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 1:02 pm.

Attendees:
Judy Abdo
Gabby Avila
Nicki Backlar
McKenna Belgarde
Nahaal Binazir
Namaar Cordova
Liz Cruz
Shari Davis
Gary Huff
Iao Katagiri
Kathryn Kuznitsky
Joanne Leavitt
Sonia Madix
Meghan Moroney
Nancy Murphy
Sonia Nochez
Lainy Parry
Shirley Perez
Susan Samarge-Powell
Lara Sando
David Sonnenschein
Julie Taren
Laila Taslimi
Stacy Williams

City Staff:
Andrew Gibson
Angel Villasenor
Setareh Yavari

Approval of January 2019 Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the January 16, 2019 meetings were approved as amended by general consent.

SMMUSD Board Vote re: Early Learning
- The SMMUSD School Board made the determination to move forward without LACOE / Head Start Grant funding.
- The District is working with current Head Start families individually to offer continuity of service.
- LACOE has identified another agency to provide continuity of service at Woods site.
- The District is spreading the word about increased eligibility at some sites due to no longer being Head Start restricted.
- Registration for full-fee part-day families has already opened; subsidized programs are currently pre-enrolling.
- The Task Force discussed advocating for changes to programs at the state level to accommodate for federal guidelines not scaling to state needs.

State Budget & Policy Updates
- The Governor’s proposed budget for FY19-20 includes $88 for early childhood education and health programs.
- A full breakdown from the LA County Perinatal & Early Childhood Home Visitation Consortium was distributed via the ECTF Digest.
The state legislature is working on bills that address rate reform, slots, facilities, wages and workforce. Full details about relevant bills will be shared out once they have been finalized.

City of Santa Monica City’s New Framework Priorities & Values
- Laila Taslimi reported on attendance at the Council Retreat and the importance of attending and advocating.
- Angel Villasenor presented on City Council’s newly adopted Framework Priorities and core values, and City Staff’s work to align budgets with these priorities.
- The Task Force discussed Council’s methodology for choosing these Framework Priorities and concern over the removal of “Learn and Thrive” as a priority and a lack of emphasis on education.
- Setareh Yavari further explained the relationship between Framework Priorities, outcomes, and metrics, and provided a timeline for Council’s study and adoption of the next biennial budget: budget discussion in April, study sessions in early June and adoption in late June.
- Alongside the adoption of Framework Priorities and budget prioritization, the Human Services Division is working with a consultant to reimagine the Human Services Grants Program to better understand and address community needs, including learning and education.

Connections for Children Updates
- Connections for Children has moved offices and is no longer located in Santa Monica; they will continue to provide services in Santa Monica; Open House and Community Reception events to come.
- To increase access in Santa Monica, a partnership with Santa Monica Main Library is being piloted to offer resource, referral, and subsidy services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- The annual awards and fundraising event will take place on Wednesday, April 24, and will introduce the “Betsy Award”; Tickets are not yet available, but there are sponsorship opportunities.
- The Task Force discussed opportunities to advocate for affordability in Santa Monica, with both families and nonprofit agencies facing economic difficulties in remaining here.

Reports:

LA County Child Care Planning Committee
- An analysis of early childhood system in LA County is being done; Santa Monica was chosen as a case study. Consultants are meeting with different communities and a draft report is expected in June.

RWJ – Pinwheel Project
- Preparation is being done for ACEs screenings, with a goal of screening 400 families.

FSSM-ECWP
- Angel Towler has been hired as Director.
- ECWP currently has a caseload of 22/25 families.

SM Cradle to Career
- The next workgroup meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20.

Building Blocks Campaign
- SMMUSD is holding sessions to get teachers trained on EDI.

EC Lab School
- Construction is on track and there is continued discussion and planning around phasing in the program and filling budget gaps.

Santa Monica College
- The first study abroad program in Early Childhood will take place in Denmark this Summer.

Parks/Child Friendly City
- The workgroup stays in contact with Karen Ginsberg and Julie Rusk at the City.
• Cayton Children’s Museum, formerly Zimmer, will be opening in Santa Monica Place.
• The Coastal Commission is expected to approve the Civic Center field at their March meeting.

Announcements
• Community Corp is opening their Housing Opportunity list on March 4; appointment cards can be picked up in person.

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