

Memorandum

Date: September 18, 2007

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Suja Lowenthal, Second District *Sl*
Gary DeLong, Fourth District *GD*
Val Lerch, Ninth District *VL*

Subject: Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee: 2007 Annual Report

REQUESTED ACTION:

Receive and file a presentation and report from the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee concerning their progress in implementing *Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System*, simply called the *Community Plan*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

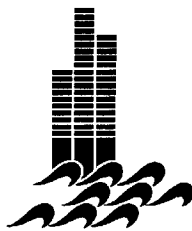
In July 2003, the City Council adopted the Community Plan as a guide for the Long Beach community and its stakeholders to prepare every child for the opportunity to learn upon entering school. The Community Plan is the product of another plan, the Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010 – Our Children, Our Schools. It is organized around three strategic directions and goals: Enhancing quality, increasing capacity and developing resources. To carry out the plan developed by the original task force, the Board of Health and Human Services created an ad hoc body, Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee in 2004. In turn, the committee has focused on tracking and implementation strategies aimed at achieving the plan's goals and forming partnerships with businesses, higher education, K-12 education, labor and government.

The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee provides an annual update to the community to chart its progress in implementing the Community Plan. Their report to the City Council provides us with a chance to celebrate their accomplishments to date and renew our focus as partners with other stakeholders on the task of making sure every child in our great city is ready for a quality education.



Summary of Accomplishments, Works in Progress, and Challenges and Opportunities

A Progress Report on
*Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future:
A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education
System
[2003-2008]*



City of Long Beach
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Prepared by
Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee
An ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services

January 2005

Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee

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Michele P. Sartell, Child Care Coordinator

Introduction

The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee is delighted to present this inaugural report, *Summary of Accomplishments, Works in Progress, and Challenges and Opportunities*. The report documents progress made by the Long Beach early care and education community and other stakeholders in implementing *Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System [2003-2008]* (“the Community Plan”).

In July of 2003, the Long Beach City Council adopted the Community Plan. The Community Plan is a direct outcome of the *Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010 - Our Children, Our Schools*, Goal 3: Make Sure that Every Child Enters School Ready to Learn.

The Community Plan is organized around three strategic directions and goals:

Enhancing quality: To improve the quality of early care and education for all children.

Increasing capacity: To increase the supply of and accessibility to quality early care and education for children.

Developing resources: To develop and leverage resources – financial, human and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education for children.

The Community Plan is designed to serve as a guiding tool for implementation by the Long Beach community and its stakeholders, including: the early care and education community, higher education, businesses, real estate developers, labor unions, the media, City government, and others. Partnerships within the community and among community members and stakeholders are strongly encouraged. The City’s Child Care Coordinator provides leadership, coordination and support to implementation activities by identified partners and other community members.

To further facilitate implementation of the Community Plan and carry on the work of the original Task Force charged with its development, the Board of Health and Human Services created an ad hoc committee in February of 2004. Since its formation, the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee (“the Committee”) has focused on tracking and developing implementation strategies that are leading toward achieving the objectives associated with each of the goals and objectives outlined in the Community Plan.

The report is organized as follows:

Summary of Accomplishments: This section, organized by the three strategic directions and goals and nine objectives, lists successes as well as activities underway by various community members and organizations

Works in Progress: The Committee has adopted the items listed in this section as priorities and action items for accomplishment in 2005.

Challenges and Opportunities: This section addresses the current political climate as well as emerging resources that may impact the current status and evolution of the early care and education system, including successful implementation of the Community Plan, during 2005 and beyond.

Summary of Accomplishments

I. Enhancing Quality

A. Programs and Services

- Five California Department of Education-contracted child development centers and 34 family child care homes have participated in the **CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN'S FACILITY ACCREDITATION PROJECT**. To date, eight centers and 16 family child care providers have national accreditation (17 of the 24 as a result of CAEYC Project).¹
- Since 2000, **LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE/GOOD BEGINNINGS NEVER END (GBNE)** has been outreaching to parents, license-exempt providers and licensed family child care homes located in 90813 and adjacent communities to improve the quality of environments and programs (i.e. literacy, child development concepts) and help connect children and their families to health services. **GBNE** was established as a result of a three-year grant award from First 5 LA. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation provided additional funding to expand **GBNE** specifically in 90806 to address school readiness skills. Since its' inception, **GBNE** has reached 235 family child care providers with over 200 providers reaching their goals. **GBNE** has also partnered with **FAMILIES IN GOOD HEALTH** to conduct some of the trainings in Khmer to the Southeast Asian community of family child care providers.
- The **CHILDREN'S CLINIC, SERVING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES/HEALTHY CONNECTIONS COLLABORATIVE**, funded by First 5 LA for three years (2001-2004), has been linking children and their families and the centers that serve them to physical, dental and mental health services. The Collaborative partners, in addition to The Children's Clinic, have included The Children's Dental Health Clinic and The Guidance Center and 12 child development centers. The services of a child care health consultant have been provided to assist the early care and education sites in the collaborative, resulting in 2,495 children and their families benefiting from their participation in **HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** and over 12,000 health screenings provided to date. Additionally, staff in-services, parent education classes and classroom presentations on health related topics have also been provided. The Children's Clinic is currently seeking funding to continue this program. To date, The Children's Clinic in partnership with Long Beach Day Nursery has received funding from Kaiser Permanente to continue the services to children enrolled at each of their three branches.
- The **LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY** instituted two new library card policies to support preschoolers and their parents in the reading and school readiness of young children during 2003/2004. Parents with insufficient personal identification for library card application requirements are now eligible for the "two item" card, and more than

¹ To view a complete list of accredited programs, visit www.naeyc.org for centers and www.nafcc.org for family child care.

3,000 "two-item" library cards have been issued. In addition, preschoolers may now receive library cards for themselves. In prior years only those children able to print their own names could apply for library cards.

- **RAISING A READER**, an early literacy program for preschoolers, has reached 725 families and over 1,100 children in Long Beach. The **RAISING A READING** program, secured for funding through the Long Beach Public Library Foundation with grants from private foundations and corporations, is headquartered and implemented at the Long Beach Public Libraries throughout the community with identified partners, as funding permits. **RAISING A READER** fosters a love of books and reading, enhances school readiness, and establishes a family reading time while providing a link to the Long Beach Public Library and their Family Learning Centers. Currently at 43 different sites, **RAISING A READER** community partners include: Long Beach Public Library, Long Beach Unified School District, Community Based English Tutoring, Renaissance Career Academy Teen Mother Program, Long Beach Family Literacy, Miller's Children's Hospital, United Cambodian Community Center, City of Long Beach Community Police Centers, Cambodian Family Literacy, Long Beach Day Nursery, and Lincoln Child Development Center. As of December 2004, more than 76 adults and children who have graduated from **RAISING A READER** have active library cards and have checked out a approximately 803 items.
- The **LONG BEACH EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION WEB SITE** (<http://childcare.longbeach.gov>) lists and provides links to issues on and resources for an array health and social services.

B. Family Support and Involvement

- **CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** has developed an array of child development materials in multiple languages targeted to families.
- The **LONG BEACH EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION WEB SITE** lists and provides links to information targeted to Long Beach families seeking quality early care and education services for their children. (Also available in hard copy.) Families also may to web sites containing activity ideas, songs and crafts.

C. Professional and Workforce Development

- **PROJECT REACH (READINESS AND EARLY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN FROM THE HEART)**, funded in part by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, is a project of California State University Long Beach-Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. **PROJECT REACH** is designed to increase the retention of early childhood teachers in child development centers located in 90806. **PROJECT REACH's** three goals include: providing the HeadsUp! Reading Program, a literacy program for early childhood professionals to enhance their skills for integrating literacy into their daily curriculum; facilitating early childhood teachers personal goals for education

and professional advancement through training and advisement; and supporting the teachers and their classrooms with incentives, such as small grants for classroom supplies and equipment, membership in NAEYC, and reimbursement for tuition and books. **PROJECT REACH** has supported the professional growth of over 70 teachers since 2003.

- Three child development centers and two Long Beach Unified School District Early Head Start sites serving infants and toddlers ages birth to three years have received training and technical assistance from **WESTED: PROGRAM FOR INFANT TODDLER CAREGIVERS (PITC)**. **PITC** provides intensive, on-site services over six to nine months using a responsive relationship-based approach that is based on developmental research, theory and practice. The total number of teachers trained is approximately 20. Additionally, six family child care groups, averaging seven people per group, have completed or are currently receiving the training and 60 more family child care providers were trained in Spanish. **PITC** also served 20 license-exempt providers in the process of obtaining their family child care license in English and 20 more in Spanish.
- **INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATORS**, developed by the Los Angeles Child Care Planning Committee and funded by the California Department of Education, is designed to assist in retaining qualified staff in child development programs. The program awards cash stipends to teachers who are working directly with children in California Department of Education, Child Development Division-funded child development centers and are meeting certain educational and experiential qualifications. Since the program was implemented, 166 teachers working in Long Beach have received stipends for completing appropriate coursework.²
- Information on professional development opportunities, including financial support and incentives, is disseminated to members of the early care and education community signed up to receive **E-MAIL ALERTS** and is posted on the Long Beach Early Care and Education web site.
- **LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE (LBCC), CHILD AND ADULT DEVELOPMENT/PARENT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT** is committed to its offerings of Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in early childhood education, child development, school-age care, and special education assistant. **LBCC** received a grant from the Child Development Consortium that funds college units for early educators currently working in licensed early care and education programs. These funds also are available to pay for fingerprinting, background checks and credential fees for educators applying for their

² To date, **INVESTING IN EARLY EDUCATORS** has provided four opportunities, referred to as Cycles, for teachers to participate in the stipend program. Long Beach teachers began receiving stipends at the end of Cycle 2 and the number of teachers participating in the program and receiving stipends has increased in each Cycle as follows:

Cycle 2 (early 2003):	31
Cycle 3 (late 2003):	62
Cycle 4 (late 2004):	73

child development permit from the Child Development Training Consortium under the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. Additionally, **LBCC** was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture California Nutrition Network to support nutrition education for low-income parents with children enrolled in their centers as well as Department faculty and staff.

