

Children's Planning Council Meeting

January 18, 2006

9:30 a.m.

Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012

Present: Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky
Lauraine Barber
Cheryl Branch
Angela Carter, representing David Sanders
Samuel Q. Chan, representing Marv Southard
Priscilla Charles-Carter
Rabbi Bernard Cohen
Teresa A. DeCrescenzo
Duane Dennis
Nancy Diaz, representing Bryce Yokomizo
Amy Enomoto-Perez
Jeff Farber
Dorothy Fleisher
David W. Fleming
Chris Floyd
Cynthia Harding, representing Thomas Garthwaite
Larry Lue
Hector Madrigal, representing Roy Romer
Penny Markey, representing Margaret Donnellan Todd
Kay Michaelson, representing Russ Guiney
Elisa Nicholas
Terry Ogawa
Michi Okano (member confirmation pending)
Danny Ramos
Lisa Cleri Reale
Richelle Rios-Huizar
Bruce Saltzer
Lari Sheehan, representing David Janssen
Beatriz Olvera Stotzer
Sharon G. Watson
Phillip L. Williams

Staff: Yolie Flores Aguilar
Paula Angeles
Ernesto De Guzman
Renee Loza
Deanne Martinez
Marco Martinez
Ben Rodriguez
Laura Valles
Chrysta Wilson

Chair Zev Yaroslavsky brought the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and asked that Council members and the audience introduce themselves.

Approval of the Minutes of November 16, 2005

David Fleming moved that the minutes of November 16, 2005, be approved as mailed. Phillip Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Chair's Report: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

- Chair Yaroslavsky expressed his pleasure at returning for a third stint as chair of the Children's Planning Council. He has followed the organization's progress with interest since his last term in the mid-1990s, and has seen much growth. "The best minds and the people most committed to children in the country are gathered in this room," he said, thanking Council leadership and staff for their efforts.
- Yaroslavsky's deputy, Wendy Aron, will be out on maternity leave starting in mid-February. Teresa DeCrescenzo expressed great appreciation to Aron for being so generous with her time and for being a "wonderful representative" of the supervisor.
- As members are aware, the Children's Planning Council's Executive Committee is appointed each year to assist in setting priorities and making policy decisions consistent with the Council's mission and vision. The current Executive Committee's term was up in November 2005, but the executive director has recommended that the Council consider extending that term for an additional year to ensure continuity in the ongoing strategic planning process. **David Fleming moved that this recommendation appear as an action item on the agenda for the March meeting. Phillip Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Separation of Public Health from the Department of Health Services: Dr. Jonathan Fielding

A proposal is currently before the Board of Supervisors to create a separate public health department, breaking that function away from the Department of Health Services. Since questions have arisen about this idea, the Council invited Dr. Jonathan Fielding to present information on the proposal so that Council members can address queries as they arise in the community. Fielding, a pediatrician, has been the director of public health and the county's public health officer for eight years.

In April 2005, the Board instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to analyze the implications of creating a separate public health department, and the Board approved the separation in concept that June. An implementation plan and ordinance changes were submitted to the Board in December, and a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being discussed by various county agencies and commissions this January and February. The anticipated date for Board action is February 21, 2006. The Chief Administrative Officer's report cited a five-part rationale for creating a separate public health department:

- The different missions of public health and private health
- New health threats
- Budget impact

- The size and complexity of current health efforts
- The possibility of eliminating a layer of management

Public health's mission is to protect and improve the health of all Los Angeles County residents, protecting families from basic health threats (communicable disease outbreaks, toxic exposure, preventable injuries, etc.) and working to prevent chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. It also provides health care for those with no other source of care. Its budget is more than \$650 million, and it employs approximately 4,000 people. Its core functions focus on:

- Assessment (the L.A. Health Survey provides key data for the Children's Planning Council's ScoreCard)
- Assurance (quality of care, immunizations, home visitations for high-risk patients)
- Policy development (expanding health coverage to all children, and addressing other factors such as housing, welfare, transportation, etc.)

Its programs include the area health offices; maternal, child, and adolescent health; children's medical services; the office of AIDS programs and policy; the alcohol and drug program administration; environmental health (including inspections of restaurants and multiple-use housing); health assessment and epidemiology; acute communicable disease control; chronic disease prevention and control; and the public health laboratory. Unlike personal health, however, public health provides very few direct clinical services: it has only 14 public health clinics, along with categorical clinics for tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, and immunizations. These direct services represented 6.5 percent of its budget in 2004–2005. Public health's approach incorporates community-based planning (including active participation on the SPA/AIC Councils) and a focus on the broad determinants of health, including social, economic, and environmental factors.

