



Joint ECESF/CPAC Meeting Notes Wednesday, April 29



Early Care Educators of San Francisco (ECESF) holds community meetings to bring together the SF ECE community to assess needs and organize in response to the pandemic. During shelter in place ECESF has held 4 joint meetings with the CPAC Workforce, in addition to educator meetings and lunch breaks.

The following are notes from the **4/29 ZOOM meeting** of over 120 participants. It includes community discussion, questions, and comments. Additional documents, including resources and breakout group reports can be found on the ECESF website (ECESF.org) on the event calendar date for the 4/29 event. Responses to questions in this document include meeting responses, and are the communities' best knowledge at this time, as well as shared links to official sources. Please continue to check official sources, as guidelines continue to change in response to emergency needs.

There are questions and identified needs that do not yet have responses, as we as a community are working to define the best path forward in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. Your continued participation, organizing, and advocacy is needed to get your needs and the needs of our community met.

Can't open a link in this document? See complete URLs included at the end of the document.

A. Context: Reviewing what we know and what we don't

At the beginning of each meeting we review official orders and guidelines as of the meeting date. See the [April 29 Power Point presentation](#): ECESF.org, Events calendar, on the April 29 event page.

1. Shelter in Place

California's Shelter in Place—In the Governor's April 28 press release, Newsom stated that we are weeks away from making significant modifications. He previously outlined 6 indicators as a guide to reopening, rather than a date or timeline.

San Francisco's Shelter in Place—previously through May 3, on [April 27 was extended](#) through the end of May. San Francisco rules ease on May 4 as follows:

- Under the extended Stay Home order, all construction will be allowed to resume as long as specific safety measures are in place.
- Certain businesses that operate primarily outdoors, such as plant nurseries, may reopen.
- Employees of a business allowed to operate under the order can also access childcare programs that are allowed to operate.
- Some outdoor recreational facilities, like skate parks, can reopen.
- All residential moves will be allowed.

2. Funding commitments for programs receiving subsidies

- **State vouchers**—(centers & FCC) 30 days after closure
- **State CDE contracts**—(T5 sites) payments according to enrollment, not attendance, through June 30.
- **San Francisco ELS/PFA vouchers**—(centers & FCC) Through May 3, OECE is waiting to be informed by the Controller's Office on possibility of payment through the extended Shelter in Place Order.
Update since 4/29 ZOOM meeting: On May 1 OECE received **confirmation of SF-funded sites through May 31.**

3. Economic relief resources—a [compiled list](#) of resources useful to individual workers is maintained on the OECE website: SFOECE.org

B. Advocacy

Participant questions and comments:

Q: Are State and San Francisco funds ending as a result of not having enough bailout funds?

R: Local and state government budgets are faced with a deficit and more need than ever. This is blocking the commitment to funding programs in the year ahead. Our advocacy on the local, state, and federal level is central to determining what will happen in the year ahead.

Q: How do we advocate for more state funding for all families if we are underpaid yet necessary?

Group 3 response: We need to secure funding to continue running programs. I think we need stories from the parents and families because only with childcare will a lot of employees (US workforce across all sectors) be able to go back to work.

R: Child care sites—centers and FCCs not in contract with the state, are faced with the difficult decision of charging parents for now months of no direct service, or not paying their staff, themselves, as well as fixed costs their site incurs. We need to build our alliance with families—and clearly link ECE workforce and program needs to theirs. We need the stability of public funded school districts—and ECE to be funded on that level. Businesses depend on child care for their workers to return—more clear now than ever before—the large businesses that have had taxes cut need to be part of paying for it.

R: This topic of how to partner and ally with parents through this really resonates with me for future conversations - thank you as always!