- **LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE (LBCC), CHILD AND ADULT DEVELOPMENT/PARENT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT MENTOR PROGRAM** will be launching the director mentor portion in the spring of 2005. **LBCC's** goal is to host a series of director mentor seminars that will attract both candidates to serve as director mentors as well as mentees for them.
- **CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH (CSULB)** is actively involved with the State's Intersegmental Major Preparation Articulated Curriculum (IMPAC) project in Child Development. This is a faculty-designed and faculty-run project which focuses on ensuring that students transferring from California Community Colleges to UC and CSU institutions will be properly prepared for progressing in their chosen major immediately upon transfer. Members involved with the project meet at least twice a year. The project, funded by a grant, enables faculty to address potential problems of established curriculum requirements and procedures that may impede the smooth progress of a transferring student.

II. Increasing Capacity

A. Supply

- **CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA (CHS), CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES** offers monthly New Provider Start Up orientations in Spanish and English to potential family child care providers. **CHS** also hosts workshops targeted to family child care providers on an array of topics ranging from quality to business strategies to updates on licensing.
- **LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAD START PROGRAMS** hosts the monthly Child Care Licensing Orientation trainings provided in English and Spanish by the **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION**.
- With a three-year grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Hispanic Serving Institutions Assisting Communities, **LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE** is implementing **CHILD CARE IS GOOD BUSINESS (CCIGB)**, an expansion of Good Beginnings Never End. **CCIGB's** goal is to increase the availability of quality family child care homes in high need neighborhoods. Participants receive ongoing training in quality improvement and strengthening their home businesses and links to resources that may assist them with becoming homeowners. **CCIGB** is also supporting potential providers with becoming licensed and working with existing family child care providers with increasing their license

from a small (licensed to serve up to eight children) to a large family child care home (licensed to serve up to 14 children).

- **ST. MARY MEDICAL CENTER'S FAMILIES IN GOOD HEALTH** has established **THE LONG BEACH CHILD CARE EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**. Funded by First 5 LA, the Project provides services to the Southeast Asian community (Cambodian, Lao, Hmong) to increase and maintain the availability of licensed family child care homes that are culturally and linguistically meeting the needs of children from ages birth to five and their families. In addition to providing technical assistance that results in more licensed family child care providers in the Southeast Asian community, the Project is contributing to the quality of the homes to ensure school readiness and has embarked on a media campaign to increase awareness of child development, school readiness, and quality child care. Forty-one prospective family child care providers have graduated from the 26-week training course. The training course was also available to existing licensed family child care providers from the Southeast Asian community; seven attended on a regular basis.
- **THE CHILD CARE TRAINING INSTITUTE** through **LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION** hosts, at various community-based sites in Long Beach, workshops targeted to licensed family child care providers. The workshops, offered in alternating months in English and Spanish, are free and have addressed the following topics: working with special needs children, legal issues, positive discipline, math and science, health and safety, and activities for children, among others. Attendance at the workshops generally ranges from 10 to 30 participants. During 2004, the Training Institute also partnered with Families in Good Health to provide two of their workshops in Khmer to the Southeast Asian community of family child care providers.

B. Access

- **CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY/SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY PROJECT (SNAP)** is connecting families and their children with special needs to programs and services and building the capacity of child care providers to promote full inclusion.
- Information on new resources and technical assistance that may support increasing capacity to meet the needs of more families with quality early care and education services is posted on the **LONG BEACH EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION WEB SITE** and is disseminated as it becomes available to individuals signed up to receive e-mail alerts. The web site also lists and provides links to information on support services, such as referral programs for children with special needs and the federal food program,

- Data on the supply of and estimated demand for licensed early care and education services in Long Beach³ is available on the Early Care and Education web site at <http://childcare.longbeach.gov>.

III. Developing Resources

A. Financial

- Information on funding opportunities (private foundation grants, government grants, and others) is posted on the Long Beach Early Care and Education web site and disseminated as it becomes available to individuals signed up to receive e-mail alerts. Alerts regarding funding opportunities, such as from First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool, are sent as priority e-mails.
- Collaborative proposals have successfully resulted in funding from First 5 LA (LBCC/Good Beginnings Never End, The Children's Clinic/Healthy Connections). Members of the community have collaborated on other competitive funding initiatives (e.g. Early Learning Opportunities Act Discretionary Grants, other First 5 LA initiatives); while not successful to date, the collaborative grant applications are being used as templates to continue pursuing grant opportunities.
- To date, **FIRST 5 LA** has awarded \$12.5 million to Long Beach organizations. Of this amount, over \$9 million has directly benefited children and families participating in child development centers and family child care programs.
- **LOS ANGELES UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL**, funded by First 5 LA, recently initiated its early launch to provide a high quality, part-day preschool experience for every four-year-old child throughout Los Angeles County. Applications to participate as preschool sites are currently under review for the following categories: existing child care centers (selected by lottery by Supervisory District, then reviewed for quality); family child care hubs; and facilities hot zones (Long Beach is home to two of the 16 zip codes identified with significant gaps between supply and demand – 90805 and 90813). Applications to serve as inclusion sites for children with special needs are anticipated in January 2005. Several organizations representing Long Beach have submitted applications and are now pending review.

B. Human

- Long Beach has been represented in **FIRST 5 LA's UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL ADVISORY AND CONTENT COMMITTEES** in the development of the Universal Preschool Master Plan. Members of the Long Beach community also participated on six of the nine **IMPLEMENTATION TASK TEAMS** and include: Michelle Bell of Children's Home Society of California; Jo Ann Bernard and Sue Stanley of California State University Long Beach-Department of Family and Consumer Sciences; Amy Bigelow of Long Beach

³ Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee. *Child Care Counts: An Analysis of the Supply of and Demand for Early Care and Education Services in Los County*. August 20, 2000.

Day Nursery; Catherine Scott of the Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association; and Michele Sartell, City of Long Beach Child Care Coordinator.

- The **LONG BEACH EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**, with seed money from Ron Arias (Trustee, The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation) and in partnership with many Long Beach organizations, hosted its first annual symposium in July 2004 on the implementation of First 5 LA's Universal Preschool Master Plan. The symposium targeted child development centers and their staff, family child care providers, and other stakeholders, providing information on how universal preschool may take shape in Long Beach and how the Long Beach early care and education community can become participants in providing universal preschool to our community's children. Karen Hill-Scott, the consultant hired by First 5 LA to convene the advisory committee charged with shaping the universal preschool plan, served as keynote speaker. A panel also addressed their perspectives on local implementation and included: Sandra Dennis of the Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association, Tammie Kyle of Comprehensive Child Development, Fran Ragland of Long Beach City College Child and Adult Development/Parent Education Department, Sue Stanley of California State University, Long Beach Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Chris Steinhauser of Long Beach Unified School District, and Pat Wong representing the parent perspective with Jo Ann Bernard of California State University, Long Beach Department of Family and Consumer Sciences moderating. Michelle Bell of Children's Home Society of California served as emcee of the symposium.
- **STAND FOR CHILDREN, LONG BEACH CHAPTER** hosts an annual breakfast on or around June 1st to honor community leaders who have made contributions to the health and well being of children and their families. Each year, the honoree's contributions are linked to the field of early care and education.
- The City's Child Care Coordinator serves as Supervisor Knabe's appointee to and chair of the **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE**. Pat Wong of Long Beach Day Nursery and Sandra Dennis of the Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association also represent Long Beach on the Committee. Alternates are Michelle Bell of Children's Home Society of California and Catherine Scott of the Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association.
- The Child Care Coordinator is working closely with the **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE** on gathering and analyzing data for the updated needs assessment due for release in 2005.

- The Child Care Coordinator serves on the **LOS ANGELES COUNTY POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE**. Members of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee (Catherine Scott of the Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association and Pat Wong of Long Beach Day Nursery as well as the Child Care Coordinator) also serve on the **LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S CHILD CARE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND POLICY ROUNDTABLE FOR CHILD CARE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION**.

C. Technology

- The **EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION WEB SITE** (<http://childcare.longbeach.gov>), a project of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, was launched in the summer of 2003 and is targeted to Long Beach families, the early care and education community, and other community stakeholders.
- The early care and education community and other community stakeholders now have the opportunity to receive timely **E-MAIL UPDATES** on: policy issues; funding, professional development and technical assistance opportunities; emerging research; and more. Currently, 145 individuals are signed up to receive the alerts.

D. Implementation and Evaluation

- The **LONG BEACH EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE** was officially formed as an **AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH BOARD OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and began meeting in April 2004 to guide implementation of the Community Plan.
- On an annual basis, the Child Care Coordinator submits items to be included in the City's State and Federal Legislative Agenda.
- E-mail alerts regarding urgent and emerging policy issues are forwarded on a timely basis to individuals signed up to receive them.

