



CCCECE ShoutOut! Analyzing the May Revise and What Needs to Happen NOW

May 21, 2012

Sent on Behalf of Joel Gordon, CCCECE President:

Folks,

As you are probably aware the governor released the May Revise of the budget and unfortunately his position hasn't shifted appreciably on most issues. The Child Care system in California remains in very grave danger. I was on a conference call Friday morning, 5/18, and Erin Gable who speaks for the state superintendent Tom Torlakson said that she is still hopeful but we need to keep in dialogue with our representatives and legislators. I have asked our Public Policy Vice-President Mary Jane to write her analysis of the May Revise and it is posted below. I have added a couple of comments and clarifications based on the information I learned this a.m. about the follow-up legislation that has been created.

Additionally, you'll also find a sample letter that I am asking you to ask your college president to send in ASAP. There really isn't much time to delay as hearings will be held on Monday, May 21 and Wednesday, May 23 and after that things will be more set.

I know that many of you are already finished for the semester or will be in a matter of days. This means you're probably tired or are staring at a stack of final papers, exams, etc. In other words the timing isn't great to make this request of you. Nonetheless, it is very important that we act now. Frankly, the future of a lot of our programs and a lot of our students will be at stake in the coming days.

Thanks.

Joel

CCCECE Budget Update – Analysis of May Revise.

Prepared by Mary Jane Maguire-Fong, CCCECE Northern California VP Public Policy (5.16.12)

The Governor proposes budget savings by suggesting that state-subsidized child care is not an educational program.

The Governor argues that we have two separate kinds of subsidized programs – child care and state preschool. He is trying to create the impression that these two are completely separate programs with completely separate missions. Here is the language used in the May Revise: *“Subsidized Child Care includes a variety of programs that are designed to support low-income families so they may remain gainfully employed. These programs are primarily administered by the State Department of Education (SDE) through non-Proposition 98 funding and the annual federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) grant. Additionally, part-day preschool programs, funded through Proposition 98, meet a child care need, but are also designed as an educational program to help ensure children develop the skills needed for success in school.”*

What the Governor fails to realize is the funds for “subsidized child care,” just like the funds for “state preschool” are designed to meet the educational needs of children to assure their success in school. Contrary to what the Governor suggests, one program is not the “educational” program and the other the “child care” program. His use of the funding labels “subsidized child care” and “state preschool” does not erase the fact that each of these programs provides *care and education*. The only difference in practice is that one funds only a half-day of service and the other funds a full-day of service. These two funds look

identical when it comes to *care and education*. If a family needs just half-day care, state preschool funds are tapped; if they need full-day care, subsidized child care funds are tapped.

The Governor proposes new twist to dismantle Title 5 Early Learning & Care System. The May Revise proposes a new twist – to move Title 5 center funds into a “county child care block grant” in order to “preserve Title 5 Center Infrastructure.” This is in response to the criticism that his proposal to move to a voucher-based system would result in closure of contracted Title 5 centers. The wording of the May Revise is, “County welfare departments will contract with Title 5 centers, based on the allocation of Title 5 center slots in 2012-13, as a condition of receiving child care block grant funds.” Although this makes it appear that the Governor is *not* trying to dismantle the Title 5 infrastructure, the next two sentences suggest otherwise: “Counties will be provided flexibility to deviate from this allocation up to 10 percent. After a specified period of time, counties will be allowed to reallocate Title 5 center slots to voucher-based providers within the county to align service needs with available resources.” There you have it. The Governor’s original plan – to dismantle the Title 5 early childhood education system and turn it into a Title 22 voucher system is still intact. **Note: although it wasn’t specified in the release of the May Revise, follow-up legislation will determine that the “specified period of time” will be three years. After this time local departments of social services will not have to honor Title 5 contracts. (jg)**

