

Welcome!

Early Childhood Policy Council: Parent Session

July 22nd, 2020

CALIFORNIA

ALL


KIDS

Master Plan
for Early Learning
and Care

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Acronyms

The following acronyms are used throughout this presentation:

- **ELC** (Early Learning and Care)
 - **MPELC** (Master Plan for Early Learning and Care)
 - **ECPC** (Early Childhood Policy Council)
 - **ACEs** (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
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Quick Poll


Are you a parent of
a young child?

Yes

No



Session Objectives

- Develop a **shared understanding** of current ELC issues from the parent and family perspective.
 - **Gather input on plan objectives and features to address issues**
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Session Flow Preview

MPELC Background and Insights from ECPC interviews



Grounding in the Issues



Input and Discussion Session



Closing and Next Steps



Values

Advance equity:

Address inequities associated with race, ethnicity, and language and attend to the needs of our most vulnerable, including foster children and those experiencing homelessness.

Respect parental agency:

Engage families as partners; recognize that they are the greatest providers of skills and dispositions for their children and empower them as the drivers of success.

Respect child care and early learning professionals:

Redesign programs and supports to increase pathways to professional careers at professional compensation.

Know each child and each family:

Address whole child and family needs—including trauma informed care—to lessen their burdens, increase their opportunities, and improve their outcomes.

Listening to Families

Work-Life Balance Challenges

“Trying to keep [her] family safe [while] locked in the house...and to have a three-year-old is overwhelming.”

Information Challenges

“It would have been great to get the accurate information from the beginning so we could plan ahead.”

Financial Challenges

“I am right now surviving off what I received from my taxes and the little bit that I had saved over the past few months.”

Mental Health Challenges

“Just every day hearing we got a new case. This person, now you got these many cases in your county. This person has died. It's a lot. It's really overwhelming.”



Guidelines & resources for safely reopening early learning and care

COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions are easing. It's time for providers to reopen and parents get back to work. California's children can continue their healthy development and learning when parents and providers follow the safety guidelines and resources on this website. Created and approved by the State, this is the one place where you'll find everything you need for safe early learning and care for all of California's children.

[Early Learning & Care Playbook website](#)

Whole Child, Whole Family

Children deserve

- health and wellness;
- positive and supportive relationships with family and other caregivers;
- nutrition; and
- early identification and intervention for areas of need.



Whole Child, Whole Family

Families deserve

- comprehensive support, including health and wellness;
- options for care;
- affordability;
- information; and
- simplicity.

Providers deserve

- professional learning and support;
- career development;
- compensation; and
- simplicity.



Insights from the ECPC: Shared Themes on Issues Facing Parents

1. Embracing parents:

- ELC must be dual generational, culturally responsive, and a catalyst of upward mobility.
- Parents are partners, co-teachers, and first teachers; this knowledge needs to be dignified.

2. Whom to serve and how to serve them:


- What does it mean to prioritize the most vulnerable groups?
- Mixed classrooms are important: bring together poor and rich, special education and general education, dual language learners and their English-speaking peers. This builds community and allows parents to find shared humanity in their childrearing experiences.

3. Attending to the whole child:

- The ELC system can be a hub that brings together all social, emotional, nutritional, residential, and mental health needs—but it lacks the resources to do this.
- Mental health services and ACEs screenings and supports must be provided.

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MPELC Family Priorities

- **Affordability**
 - **Access to information**
 - **System complexity**
 - **Comprehensive service delivery**
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Deep Dive Discussion Topics



Prioritizing Care for Vulnerable Families



Simplifying and Streamlining the System

Discussion Process for Today

1. Level Setting: How do existing plans frame the issue?



2. Group Input Discussion: How should we address the issue?

- Members will respond to an anchor prompt and considerations.
- Facilitators will record major takeaways to share at the close of session.



Deep Dive Discussion
Topic 1:
Prioritizing Care for
Vulnerable Populations

Framing the Issue in CA

The Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations regarding equity include the following:

- Increase equity and eradicate systemic barriers by prioritizing investments for children and families most at risk.
- Recognize the community cluster disadvantage: vulnerable families tend to be concentrated in communities.
- Use targeted universalism:
 1. Meet universal goals by targeting the most excluded.
 2. Evaluate and adjust policies and investments.

Listening to Families

“...[T]he system is broken...we need a system that follows the child to determine eligibility...we need to look at those types of layers...take those gaps away.”

“I’m surviving all these things...my (child) is now suffering from PTSD and anxiety.”

“They want you to stay literally poor. I know that I had to take a lot of cash jobs in order to continue qualifying.”

“There are programs for immigrants, but the program for immigrants requires you to move every year, every 12 months...It is very hard on the children.”

Deep Dive Discussion

Topic 1:

What other populations should be prioritized?

What types of families are the most vulnerable?

- Children with disabilities, mental health, and other special health care needs
- Immigrant families
- Dual language learners
- Tribal populations
- Children and families connected to Child Welfare Services
- Migrant families
- Young parents
- Children with incarcerated and recently released parents
- Families experiencing homelessness or who have housing insecurity

Deep Dive Discussion Topic 1

**How should support be prioritized
for our most vulnerable families?**





Deep Dive Discussion
Topic 2:
Streamlining and
Simplifying the System

Framing the Issue in CA

The Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations on a comprehensive system that is less daunting include the following:

- Use a whole-family approach, including expanding paid family leave and home visiting.
- Support child care navigator services to identify permanent child care resources and trauma-informed care training and coaching.
- Ensure programs have links to necessary child/family support services, mental health consultation, quality technical assistance and coaching, health visits and screenings, and inclusion support.
- Align data requirements across early childhood agencies.
- Support and continue to build a statewide, integrated data system that combines data from health, social services, and educational sectors.

Listening to Families

“They were helping me...stamps, food, MediCal, money, childcare – I started to thrive...after leaving...I couldn't get any help”


“Parents get scrutinized, we get stressed out...you get dehumanized”

“I had to let a great paying second job go because I couldn't find childcare.”

“I can work or go to school...but then you have a series of appointments that are like a month apart”

Deep Dive Discussion Topic 2

How can/should the system align and coordinate comprehensive services to support our most vulnerable families?



Public Comment



Closing and Next Steps

What we heard today....

What is our next step?

The MPELC Team will incorporate this input with:

Input from the ECPC and
the Parent Commission

Research

Current data



**Collectively, this will inform a set of recommendations in
the final MPELC plan due October 2020.**

How will we use the input to inform the plan?

- How does it advance **equity** (closing inequities associated with race, ethnicity, and language and attend to the needs of our most vulnerable, including foster children and those experiencing homelessness)?
- How does it **impact** healthy development and school readiness of children (aspects of quality that support well-being, positive adult-child interactions, workforce competency and development)?
- How does it work for **parents** (engage families as partners, empower them as the drivers of success, address range of care needs and options including language)?
- How does it deal with **workforce** fairness and retention (opportunity to develop and advance in career, living/competitive wages, compatible with unionization)?
- How does it improve **efficiency** (cost-effectiveness, streamlining, and effective service coordination)?

For more information, please visit:

The ECPC website

**The Master Plan for
Early Learning and Care
website**



Thank you!