The roles of public health and personal health differ greatly. Though personal health provides perinatal care to patients, for instance, public health ensures the quality of and access to that care, certifying providers and giving them training and technical assistance. While public health contracts with community-based organizations to enroll families in insurance programs, personal health provides medical care to those with public or no insurance, and administers those county programs. Public health administers the childhood lead poisoning prevention program, while personal health treats children who have been exposed to lead. Public health inspects retail food establishments; personal health treats patients for food poisoning. Public health works on policies to promote smoking cessation countywide, and personal health treats patients with tobacco-related health problems.

Separating the two functions—already independent in most other large jurisdictions—will raise the visibility of public health issues, since hospital and health-care financing issues currently dominate the agenda. The split will also give public health greater control over its own priorities, budget, and administrative resources. The challenge will be to ensure the integration of services, and the MOU now being drafted addresses areas of shared responsibility. A task force co-chaired by public and private health officials will also continue, to guarantee that public health principles are infused into patient care delivery. No changes will occur to the services offered to children and families, nor to service locations.

In answer to several questions, Fielding clarified that the Department of Health Services would continue to oversee hospitals within the county. (As part of its quality assurance function, public health licenses hospitals and nursing homes; to avoid any conflict of interest, an Orange County agency performs that task for all county-administered facilities.) As mentioned, children will not lose any services, and it is hoped that they ultimately will gain through public health's ability to be a more effective advocate for resources. A slimmer management structure will enable the department to seek grants that personnel are now reluctant to pursue because of how long the paperwork can take. With the reduction of a layer of bureaucracy, too, administrative decisions should be more in line with public health's priorities. The split is meant to be 'budget-neutral,' with the proposed new department absorbing the costs of the 25 additional employees needed.

As Sharon Watson mentioned, breaking out the Department of Mental Health from the Department of Health Services in the 1980s brought very positive results, and creates a precedent for this move. She praised the proposed department's emphasis on prevention, which often gets lost when other crises arise. Hector Madrigal hopes that the focus on educating communities about health issues could one day lead to the decreased use of hospital resources. Terry DeCrescenzo stressed the need for cross-training and coordination, so that people in dire medical need are not shunted from one referral to another. Fielding agreed, saying that the County is working toward that end with the 211 system.

Rabbi Bernard Cohen asked about the reasoning behind any resistance to the separation plan, and Yaroslavsky explained that the opposition generally cites two reasons—bad timing, what with concerns over budgets and the crisis at King/Drew Medical Center, plus the perception that a single budgetary authority creates flexibility in funding priorities for the two functions. The second concept Yaroslavsky sees as more myth than fact, and to the first he commented, "There's never a good time. Something always comes up." With public health threats increasingly on the horizon, he supports both the heightened visibility the plan would afford those issues and placing the authority and responsibility for them in one location. He welcomed the opportunity for Fielding to share the proposal with the Children's Planning Council.

Executive Director's Report: Yolie Flores Aguilar

- Flores Aguilar distributed the Council's evaluation report, *Building Bridges, Charting Change: Achievements & Challenges for the Children's Planning Council*, and she thanked staff member Ben Rodriguez and Susana Lugo for their work on its production over the last two weeks.
- A brochure was included in member packets on the Council's continuing efforts to significantly increase the number of families receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit. The press conference to kick off the 2006 EITC campaign will be held on January 19 beginning at 8:45 a.m. on the steps outside the Board of Supervisors' hearing room.
- Also in member packets was a draft of the Board letter, to be filed this week, amending the Council's agreement with the County regarding the transfer of monies. The Council is asking the Board to fund the creation of a community-building institute, contributing just over \$1 million over two years.
- Flores Aguilar called members' attention to the calendar of meetings included in their packets, and to her written executive director's report.

- From February 6 through 10, Flores Aguilar and Jacquelyn McCroskey will travel to Tel Aviv, Israel, to share the Council's work around children and families.

