

# Midterm Report Early Child Development and Early Learning

Task Force  
July 18, 2022

## Policy Goal

- Reflects the current understanding of what best promotes positive child outcomes
- Creates an opportunity to bridge and focus the efforts of multiple sectors, including early childhood education, child welfare, health, law enforcement and community building
- Creates the conditions for a more comprehensive and effective approach to improve children's life and life-long health and well being

# Task Force Role

1. Review the status of implementing the Plan.
2. Develop 5-year goals and benchmarks for each of the Eight Building Blocks in the adopted Plan.
3. Consider reinstatement of the Early Child Development Committee of the Human Services Commission.
4. Recommend strategies for the integration of the Early Child Development Policy into city departments and services.
5. Assess local, county and state funding policies and early childhood priorities and strategies.
6. Review opportunities for Pasadena to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the upcoming infrastructure bill for early childhood development.
7. Recommend opportunities to align the work of a broad coalition of partners who are engaged in ensuring the success of the City's youngest children and their families.
8. Recommend next steps and the path forward for Pasadena becoming an Early Learning City by 2025 and assuring the continuation of community involvement in the early learning initiative.
9. Review the effectiveness of the Office of the Young Child and its systematic integration across the community.

# Task Force Members

- **Dr. Vera Vignes**, Chair, Former Superintendent of Schools, Pasadena Unified School District & Author of the City of Pasadena's Early Child Development Policy, Adopted by the City Council, March 23, 2015
- **Efren Aguilar**, Director of Strategy and Development, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families & Communities
- **Geoff Albert**, Director of Community Engagement, Pacific Oaks College, Center for Community & Social Impact & Director, Collaborate PASadena
- **Toni Boucher**, Chair, Child Care/Early Childhood Directors' Alliance, San Gabriel Valley
- **Lisa Clements**, CEO of Kidspace Museum, Pasadena\*
- **Lila Guirguis**, Executive Director, Karsh Family Social Service Center, Los Angeles & Commissioner, City of Pasadena Human Services Commission
- **Ree A. Harris-Hudson**, Recently retired Director of Early Education Programs, Pasadena Unified School District,
- **Lindsey Lewis**, Newly appointed PUSD Director of Early Child Development Programs\*
- **Dr. Dianne Philibosian**, Former Director of the Institute for Community Health and Wellbeing, Associate Dean of the College of Health & Human Development, CSU Northridge
- **Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen**, Professor of Pediatrics, USC, Keck School of Medicine & Chief Psychologist, Division of General Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles
- **Tony Santilena**, Former Chair/Member of Human Services Commission of City of Pasadena
- **Blanca Siebels**, Parent Support Leadership Trainer & Family Resource Navigator of the State Family Resource Network
- **Melani Smith**, Co-Executive Director, Lake Avenue Preschool/Kindergarten
- **Susan C. Wood**, Executive Director of the Children's Center at Caltech

\*Appointed to the Task Force on June 20, 2022

# Task Force Meetings

#1 April 20	Understanding the existing Early Child Development Policy
#2 May 4	Understanding the local context - Data Review
#3 May 18	Understanding the larger context - Policy Framing & Review of data recommendation
#4 June 1	Revisiting the existing policy - Building Blocks 1,2, and 4,5,6
#5 June 15	Revisiting the existing - Building Blocks 7, 8
#6 July 6	Considering the existing Vision, Master Plan and the operating infrastructure

# Meeting Topics

- Reviewed the implementation of the existing the Plan and the existing data on Pasadena's young children and their families.
- Revisited the Vision, Master Plan Elements and infrastructure to support implementation.
- Revisited each of the Eight Building Blocks in the adopted Plan.
- Will review local, county, and state funding and early childhood priorities and strategies.
- Will review the role of the Office of the Young Child and its priorities in order to recommend improved systematic integration across the community.

# Progress to date

- **Maintain the Systems Approach**
  - There is consensus that the systems approach from the 2015 Policy remain.
- **Revision of the Core Elements**
  - Policy elements and descriptions were reviewed and revised using the systems approach lens.

## *Aligned In Vision, Linked in Action*

- Consensus was reached that building and sustaining partnerships is critical to working towards a shared vision for children and families.
- The role of the City as convenor of the larger community is necessary to build and maintain these partnerships and a shared commitment to the vision.
- The City should also take on the role of catalyst for new approaches and ideas to take root.
- Finally, the City should work to share what is being done and learned throughout the City stakeholders.

## *Data Collection and Measures of Success*

- It remains necessary to capture data and information on children and families' health and well-being, the types of services and who is receiving what service, how much and where, as well as understanding families' experiences of services and other community supports.
- There was strong agreement that the city must move beyond data collection and focus on data use - which must include improving data dissemination and visualization that emphasizes improving stakeholders' ability to use data to drive decision-making and improved impact.
- This element is collectively viewed as the accountability element for the policy. To that end, specific responsibilities for data collection, dissemination and support with its use should be identified and recommended within the new policy.

# *Strengthening Families*

- Strengthening Families and adopting a Protective Factor Framework becomes the key implementation strategy.
  - Under the *Strengthening Families* umbrella, Task Force members reached consensus around the need to set a policy that fosters organizing the work around linking and integrating the key areas of health and emotional well-being, and quality early childhood settings and neighborhood supports.
  - By putting these together, we are emphasizing the need to **improve both access to services and outcomes for all children and families**. The aim is to link health services, neighborhood services, city services, pre-school-related services using each as key touchpoints offering a no wrong door approach to extend the reach of the full array of available family and child services and supports to all Pasadena's families.

# *Transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten*

- A focus on the effective transition from Pre-School to Kindergarten is being considered.
- This is viewed as a critical transition in a young child's development.
- In partnership with the school district, childcare centers, early childhood leaders and teachers, and parents and families, the task force has proposed that the city will continue to foster
  - Continuous communication among the family, the school, and early childhood providers, public and private,
  - Helping families access and understand school registration processes,
  - Making children and parents comfortable and welcome in the new school environment, and
  - Sharing pre-school experience information at the right time with the family and the child's kindergarten teacher.

## *Inclusion of over-arching Principles & Values*

- Task Force members have emphasized the need to be explicit throughout the policy in addressing the issues of
  - Racism
  - Social Justice
  - Economic Instability
  - Health Disparities
  - Culturally Specific Programs for English Language Learners/All Learners
  - The Impact of Violence on Children and Families
- There was consensus that these challenges/issues should be included in and across the policy as key strands to be addressed throughout the implementation of the core elements.
- There was consensus that including these issues in and across the policy requires that implementation and focus on these areas must be included as part of the Data Collection - Measures of Success instruments and accountability process.

# Future Areas of Focus:

<p>Aligning the work with a broad coalition of partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend strategies for the integration of the Early Child Development Policy into <u>city departments and services</u>.</li> <li>• Recommend opportunities to align the <u>work of a broad coalition of partners</u> who are engaged in ensuring the success of the City's youngest children and their families.</li> </ul>
<p>Review the current funding &amp; resource landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review opportunities for Pasadena to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the upcoming infrastructure bill for early childhood development.</li> </ul>
<p>Develop recommendations for going forward and becoming an Early Learning City by the Year 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend next steps and the path forward for Pasadena becoming an Early Learning City by 2025 and assuring the continuation of community involvement in the early learning initiative.</li> </ul>
<p>Prepare final report &amp; recommendations to go before the City Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend next steps and the path forward for Pasadena becoming an Early Learning City by 2025 and assuring the continuation of community involvement in the early learning initiative.</li> </ul>