



10/14/2025

Subject: Family Services Alliance - EC COAC

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force,

The Family Services Alliance (FSA) represents the 26 grantees of the Family Resource Center Initiative (FRCI), the funding for which is overseen by the Children and Families First Commission (CFC) as required by state law. **We appreciate your recommendation to keep the CFC intact.**

We support combining the Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee (EC COAC) with the CFC. Both bodies already operate under the same department, hold joint meetings, and focus on ages 0 to 5. This combination would streamline oversight and simplify public engagement for families and advocates.

We oppose the proposal to combine the EC COAC with the Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC), as the OAC covers programs for people aged 0 to 24 years, whereas the EC COAC only covers those aged 0 to 5 years. We are concerned that the distinct needs of children aged 0 to 5 years and their families will be overlooked within such a broad age range, as has happened in the past. DCYF OCAC supports the responsible use of the Children's Fund, which is a significant amount of funds, but is separate from Baby Prop C, which provides funding for the Department of Early Childhood (DEC). Thus, these two commissions should not be combined, as they represent distinct age groups and funding streams.

We champion partnership between city departments, but effective financial oversight requires specialized commissions. We urge you to formally recommend combining the EC COAC with the CFC, our oversight body, not the OAC, so that targeted support for young children and their families remains strong.

Sincerely,

The Family Services Alliance

Yensing Sihapanya, Executive Director, **Family Connections Centers**

Mario Paz, Executive Director, **Good Samaritan Family Resource Center**

Virginia Taylor, Senior Policy Advisor, **Safe & Sound**