ECESF is dedicated to connecting all SF educators, each of you, so you can more effectively advocate for you, your colleagues, your program, and your community needs—including educators, families, children, and the broader community we live in. More than ever now, we're in this together. ECESF has written and submitting letters on behalf of itself, for CPAC, and for community collaborations on the state and federal level. Thanks to all who signed on, shared, called, or sent message. We could use a team of writers, researchers, and each of you sharing your own and your community's stories. Most immediately we will be reaching out to you to collecting personal stories of SF educators, program operators, and families. Email me, sara@ecsf.org to help build a wealth of personal stories, write OpEds, or research effective strategies. Our strength is in our numbers.

C. Questions & Comments from registration & last meeting

Emergency Child Care (ECC) and reopening

Q: *Can both Family Child Care and Centers operate currently, under shelter in place? Are both centers and FCC sites able to offer the Emergency Child Care?*

R: Currently, both center and Family Child Care sites providing services to essential workforce members *and/or* vulnerable populations can continue operations, and enroll new families that meet these criteria. As the shelter in place order allows more workplaces to open up, the families which child care sites can serve will increase. OECE's Emergency Child Care (ECC) program also supported a group of fourteen ECE programs to serve the essential workforce and prioritizing healthcare and emergency service workers. See more on the ECC regulation in the next question. The City is not expanding the ECC program at this time, and instead shifting their focus to prepare for more sites opening.

Q: *What regulations are we required to follow?*

R: All licensed sites are covered by the guidelines in [PIN 20-06-CCP](#), which limits group size to 10 with ratios detailed according to age of children. It also requires space to allow for six-foot distance during

activities, nap, and meals. San Francisco's [Order of Health Officer No. C19-07c](#) provides further guidance for any child care sites not included under licensing regulations, including school age sites, initially established a maximum cap of 12 or fewer to be in the same group each day. (C19-07c, pg. 15). After the 4/29 ZOOM meeting ***the SF guideline has been changed to align with the stricter licensing cap of 10.***

The San Francisco OECE is collaborating with SFF5, R&Rs Children's Council and Wu Yee to support fourteen Emergency Child Care (ECC) sites which prioritized service to children of healthcare and emergency workers. The ECC sites were intensively supported for reopening, including a safety review, trainings, and stricter regulations because of the high-risk populations served. San Francisco ***recommends that Emergency Child Care*** sites maintain stricter ratios than those required by licensing. For centers, childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer. For ECC classrooms whose licensed capacity is less than 12 (e.g., infant/toddler classrooms), programs should enroll no more than half of the licensed capacity as a physical distancing measure. For ECC FCCs, programs should enroll no more than half of the licensed capacity dependent on meeting the spacing requirement of 6 feet apart for napping cots. All sites participating in ECC programming should communicate with Denise Corvino, denise.corvino@sfgov.org, before making any changes to their current ECC operations.

Official oversight bodies, including CDSS community care licensing, California Department of Education and San Francisco departments continue to communicate to coordinate and clarify guidelines in response to changing emergency needs.

Q: *Who is making the decision to re-open San Francisco?*

R: The San Francisco Department of Health, in coordinating with other Bay Area health departments is monitoring the emergency situation, and is responsible for issuing the Health Officer Orders outlining emergency shelter in place mandates and work allowance in San Francisco.

Q: *Are those providing ECE for essential workers that are allowed to return to work next week still funded?*

Decisions regarding payments for families currently enrolled and newly enrolled essential work families are still being made. Block grant funding was released to cover child care for essential worker in the first stage for families previously not enrolled—further information is needed to confirm that this includes workers in each stage moving forward. Since the 4/29 ZOOM meeting ***San Francisco's Controller released a commitment to continue SF payments for current city vouchers through May 31—whether children are attending or not.***

San Francisco and California State budgets will roll over for the first quarter based on the current year 19-20 budget. Both local and state budgets are in deficit due to the pandemic. Advocacy at the federal, state, and local level is needed to maintain local and state funding —and direct funds to community needs such as the funding needed to maintain ECE programs, as well as additional child care services and safety measures.

Q: *Do we need to open if the parents are part of the employees going back to work but not essential workers?*

Independent sites need to make their own decision as far as vulnerability, comfort, and safety of your staff and population served. Funding commitments to sites with state contracts, or currently receiving state or SF vouchers, beyond those outlined in Section A.2. above, may change based on service provided by sites, emergency needs, as well as community advocacy.