Executive Committee Report: Beatriz Olvera Stotzer

- The second phase of the strategic planning process began on January 9 with a productive meeting of the two work groups. Ira Cutler of Cornerstone Consulting—who also assisted in the Council's first strategic planning effort, five years ago—has been retained to help with this process. In March, work group chairs will give a more detailed status report.
- A 15-Year Anniversary Committee has been formed and will meet before the end of January to explore various activities that will start this summer. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Ben Rodriguez, director of communications and development. Staff has already produced the banners present at today's meeting, and helped design the 15-year anniversary logo, which the Council will use on all its materials this year.

Olvera Stotzer began the celebration by recognizing Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky for the many years of support he has given to the Children's Planning Council. Had it not been for his leadership, the Council would likely not be here today. In 1995, County Counsel began to question the Council's structure, proposing that it be brought under the county system in a more rigid way, without the flexibility to manage its own resources and staffing. As the Council's chair that year, Yaroslavsky advocated the creation of an independent nonprofit entity, The Children's Planning Council Foundation, Inc., to serve as fiscal agent and employer of Council staff. Since that time—and before, reaching back to his days as a city councilman—he has championed many children's causes, supported all the Council's recommendations, and provided inspiring leadership and vision for children and families in Los Angeles County. On behalf of the Council, Olvera Stotzer presented a plaque of appreciation to Yaroslavsky and announced that the first 15 years of the Children's Planning Council were dedicated to him.

SPA/AIC Council Workplans

SPA 3 Council coordinator Mark Masaoka reviewed the development of Parent Action Networks and Youth Action Networks in Baldwin Park, Pomona, Claremont, and the unincorporated area of La Puente. These groups have been involved in neighborhood clean-ups and relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and have met with local officials regarding street safety, school issues, and problems with the postal service. The SPA Council is considering a 5K–10K race and community fair concentrating on health and nutrition.

SPA 4 Council coordinator Celestina Castillo reported that the SPA 4 Council's 2005–2006 workplan builds on the momentum of the previous year, maintaining Knowing Circles and focusing on health and school readiness with a Healthy Kids enrollment campaign, and by working with *promotoras* to connect social and health issues. Four themes emerged from the community forums in 2005 (housing, education, safety, and a lack of recreational spaces) and plans are being structured to respond to those issues. An experience in Echo Park highlighted the possibility of matching community needs with the talents of concerned volunteers, with dance and traditional crafts being proposed for new after-school programs.

SPA 5 According to coordinator Maria Marquez, SPA 5 Council priorities include building community support for the asset-based community development (ABCD) model, fostering partnerships with parents and youth, and mentoring emerging leaders. A November partnership summit attended by about 130 people recommended involvement in social and emotional well-being, the physical environment, public policy, and community-building strategies.

SPA 7 Convener Jeff Farber noted that though community outreach had been a highlight of its 2004–2005 work plan, the SPA 7 Council is moving on to organizing and mobilizing this year. Four active subgroups deal with education, issues specific to parents and youth in the foster care system, special-education rights and resources, and teen health (emphasizing sex education in middle and high school). Approximately 500 people attended community forums in the SPA, with their top priorities being education, safety, and social and emotional well-being. Since June, the council has hosted gang-prevention and mental-health workshops and a drug-free community resource fair. Council coordinator Cynthia Perez-Robledo distributed a flyer for 'No Name Calling Week,' a violence-prevention effort that the council hopes will involve all 15 school districts within the SPA. Kaiser Permanente has awarded the SPA Council a \$50,000 grant for efforts around healthy eating in the community, including diabetes prevention and working with local restaurants to identify healthy menu choices. Farber expressed a need for the community-building institute whose funding is being considered by the Board of Supervisors, and also for further matching funds or mini-grants for neighborhood-based projects.

Conclusion Colleen Mooney recommended that the workplans of Councils 3, 4, 5, and 7 be endorsed. Beatriz Olvera Stotzer made the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Strengthening Community Capacity Committee: Colleen Mooney

