

**Early Childhood Council of Kern  
Public Policy Platform 2017**

Adopted by Council February 1, 2017  
Approved by Kern County Board of Supervisors March 7, 2017  
Approved by Kern County Superintendent of Schools March 20, 2017

**Statement of Quality:**

The Early Childhood Council of Kern believes that a high quality early childhood setting promotes:

*Child development*

- Enhancement of the whole child through physical, social, emotional, intellectual and creative development with respect to a child's ability and culture
- Frequent, positive, warm interactions appropriate to a child's age and development
- Varied learning and play activities appropriate to a child's age and development

*Health and safety*

- Healthy, safe, and nurturing environments
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Knowledgeable and skilled providers to respond to the needs of each child

*Effective Program Administration*

- On-going communication with families and opportunities for meaningful family involvement
- Opportunities for training and support for providers
- Implementation of an on-going, systematic evaluation process

**2017 Platform** (in no particular order)

**1. Quality Child Development Programs**

- Advocate for practices which are developmentally appropriate for each age level and in all settings recognizing that young children learn best through self-initiated, play-based experiences;
- Advocate for an early childhood quality rating and improvement system that is well structured, county-wide, inclusive of all provider types, frequently monitored and sustainable.

**2. Health & Safety**

- Licensing – both center based and family child care homes
  - a) Advocate for a fully funded early childhood licensing system which includes annual visits;
  - b) Advocate for licensing analysts with education and experience in the early childhood field;
  - c) Advocate for enforced health and safety standards as outlined in the Title 22, Child Day Care General Licensing Requirements, California Health and Safety Code.
- Health & Nutrition
  - a) Promote adequate, indoor and outdoor, healthy physical activity;
  - b) Promote high standards related to the nutritional needs of young children including the delivery of healthy meals/snacks as well as safe serving practices;
  - c) Promote timely immunizations and preventative health practices;
  - d) Promote access to mental health services.

- **Informal care**
  - a) Advocate for legislation which would limit the maximum capacity for subsidized license-exempt providers to the capacity of a small licensed family child care home;
  - b) Advocate for easy access to and timely processing of applications to the Trustline Registry system\*
  - c) Advocate that all license-exempt providers being paid with State/Federal funds be required to become CPR/First Aid Certified.
  - d) Advocate that all license-exempt providers being paid with State/Federal funds be required to participate in child development training.
  - e) Advocate that all license-exempt providers being paid with State/Federal funds be required to go through the Trustline Registry\*;
  - f) Advocate for continued/expanded consumer education information that promotes informed child care choices including information about provider options, provider/teaching staff qualifications/competencies, health and safety, curricula and learning environments and licensing requirements.

### **3. Emerging Early Education Programs**

- **Promote key program elements:**
  - a) Practices which are developmentally appropriate for all age levels (early childhood as well as Transitional Kindergarten);
  - b) Supported by staff trained in early childhood education;
  - c) Parent involvement and input;
  - d) Incorporation of the existing early care and education programs;
  - e) Funding for adequate teacher training and compensation;
  - f) Input from the early care and education field;
  - g) Inclusion of children with special needs and English Language Learners;
  - h) Programs that serve all families regardless of income.

### **4. Early Childhood Educators**

- **Diversity**  
Promote the recruitment of culturally, linguistically and gender diverse educators, in both centers and family child care homes.
- **Education and Professional Development**
  - a) Advocate for articulation between community colleges and 4-year institutions and alignment with Child Development Permit/Credential;
  - b) Promote the importance of continued education and professional growth;
  - c) Promote the provision of funding for professional development training.
- **Compensation and Retention**  
Advocate for compensation which is commensurate with the level of education achieved.

### **5. Administration**

- Advocate to return all subsidized, center based child development programs to the California Department of Education/Child Development Division and be protected under Prop 98 funding.
- Advocate for procedures that will strengthen program integrity and infrastructure support to reduce fraud.

## 6. Availability/Access

- Subsidies for low income families
  - a) Advocate for the expansion of subsidies to fully fund all eligible families;
  - b) Advocate for a regular update of the State Median Income (SMI) or an alternate measure that reflects up-to-date California income in order to maintain accurate eligibility for families.
- Options for parents
  - a) Advocate for diverse early childhood options for parents (e.g. center based, family child care, non-traditional hour, infant/toddler care, etc.).
- Special Needs
  - Advocate for improved access to early childhood programs for families with children who have special needs.

## 7. Parent Education and Support

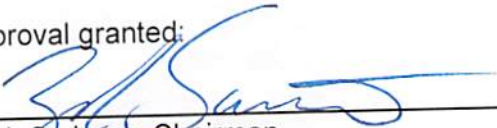
- Advocate for funding for parent education (e.g. information on child abuse prevention, parenting skills, family support resources, etc.);
- Advocate for increased parent education regarding choosing quality care.

## 8. Community Infrastructure

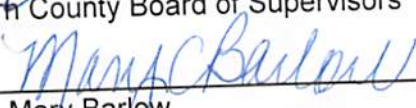
- Early Childhood language in General Plans
  - a) Advocate for the inclusion of supportive early childhood language in the County and all city General Plans.
- Facilities
  - a) Advocate for facility development and/or improvement that includes accessibility and appropriate environments.
- Funding
  - a) Advocate for increased availability of loan products for facility development and/or improvement;
  - b) Promote the availability of grants and other funding sources for facility development and/or improvement.

\* The TrustLine Registry is California's registry of in-home child care providers, tutors, in-home counselors, and child care staff at Ancillary Child Care Centers who have passed a background screening. Private paying parents may also request to have nannies go through the TrustLine process. It was created by the California Legislature in 1987 and is a resource for parents hiring an individual to care for their children. All caregivers listed with TrustLine have been cleared through a fingerprint check of records at the California Department of Justice. This means they have no disqualifying criminal convictions or substantiated child abuse reports in California. TrustLine is administered by the California Department of Social Services and the non-profit California Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

Approval granted:

  
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Zack Scrivner, Chairman  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

MAR 14 2017  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Mary Barlow  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools

3/20/17  
Date