what we feel would be important. You know, priorities, both from representing the department, but representing the city. I also want to acknowledge Graham because he does participate in numerous statewide and local policy associations and committees

Graham Dobson: DEC has a seat in the Childcare Plan Advisory Council on the policy and legislation committee and so there's an opportunity there for the community that are really involved to to, to weigh in on legislation and bills and support, and do so at that table. As part of you know, we're a member of that committee. There's an opportunity there beyond the constraints of the State Legislation Committee to really look at bills and legislation that we would that we hope San Francisco community.

Jenny Lam: I would also name our interagency partnerships as well.

Commissioner Winograd: CPAC just hired a Lobby Firm to help us get back on track.

Chair Malawa: When I do policy work in DPH I like to do coalition building from the beginning so that when I bring it to state legislature there, we can say there are others with us. Another thing that we'd like to do at the abundant bird project is that when we recruit in new participants, we invite them into our policy pool. And there's like test of opportunity to testify hearings. We have already a group of people who have said ahead of time that they want to be called upon to advocate, and so then we can like reach out. By proactively recruiting folks who want to be involved and we maybe don't even have to hold that because we have Parents Voice here in San Francisco. In our strategic plan we talk a lot about equity and so much of the policy work that we're looking at is pretty downstream. How can we get funding here, and that is really important. But like, what does it look like for us also to think about policy work that really thinks about upstream issues like housing and food insecurity. Some of these things that are maybe not specifically, you know, early childhood related, but have a huge impact on your ability to have a healthy early childhood period. So, I would love to see at least once a year that we take on one structural policy.

Commissioner Lambert moved to approve, and Commissioner Crawford seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. Commissioner updates

9. Executive Director updates

Jenny Lam: The Department of Early Childhood Impact Report is available on the DEC website. We will be preparing a range of outreach materials to pair with it. The materials are all focused on gaging a variety

10. Adjourn

Policy Agenda

2023–2024

The Department of Early Childhood (DEC) partners with our community to weave together family and a system of support that ensures all children who grow up in San Francisco thrive and learn. To achieve our goals, DEC promotes policies and engages with institutions that care for and enhance children's health, knowledge, and well-being at the local, state, and federal levels. As with DEC's strategic plan, our policy agenda is rooted in our partnership with parents, early educators, and the field of early childhood, always focused on amplifying parents' voices. DEC is diligent in creating opportunities by addressing the inequities in early childhood and strives to support families, so race is not a reliable predictor of outcomes for young children and their families in San Francisco. DEC promotes policy reform as an authentic means for power-sharing for the public good.



Our policy agenda presents current and emerging policy issues in early childhood that reflect DEC core strategies:

1

Increases access to affordable and quality early childhood education (ECE), child health and development, and family support services to meet the needs of San Francisco's birth-to-five children and their families.

2

Commits to developing and promoting policies and best practices that disrupt racially inequitable early childhood programming and eliminate disparate outcomes for all young children and their families, inclusive of Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Pacific Islander communities to address the over-representation of disparities that persist across early childhood development outcomes within these populations.

3

Families have the information, resources, and connections to peers and professionals to raise their children in San Francisco successfully.

As such, DEC's policy agenda is organized into five core strategies to advance opportunities in support of teacher preparation and compensation, enhance program quality, and improve affordability and access; ensure universal developmental screening and promote access to health and mental health services for children and their families; and ensure that families have opportunities for social and professional connections, linkage to resources, and information on parenting and child development.

I. Early Learning

Build a system that improves equitable access to high-quality, affordable early care and education for all children from birth to five years of age so that they have the best start in life and enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

- Develop and support mechanisms to achieve continuous eligibility for families and continuity of care for children ages birth to five, focusing on populations with exceptional needs and disparities in resources.
- Using a racial equity framework, ensure school readiness experiences include high-quality early care and education for all children birth to five years of age, focusing on increasing investments for infants and toddlers.
- Ensure that quality and assessment systems are responsive to the diverse needs of ECE programs and the children they serve.
- Support culturally responsive and linguistically appropriate environments across a mixed delivery system that views and supports each child holistically.
- Support policies and strategies that enhance coherence and alignment for Universal PreK (UPK) through a mixed delivery system that includes public school districts, community-based early education centers, and Family Child Care programs.
- Amplify parent/family voice, engagement, and influence in shaping policy and programs.





I. Systems & Infrastructure

Create a well-funded, coordinated, data-driven ECE system that leverages and maximizes services to families, children, and the ECE workforce, including health, community, and economic development, family support, social services, and recreational activities.

- Support statewide policy proposals and investments to improve outcomes for young children, their families, and educators.
- Develop systems that increase our understanding of the needs of children and their families through data collection, analysis, and sharing.
- Advocate for state and federal budget and policy determinations that result in protected, sustained, and increased funding for ECE services.
- Advocate for reimbursement rate reform, moving towards the actual cost of providing quality ECE.
- Support and promote new policies that provide funding for facilities, especially in communities with unmet needs for ECE services.
- Advocate for integrating ECE facilities in land use, housing, transportation, economic, workforce, and community development, including access to green space and natural environments.

I. Early Educator Workforce

Maintain a highly qualified workforce that provides culturally and linguistically responsive early learning experiences for all children.

- Adopt policies that support the recruitment and retention of a diverse, well-trained early education professional workforce, provided with ample opportunities for higher education and compensation.
- Support teacher preparation policies that offer effective pathways, professional development, and incentives for new and existing ECE educators, especially those addressing race, ethnicity, language, and access.
- Influence public policies that enable higher compensation/benefits for ECE teachers in line with the regional cost of living and support the workforce to fulfill their classroom commitment to young children.





I. Family Strength

Increase access to and knowledge of family resource programs and include parents as equal partners in framing policies that impact them and their children.

- Bring families, parents, and caregivers into DEC decision-making, planning, and evaluation efforts.
- Expand access to culturally and linguistically responsive family support services that offer family engagement, resources, and information on parenting and child development, increase coping skills, and nurture stable relationships and environments.
- Expand access to family-strengthening resources, including voluntary home visiting programs that support pregnant moms, birthing people, and new parents, that promote infant and child health.
- Support policies that expand multi-generational economic security, such as increasing paid family leave to one year, with wages and benefits provided on a scale up to 100% of income for low-income families, universal guaranteed income, and home ownership pathways.
- Ensure San Francisco families have linkages to a safety net of available supports and resources for families and children, accessible through various media.

I. Child Health & Well-being

Access to a health system and supports that promote access to health and mental health services for children and their families, focusing on prevention and early intervention.

- Ensure that all young children receive developmental screenings and early intervention services as soon as possible and are referred to appropriate services.
- Increase awareness of and access to prenatal health services and support policies that eliminate racial inequities in maternal and infant health outcomes by removing systemic racist practices and barriers to care for people of color and increasing culturally relevant services for birthing people.
- Expand access to mental and behavioral health services (e.g., Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health program, Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program).
- Increase knowledge about and access to community health and wellness clinics.



- Ensure the availability of health insurance for families with young children, including dental, vision, and mental health services (e.g., Medi-Cal).
- Support increased federal/state investments for families with young children that provide food assistance programs and focus on eliminating food insecurity, increasing access to nutritious foods, and improving dietary quality.
- Support best practices that promote healing-centered engagement and are trauma-informed.