

**From:** [Sara Hicks-Kilday](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - EC COAC  
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Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

As a member of the San Francisco Early Care and Education Advocacy Coalition, **I ask that should the Task Force choose to accept the recommendation to combine Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee (EC COAC) with another body that it NOT be combined with the Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) but, rather, the Children and Families First Commission (CFC), and that the opportunity is taken to strengthen not weaken the oversight of the funds currently under the EC COAC.**

**Further, if the decision to combine the EC COAC with CFC is made, the difference between these two oversight bodies must be understood—the EC COAC does *not* overlap "completely with the Children and Families First Commission." Adjustments will be needed at least to ensure state requirements of the CFC are addressed, the community representation needed for the EC COAC, and a clear distinction between the intent of the discrete funds each of the current bodies oversee, and the body over the far greater funds that the EC COAC currently oversees has the strength needed for oversight of these significant funds.**

While it may be possible to merge the EC COAC and CFC, these two bodies already meet multiple times a year jointly to oversee different funds that are held by the same department. This may already address some of the concerns of the streamlining work, as well as allow for the mandates of the state and the need of the San Francisco-generated funds to have the separate oversight they require.

For a merger, adjustments needed would include changes to the current body of the CFC so that it gives a voice to the greater early care and education community including parents and educators. CFC currently holds a function as an authoritative body regarding Prop 10 funds with state-mandated designated seats including department and supervisor representation; the COAC serves an advisory role on Baby Prop C and other Department of Early Childhood funding. Clarity on budget decisions would be needed to again ensure there is no commingling of funds. Combining, or the current coordinated meeting times of the EC COAC with the CFC, however, does create a one-stop for official oversight, making it clearer to community members about where to go to express their concerns, needs, and wants.

If amendments are not able to address and maintain the current *different* responsibilities of these two bodies, the streamlining purpose may be already met by the two bodies meeting together.

Combining the EC COAC with a commission that advises a different department, such as the Children, Youth and Their Families OAC, risks many issues, including: co-mingling of funds and confusion for parents, families and advocates of children 0-5 on where to engage. If history is any indicator, when these two groups had oversight combined previously, the focus on our city's youngest was lost.

The two groups of children the Children, Youth and Their Families OAC and EC COAC cover require different programming with nuanced approaches to funding and decision-making. While we support enhanced communication between DCYF and DEC to support a holistic approach to caring for children across age groups in the city, we do not believe that oversight commissions are that place, given the breadth of expertise across age groups that would be required. The CFC and EC COAC, on the other hand, both deal with funding decisions regarding children 0-5, making it a much more natural combination.

**Again, I ask that if the EC COAC is combined with any other commission it should be the CFC and NOT the Children, Youth and Their Families OAC, and the difference between the two bodies (EC COAC and CFD) be more deeply understood before any decision is made.**

Thank you,

Sara Hicks-Kilday  
(she, her, hers)  
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