- Now that the SPA/AIC Councils have committed to community organizing and are spending most of their time actively engaging residents, the committee is beginning to consider whether their current structure and functions are relevant to this new work, and, if not, how to change those aspects to meet the needs of stakeholders. Initially, the formula for the SPA/AIC Councils mandated various constituencies of membership, the least numerous of which was residents. Over the next few months, the committee will consider a format that deals with issues of governance, power, who needs to formally sit on the councils, and how best to partner with residents on issues that are important to them.
- On November 8, 2005, the county held feedback sessions in response to the 64 community forums hosted by the SPA/AIC Councils last spring, and this input is being used as a springboard for organizing issues. One key recommendation, Flores Aguilar said, was the value to communities of mini-grants and additional resources. She has sent Chief Administrative Officer David Janssen a memo recommending the allocation of \$1 million for a community mini-grants program that will help small groups take on local projects that can make significant changes in neighborhoods. As proposed, \$500,000 would be immediately available to SPA/AIC Councils (through an application process), and the other half would be placed in an endowment that would help to leverage other private resources. As Phillip Williams said, "These mini-grants have tremendous multiplier effects. Though the dollars are modest, they really get people to feel that someone's listening." Department heads have embraced the idea, as has Chair Yaroslavsky, and the New Directions Task Force has voted to support it. An update is expected by the March meeting.

- The provisional SPA 6 Council has adopted bylaws and drafted its initial workplan, which will be presented to the full Children's Planning Council prior to the council's certification.
- The SPA 1 Council will receive \$100,000 from First 5 LA's Partnership for Families initiative.

HIV Commission Report: Teresa DeCrescenzo

In August, the HIV Commission convened two panels of experts to develop recommendations on legal services and permanency planning for the 20,000 people living with AIDS and the 54,000 HIV-infected individuals in Los Angeles County (35 percent of the state's HIV/AIDS cases). Though so-called 'medication cocktails' are enabling patients to live longer, many young parents must still make arrangements for their surviving children.

DeCrescenzo served on the permanency planning group, along with representatives from the office of AIDS program policy, T.H.E. Clinic, Public Counsel, and other organizations. The panel's 56-page document, available on the HIV Commission's website, outlines permanency planning standards for HIV-infected parents to control the destinies of their minor children, and to measure outcomes. It was adopted by the commission without revision on January 12.

City Leaders' Summit: Lisa Cleri Reale

Lisa Cleri Reale gave a presentation on the November 2005 city leaders' summit, *Engaging Municipal Leaders to Invest in Early Childhood*. Partners included First 5 LA, United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the National League of Cities, the Los Angeles County division of the League of California Cities, the Cities Counties Schools Partnership, the Southern California Association of Government, and the cities of Burbank, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Fernando, and West Hollywood.

The aim of the half-day summit was to help city leaders learn that investments targeting young children's early development yield great returns for a prepared workforce, a strong economy, and a safe and healthy city. The agenda included dynamic keynote speakers and six concurrent workshops:

- Integrating early childhood into municipal economic development plans
- Building partnerships
- Creating mixed-use and land-use development policies
- Utilizing existing resources
- Investigating smart finance policies
- Using the child-care industry as a long-term workforce development strategy

With the support of six mayoral ambassadors, 146 people from 18 cities (20 percent of the county's cities) attended the summit. Follow-up was requested in two key areas—how to develop meaningful partnerships (including those with other cities, schools, community members, community organizations, and parents) and how to begin investing in young children and families. A draft of the early childhood action agenda for municipal leaders was distributed, and resources from the summit will be posted on the Children's Planning Council website soon; the CD-ROMs that attendees received were also available.

Education Coordination Council Blueprint

Sharon Watson distributed the latest draft of the blueprint for raising the educational achievement of Los Angeles County's 60,000 foster and probation youth that is being developed by the Education Coordinating Council (ECC). An earlier draft was mailed to Children's Planning Council members. The blueprint will go before the ECC next week for a formal vote, but is first being brought before key bodies for support and endorsement.

The ECC—which also owes its existence, Watson said, to the leadership and support of Supervisor Yaroslavsky and the Third District—brings together the many constituencies involved in the education of foster and probation youth, whose achievement lags far behind that of other students. Because the voices of system youth are the most important ones for the ECC's blueprint, focus groups were held with 145 current and former foster and probation youth and 66 caregivers, to find out what would be most helpful to them in raising educational achievement levels. Those sessions are summarized in the blueprint and presented in full in *Through Their Eyes: Results of Youth and Adult Caregiver Focus Groups on the Education of Youth in the Foster Care and Probation Systems*. Watson distributed final-draft copies of this report, and expressed appreciation to Bruce Saltzer and the Association of Community Human Services Agencies, and to Jeff Farber and the SPA 7 Council, for their help in arranging focus groups. The printed version will be released next week, and both it and the blueprint draft will be available for download on the ECC's website (<http://www.educationcoordinationcouncil.org>) by the end of the month.