Works in Progress

- The **LONG BEACH EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE'S ("THE COMMITTEE") QUALITY WORK GROUP**, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee, is developing an economic model of quality early care and education to illustrate the true cost of quality and to promote investments in early care and education programs by community stakeholders.
- **LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LBUSD)**, recognizing the importance of quality early care and education and its contributions to children's comprehensive child development in preparing children for school entry and long-term success, is extending its concept of seamless education from K-12 education to encompass children from birth to five. As of April 2004, **LBUSD (THE EDUCATION FOUNDATION and SEAMLESS EDUCATION)** is represented on the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee. **LBUSD** has partnered with **THE BOEING COMPANY**, also represented on the Committee, to explore improving connecting early childhood programs with the schools to better ready children and their families for school entry and success.
- The **COMMITTEE'S CAPACITY WORK GROUP** is drafting a navigation guide for starting an early care and education program in Long Beach. The guide will: summarize the criteria for licensing; provide information on preparing for the fire safety clearances; address planning and building issues, including zoning; outline the requirements and procedures for obtaining a business licenses; and recommend program elements for establishing a quality program. A list of resources will be included in the guide. The family child care portion of the guide is expected to become available during the first quarter of 2005.
- The Child Care Coordinator is working with the **CITY OF LONG BEACH, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES** to develop an "employee work/life policies and benefits fact sheet" for distribution to City employees and to use as a model for other Long Beach-based businesses.
- The **COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM AD HOC WORK GROUP** has started a planning process for our second annual symposium to be held (tentatively) in July of 2005. Planning for the symposium will build upon the success of the first symposium on universal preschool held in 2004. The 2005 symposium is tentatively planned to focus on concepts of school readiness.
- The Committee plans to develop indicators/benchmarks to measure progress on enhancing the quality and increasing the capacity of the early care and education system in Long Beach to recommend for inclusion in the **LONG BEACH COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S ("THE COMMISSION")** annual profile. The Committee will assist the Commission with collecting and portraying relevant data as it pertains to early care and education.

Challenges and Opportunities for 2005

- With the State facing huge deficits over the coming years as revenues continue to decline or show increment growth and costs of state program increase, Governor Schwarzenegger is expected to push for changes in funding to programs, including those that will impact the early care and education system. On January 10, 2005, the Governor released his proposed 2005-06 budget, which again includes proposals for funding to child care subsidy programs, among others.⁴
- The Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee plans to release an updated and revised needs assessment measuring capacity against demand for early care and education for infants and toddlers, preschool age children and school-age children in February 2005. The needs assessment will build upon the document release in 2000 by delineating between center-based and family child care as well as full-day versus part-day programs. Once the data becomes available, the Child Care Coordinator will extract the Long Beach data from the county data and make it available to the early care and education community and other stakeholders on the web site. The data will help with future planning efforts and serve as a resource for supporting funding proposals and advocacy efforts at the local, state and federal levels.
- The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has been engaged in a process to strengthen its accreditation standards, which will also include an increase in the application fees. Upon NAEYC's adoptions, centers embarking on building the quality of their programs to meet the revised accreditation standards may experience a more rigorous, lengthy and costly process before they are awarded accreditation. Moreover, centers with accreditation may face challenges to maintaining their status with the onset of unannounced site visits that will expect them to meet the higher standards. Support services, including technical assistance and funding as well as advocacy efforts to address the true cost of operating a quality program will be critical if we are to raise and maintain high quality early care and education programs in Long Beach.
- Efforts toward building a universal preschool system are eminent as demonstrated by the commitment of First 5 LA funds to broad-based planning leading to implementation through the newly created public, nonprofit Los Angeles Universal Preschool as well as pending statewide initiatives (ballot and legislative). Universal preschool is anticipated to become the driving force for increasing quality throughout the early care and education system, particularly for children ages' birth to five.
- In the fall of 2004, the Low Income Investment Fund, Affordable Buildings for Child Development under their Constructing Connections component, awarded Crystal Stairs a three-year grant to create the infrastructure for increasing the capacity of child care through facility development. To facilitate development of the

⁴ *On the Capitol Doorstep, Volume 34 (Number 10)*. November/December 2004.

infrastructure during this funding period, the project (entitled ABCD Constructing Connections Collaborative) will actually support a small number of facility development efforts in significant areas of need in Los Angeles County during this funded period. In the long term, the Long Beach early care and education community (e.g. centers) may benefit by having access to technical assistance and expertise at all levels of facility development, including but not limited to architects and planners, financing (grants, loans, etc.), and legal issues. The City's Child Care Coordinator serves on the Steering Committee.

- Currently, Investing in Early Educators is limited to teachers who are working directly with children in California Department of Education, Child Development Division-funded child development centers as required by a legislative measure (AB 212) that was signed into law by then Governor Davis. The Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee is exploring the feasibility of supporting legislation that may open the program to teachers working in non-state funded programs and licensed family child care providers. If successful, the number of teachers and family child care providers continuing their education in early childhood education will be eligible to receive financial support. More importantly, the quality of the early childhood programs will be enhanced as a result of a more qualified workforce.

Advisories, Collaborations and Committees

The City's Child Care Coordinator Child Care Coordinator serves on the following advisory groups, collaboratives and committees:

ABCD Constructing Connections Collaborative

California State University, Long Beach - Child Development and Family Studies Advisory Board

California State University, Long Beach - Project R.E.A.C.H. (Readiness and Early Learning Activities for Children from the Heart)

City of Los Angeles Child Care Policy Task Force

First 5 LA Ten Year Master Plan for Universal Preschool Advisory Committee, and

- *Delivery System Content Committee*
- *Coordinating with Existing Systems Task Team*

John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Community Advisory Committee

Long Beach City College, Child and Adult Development/Parent Education Advisory Committees

- *Child Care and Early Education*
- *Child Care and Parent Education*
- *Foster and Kinship Care*

Long Beach City College - Child Care is Good Business Advisory Board

Long Beach Unified School District, Head Start Programs Social Services Advisory Committee

Long Beach Youth Services NETWORK, Executive Planning Board

Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee, Chair, and

- *Needs Assessment/Strategic Planning Work Group*

Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care

Los Angeles County Education Coordinating Council Planning Group

Stand for Children, Long Beach Chapter

**Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future:
A Community Plan for Shaping the
Early Care and Education System
(2003-2008)**

A Progress Report and
Summary of Accomplishments To Date
(2003 -2007)

City of Long Beach
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

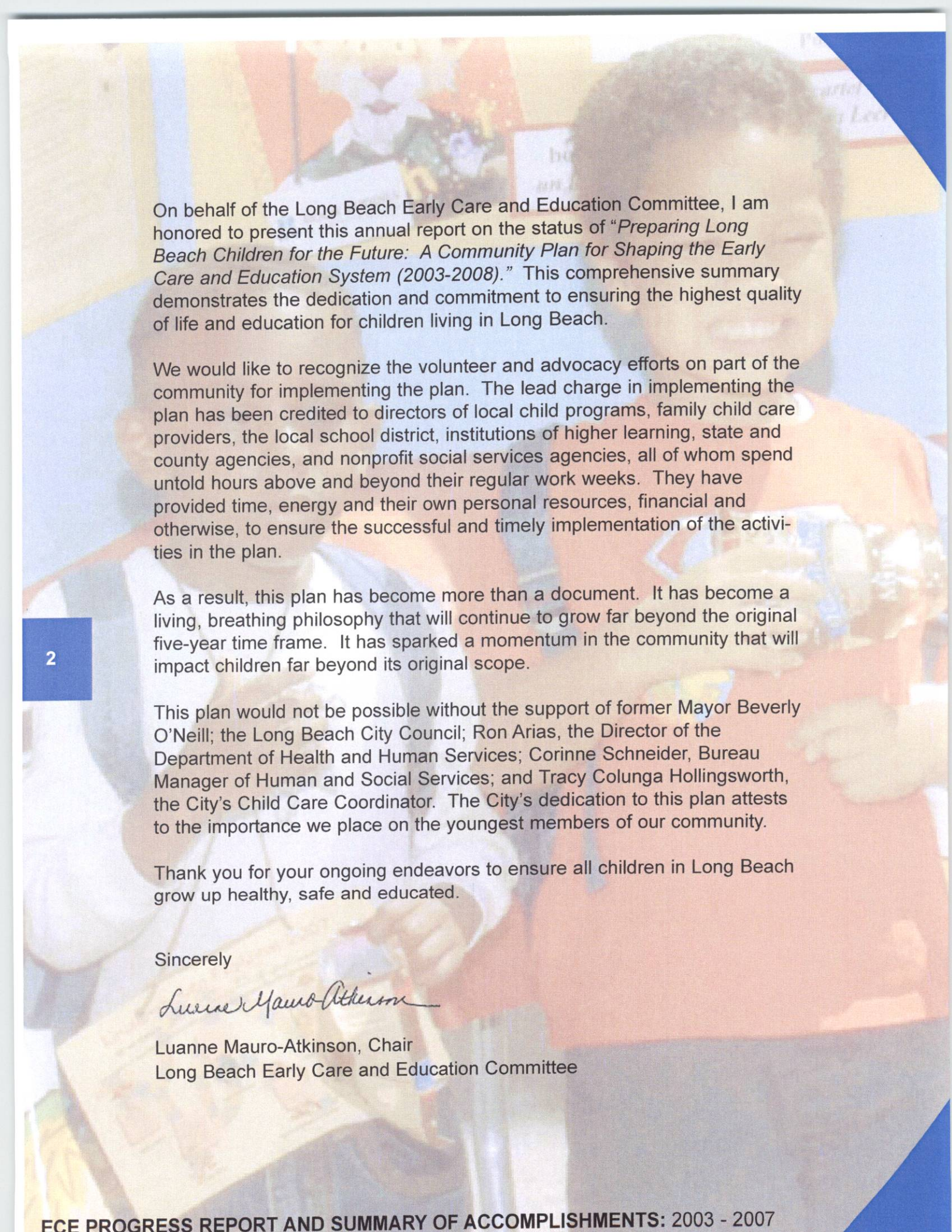
Prepared by
Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee
An ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services

August 2007

Our Children
Our Community


Early Care and Education
City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services





On behalf of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, I am honored to present this annual report on the status of "*Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)*." This comprehensive summary demonstrates the dedication and commitment to ensuring the highest quality of life and education for children living in Long Beach.