Meetings/classes/workshops for re-opening

Denise Corvino: OECE, F5SF are holding meetings related to reopening. If you've missed them, send Denise an email, denise.corvino@sfgov.org, if needed we can hold another. I can also share resources from that meeting.

R: [Virtual trainings](#) for guidance on caring for children during COVID 19 are being offered by Children's Council (for FCCs) and Wu Yee (for Centers). Check their online schedule!

Questions & Reflections on program implementation: distancing and cleaning practices

Ratios

Q: *What are the current ratios for Emergency Child Care, and for providing care to currently enrolled essential workers and vulnerable children? How long will the current guidelines be in place? Where can we find the current ratios, and any updates?*

R: There are different requirements for sites depending on funding sources. The decision about ratios/group sizes for San Francisco-funded programs will come from OECE/F5SF. San Francisco's Order of the Health Officer, **since the 4/29 meeting has aligned with the stricter guideline of 10 children in a group**. San Francisco's OECE is leading a Reopening Task Group that is working on many of the questions being raised. More information will be available soon. Current references for guidelines are as follows:

- [CDSS-CCL/CDE PIN 20-06-CCP](#), collaborative guidelines for all licensed sites
- [Public Health Order C19-07c](#), guidelines for child care, with maximum cap including school age.
- [San Francisco government site](#), referencing more stringent guidelines at state level
- [OECE COVID-19 information page](#)
- The [April 29 ECESF/CPAC Workforce ZOOM Meeting Power Point presentation](#) for details and differences between SF Emergency Child Care recommendations and CDSS/CDE guidelines.

Q: *Are we going to have the same ratios, and are we having the same families when we open up our child care?*

R: Decisions about who can be served and with what ratios are being determined, and may change according to emergency needs. At this point we do not know exactly what will be allowed in a few months—except that, as long as the health situation is improving we will move toward expanding services. State and local needs are being assessed according to indicators presented by the Governor. The Governor has announced plans to slowly open in stages, however more strict ratios, group size, and limits to who can be serviced may still be in place, or may be re-instituted if health conditions change. See both indicators and stages outlined in the [4/29 ECESF/CPAC Workforce presentation](#). For now, you are able to serve anyone currently enrolled, and newly enrolled children of families, **who are allowed to work according to the most recent shelter in place order**—now in stage 2—as long as you are able to meet the current distancing and ratio requirements.

Masks

Educators raised questions and concerns in this meeting and previous regarding masks, including two- and three-year-olds being frightened by masks, and infants and young children learning of social and emotional cues by reading facial expressions being compromised. Participants currently working with ECC and others working with children during COVID-19 shared these strategies & experiences:

- Provide masks with clear panels those working with infants and toddlers, such as masks designed for those working with the hearing impaired. *(This has been suggested in several meetings. Children's Council and Wu Yee just received funding from the state to purchase health and safety supplies for open programs. We will put this on the list of items that we know are in demand and will see what we can find.)*

- We need to be clear on what we're offering and why. Are we offering child care and education for developmental support or to address family's need to work, or both? Do wearing masks with infants and toddlers allow for the communicative and social emotional learning the need? Are there other protocols that we can put in place to keep them safe instead of masks? (Air filtration, 1:1 or 1:2 ratios) We need a deeper look into the science of this.
- Educators, and all, need to be protected in any group care. Are there some children or families for whom we should prioritize individual or family-based care—and the funding needed for this—because this is what is most safe and/or most developmentally appropriate? For instance, should infants and toddler be provided alternative care, extending family leave, or other individual family alternatives?
- We've been introducing masks in our daily zoom chats. It's starting to help with that fear, but we still have a way to go
- We made masks with toddlers and preschoolers as a craft activity as an extension to hospital imaginative play, showing them pictures of doctors and focusing the conversation on how we “bust germs” and help ourselves and others stay healthy. Description of activity in resources below.
- We are now saying "face coverings" instead of masks. :-) Less scary and more flexible.
- Thank you for this language and intention around normalizing ‘face coverings.’ I will be using this in my zoom meeting with the children.