Governor proposes an odd role for CDD (“assess education program”) while realigning early learning and care to DSS. The May Revise maintains the Governor’s original proposal, to shift administration of CDE Contracts to DSS, yet the May Revise adds that CDE will remain responsible for collecting an “annual assessment” of the “educational program” of each Title 5 center. The May Revise proposes, “A Title 5 center [which would now be contracted through a county office of social services] will be required to maintain its designation through SDE, primarily through submitting an annual assessment of its educational program.” The Governor appears to be giving lip service to “education,” while recommending the dismantling of the system that supports it. What this would look like, with what power of enforcement to maintain program quality, is not explained in the May Revise. This feels like an attempt to throw a bone to defenders of a child’s right to learn within state-subsidized child care.

Governor divides Quality Improvement Funds across DSS and CDE.

DSS would develop the Quality Improvement Plan for 2013-14, in consultation with CDE. It would “require that DSS conduct quality activities to promote the health and safety of children in care, and that SDE conduct activities to promote early learning and readiness for school.” As written, DSS is in charge of the plan and is required to promote health and safety. The funds could become primarily a way to shore up Title 22 licensing. The May Revise threatens to limit the use of quality improvement funds for professional preparation of early childhood teachers and technical assistance related to young children’s learning. This threat is amplified in this May Revise statement, “The plan would also reflect an allocation to county welfare departments to target quality funds to local needs and priorities.” This will potentially drain quality improvement funds away from the current focus, which is support for young children’s learning.

Transfer of funds from CDD to DSS will begin July 2012. Operational funds will begin to be transferred from CDE to DSS this year, 2012, and limit CDE support to early childhood contracted programs. The May Revise reads: “Some funding will be shifted from SDE to DSS to fund state operations costs associated with the transition of child care services to the county welfare departments, and to enable counties that are prepared to assume responsibility for these services to implement the transition in 2012-13.”

Student families remain eligible for child care, but for maximum of two years. The original Governor’s budget eliminated 54,800 child care slots, some of this coming from denying student families who are *not on cash aid* access to subsidized child care. The May Revise changes this to allow low-income student families (“families engaged in training”) to receive child care services for a maximum of two years. Of concern is the two year time limit for student families to receive child care. For many college students with young children, it is unrealistic that they can complete a career training program in 2 years. With budget-related reductions in college course offerings, it is harder to access needed courses in the required timeframe. In addition, many students must complete remedial work prior to beginning vocational training programs. **Please note that the two year time limit has now been determined to**

be retroactive. Thus the clock will have expired for many of your students currently enrolled in your centers. (jg)

Reduced reimbursement rates (beyond those proposed in Jan. budget) for voucher-based programs: The May Revision reduces the rate from the 85th percentile of the private pay market to the 40th percentile for licensed providers, and for license-exempt, 71 percent of this lowered ceiling. [These savings would be used to fund student families for a capped 2-year period of time in subsidized child care.]

Governor still proposes reduced eligibility for state-subsidized child care plus across the board 10% reduction in the Standard Reimbursement Rate (except for part-day state preschool.) The reduction of eligibility for families, from 70% of State Medium Income to 200% of the federal poverty level is still there, as well as the elimination of COLA, and an across the board 10% reduction in the SRR.

T-K still slated for elimination. Governor still proposes elimination of Transitional Kindergarten, but uses some of the savings to increase part-day state preschool and restores the 10% reduction in SRR for just these programs.

Restrictions on time in CalWorks. The May Revision adjusts the Governor's original proposal to read, "The May Revision reflects several policy changes, including: (1) allowing work participation requirements to be met through any combination of state-allowable work activities in the first 24 months and federally allowable activities for up to 48 months rather than solely through paid employment." This appears to mean that the originally proposed time limit of "12 months" in education or training is no longer in the Governor's plan, but this point still needs to be clarified.

Recommended Letter from your college president to your local legislators and the President Pro Tem of the state legislature:

CCCECE is asking that all members ask their college president send a letter such as the one below to their local legislators and President Pro Tem of the Senate. This should be done as soon as is possible.