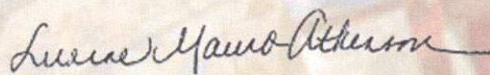
We would like to recognize the volunteer and advocacy efforts on part of the community for implementing the plan. The lead charge in implementing the plan has been credited to directors of local child programs, family child care providers, the local school district, institutions of higher learning, state and county agencies, and nonprofit social services agencies, all of whom spend untold hours above and beyond their regular work weeks. They have provided time, energy and their own personal resources, financial and otherwise, to ensure the successful and timely implementation of the activities in the plan.

As a result, this plan has become more than a document. It has become a living, breathing philosophy that will continue to grow far beyond the original five-year time frame. It has sparked a momentum in the community that will impact children far beyond its original scope.

This plan would not be possible without the support of former Mayor Beverly O'Neill; the Long Beach City Council; Ron Arias, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Corinne Schneider, Bureau Manager of Human and Social Services; and Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, the City's Child Care Coordinator. The City's dedication to this plan attests to the importance we place on the youngest members of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing endeavors to ensure all children in Long Beach grow up healthy, safe and educated.

Sincerely



Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, Chair
Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee

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This report documents progress made in implementing *Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)*. The Community Plan was originally adopted by Long Beach City Council in July of 2003 and is a direct outcome of Goal 3 of the *Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010*, which stated: Make Sure That Every Child Enters School Ready to Learn.

The Community Plan is organized around three strategic directions:

- 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 for children ages birth to 12.
- Developing Resources:** To develop and leverage resources – financial, human, and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education for children ages birth to 12.

4 Implementation of the Community Plan was tasked to the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services. The City's Child Care Coordinator provides leadership, coordination and support to the implementation activities.

This report is organized by the three strategic directions and lists accomplishments as well as works in progress.

A planning retreat was held in January 2007 to identify new opportunities and challenges and to set priorities for the coming year. The proceedings of this retreat are summarized in the last section of this report.

The History of Early Care and Education in Long Beach

Leadership in the City of Long Beach has long understood the critical relationship between community investments and community returns: for children to become successful, responsible and contributing members of the community, they must have access to excellent systems of early care and education programs within the community. Over the last fifteen years, the City of Long Beach has demonstrated a commitment to this philosophy:

- In December of 1987, the Long Beach City Council adopted a child care policy that states, in part, *“The City Council of the City of Long Beach expressed a commitment on the part of the City of Long Beach to work to expand child care services throughout the City by assuming a leadership role in promoting a coordinated effort among parents, employers, child care providers, employee organizations, schools, private sector developers, business and community leaders, and government officials.”*
- In April of 1999, the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services prepared and released Report on Child Care in Long Beach. The report provides an overview of the current system of child care services in Long Beach and identified preliminary areas of need with specific consideration for accessibility, quality, affordability, and children with special needs.
- On June 20, 2000, the City Council adopted the Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010, which was shaped by five citizen task forces, including the Education and Youth Task Force. The Education and Youth Task Force included among its recommended goals and action steps a rigorous agenda for early care and education in Long Beach.
- Beginning in April 2001, the City’s Child Care Coordinator convened a task force representing the diversity of Long Beach with a vested interest in quality early care and education. Included were child care and development representatives, post-secondary educators, health and human service providers, parents, business and development leaders, city government officials, and community advocates. The express purpose of the task force was to guide and inform the development of an early care and education plan to be implemented through community partnerships over the next five years. The Task Force’s efforts contributed greatly to the development of the Community Plan for Shaping the System [2003-2008].

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for action by the local community to invest in a system-wide approach that promotes nurturing and enriching environments during early childhood and supports lifelong learning skills in children birth to age 12. The Plan reflects a shared community vision for working collaboratively to meet the needs of families while parents are working, attending school or desiring out-of-home enrichment activities for their children, and to provide caring and stimulating environments that enable children to learn and reach their full potential.

Efforts to implement the Community Plan are guided by the City’s Child Care Coordinator through the Department of Health and Human Services. The Community Plan has been created as a living document, to be reviewed on a regular basis and modified as needed as the social, political and funding climates evolve in the coming years.

The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee: Who Are We?

Our Vision: The Long Beach community envisions a future in which all children in Long Beach will be cared for and educated in environments that:

- are stable, safe, healthy, enriching and nurturing;
- promote lifelong learning, emotional security and family empowerment and support;
- enable children to learn and to reach their full potential;
- embrace diversity; and
- are fostered actively and supported collaboratively as a priority by all sectors of the community

Our Mission: To further the early care and education of all children in Long Beach by enhancing the quality of services; building our capacity to meet the needs of families; and expanding the base of resources.

Who We Are: The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee is an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services. We are an evolution of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Master Plan Task Force, which guided and informed the development of the early care and education plan, **Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)**. The Committee is charged with crafting and carrying out implementation strategies directly related to the goals, objectives and categories outlined in the Community Plan. The motto - Our Children, Our Community - was created and adopted by the original Task Force to represent their vision for the children of our community and our community's duty to our children.

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Committee members represent a broad base of early childhood educators, advocates and caregivers of young children. All committee members are volunteers, and the committee receives no funding for operational support but must raise funds for each of its projects. Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator for the City of Long Beach, staffs the committee. Committee members represent the following agencies:

- California State University Long Beach (CSULB)
- Cambodian Association of America
- Children Today, Inc.
- Children's Home Society of California
- Comprehensive Child Development, Inc.
- CSULB Project Readiness and Early Activities for Children from the Heart (REACH)
- Harbor Regional Center
- Long Beach Child Care Network
- Long Beach City College (LBCC)
- LBCC Child Development Centers
- Long Beach Commission on Youth and Children
- Long Beach Community Improvement League
- Long Beach Day Nursery
- Long Beach Family Literacy
- Long Beach Public Library
- Long Beach Public Library Foundation
- Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD)
- LBUSD Child Development Centers
- LBUSD Early Start
- LBUSD Head Start
- LBUSD Reading Readiness and Preparation Project
- Miller Children's Hospital
- National Council of Jewish Women
- PeacePartners, Inc.
- Pretend City
- Resurrection Lutheran Preschool
- Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool
- West ED
- Williams Child Care
- YMCA of Greater Long Beach
- Young Horizons

The Executive Board is comprised of recognized leaders in the early care and education community. The 2007-2009 Executive Board:

Chair:	Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, LBUSD Head Start
Vice Chair:	Patrice Wong, Long Beach Day Nursery
Secretary:	Chantal Lamourelle-Sims, CSULB Project REACH
Treasurer:	Sarah M. Soriano, Young Horizons
Member at Large:	Joelle L. Landazabal, Children's Home Society of California

Enhancing Quality: To improve the quality of early care and education for all children ages birth to 12.

I. A. Objective Category: Programs and Services

Goal 1: To recognize the importance of children's language, social, emotional, cognitive and physical development to emerging literacy and school readiness.

Accomplished Activities:

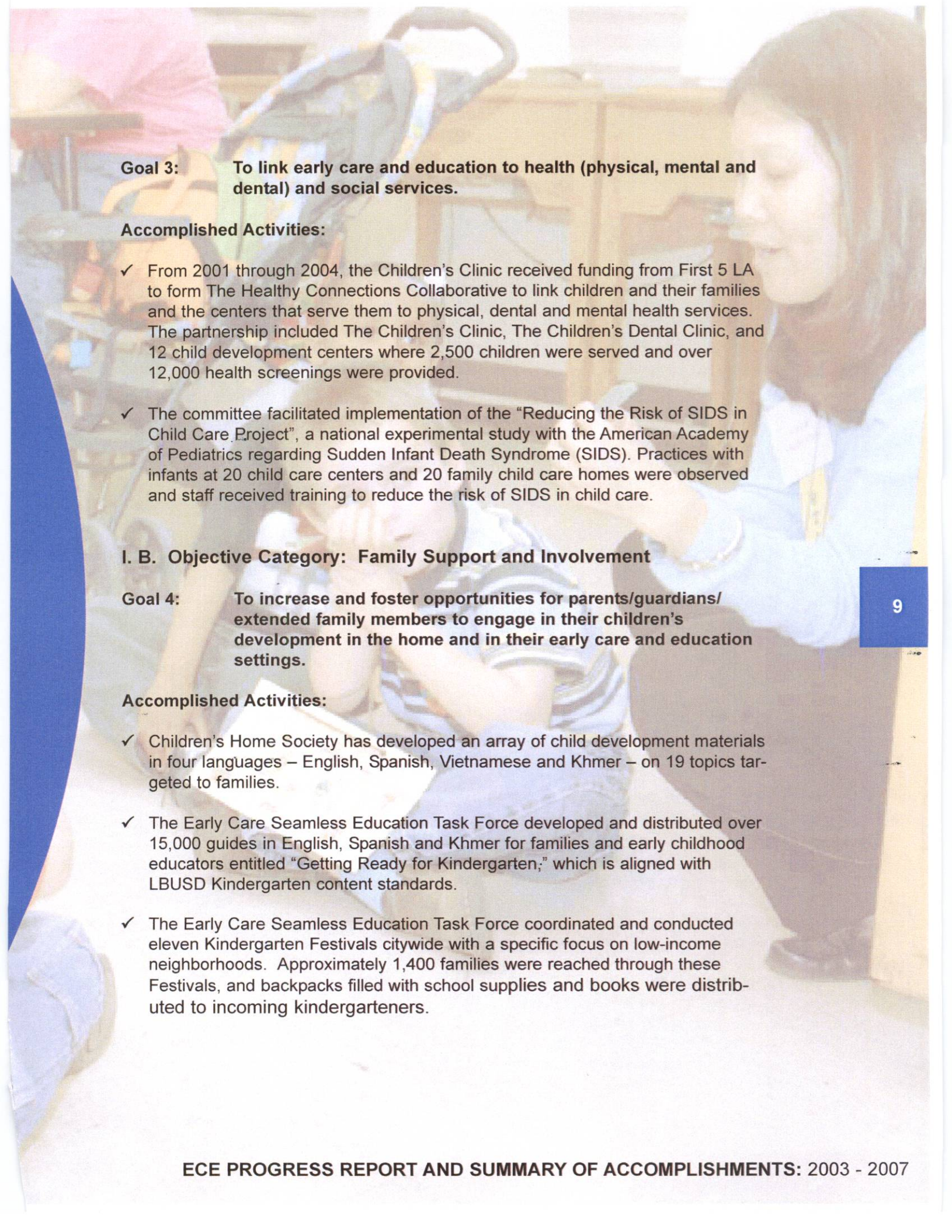
- ✓ The Long Beach Public Library and the Long Beach Public Library Foundation has partnered with 70 ECE providers to bring "Raising a Reader," a nationally recognized early literacy program, to over 1,800 children and their families, who have collectively checked out 50,000 books. Additionally, 3,500 preschool library cards have been issued through the Library's partnership with the ECE community.
- ✓ In 2005, an Early Care Seamless Education Task Force was formed in partnership with LBUSD and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, marking the first time that the ECE community and the School District had ever formally worked together on school readiness.

