



April 2, 2009

To: The Honorable Board of Supervisors, San Mateo County
From: Mark Church, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and
Jean Holbrook, County Superintendent of Schools
Co-Chairs of the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council

Subject: 2009/2010 County Subsidy Priorities for Full-Day Child Care and Development and Part-Day State Preschool Services

Recommendation:

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the subsidy priorities for California Department of Education funded child care and development services and state preschool services for low income children residing in San Mateo County.
2. Adopt Resolutions that approve the County Subsidy Priorities presented by the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council for the distribution of future California Department of Education funding for
 - a) Child Care and Development Services (Attachment A and B)
 - b) State Preschool Services (Attachment C and D)

Background on the San Mateo County Child Care Partnership Council

Local Child Care Planning Councils were established by the state legislature in 1991 in every county in California. In San Mateo County, the Child Care Partnership Council is that council. It is a publicly funded and appointed body, mandated to:

- identify priorities for the local distribution of state funding for services for low income children and families,
- conduct an early care and education needs assessment,
- create a county-wide child care strategic plan every five years,
- develop policies, strategies and resources to promote the goals of the child care strategic plan, and
- advise San Mateo County on the potential local impact of state and national policies and legislation.

In addition to these state-mandated activities, the Council is responsible for developing and managing the AB 1326 - San Mateo County Child Care Subsidy Pilot, which permits a degree of local control in the state- subsidized child care delivery system.

The Council is co-chaired by Supervisor Mark Church and County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jean Holbrook. Twenty additional members are appointed, with equal representation from parents, child care providers, public agencies, community agency representatives. The Council



has one paid staff member, Coordinator, Nirmala Dillman. The Council meets on the 4th Monday of every other month, with its meetings open to the public.

Background on Subsidy Priority Setting for Child Care and Preschool

In 1998, AB 1857-Escutia amended the Education Code, Section 8499.5, to include specific expanded mandates for Local Child Care Planning Councils (LPCs). One of these was an expansion of the existing LPC mandate to identify local priorities for the distribution of new state child care and development and preschool funding. The Education Code language specifies how LPCs are to conduct their work in order to identify priorities which will ensure that all the child care and preschool needs of the county are met to the greatest extent possible. The priorities are to be submitted annually to the California Department of Education and used by the Department to determine funding decisions.

Local Planning Councils develop priorities for funding using:

- Census zip code data as a baseline to estimate the number of children eligible for State Funded Services. Other pertinent local data, such as county growth factors, planning department data, or school district growth data, is then applied to achieve the most accurate estimate.
- CDE and other available zip code level data to determine the number and percent of eligible children served/not served by State Funded Services or Head Start.

The data is then analyzed to assign a Priority 1, 2, and 3 designation to the zip codes of highest need using both a number and a percentage threshold for our county size (over 200,000 but less than 1 million residents.)

These priorities are first reviewed and approved by the members of the Local Planning Council for each county, which is made up of parent consumers of child care, child care and preschool providers, public agency representatives and community agency representatives, who have been appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the County Superintendent of Schools. The priorities are next made available for public review and finally reviewed and approved by the County Superintendent of Schools and the County Board of Supervisors at public hearing as prescribed in State regulations.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors last approved subsidy priorities for Child Care and Development and State Preschool funding in 2007.

Task and Timeline

In January 2009, CDE adopted specific new procedures for Local Child Care Planning Councils to use to determine county subsidy zip code priorities for FY 2009-2010.

This year the Child Care Partnership Council conducted a needs assessment according to the new procedures. At its March 23, 2009 Meeting, the Council reviewed the data and adopted new subsidy zip code priorities to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for approval. In order for the new priorities to be in place in time for FY 2009/10 funding decisions, they must be submitted to the state by May 30, 2009.