The ECC believes that, to achieve the desired results, those responsible for the educational attainment of foster and probation youth must agree on:

1. The central importance of education for the current well-being and future prospects of children and youth
2. Maintaining high expectations for system youth
3. A strong investment in prevention, assuring that children are enrolled in high-quality early care and education programs
4. Early intervention in any factor affecting educational success, including social, developmental, health, and mental health issues
5. School stability
6. Biological families and caregivers being involved in their children's education
7. A shared understanding of educational responsibility

Sharon Watson and Carrie Watson, staff to the ECC, reviewed the blueprint recommendations for short-term practical solutions in four priority areas—early childhood education, youth development, data and information-sharing, and school-based staff support—along with some examples of actions that would help achieve those goals. Recommendations include:

- Enrolling more system youth (and their children) in high-quality early care and education programs

- Increasing support and resources for parents, relative caregivers, and foster parents to help them ensure that these children are ready for school
- Enrolling more system youth in skill-building and enrichment programs
- Engaging youth in designing, implementing, and evaluating the programs and activities in which they participate
- Better preparing foster and probation children and youth for transitions to the various stages of school and employment
- Aligning efforts to create safer schools, including passages to and from
- Addressing barriers regarding the sharing of information (the largest hurdle on many levels, especially with differences in the interpretation of confidentiality laws)
- Developing an electronically based information system for the individual educational records of foster and probation youth
- Providing the information that educational liaisons and other school-based staff need about system youth (some data matches have already been performed with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, and others are planned with the districts having seats on the ECC)
- Training school-based staff about the educational and emotional needs of foster and probation youth

A blueprint section also exists on roles and responsibilities—for youth, parents, caregivers, holders of education rights, department case managers, school personnel, attorneys, county departments, school districts, and the judiciary—and the ECC recommends cross-training for all those stakeholders. A final recommendation addresses accountability, proposing an educational case plan and various means to hold caseworkers, caregivers, and the courts accountable for the educational success of foster and probation youth. The ECC further commits to hold its own members accountable for achieving the blueprint's vision and goals.

Phillip Williams asked about support for amendments to the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and Sharon Watson said that Senator Clinton feels there may be a window of opportunity this year; other senators are also interested. Some states interpret the Act as allowing the exchange of data about foster and probation youth, but a different interpretation exists in California and Los Angeles County. Since the penalty for disobeying the Act is the loss of Federal funding for five years, a certain reluctance to test the waters is understandable.

Several Council members suggested minor changes to the blueprint language, though Bruce Saltzer acknowledged the tremendous amount of work it must have been to broker competing interests. He feels strongly that relative caregivers should also be held accountable for following educational case plans (currently, only agencies and licensed foster homes are mentioned directly), since expectations for children should be the same no matter where they live. Danny Ramos warned of the implications of holding teachers and county caseworkers responsible for outcomes, since their employers may take disciplinary action if children don't achieve, and labor organizations may be pressured to include accountability measures into their contract language. "I'm certainly not opposed to children receiving resources," he said, "but the systems don't give

us the resources to make us accountable for these outcomes. Public servants are working as hard as they possibly can.”

Flores Aguilar suggested that Council members with further input contact the ECC. **Lisa Cleri Reale moved to endorse the ECC's draft blueprint; Beatriz Olvera Stotzer seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.**

Children's Planning Council Sustainability Plan

Sam Chan, joking that he's come to believe that 'CPC' stands for 'continuous progressive change,' presented background on the succession and sustainability planning process begun in April 2004 by the board of The Children's Planning Council Foundation, Inc. In October 2004, Viveka Chen of CompassPoint Nonprofit Services in the Bay Area was retained to assist in this process, and Foundation Board members Chan and David Grannis provided leadership.

In 2005, the Foundation Board and the Executive Committee approved an emergency succession plan to guide the organization in the event of the unplanned departure (temporary or permanent) of the executive director. A companion piece to this is the Children's Planning Council sustainability plan, a tool to move the organization forward in a thoughtful and strategic manner. Key elements of this plan are:

- Introduction, context, and the Council's future vision
- Organizational development work for sustainability
 - The current competencies and future needs of management staff, the Foundation Board, and Council membership and leadership
 - Overall organizational capacity, identifying short- and long-term goals and priority actions
 - Current and future plans for funding and program development
- Transition management, outlining the process and protocol for a leadership transition

Chen characterized the Council as “an impressively well-managed organization,” and said that the sustainability plan should ensure its long-term viability as the role of the Foundation Board evolves, and management and staffing move to their “highest and best use.” The plan is available for view at the Children's Planning Council office.