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Goal 2: To promote the use of measurable standards to build quality programs and increase the number of accredited licensed centers and family child care homes.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Five California Department of Education-contracted child development centers and 34 family child care homes participated in the California Association for the Education of Young Children's Facility Accreditation Project. In 2003, there were only 7 accredited child care centers in Long Beach. As of January 2007, there are 16 centers and 18 family child care providers who have achieved or maintained national accreditation.
- ✓ Over 225 license-exempt child care providers received education and training to improve the quality of their environments, upgrade their curricula, connect families and children to health services, and ultimately become licensed through Long Beach City College's Good Beginnings Never End project, which focused initially on 90813 and adjacent communities, then expanded to 90806.



Goal 3: To link early care and education to health (physical, mental and dental) and social services.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ From 2001 through 2004, the Children's Clinic received funding from First 5 LA to form The Healthy Connections Collaborative to link children and their families and the centers that serve them to physical, dental and mental health services. The partnership included The Children's Clinic, The Children's Dental Clinic, and 12 child development centers where 2,500 children were served and over 12,000 health screenings were provided.
- ✓ The committee facilitated implementation of the "Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care Project", a national experimental study with the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Practices with infants at 20 child care centers and 20 family child care homes were observed and staff received training to reduce the risk of SIDS in child care.

I. B. Objective Category: Family Support and Involvement

Goal 4: To increase and foster opportunities for parents/guardians/ extended family members to engage in their children's development in the home and in their early care and education settings.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Children's Home Society has developed an array of child development materials in four languages – English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Khmer – on 19 topics targeted to families.
- ✓ The Early Care Seamless Education Task Force developed and distributed over 15,000 guides in English, Spanish and Khmer for families and early childhood educators entitled "Getting Ready for Kindergarten," which is aligned with LBUSD Kindergarten content standards.
- ✓ The Early Care Seamless Education Task Force coordinated and conducted eleven Kindergarten Festivals citywide with a specific focus on low-income neighborhoods. Approximately 1,400 families were reached through these Festivals, and backpacks filled with school supplies and books were distributed to incoming kindergarteners.

- ✓ Representatives from the ECE Committee presented a workshop at the California Association of Education of Young Children Conference in San Jose in March 2007 on the Kindergarten Festivals as an example of best practices in school readiness. The workshop addressed the process, level of collaboration, and commitment to school readiness demonstrated by our city.
- ✓ The City of Long Beach Child Care website lists and provides links to information targeted to Long Beach families seeking quality early care and education services for their children. The website also links families to websites containing activity ideas, songs and crafts.

I. C. Objective Category: Professional and Workforce Development

Goal 5: To advocate for the adequate compensation, recruitment, professional development and retention of qualified, trained educators.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Forty-six teachers representing seven child development centers and Head Start sites have completed training and technical assistance from WestEd: Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC), which provides intensive, on-site training using a responsive relationship-based approach. Additionally, 27 family child care groups, averaging seven people per group, have completed the training as well.
- ✓ Through the Committee's ongoing information and referral networks, 300 ECE teachers in Long Beach have received education stipends ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 from the highly competitive Los Angeles County "Investing in Early Educators" program through 2006. The program is designed to assist in retaining qualified staff in child development programs.
- ✓ The weekly email updates provided by the Child Care Coordinator informs members of not only stipend and scholarship opportunities but also training opportunities, leading to a higher educated, more qualified workforce. The Committee has collaborated with the Long Beach City College Childhood Mentor Program to facilitate the first Child Care Director and Site Supervisor Networking Meeting to provide peer support and education to increase quality standards in child care settings. ECE will continue co-host these networking meetings on a quarterly basis.
- ✓ Long Beach City College (LBCC) is committed to its offerings of Associate in Arts (A.A.) degrees in early childhood education, child development, school-age care, and special education assistant. LBCC received a grant from the Child Development Consortium that funds college units for early educators currently working in licensed early care and education programs. These funds are also

available to pay for fingerprinting, background checks, and credential fees for educators applying for their child development permit from the Child Development Training Consortium under the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. Additionally, LBCC was awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture California Nutrition Network to support nutrition education for low-income parents with children enrolled in their centers.

- ✓ LBCC's Workforce Development Department has developed and implemented "Careers in Child care" as a component of its CalWORKs (California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids) program. Participants are provided the necessary classes and training to become child development aides, and receive workplace experience through placement in child development centers and preschools for a limited number of hours per week. Providers who act as placement sites receive financial assistance with the wages paid to these students.
- ✓ California State University Long Beach (CSULB) is actively involved with the State's Intersegmental Major Preparation Articulated Curriculum (IMPAC) project in Child Development. This is a faculty-designed and faculty-run project which focuses on ensuring that students transferring from California Community Colleges to University of California (UC) and CSU (California State University) institutions will be properly prepared for progressing in their chosen major immediately upon transfer. The project enables faculty to address potential problems or established curriculum requirements and procedures that may impede the smooth progress of a transferring student.
- ✓ Project Readiness and Early Activities for Children from the Heart (REACH), based at California State University Long Beach/Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, has supported the professional growth of over 75 teachers since its inception in 2002. Initially funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the project focused on increasing the retention of early childhood teachers in zip code 90806. Through this project 60 teachers obtained their Associates Degree; 32 received their Bachelors Degree and 5 received their Masters Degree.

Project REACH Outcomes 2002 - 2007

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year
AA Degree	18	22	20
BA/BS Degree	9	11	12
MA/MS Degree	3	1	1

Increasing Capacity: To increase the supply of and accessibility to quality care and education for children ages birth to 12.

II. A. Objective Category: Supply

Goal 1: To support the retention and expansion of existing early care and education programs.

