

## **Workgroup #2: Critical Issues within the Existing System**

### **Meetings:**

- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 from 10:00 – 2:00: UC Center, Sacramento

### **Chairs:**

- Nina Buthee, CCDAA
- Debby Armstrong, First 5, San Mateo

### **Overarching Policy Questions:**

- Reimbursement rate reform, the relationship between the Welfare to Work and ECE systems, infrastructure investments, adequacy of CDE resources, cultural and linguistic inclusion, children with special needs, strengthening the licensing system, reducing access barriers, and streamlining funding processes and procedures are all of importance to the current ECE system separate and apart from any efforts to address the larger quality and access issues. What are the right policy prescriptions on these ongoing issues?
- What is the best way to move them forward—on a parallel track with larger efforts, as an element of the larger effort or both?

### **How the Workgroup Addressed the Policy Questions:**

At the first meeting the group worked on identifying the major sub-systems of the overarching ECE systems requiring intervention. The following systems were identified as integral in the overarching ECE system:

- Reimbursement Rates, Funding Processes and Procedures, Children with Special Needs, Cultural and Linguistic Inclusion, Welfare to Work, Access, Infrastructure Investment, CDE Resources, Licensing, Quality, Workforce development, and Subsidies/Fees.

Other identified issues that were identified during discussion included:

- Central Eligibility List, unspent funds, and wraparound care

The group then went through all of the sub-systems to decide whether another workgroup would be covering that issue, or if it was within their charge to address. Within each issue that they decided to address, the group then identified whether the issue required a funding or systems approach fix. The group agreed on the following:

- Workforce Development, Infrastructure Investment, will be covered by the Workforce workgroup
- Subsidies, Fees and Reimbursement Rates: Funding issue; Could also be a systems approach issue if designed with a tiered reimbursement system linked to quality
- Licensing: Funding and systems approach

- Workgroup would like to see: annual unannounced visits, the advocate program restored, more staff training, monitoring, manageable caseloads, well integrated with other laws and programs protecting children, and some interaction with license exempt providers
- Children with Special Needs: will work with the Access Gaps and Facilities workgroup on this issue
- Central Eligibility List: Funding and systems approach
  - Increase efficiency of the administration of the list as well as address the 200,000 children currently on it, which requires additional funding
- CDE Resources: Funding and systems approach
  - Increase overall funding, increase technical assistance and training from CDE staff on blending and braiding funding and fiscal education for providers, additional staffing resources for CCFRF, and licensing
- Streamlining Funding Procedures and Processes: systems approach
  - Continuous appropriations could cut down on administrative costs and longer contracts, get local councils or local body that knows the applicant's materials more intimately to evaluate proposals, evaluate mechanism for funding allocations as its currently not going to the neediest areas, and address unspent funds

**Bike Rack Issues -*The following issues the group will return to at a future meeting:***

The workgroup proposed a plan to sequence any proposed policy fixes and new revenue which included: First, funding for the existing system as it is. Then, broaden the base to include more APIs, etc. Next, subsidize childcare for all income eligible families. Finally, Preschool for All and care for all income eligible families regardless of a child's age.

The group will use this plan as a blueprint for discussion of existing system reforms going forward.

**Next Steps:**

- No further meeting date has been set for this workgroup
- Issues on the agenda for the next meeting will include: Subsidies, licensing, children with special needs (in conjunction with the Access Gaps and Facilities workgroup), Centralized Eligibility List, CDE Resources, federal level (how do we leverage NCLB, TANF, IDEA etc), and cultural and linguistic inclusion, sequencing of reforms