

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of Child Care Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC)

April 30, 2015

Goals of the Effort

CPAC's vision is that through equal access to safe, stimulating and nurturing child care and early education environments, San Francisco children and families of all cultural identities, economic backgrounds and special needs will thrive emotionally, intellectually and physically. The mission of CPAC is to create and drive the child-care and early education agenda to meet the needs of children age 0-12 and their families in San Francisco. The council advocates for a broad system of quality, affordable and accessible child care and early education services throughout San Francisco, with a mandate from the state to focus on low-income and at-risk families.

CPAC's goals:

- 1) All child care and early education in the city is of the highest quality and meets the diverse needs of children and their families.
- 2) A full array of family focused child care and early education options are available to families when and where they need it.
- 3) All families can afford high-quality child care and early education for their children.
- 4) San Francisco has a stable, professional child care and early education workforce.

Focal Population of the Effort

The council focuses on the childcare needs for children age 0-12 and their families.

Impact

The council creates an extensive early care and education needs assessment every five years. Recently, the council has worked to mitigate the impact San Francisco's increased minimum wage has on childcare provision. As part of this work, the council headed up a 1.5 million dollar request to the city to offset the negative effects the increase will have on availability of childcare services.

CPAC's greatest strength is that it is comprised of a great diversity of voices, from funders to parents, and an amazing wealth of education and expertise at all levels.

Challenges

Because the council is comprised of a diversity of voices, it often faces the challenge of unifying members who each have their own goals and purposes. In a council made up of such effective individuals, often one strong voice can quiet the others. Parent seats on the council can often be difficult to fill.

Origins of the Effort

Since 1990, every county in California has a Local Planning Commission to plan for childcare and development services based on needs of local families in the community. (See *Education Code*, Chapter 2.3, Article 1, Section 8499 and Article 2, Sections 8499.3, 8499.5 and 8499.7.) San Francisco created its own "Mayors Office of Childcare" in 1985, which later became its local planning commission. CPAC currently serves as San Francisco's Local Planning Commission. When the state cut funding for local planning commissions by 50% in 2008, the city backfilled the funding to ensure CPAC continued to operate.

Leading the Effort

San Francisco CPAC's coordinator is Erica Maybaum, 415-355-5673, erica.maybaum@sfgov.org. The state of California provides half of the funding for her position through the Department of Education, and the city provides the other half. The council currently sits in the Office of Early Care and Education.

Members of the Effort

Membership is mandated by the state:

- 20% providers (center based providers, for-profit providers, and after school programs),
- 20% public agency reps,
- 20% community reps (parent voices, advocacy groups),
- 20% consumers (parents), and
- 20% discretionary

The council has 25 seats and currently has some vacancies.

For a list of current members, please visit sfcpac.org.

Structure of the Effort

CPAC holds general membership meetings monthly, and the executive committee meets monthly, as well. The council has above 50% attendance at every meeting. The council communicates via email, phone calls, and meetings.

CPAC works closely with the SF Childcare Providers Association, the Family Childcare Association, the San Francisco Family Support Network, and the Expanded Learning Collaborative.

The Role of Data

Every five years, the council completes an early care and education needs assessment. The council uses this data to inform its advocacy efforts by identifying gaps in services. The council also uses this data to support its positions when advocating to the city.

Related Documents

- SF CPAC Strategic Plan 2008-2013
- SF CPAC Brochure
- SF Citywide Plan for Early Care and Education and Out of School Time, May 2012
- SF Early Care and Education Needs Assessment Executive Summary, 2012-13