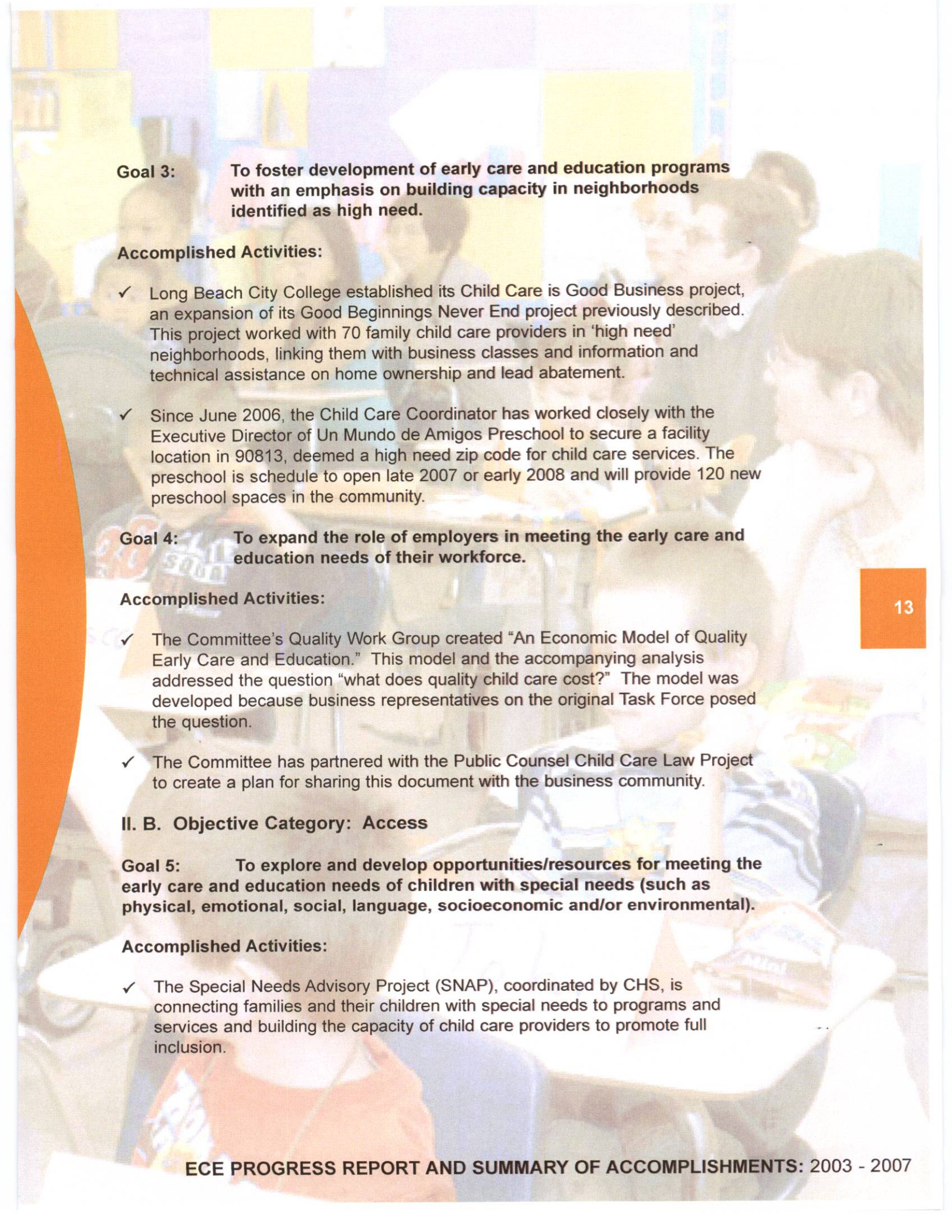
Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Families in Good Health, a program of St. Mary Medical Center, established the Long Beach Child Care Empowerment Project, which provided technical assistance and training to family child care providers in the Southeast Asian community to increase and maintain the availability of licensed family child care homes that are culturally and linguistically competent to meet the needs of children in the Cambodian, Lao and Hmong communities. Thirty-nine participants completed this 26-week training course, which also included training on school readiness, child development, and quality child care, as well as licensing and business development. Twelve of these providers went on to become licensed family child care providers. They, along with six other already-licensed providers, completed additional advanced training.
- ✓ The Child Care Training Institute, a program of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, has hosted 29 semi-monthly workshops in Long Beach at various community-based sites for licensed family care providers in both English and Spanish. Attendance at these workshops ranges from 10 to 30 people each. Two workshops were held in the Khmer language as well.
- ✓ Children's Home Society of California (CHS) offers monthly New Provider Start Up orientations in Spanish and English to individuals interested in starting family child care homes. CHS also hosts workshops targeted to family child care providers on an array of topics ranging from quality to business strategies to updates on licensing.

Goal 2: To support the development of new early care and education programs.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee's Capacity Work Group created a handbook for opening a family child care business in the city of Long Beach, including criteria for licensing; fire safety clearances, planning and building issues, including zoning; business licenses; and quality program elements.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator assists in the expansion or opening of new child care centers through partnerships with the City's Planning and Building Department.



Goal 3: To foster development of early care and education programs with an emphasis on building capacity in neighborhoods identified as high need.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Long Beach City College established its Child Care is Good Business project, an expansion of its Good Beginnings Never End project previously described. This project worked with 70 family child care providers in 'high need' neighborhoods, linking them with business classes and information and technical assistance on home ownership and lead abatement.
- ✓ Since June 2006, the Child Care Coordinator has worked closely with the Executive Director of Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool to secure a facility location in 90813, deemed a high need zip code for child care services. The preschool is schedule to open late 2007 or early 2008 and will provide 120 new preschool spaces in the community.

Goal 4: To expand the role of employers in meeting the early care and education needs of their workforce.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee's Quality Work Group created "An Economic Model of Quality Early Care and Education." This model and the accompanying analysis addressed the question "what does quality child care cost?" The model was developed because business representatives on the original Task Force posed the question.
- ✓ The Committee has partnered with the Public Counsel Child Care Law Project to create a plan for sharing this document with the business community.

II. B. Objective Category: Access

Goal 5: To explore and develop opportunities/resources for meeting the early care and education needs of children with special needs (such as physical, emotional, social, language, socioeconomic and/or environmental).

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP), coordinated by CHS, is connecting families and their children with special needs to programs and services and building the capacity of child care providers to promote full inclusion.

Goal 6: To reduce barriers to locating and accessing affordable early care and education services.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Information on new resources and technical assistance that support increasing capacity to meet the needs of families is posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website and is also disseminated through email alerts from the Child Care Coordinator.

Goal 7: To explore opportunities/resources for meeting the early care and education needs of children with occasional mild illnesses.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Information on meeting the child care needs of children with occasional illnesses is posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website.

Goal 8: To assure access to countywide services by Long Beach children and families.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Data on the supply of and estimated demand for licensed early care and education services in Long Beach is available on the City of Long Beach Child Care website.
- ✓ The City of Long Beach Child Care website also provides links to information on support services, such as referral programs for children with special needs and the federal food program.

Developing Resources: To develop and leverage resources – financial, human, and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education for children ages birth to 12.

III. A. Objective Category: Financial

Goal 1: To promote early care and education as an important economic development activity for the City of Long Beach.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee's Quality Work Group created "An Economic Model of Quality Early Care and Education." The model and the accompanying analysis addressed the question "what does quality child care cost?" was presented at the California Association for the Education of Young Children in April 2005.
- ✓ The model was also presented at the California Child Development Administrators Association Conference in March 2007.
- ✓ Plans are being developed to present the model to the business community in the City of Long Beach.

Goal 2: To facilitate enhancing the quality and increasing the supply of accessible and affordable early care and education programs from government entities, corporations and foundations.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ In 2005, priority was given to disseminating information regarding First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool funding opportunities. Over \$9.0 million in First 5 LA funds have been awarded to Long Beach organizations benefiting children and families participating in child development centers and family child care programs. As of January 2007, 13 centers and 13 family child care providers have been designated Los Angeles Universal Preschool sites, representing close to 1,000 pre-kindergarten children.
- ✓ Information on local, state, federal and private funding opportunities are posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website and are also disseminated through email alerts from the Child Care Coordinator.

Goal 3: To solicit the donation of resources (volunteers, facilities, supplies, technology) to support the expansion and improvement of early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Collaborative proposals have successfully resulted in funding from First 5 LA for four projects: Good Beginnings Never End, Healthy Connections, Family Literacy and School Readiness. The partnerships are being used as templates to continue pursuing other grant opportunities by leveraging existing resources.
- ✓ The Early Care and Education Annual Symposia and Kindergarten Festivals are maintained by the donation of supplies and facilities from partnering agencies. The power to support the success of these events comes from volunteers representing the National Council of Jewish Woman, California State University Long Beach, high school students from Long Beach Unified School District and other educational institutions.

III. B. Objective Category: Human

Goal 4: To attract and develop expertise and leadership among various sectors of the Long Beach community to address the broad range of issues facing early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee members represent a broad base of early childhood educators, advocates and caregivers of young children.
- ✓ The Committee held four annual Symposia in partnership with A Voice for Long Beach Children (formerly Stand for Children, Long Beach) for early educators and other stakeholders. Topics have included Universal Preschool, school readiness, research on early brain development, and other relevant early education issues. The fourth and most successful Symposium was held March 3, 2007 and focused on quality standards and the need for a consistent quality rating system. Over 250 child care providers, teachers, parents and community members attended the event.
- ✓ In collaboration with Long Beach City College, the Committee has developed a quarterly speakers' bureau for child care center directors and site supervisors to discuss issues and opportunities relating to early care and education. In 2007, over 100 child care center directors and site supervisors have participated in these quarterly events.

Goal 5: To work in partnership with county, state and federal entities on issues impacting the field of early care and education in Los Angeles County and Long Beach.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ Long Beach was actively represented in First 5 LA's Universal Preschool Advisory and Content Committees in the development of the Universal Preschool Master Plan by Michelle Bell (Children's Home Society), Jo Ann Bernard and Sue Stanley (CSULB), Amy Bigelow (Long Beach Day Nursery), Catherine Scott (Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association), and Michele Sartell (previous Long Beach Child Care Coordinator).
- ✓ The Committee has ensured active continuous representation on the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee through the Child Care Coordinator and other local stakeholders. Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator, serves on the committee and Patrice Wong (Long Beach Day Nursery) is the current 4th District Appointee (appointed by County Supervisor Don Knabe). Catherine Scott (Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association), Sarah Soriano (Young Horizons), Michelle Bell (Children's Home Society) and Amy Bigelow (Long Beach Day Nursery) have all served or are currently serving as alternates.
- ✓ Long Beach is actively represented on the Committee for Legislation, a joint committee of the County Child Care Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care. Michele Sartell and Catherine Scott have previously served, while Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth and Patrice Wong continue as members.

III. C. Objective Category: Technology

Goal 6: To identify and develop technology solutions and promote their use in early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator developed and managed a weekly email listserv which currently reaches approximately 250 ECE professionals who serve more than 5,000 children and families. The weekly report contains information regarding policy issues, funding, professional development, technical assistance and training, and emerging research.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator developed and maintained the City of Long Beach Child Care website. Included are links to ECE-related resources for parents and families as well as professionals. This was launched in 2003 and is updated continuously.

III. D. Objective: Implementation and Evaluation

Goal 7: To facilitate the formation of partnerships and networks to discuss and address ongoing and emerging issues and opportunities in early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee was officially formed as an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health in April 2004 to guide implementation of the Community Plan. Recently it established an Executive Board and formal policies and procedures. The Committee meets monthly to assure the ongoing implementation of the plan.

