

# Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education

Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

March 17, 2021



## OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

- Role of the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education
- Shared Vision and Mission
- Community Engagement
- Advancing Public Policy



## ROLE OF THE OFFICE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

- Located within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Staff two County bodies
  - Child Care Planning Committee
  - Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
- Advise the County Child Care and Development Employee Centers



## SHARED VISION AND MISSION

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Children are healthy, thriving and have equitable opportunities to achieve optimal development and succeed in life.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Lead, build and strengthen an affordable and high-quality early care and education system for the children and families of Los Angeles County.



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

**ACCESS** – Increase access to early care and education services for children birth to five years of age and out of school care for children to age twelve.

**QUALITY** – Strengthen the quality of early care and education services, especially for children and families most in need.

**WORKFORCE** – Improve the compensation and qualifications of the early care and education workforce.

**FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES** – Increase engagement of parents, caregivers and communities on early care and education issues.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Child Care Planning Committee
  - 50 members
    - Parents/consumers, early educators, community and public agency representatives, R&R, higher education, Board appointees
  - Mandates/Deliverable
    - Needs Assessment – supply v demand
    - Priority Setting – annually
    - Countywide Comprehensive Plan

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - WORKFORCE PATHWAYS LA

- Partnership with Quality Start LA (QSLA)
- Comprehensive workforce development model that supports participants in their career pathways
- Three components
  - Licensing/health and safety
  - Professional development, permits, and degrees
  - Workforce systems improvement.

## ADVANCING POLICY PRIORITIES

- Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development
  - 25 Board appointed members
  - Community leaders in early childhood, education, business, economics, and research and representatives of County departments including Child and Family Services, Mental Health, Probation, Public Health, Public Social Services, and Parks and Recreation
- Charge
  - Developing policy recommendations for elevation to the Board of Supervisors, advising County departments on early care and education programs, and identifying strategies to secure, coordinate, and maximize funding for high quality services



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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