

# Child Care Planning & Advisory Council

## Legislation & Public Policy Workgroup

Meeting Notes – March 4, 2026 | 9:30–10:30am

*Via Zoom*

### Attendees

- Liz Winograd - Low Income Investment Fund; CPAC Executive Committee; Leg & Public Policy Workgroup Chair
- Ericka Omena Erickson – CPAC
- Virginia Taylor – Safe and Sound / Family Service Alliance
- Kula Konig – Safe and Sound
- Sarah Hicks – Early Care Educators of San Francisco
- Dulce Torres – Tandem Partners in Early Learning
- Ryan Hazelton – Mariposa Kids; CPAC; Co-Chair, Leg & Public Policy Workgroup
- Mark Ryle – Wu Yi Children’s Services
- Alex Mayowski – Children’s Council
- Arianna Cruz-Sellu – San Francisco Department of Early Childhood (DEC)

### 1. Welcome & Check-In (9:30am)

- Introductions were held. Two new Workgroup participants: Dulce Torres Betty and Kula Konig were attending for the first time.
- Note: Last month’s meeting was canceled due to attendance at a legislative hearing.
- Facilitator noted this is a particularly intense budget season for all child- and family-serving organizations.

### 2. Local Updates & Discussion: San Francisco Budget Context and Process (9:35am)

#### Overview – Opening Remarks (Liz)

- San Francisco is facing a \$1 billion budget deficit this fiscal year.
- The mayor’s office has historically taken the interest from the Baby Prop C reserve balance during budget season; this is likely to happen again this year.
- The Prop C balance has grown to approximately \$572 million; interest taken has averaged ~\$16 million/year over recent years – the amount this year could be significantly higher.
- Good news: DEC’s general fund support is expected to be reinstated as of July 1, 2027 per existing ordinance; the figure being discussed is approximately \$21.6 million for the next fiscal year.
- CPAC encourages members to attend City Hall actions in solidarity with other community-based organizations (CBOs).
- An upcoming engagement with the Budget Office is being planned with CPAC leadership

#### SF Budget Process Overview (Virginia Taylor)

- [Slide deck](#)

- The city's total annual budget is approximately \$18 billion, of which \$9 billion is enterprise funds (self-generated and self-spent, e.g., Port, SFO); the remaining ~\$9 billion is the general fund.
- The general fund includes state and federal pass-through dollars and voter-mandated set-asides – these cannot easily be redirected.
- Discretionary funding is estimated at approximately 17% of the total budget; this is what the mayor is targeting for cuts.
- Children, Youth & Family (CYF) services have approximately \$700 million in protected/mandated spending after decades of advocacy – limiting exposure to discretionary cuts.
- Known cuts citywide total approximately \$84 million so far (not limited to CYF services).
- The city plans to draw down its \$400 million reserve (created last year) to cushion anticipated federal impacts, particularly from HR 1.
- CYF services are spread across ~16 city departments (DEC, DCYF, OEWD, HSH, HSA, DPH, etc.) – there is no single consolidated CYF budget as exists in other counties like San Mateo.

### Key Process Changes This Year

- This year, the mayor is asking all departments to cut a flat \$400 million (rather than a percentage); this has led to greater mayoral involvement in departmental budgets during the early phase.
- Most departments submitted budgets by February 23.
- The mayor's budget must be finalized by May 15; the official budget is released June 1.
- Board of Supervisors hearings occur in June.
- The Board of Supervisors is described as largely in alignment with the mayor this year.
- The mayor has stated there will be no "add-backs" this year. Precedent (Mayor Breed) shows the mayor has the authority to deny add-backs approved by the Board – this has happened before with DCYF funding.
- Concern noted: Discretionary funding cuts could still affect some programs; members encouraged to track departmental budget proposals.