Goal 8: To advocate at all levels for improved conditions in early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee, with coordination and support of the Child Care Coordinator, provides annual input and direction to the City's federal and state legislative agenda.
- ✓ The Committee received the "Women of Distinction" award from Soroptimist International of Long Beach in 2007 for an organization advancing the status of women.

Goal 9: To generate heightened public awareness and facilitate action on issues and opportunities in quality early care and education.

Accomplished Activities:

- ✓ The Committee publicly recognized then-Mayor Beverly O'Neill for her support and advocacy on behalf of children and families in 2006.
- ✓ The Committee publicly supported Mayor Bob Foster in his efforts to reinstate library hours and services to 2003 levels.
- ✓ The Committee's work on the Early Care Seamless Education Task Force and resultant Kindergarten Festivals was profiled in "Time for School: Transitioning from Child Development to Kindergarten," prepared by the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

- ✓ December 2006, the Press Telegram published the Early Care and Education Committee's letter to the editor educating the public on quality child care by responding to the article "Day-Care Dilemma."
- ✓ June 14 2007, Charter Cable aired the Early Education Component of the Enough is Enough Campaign to educate the public that quality child care serves as preventive measure of youth and gang violence later in life.
- ✓ June 15, 2007, the Press Telegram printed the story "Early Education is a 'Win-Win' Situation" highlighting the long-term benefits of quality child care.
- ✓ July 22, 2007, the Press Telegram printed the story "Day Care Rating: Parents Counting on Quality" which focused on the STEPS to Excellence Program that will roll out in nine target communities throughout Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach being one of them. STEP will provide parents with clear, concise information on the quality of child care centers and family child care homes.
- ✓ August 6, 2007, the Grunion Gazette and Downtown Gazette included an article entitled "City Initiatives Ease Childhood Transition to Kindergarten" that highlighted the citywide collaborative efforts supporting school readiness for children and families in Long Beach.

Goal 10: To measure progress in furthering the early care and education of all children in Long Beach.

Accomplished Activities:


- ✓ The Committee holds an annual retreat to evaluate the status of the plan and focus on continued implementation.
- ✓ The Committee annually updates the Board of Health, the Commission on Youth and Children, and the Long Beach City Council on the progress of the Community Plan.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator provides annual reports of the need for child care in the City of Long Beach by zip code. This information is included in this report.

Work Plan

- ✓ At the January 2007 ECE retreat, Committee members articulated potential tasks and activities associated with each of the priority goals and attached a preliminary time frame for each of the tasks and activities. The Committee also assigned each task and activity to the appropriate Committee workgroups, in essence creating the Committee's 2007-2008 work plan.
- ✓ Over the course of this year, workgroups will be focusing on the tasks and activities identified during the retreat in order to meet the priority goals of the Committee. Workgroups will meet as often as required to complete the scope of work, while the Committee will meet monthly to oversee and monitor progress on all work.

Challenges and Opportunities

- ✓ The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has been in the process of strengthening its accreditation standards for the past few years, and just recently released its updated process. Centers embarking on achieving or maintaining their accreditation will be experiencing a more rigorous, lengthy and costly process before they are awarded accreditation. While the Committee welcomes the more rigorous standards, it also recognizes that support services, including technical assistance and funding, will be critical to ensure that centers maximize their ability to meet the accreditation standards.
- ✓ While recent Preschool for All initiatives have floundered on the ballot, the Committee recognizes that universal preschool – inclusive of but not limited to the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) program – will continue to be a driving force for increasing quality throughout the early care and education system, particularly for pre-kindergarten programs. And while the Committee is supportive of pre-kindergarten programs and efforts to ready all four-year-olds for school, it also recognizes the growing importance of quality early care and education for children from birth to three as well.

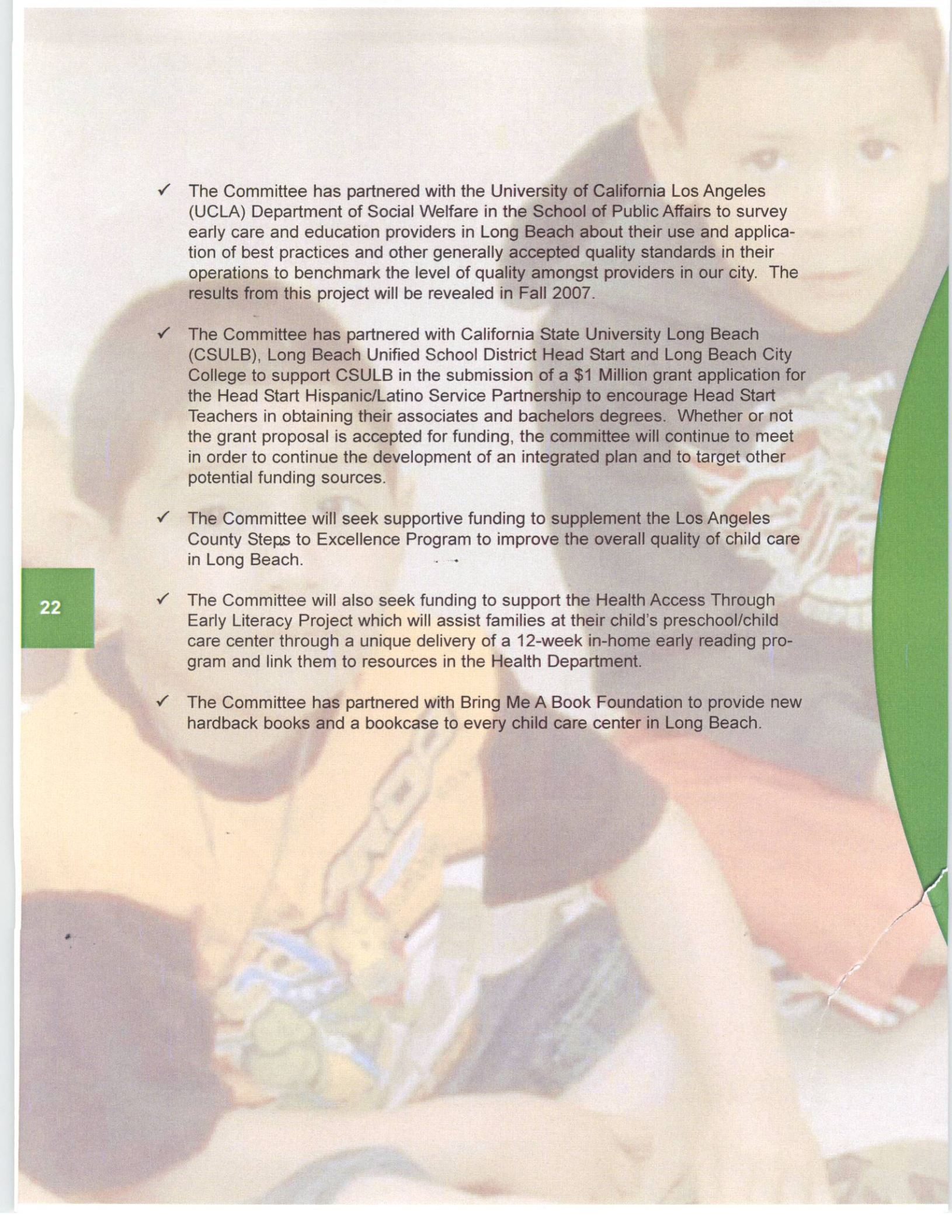
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- ✓ Through the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care, The Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) will roll out in nine target communities throughout Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach being one of them. STEP will provide parents with clear, concise information on the quality of child care centers and family child care homes. All participating programs will have a 3-year history of compliance with Community Care Licensing. The structure of STEP focuses parent attention on key elements of quality:

- Regulatory compliance
- Teacher/child relationships
- Learning environment
- Identification and inclusion of children with special needs
- Staff qualifications & working conditions
- Family and Community Connections

STEP brings a new emphasis to the issue of quality care and maps out a route for programs to make incremental improvements that will impact the quality of care provided to children and families. STEP provides a mechanism to track the quality of care available in our community and brings training and support resources to help child care programs meet these high standards.

Work in Progress

- ✓ The Committee is planning its 5th Annual Symposium focused on early intervention with young children. The Symposium is scheduled for March 1, 2007.
- ✓ Four Kindergarten Festivals are planned for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
- ✓ The Executive Board and other members of the Committee will continue to speak at conferences and workshops throughout the state on the Kindergarten Festivals and the Economic Model of Quality Child Care, and will seek opportunities to present other work of the Committee as well. The Committee has also submitted an application to present the Long Beach ECE Collaborative as a state model at the conference for the California Association for the Education of Young Children in Spring 2008.

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- ✓ The Committee has partnered with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Social Welfare in the School of Public Affairs to survey early care and education providers in Long Beach about their use and application of best practices and other generally accepted quality standards in their operations to benchmark the level of quality amongst providers in our city. The results from this project will be revealed in Fall 2007.
 - ✓ The Committee has partnered with California State University Long Beach (CSULB), Long Beach Unified School District Head Start and Long Beach City College to support CSULB in the submission of a \$1 Million grant application for the Head Start Hispanic/Latino Service Partnership to encourage Head Start Teachers in obtaining their associates and bachelors degrees. Whether or not the grant proposal is accepted for funding, the committee will continue to meet in order to continue the development of an integrated plan and to target other potential funding sources.
 - ✓ The Committee will seek supportive funding to supplement the Los Angeles County Steps to Excellence Program to improve the overall quality of child care in Long Beach.
 - ✓ The Committee will also seek funding to support the Health Access Through Early Literacy Project which will assist families at their child's preschool/child care center through a unique delivery of a 12-week in-home early reading program and link them to resources in the Health Department.
 - ✓ The Committee has partnered with Bring Me A Book Foundation to provide new hardback books and a bookcase to every child care center in Long Beach.

