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Subject: We oppose the Merger of DEC COAC and DCYF OAC
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Parent Voices SF oppose the merger of the Early Childhood Community Oversight and Advisory Committee (EC COAC) with the Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) .

The DEC COAC may merge with the Children and Families First Commission (CFC) provided we redefine the purpose and add on to the state mandates, so that it reflects the oversight for the Baby C Funds and all ECE related issues.

The EC COAC and CFC already meet multiple times a year jointly and fall under the same department. 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. Combining the DEC COAC with the CFC (First 5) Commission, however, would create a one-stop for official oversight, making it clearer to community members about where to go to express their concerns, needs and wants.

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 both deal with funding decisions regarding children 0-5, making it a much more natural and consequential combination.

Additionally, the CFC (Children and Families Commission) must be expanded, so that it does not just include City department staff , It must give voice to the greater early care and education community including parents and educators. CFC must, then, retain its function as an authoritative body regarding Prop 10 funds, but have only an advisory role on other Department of Early Childhood funding and budget decisions to again ensure there is no co-mingling of funds.

Again, I ask that if the DEC COAC is combined with any other commission it should be the CFC and NOT the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families OAC.

Respectfully,

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