Our Vision
The vision of the Task Force is to ensure that all families who live work or attend school in Santa Monica have access to affordable, high quality childcare and early education, and that those who provide these services are appropriately educated and compensated.

Welcome and Introductions: Meghan Moroney convened the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Attendees:
Judy Abdo                   Gary Huff                  Sonia Nochez
Barbi Appelquist           Louise Jaffe              Patti Oblath
McKenna Belgarde           Iao Katagiri              Susan Samarge-Powell
Naamar Cordova             Kathryn Kuznitsky       Lara Sando
Liz Cruz                   Joanne Leavitt            David Sonnenschein
Shari Davis                Sonia Madix               Ben Swett
Allyn George               Laura Manson              Julie Taren
Betsy Hiteshew             Meghan Moroney            Laila Taslimi

City Staff:
Ivy Chang

Approval of November 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting will be presented for approval at the January 16, 2019 meeting.

Presentation by Wendy Lazarus—Kids Impact Initiative
• Wendy Lazarus presented on the Kids Impact Initiative, beginning with background on her history in early childhood advocacy.
• The first two areas Kids Impact Initiative will focus on are:
  o How to help point the next generation to this kind of work in policy change and advocacy
  o How to hold policymakers accountable on children’s issues.
• The Task Force discussed mobilization strategies for the greater childhood movement, including the roles of the youth voice, a unified message, and money in politics.

Reports:

SMMUSD:
• A presentation as made to the school board regarding the district’s Head Start contract with LACOE, including information on what has been done with Head Start, services provided, and the school district’s overall efforts in early learning.
  o Due to consistent under enrollment, LACOE requested that a number of Head Start spots be converted to home-based Early Head Start. Otherwise, funding would be retroactively pulled back.
LACOE is in the process of reapplying for Head Start funds, and SMMUSD would be included if expectations were met with continued reduction of Head Start slots.

The recommendation from staff was, pending approval of funds, to forego renewal with LACOE and for SMMUSD to fund their own program modeled after Head Start for Santa Monica and Malibu students.

The cost for this would be (currently) just over $800,000 / year.

Questions on the table include how to ensure children who would have qualified will actually get services, how recruitment and marketing will work without the Head Start brand to lean on, and how to ensure children who are in the programs continue to be served and are not bumped by full-fee paying families.

The school board currently has this under consideration and it will be included in the January 17 meeting.

The Task Force discussed concerns regarding the longevity of funding, with the potential for this program to be defunded by the school board during future economic downturns.

**Announcements**
- New members of the Early Childhood Wellbeing Project team were introduced.
- More than 210,000 comments opposing the Trump Administration’s proposal regarding immigration and public charge were received by the Department of Homeland Security, including comment from the Task Force and the City of Santa Monica.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 2:30 by Meghan Moroney.