A-1. Identifying Children Needing Child Care in Long Beach

Children Needing Child Care Services in Long Beach	2000	2006
Estimated number of children residing in Long Beach, Birth - 12	102,154	120,395
Estimated number of children, Birth - 5	38,587	54,855
Demand for child care (Number of children with working parents)	12,688	28,468
Licensed capacity	7,542	14,011
Licensed exempt care*	N/A	10,407
Shortfall for Licensed Child Care	-5,145	-14,457
Estimated number of children, 6 - 12	63,567	65,540
Demand for before/after school programs (Number of children with working parents)	18,141	35,066
Licensed capacity	3,396	4,228
Licensed exempt care*	N/A	25,772
Shortfall for Before/After School Programs	-14,745	-30,838
Estimated number of children, Birth - 12	102,154	120,395
Demand for child care (Number of children with working parents)	30,829	63,534
Licensed capacity	10,938	39,783
Licensed exempt care	N/A	36,179
Shortfall for Licensed Child Care and Before/After School Programs	-19,890	-45,295

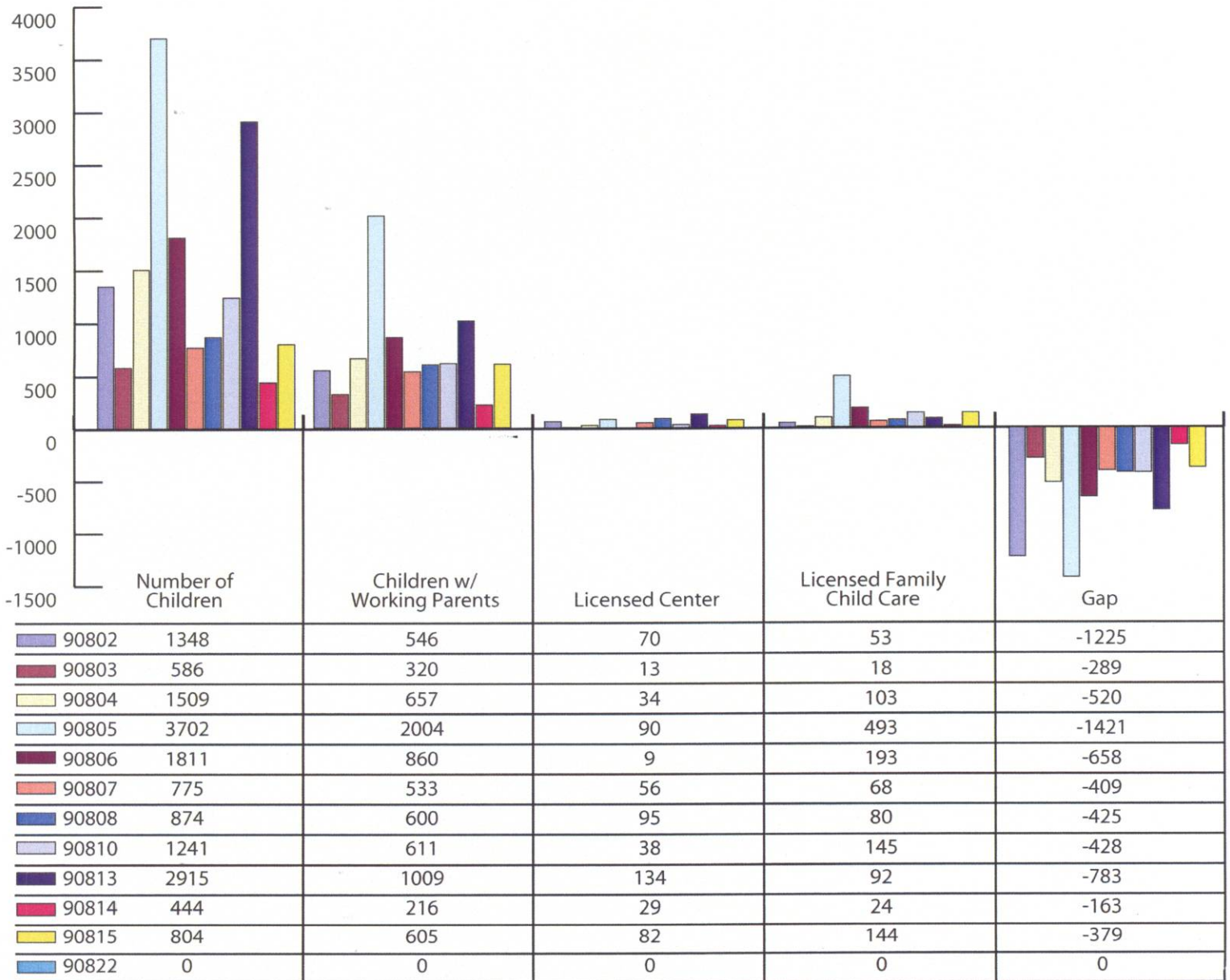
Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee;
2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

* Licensed exempt care is defined as:

- A person that cares for their own children or those of a relative and children from only one other family
- Public and private schools that operate a program before and/or after school for school-age children

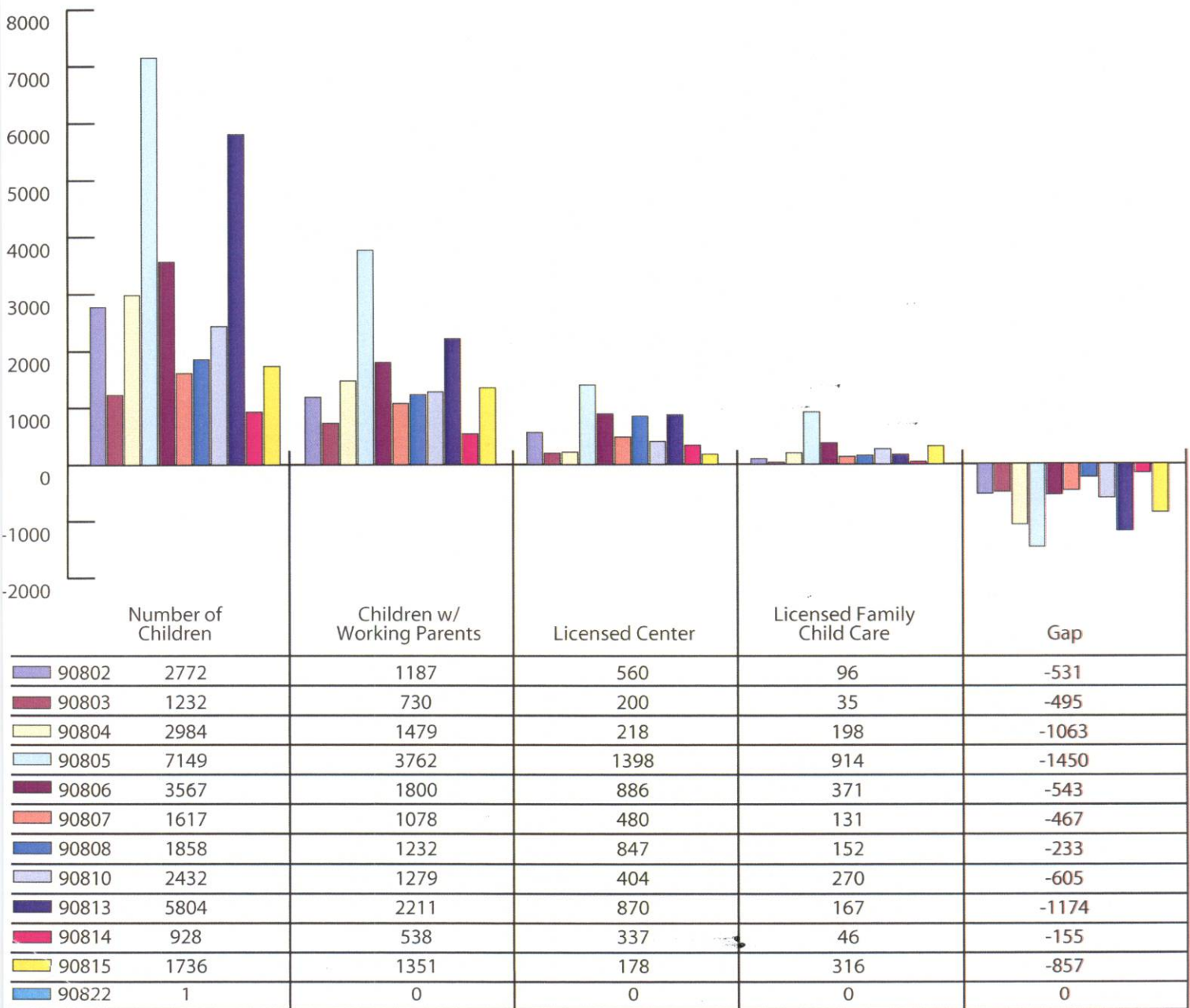
Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, www.cclcd.ca.gov

B-1. Infant and Toddler Child Care Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Birth to Two Years Old)



Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee;
2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

C-1. Pre-School Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Three to Five Years Old)



Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee; 2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

D-1. Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee Meeting Schedule 2008

Date	Time	Location
Annual Retreat January 18, 2008	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Children's Home Society of California 330 Golden Shore, Suite 20
February 1, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
March 7, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
April 4, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
May 2, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
June 6, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
July 2008	No Meeting	
August 1, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
September 5, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
October 3, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
November 7, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
December 5, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.

Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator, and the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee Executive Board prepared this report.

Design and graphics created by Sue Reveche, Graphics Specialist, City of Long Beach.

For more information about The Community Plan and the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee please contact:

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