Dear ,

I am writing you to express my deep concern regarding the proposals for Child Care and Development contained in the May Revision. This proposed budget undermines both the right to learn of every child in California as well as their parent's right to a college education.

My concerns are in the following four areas:

1. Although we appreciate the direction the Governor is going in protecting students' eligibility for subsidized child care, the cap of two years for child care services is unrealistic and will force many students to abandon vocational training programs midstream. This will have a negative effect on California's workforce and economy. There is currently a cap of six years on subsidized child care, so the need to impose a restrictive two year cap on student families is unwarranted. The students using this care are primarily poor and most will be unable to care for their family, work, and carry a full load all at the same time. Additionally, many students need significant assistance in their English, ESL, and math skills prior to their being prepared for college-level classes. Currently, *the 3-year graduation rate* for public California Community Colleges is 27% (meaning 27% of first-time, full-time certificate or degree seeking students earn a certificate or degree or transfer within three years). Clearly providing only two years of child care eligibility will seriously undermine these students opportunity to successfully be trained and educated for our workforce.
2. The May Revision does not make a long term commitment to Title 5 child development programs such as those found throughout the community colleges. *These programs serve not only to provide for the care and education of young children and provide support for their parents, but are also a core element of teacher training in our state.* Over 50,000 child development

students may ultimately not be able to have an essential supervised field experience in a high quality program under the direction of faculty and master teachers, if these programs are jeopardized.

3. Please eliminate the Governor's proposal to restructure child care and development programs. Restructuring these programs to county welfare agencies will displace over 80,000 low-income children from early learning and care centers, effectively dismantling California's 69 year old state-subsidized early learning and care system. This will harm children and families with no cost savings. Please keep early learning and care within the California Department of Education.

4. The campus child development programs throughout the state provide essential educational skills to California's youngest learners. We know that students who have a successful early childhood educational experience are significantly more likely to be successful throughout their school career, including being better able to profit from their higher education experience. Weakening the educational component of California's child care system, as the May revise would do, ultimately will drain resources from the entire educational system, including community colleges.

We all understand that everyone in California will have to carry a financial hit in these times, but let's not destroy this foundational educational system as has been proposed. I strongly urge you to resist these elements of the proposed May Revise. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

President and Superintendent

Early Learning Advocacy Day - June 7, 2012

Parents and community advocates can have their voices heard at the annual Early Learning Advocacy Day on June 7th in Sacramento at the Sheraton Grand Hotel.

Co-sponsored by PACE, CCDAA and CAEYC, the all-day event will provide participants with the opportunity to meet with state legislators, network with other early learning advocates and learn about critical policy issues, including quality improvement efforts, child care licensing and transitional kindergarten.

Please [click here](#) to register online or [click here](#) to download a registration form.

Please [click here](#) to identify your California State Senator and Assemblymember. You will need this information to register to attend.

Kicking off the morning program will be:

- Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee
- Rachel Ehlers, Legislative Analyst's Office
- Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Invited)
- Senator Carol Liu (Invited)
- Assemblymember Holly Mitchell (Invited)
- Assemblymember Susan Bonilla (Invited)

Last year's Advocacy Day drew more than 210 participants from across California. Parents, teachers, business leaders and other advocates gathered at the State Capitol to advocate for high-quality early and education (ECE). Participants met with more than 100 lawmakers or their staff members to explain how ECE benefits their children, families and neighborhoods.

Location

The Sheraton Grand Hotel
1230 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 7, 2012

8:00 am - Registration

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Orientation

12:30 pm - Visits to the Capitol

(A boxed lunch is provided)

If you would like further information, please contact CCDAA:

California Child Development Administrators Association

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Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: 916-443-5919

Fax: 916-443-5924

Email: ccdaa@ccdaa.org

CCDAA is a statewide organization that supports state-funded child development programs and their leaders

