



June 17, 2020

INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: MASER PLAN FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CARE BRIEFING

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Health

Goal: All children thrive by achieving optimal health prenatal through age 5.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Child Development

Goal: All children birth through age 5 have high-quality, nurturing environments that ensure their learning readiness.

Strategic Plan Priority Area: Family Functioning

Goal: All families have the knowledge, skills, and resources to support their children's optimal development.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The Early Childhood Action Research Team will present an overview of the Master Plan for Early Learning and Care.

BACKGROUND OF KEY ISSUES

The 2019–20 Budget Act provided \$5 million for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in concurrence with the Executive Director of the State Board of Education, to contract with a research and analysis entity to create a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care to improve California's early care and education system, building on the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report and the California Preschool Development Grant Strategic Plan. This funding was designated to be used for studies on the following:

- 1) A fiscal framework to expand early learning and care in the state
- 2) Early learning and care facility needs statewide
- 3) Needs for services by families eligible for subsidies, including those not currently receiving services

- 4) A quality improvement plan to support all types of providers
- 5) Steps necessary to provide universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-old children.

The Master Plan is to be compiled in a report, or series of reports, completed on or before October 1, 2020, and provided to the Governor, the chairpersons of the relevant legislative policy and budget committees, the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, the Executive Director of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Director of the Department of Finance. October 2020 deliverables include: 1) A framework that addresses equity, access, inclusion, and costs; 2) A blueprint for financing operational details to make the plan a reality; 3) Tools and resources for communities to understand and adopt the plan – and feel confident it meets their needs.

To assist in the development of a Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, Governor Newsom has established an Early Childhood Action Research Team comprised of state and national leaders in social impact, financing, policy, and equity issues. The Action Research Team consists of experts from organizations, including Child Trends, RAND, WestEd, Social Policy Research Associates, Parent Voices, Low-Income Investment Fund, American Institutes for Research, Stanford University's School of Education, and Neimand Collaborative.

The 2019–20 Budget Act also established an Early Childhood Policy Council to advise the Governor, Legislature, and Superintendent of Public Instruction on statewide early learning and care policy, building on the work of the state's Master Plan for Early Learning and Care and the 2019 California Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education Final Report. The Council, chaired by California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, includes 27 appointed members, as well as a parent advisory committee and a workforce advisory committee. The Council will hold at least four public meetings per year and prepare a formal annual report.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND ACTION

The Commission has not previously discussed this item.

ATTACHMENTS

None.