Other concerns & comments:

- Has there been anything in California or local guidelines addressing senior or high-risk people returning to work in centers?
- Even with lower ratios, how can we keep social distance in toddler rooms?

Community resources offered:

- Free picture book download on talking to young children about C19 written by two med students. https://www.millieandsuzie.com/?utm_source=instagram&fbclid=IwAR2RAINc8PQOjOT8HqCedUSY2eeGeuij1ndxTCPGq0wGklg630OhkupvBY0&utm_content=later-6709618&utm_campaign=later-linkinbio-blackbabybooks&utm_medium=social
- **Mask making activity, shared by Jodi:** Cut a scrap piece of canvas into rectangles to cover a child-sized mouth. On the short sides of each canvas piece, place a piece of masking tape (this makes hole-punching fabric much easier) and punch 5 holes into each side. Preschoolers weaved yarn through the holes for tying around the head, and decorated. Toddlers used markers to decorate the canvas. Teachers added the yarn ties after for wearing. We displayed doctor pictures with masks before the activity. We added plastic shower caps (that could be sanitized) to other doctor dress-up tools in the days before doing this activity.
- I'm a retired pre-K and college teacher, and can take phone calls from ECE people who'd like to talk with an old hand. Of course I haven't been through anything like this. No charge of course, for talking with me. 415.794.1997. Sydney

Requirements & evaluations extended?

- For the providers that had evaluations but were cancelled due to COVID 19 can their evaluation be extended?
- Do we still need to meet all the Head Start and Early Head Start requirements for the teachers, since we are sheltered in place?

Full URLs for links referenced in notes:

1. ECESF/CPAC Workforce meeting notes, PowerPoint presentation, and resources:
<https://ecesf.org/event/ecesf-cpac-joint-workforce-meeting-2/>
2. San Francisco's 4/27 extension of stay at home order: <https://sf.gov/news/san-francisco-and-bay-area-extend-stay-home-order-through-end-may>
3. Resource list: <https://sfoece.org/covid-19-workforce-support/>
4. Order of the Health Officer C19-07c, 4/29: [https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/2020.04.29_FINAL %28signed%29 Health Officer Order C19-07c- Shelter in Place.pdf](https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/2020.04.29_FINAL%28signed%29_Health%20Officer%20Order%20C19-07c-Shelter%20in%20Place.pdf)
5. Virtual workshops for educators, Guidance for caregiving under coronavirus:
<https://www.childrenscouncil.org/for-child-care-programs/provider-workshops/>
6. CDSS-CCL/CDE PIN 20-06-CCP, in collaboration for all licensed sites
https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/PINs/2020/CCP/PIN_20-06-CCP.pdf
7. Ratio guidelines are included in the Order of the Health Officer C19-07c above, with guidelines for child care, with maximum cap of 12 for all sites, including the school age services:
[https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/2020.04.29_FINAL %28signed%29 Health Officer Order C19-07c- Shelter in Place.pdf](https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/2020.04.29_FINAL%28signed%29_Health%20Officer%20Order%20C19-07c-Shelter%20in%20Place.pdf)
8. San Francisco government site, referencing more stringent guidelines at state level:
<https://sf.gov/information/schools-and-childcare-during-coronavirus-outbreak>
9. OECE COVID-19 information page (referencing San Francisco Health Order maximum guidelines of 12):
<https://sfoece.org/2020/03/18/covid-19-coronavirus-information-and-resources/>
10. Picture book for talking to children about coronavirus:
https://www.millieandsuzie.com/?utm_source=instagram&fbclid=IwAR2RAINc8PQOjOT8HqCedUSY2eeGeuij1ndxTCPGq0wGklg630OhkupvBY0&utm_content=later-6709618&utm_campaign=later-linkinbio-blackbabybooks&utm_medium=social