

# Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee

An Ad Hoc Committee of the Dept. Of Health and Human Services

**2007 Annual Report**  
**September 18, 2007**



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## History

- ◆ 2000 - Long Beach Strategic Plan 2010 adopted - every child will be healthy, safe and educated
- ◆ July 2003 – ECE Community Plan adopted by City Council
- ◆ 2004 – LB Early Care & Education Committee formed
  - Collaborative citywide endeavor
  - Responsibility to track and implement strategies to achieve goals of the plan



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## Community Plan

- ◆ Enhancing Quality: To improve the quality of early care and education for all children ages birth to 12
- ◆ Increasing Capacity: To increase the supply of and accessibility to quality early care and education
- ◆ Developing Resources: To develop and leverage resources – financial, human, and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education



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## Enhancing Quality

- ◆ Accreditation: 2003 – 7 centers; by 2007 - 16 centers & 18 Family Child Care homes
- ◆ Project REACH (Readiness and Early Activities for Children from the Heart):
  - Focus on teacher retention in 90806
  - Degrees received:
    - Associate of Arts = 60
    - Bachelor of Arts = 32
    - Masters = 5



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## Enhancing Quality

- ◆ 15,000 “Getting Ready for Kindergarten,” guides were developed and distributed in English, Spanish and Khmer
- ◆ 2006-07: 11 Kindergarten Festivals citywide – focus on low-income neighborhoods
  - 1,400 families
  - Free backpacks for each incoming kindergartener
  - Community Volunteers

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## Increasing Capacity

- ◆ Created handbook for opening a family child care business
- ◆ Created “An Economic Model of Quality Early Care and Education”
- ◆ Child Care Coordinator is working with 90813 providers to increase capacity and leverage LAUP resources



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## Developing Resources

◆ Over \$9.0 million in First 5 LA and LAUP funds have been awarded to LB organizations benefiting children and families



◆ As of January 2007, LAUP sites:

- 13 centers & 13 family child care providers have been designated LAUP sites
- This represents close to 1,000 pre-k children



Our Children,  
Our Community. **Early Care and Education**  
City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services



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## Developing Resources

◆ Four annual citywide collaborative symposia addressing the needs and issues of children zero to five



◆ Center Directors/Supervisors Networks

◆ Child Care Coordinator weekly update reaches approximately 250 ECE professionals



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## 2007-2008: What's Next

### ◆ LA County Office of Child Care Steps to Excellence Program (STEP)

- Long Beach is one of 9 target communities in initial pilot
- Program gives parents clear, concise information on the quality of centers/family child care homes
- Emphasizes importance of **QUALITY** care and maps path for improvements



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**Due to your vision and continued support... the children of Long Beach grow up healthy, safe and educated!**



**Thank You!**



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