

# Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education

## Subcommittee Reports October 9, 2018

### Engaging Families Subcommittee Report

The Engaging Families Subcommittee is consulting with families, reviewing research, and considering proposals from numerous organizations as they develop recommendations. The Subcommittee and Parent Voices are currently conducting parent focus groups throughout the state which will provide critical perspective to inform all the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations

#### Engaging and Meeting the Needs of Families - Purpose

- Hearing directly from parents to ensure those directly impacted by ECE policy are informing all recommendations and all subcommittees
- Supporting parents becoming long-term advocates for their children's education

#### Engaging and Meeting the Needs of Families Topics

- Building on best practices and asking families how they want to be engaged
- Highlighting the perspectives of families on the challenges they face in navigating ECE services
- Identifying points of connection and support for families using the ECE system (roles of unions, community colleges, local governments, etc.)
- Understanding what quality child care means from a parent perspective

### Access Subcommittee Report

The Access Subcommittee is consulting with parents, providers and other stakeholders as we develop recommendations. We thank the **forty-five organizations** that responded to date to our survey and the numerous people who have testified at hearings and contacted us with ideas.

#### Access Subcommittee – Purpose

- All children birth to age five should have access to nurturing, educational, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally appropriate high-quality early care and education opportunities with a commitment to social, behavioral, emotional, cognitive, and physical development, and continuity of care. We must ensure we are serving all families and children while focusing on removing the barriers for those segregated from opportunity due to poverty, racial bias, language, geographic isolation, disability and other factors.
- Remove systemic obstacles and barriers families face so there is no wrong door with coordinated programs and eligibility standards that are easy to understand and navigate. Guarantee that parents and child care providers will be key participants in all system-wide decisions as well as have choices for care for their children.

Access topics under discussion include:

1. Equity and eradicating systemic barriers
2. Parental choice and access to quality
3. Affordability and family financial participation
4. Eligibility requirements and systems
5. Ensuring there is no wrong door
6. Access for young children of all ages including preschool age children, infants and toddlers
7. Targeted families and children
  - a. Children and families in poverty including CalWORKs
  - b. Working poor families and children
  - c. Homeless children and families
  - d. Racial inequity
  - e. Dual language learners, language access and cultural competence
  - f. Immigrant families
  - g. Children with disabilities , mental health and other special health care needs
  - h. Children connected to the Child Welfare System
  - i. Teen parents
  - j. Children with Incarcerated Parents
8. Cross-Cutting Issues including Trauma Informed Care, Early Identification and Assessment, Two-Generation Policies, Family Friendly Workplaces, Paid Family Leave, Home Visiting and Comprehensive Services

**Workforce Subcommittee Report**

The Workforce Subcommittee is reviewing research, considering recommendations developed by numerous organizations and consulting with stakeholders as we develop recommendations.

Workforce Subcommittee – Purpose

- High-quality early care and education requires a competent, effective, well-compensated, and professionally supported workforce who reflect the racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity and needs of the children and families they serve, across the various roles and settings where they work.
- Those settings include public and private centers, schools, family child care homes, and family, friend and neighbor care. We recognize the particular needs for support and training in each setting as well as those which are system-wide.
- We must respect the experience, commitment and diversity of our current workforce while providing pathways to opportunities for career advancement and quality improvement for providers in all settings.

Workforce topics under discussion include proposals for all settings including public and private centers, schools, family child care homes, and family, friend and neighbor care.

1. Equity and Diversity
2. Compensation and Support
3. Collective Bargaining Rights
4. Competency based Permitting and Credentialing
5. Ongoing Learning

6. Quality Improvement
7. Higher Education Systems
8. Adequate Funding
9. Data and Evaluation

## **Financing and the Economic Impact of ECE Subcommittee Report**

The Financing Subcommittee is consulting with numerous stakeholders, reviewing research and looking at California and other state models as we develop recommendations.

### **Financing - Purpose**

- Creating an adequate financing structure for all subcommittee recommendations including:
  - a well-compensated professionally supported diverse workforce
  - equitable access for all families to early care and education settings that meet their needs and definition of high quality and are affordable.
- Affirmatively removing obstacles and barriers for families segregated from opportunity
- Identifying dedicated funding sources for a well-funded ECE system
- Establishing priorities for initial investment and a multi-year phased investment plan

### **Finance Topics under Discussion**

1. Adequate funding for all recommendations
2. Sources of funding
3. Governance and systems change including administration, regulation and infrastructure,
4. ECE supply including geographic disparities, child care deserts and facilities
5. Eligibility, family fees and tax policy
6. Reimbursement rates and systems
7. Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
8. Focus on the whole child and family with links to other systems (e.g. Head Start, early identification and intervention, child welfare services, CalWORKs) and comprehensive services (e.g. paid family leave, home visiting, Child Welfare)
9. Links to K-12, corporate and philanthropic investments

*The Assembly Blue Ribbon Commission welcomes your ideas. Please submit your recommendations to: [Assembly.BlueRibbonCommission@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Assembly.BlueRibbonCommission@asm.ca.gov).*