Proposed State Preschool Standards and their Impact on English Language Learners: Shelly Spiegel-Coleman

If the Preschool for All ballot proposition is approved, standards will go into effect statewide that many groups feel give insufficient attention to language-acquisition issues and to students' social and emotional well-being. Shelly Spiegel-Coleman, senior project manager of the Multilingual Academic Support unit at the Los Angeles County Office of Education, made a presentation on what school readiness means for immigrant communities. These findings were based on interviews with early childhood educators, linguists, and policy-makers nationwide, and on the two decades of work done by California Tomorrow (research educators in the Bay Area) on immigrant education and early childhood education.

School readiness efforts have the potential to reduce longstanding achievement gaps between groups, to ensure equity in access to high-quality care and education in early childhood, and to lay the foundation for better outcomes for children once they enter kindergarten. Linguistic issues, however, have a huge impact on these efforts. Half the children in California are either immigrants or the children of immigrants. Over 70 percent of the children in Los Angeles County Head Start programs are English learners. The majority are Spanish-speaking (from Mexico and Central America), but the population is increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-racial.

In California overall, 48 percent of children ages birth to four are in at least 10 hours per week of regular child care. For Asian immigrants, this figure drops to 34 percent; for Latino immigrants, to 28 percent. In addition, children in immigrant families are considerably more likely to be in unlicensed care (27 percent) compared to children in non-immigrant families (10 percent).

Three out of four immigrant children grow up in homes where a language other than English is spoken, and one out of seven in homes where no one speaks English. Children need bridges for moving between cultural worlds, and linguistic and cultural congruence and compatibility is essential for staff and teachers of immigrant children. However, fewer than half of the preschools serving English-learner children have bilingual staff who speak the languages of the students and their families. Spiegel-Coleman related the story of one Vietnamese child, disruptive and unhappy in a preschool where staff were bilingual in Spanish, who blossomed overnight into a focused, cheerful student when placed in a facility where one of the aides spoke Vietnamese.

But does school readiness equate to English fluency? Does literacy mean literacy in English? A misguided emphasis on 'English-only,' as early as possible, can lead to situations like that of another family Spiegel-Coleman mentioned, where the mother, a monolingual Spanish-speaker, can no longer communicate effectively with her two older sons. Speaking English only at school, they've lost most of their Spanish. An 'English-only' emphasis can impede language development and diminish the foundation of literacy, and often creates barriers to parent engagement in schooling—as well as having a devastating impact on communication in families. It can also mean more rigid expectations of standardized development, promoting the either/or notion that children are 'ready' or 'not ready' for school. With less understanding of cultural differences, children can be labeled as problematic and their performance deficient.

A coalition has developed a prototype of inclusive standards for English-language-learner preschools that offer a very different perspective from that of the state, in a research paper called "Six Research-Based Guiding Principles Serving the Needs of English-Learners in Preschool 'School Readiness' Programs." This document was included in packets given to members, and Spiegel-Coleman encouraged its wide distribution. She acknowledged Liz Guerra from the Family Literacy Support Network for her help.

Flores Aguilar said that she has been working with Spiegel-Coleman's group on her own time, since the issue is important to her. If the Children's Planning Council is interested in having an official representative on the coalition, she is more than happy to take that role. Larry Lue encouraged the Council's formal participation, saying that when an effective coalition is addressing policy work, it is important for the Council to be involved. "There's so much on the CPC plate," he said, "and that makes presentations like this very important." **Rabbi Bernard Cohen moved that the Children's Planning Council name Yolie Flores Aguilar as its official**

representative to the coalition addressing preschool standards. Lisa Cleri Reale seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

- To make sure that Children's Planning Council meetings do not run longer than necessary, Rabbi Cohen advised beginning promptly at the time scheduled. He volunteered to make Chair Yaroslavsky aware of his suggestion.
- Warren Williams commented on the numerous divides existing in society, including gender bias, racism, and the gap between those who have resources and those who don't. He urged the Council to focus on research, and to consider summit events for black fathers, fathers in general, parents, and families, where presenters can share their experiences without regard to their financial status. "The professional people need to listen to the real people," he said.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Children's Planning Council is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 15, 2006
9:30 a.m.
Room 140, Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.