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: Shari Davis convened the meeting at 1:28pm.

Attendees:
- Judy Abdo
- Carolina Alvarez
- McKenna Belgarde
- Agustina Bertone
- Emilio Chavez-Herrerias
- Naaman Cordova
- Jennifer Cowan
- Liz Cruz
- Shari Davis
- Kelly Delich
- Allyn George
- Iao Katagiri
- Melissa Kauffer
- Heidy Lara
- Liliana Liu Velazquez
- Estefanía López B.
- Pauline McPeake
- Lainy Parry
- Shirley Perez
- Lara Sando
- David Sonnenschein
- Ben Swett
- Julie Taren
- Laila Taslimi
- Lenore St John

City of Santa Monica, Human Services Staff:
- Ivy Chang
- Natasha Kingscote
- Setareh Yavari

Tour of Cayton followed by Introductions and Q&A.
- The Task Force was given a tour of the Cayton Children’s Museum by Caton staff prior to the start of the meeting.
- Cayton Children’s Museum staff presented on current and upcoming programs, as well as work around staff training, access, and inclusion.
- Additional information on exhibits and programs can be found at https://caytonmuseum.org/.

Approval of December 2019 Meeting Minutes
- Iao Katagiri moved and Ben Swett seconded to approve the minutes of the December 2019 meeting as written. The motion passed by general consent.

Reports & Announcements

First 5 LA:
- Board has not met in two months; committee meetings will take place on the last Thursday of the month.
- Two-year planning cycle of First 5 LA Framework is transitioning to internal redesign of the work that staff is doing and the organization is focused on.
The First 5 LA Strategic Plan is easily accessible on the First 5 LA website.

**LA County Childcare Planning Committee:**
- The Planning Committee will be joining with the Policy Roundtable for Children to review the completed Strategic Plan to determine its impact on activities moving forward.
- The plan has not yet been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

**SMMUSD DAC:**
- DAC met and approved midyear corrections to their charges, which focus a lot on data utilization to improve curriculum alignment, professional development activities, and parent interactions.
- Discussed and requested additional information from SMMUSD around regulations on age cutoff for pre-K to Kindergarten and whether there are exceptions and/or flexibility in individual cases.

**Pinwheel Project:**
- Continuing strategic planning and sustainability work.
- Up to full staff of seven consultants in classrooms.
- Social skills group being held at Pine Street site.
- Nutrition parenting groups starting in February.
- Piloting a trauma-informed parenting group for parents who have experienced their own trauma.

**Early Childhood Wellbeing Project:**
- Currently have 12 families enrolled, serving 13 0-5 youth, with one family referral pending.
- New Family Resource Specialist will be starting next week, at which point outreach will begin to work towards full capacity of 25 families.
- Working on mid-year reporting and looking at programs offered during the first half of the fiscal year, which included a group specifically on maternal mental health. Looking to offer more of these groups in the second half of the fiscal year.

**Santa Monica Public Library:**
- Most recent Stewards of Children workshop had the best attendance yet.
- Will be presenting EDI information to Youth Services staff at their next staff meeting.
- Will also be starting trauma-informed training with Family Service of Santa Monica with Youth Services staff.

**City of Santa Monica:**
- Help Me Grow is looking for more community members on the Westside to be interviewers for the new Help Me Grow pathway. Application closes on January 17.
- Stewards of Children workshop will take place Thursday, January 16, at Virginia Avenue Park.
- Arts and Literacy Festival will take place on Saturday, April 25. At Virginia Avenue Park.
- Human Services Division is working on a new initiative to highlight behavioral health resources and will be reaching out to build a calendar of events for Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Next Cradle to Career meeting will be in March; announcements to come.

**Building Blocks for Kindergarten:**
- Continuing discussion on how to share EDI with more groups, stakeholders and the general community.

**ECTF Steering Committee:**
- Steering Committee has started series of meetings with City Council members. They have met with Mayor Kevin McKeown and Councilmember Greg Morena, and have an upcoming meeting with Councilmember Ana Jara.

**Early Childhood Lab School**
- Construction remains on schedule with a target open date in August.
Santa Monica College

- The Early Childhood Education department is transitioning to Education – Early Childhood, as the department is moving towards an additional program for K-12 education.

Other Announcements:
- IDA Early Start Policy Update to take place on Monday, January 27.
- Sing and Speak 4 Kids is completing their contract with the U.S. Department of Education and will be releasing results next month.
- Sing and Speak 4 Kids is recruiting for a part-time employee in Marketing/Sales with experience in early childhood.
- Child 360 has put out a postcard in multiple languages on the importance of the census.
- The City of Santa Monica, ReadyNation, and Connections for Children are also working on census outreach.
- The ECT February meeting will be back at Virginia Avenue Park.
- The Department of Mental Health will be holding a Town Hall for Service Area 5 on Saturday, January 25, at the Santa Monica Bay Women’s Club.
- A Celebration of Life will take place in memorial of Joanne Leavitt on Sunday, January 19, at Church In Ocean Park.

Adjournment: Shari Davis adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.