### Baby Prop C / DEC Funding Discussion

- Baby Prop C annual tax revenue is protected by legislation and cannot be redirected.
- The interest accruing on the unspent Prop C balance (~\$572M) has been used to close the general fund deficit each year via budget ordinance.
- Average annual interest taken: ~\$16 million; this year's figure may be higher given the larger balance.
- DEC general fund restoration of ~\$21.6 million expected July 1, 2027 per ordinance – members noted this would partially offset interest taken but cautioned the situation remains uncertain.
- Action item: Seek clarification from the Budget Office on the projected interest amount and DEC general fund restoration timeline and growth trajectory.

## 3. State and Federal Updates (10:05am) -

[Slide Deck Used](#)

### Federal Updates (Ericka Erickson)

- The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) under the Administration for Children and Families is being restructured/decentralized – data responsibilities would shift to individual departments rather than remaining centralized.
- This is viewed as concerning for the field, as centralized data informs advocacy and policy decisions (parallels noted with poverty rate data changes).
- Many nonprofits are signing letters and advocating at the federal level; a link to sign-on opportunities will be shared.
- A resource from First Five Years Fund was highlighted as a useful tracker of federal bills, organized by topic/impact area.
- CPAC will continue to review the federal bill landscape for alignment with CPAC's policy platform and will bring relevant bills forward for endorsement consideration.

## State Updates

- California Budget & Policy Center released its annual report on unmet child care need:
- Governor Newsom promised 200,000 new child care slots in 2021 (~30–40K/year); this has been paused for the last two years. CPAC advocacy efforts will be coordinated with Parent Voices and the ECE Advocacy Coalition and other statewide partners to press the governor (in his final year) to fulfill this commitment.
- San Francisco has 34% of eligible children enrolled in state-funded child care – higher than most counties but still leaving the majority unserved.
  - Statewide: only 16% of eligible children are enrolled in subsidized child care (slight improvement from prior years but still critically low).
  - Infants/toddlers and rural areas face the highest levels of unmet need.

## Key State Bills Highlighted

- AB 1914 (Build Up California – sponsored): Would require all counties to include child care as a chapter in their general plans, similar to the housing element (updated every 7 years). Currently CPAC and local planning councils do this voluntarily via needs assessments every 5 years.
- SB 1051 (Foster Care Child Care): Allows child care navigators to refer foster children directly to county welfare departments for the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program (vouchers up to 6 months). Streamlines an existing program.
- AB 1981 (Rate Reform): Requires CDSS to submit a reimbursement rate reform plan by January 31, 2027. The bill's fact sheet connects rate reform to HR 1's new work requirements for federal safety net programs – noting that increased child care access is critical as families must now demonstrate employment to qualify for other benefits.
- AB 2441 (Community Supporting Innovation Pilot – presented by Kula Konig): Would require the Office of Child Abuse and Prevention to establish a community-supporting innovation pilot by funding community-based organizations (FRCs). CPAC will bring this bill to the full council for endorsement consideration in the coming months.
- Title V Workgroup: Exploring continued funding options similar to a “hold harmless” provision; no finalized update yet.

## 4. Upcoming Events & Key Dates (10:20am)

- Every Child California Advocacy Forum – March 11–12: Participants meet with legislators on March 11; advocacy forum on pressing issues March 12.
- Child Care for Every Child – Next week: Workshop on framing the connection between immigration enforcement and child care for advocates.

- Day Without Child Care – May 12 (4th Annual): CPAC and SEED Coalition will coordinate local actions (meetings with legislators, provider/parent actions). Note: Some providers cannot strike; framing will emphasize solidarity and advocacy rather than strike.

## **5. Action Items & Next Steps (10:25am)**

- CPAC staff to share slide deck and federal bill tracker link with members (Melanie to send follow-up in email).
- CPAC Policy and Strategy Manager will review state child care bills for alignment with CPAC policy platform; bring forward for endorsement consideration as appropriate.
- Coordinate with ECE Advocacy Coalition to plan local Day Without Child Care actions on May 12.
- Members encouraged to attend City Hall budget actions in solidarity with partner CBOs.
- Virginia Taylor to keep the group informed of opportunities for public comment during the budget process.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 | 9:30–10:30am (via Zoom)**