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.*

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**Welcome and Introductions:** Meghan Moroney convened the meeting at 1:13 pm.

**Attendees:**

Namaan Cordova  
Jennifer Cowan  
Shari Davis  
Hannah Edwards  
Betsy Hiteshew  
Jessica Isles  
Louise Jaffe  
Iao Katagiri  
Kathryn Kuznitsky  
Ariel Krakowsky  
Joanne Leavitt  
Sonia Madix  
Meghan Moroney  
Lainy Parry  
Shirley Perez  
David Sonnenschein  
Lenore St John  
Laila Taslimi

**City Staff:**

Ivy Chang  
Andrew Gibson  
Setareh Yavari

**Approval of March 2019 Meeting Minutes** – The minutes of the March 20, 2019 meetings were approved as amended by general consent.

**Update from Setareh Yavari, Human Services Manager, City of Santa Monica**

- Setareh Yavari provided an update regarding the City’s FY19-21 biennial budget process, which includes proposals for efficiencies to maintain fiscal health beyond the FY19-21 biennial budget.
- A presentation will be made to City Council on April 30th to preview the process to Council ahead of the June budget study sessions; no action will be taken.
  - The Task Force discussed the benefit of making public comment and/or reaching out to individual Council members regarding priorities.

**Reports:**

**LA County Child Care Planning Committee**

- The last Planning Committee meeting included presentations and breakout groups on the strategic plan.
- There was also a presentation on a County-wide study of a fiscal model for childcare, with Santa Monica as a focus area.
  - The Task Force expressed interest in a presentation on this study.
FSMMUSD EC DAC
- The next DAC meeting will be in May.

FSSM-ECWP
- 19 families are enrolled and 2 referrals are pending.
- Recently applied in collaboration with Community Corp for LA County Department of Mental Health mini-grant for an informational event about selfcare and mental health for caregivers and 0-5 children.

Santa Monica Library
- The Library has received a Family Literacy Grant from the State.
- “Play, Learn, Grow” program has launched at Main Library and looking to expand to Fairview.
- Working individually with families to connect to literacy programs.
- Looking to expand on program accessibility as well as define more defined outcome metrics. 19 families enrolled and 2 referrals pending.
- Recently applied in collaboration with Community Corp for LA County Department of Mental Health mini-grant for an informational event about selfcare and mental health for caregivers and 0-5 children.

City of Santa Monica / SM Cradle to Career
- The final Stewards of Children workshop will take place at the Ocean Park Library.
- The Arts & Literacy Festival will take place at VAP on April 27.
- The next Cradle to Career meeting will be on May 22.
- The City launched a new virtual Dashboard with community-facing performance metrics.
  - The Task Force expressed interest in receiving more information about the Dashboard and expressing support for “Learn” data being featured.

Connections for Children / Building Blocks Campaign
- Work is being done to streamline the Kindergarten Readiness Handbook.
- The next Building Blocks meeting will be May 3.
  - The Task Force requested future updates on program enrollment data and areas of needs.
- Annual fundraising event and Betsy Award will take place on April 24.

Santa Monica College
- Promise Program is an opportunity for Santa Monica high school graduates to attend Santa Monica College for free.
- Early Childhood Education Advisory Board meeting will take place on April 24th.
- Career Services is hosting a hiring event for community partners on May 30th.
- Public Policy Institute will be having their Spring Symposium from May 4-9, with a focus on gentrification.

EC Lab School
- Lab School construction is moving ahead on schedule.
- Growing Place board is expected to do final vote on operating agreement between Growing Place and Santa Monica College.
- EC Lab School is competing in “Learn” category of LA2050 Grants Challenge.

Announcements
- The Cayton Children’s museum will be opening this Summer.

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