

**From:** [Hannah Kahl](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - EC COAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 10:00:40 AM

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Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

On behalf of Project Commotion and 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).**

The EC COAC and CFC already meet multiple times a year jointly and oversee funds that are held by the same department. With some carefully thought out amendments allowing for the state requirements of the current CFC over the state-only funds, and the separate COAC oversight of the San Francisco-generated funds, it is possible that these oversight functions could be handled by one body. Please note though, the oversight currently held by these two bodies is **not** identical, as is currently stated in the streamline recommendations. Co-mingling of funds is a concern that should be attended to; the intent of each fund is discreet.

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; 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 co-mingling of funds. Combining the EC COAC with the CFC, 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.

If amendments are not able to address the current **different** responsibilities of these 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 and consequential 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.**

Thank you

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