## Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the County of Monterey, State of California

## Resolution No.

Adopt a resolution to approve the Local Child Care Policy and Evaluation Plan for the Monterey	)
County Individualized Child Care Subsidy Pilot.	)
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WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 300 was chaptered into law on October 31, 2017 and authorizes a pilot plan in Monterey County specifically tailored to meet the needs and goals of the local community to demonstrate the effects of limited local control, flexibility and stakeholder efficiency to support family self-sufficiency and to stabilize a fragile child care infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, under current California Department of Education regulations child care providers cannot maximize access to care and fewer children receive subsidized care and as a result child care spaces are lost to parents and children in the County; and,

WHEREAS, the pilot approach authorized by Assembly Bill 300 allows Monterey County to address two fundamental concerns: first, that families struggle to earn enough to meet the high costs of living in the County and yet are nevertheless still considered too high income to qualify for child care subsidies; and second, that the state reimbursement rates to providers contracted to provide high quality child care are so low that contractors cannot cover their costs, and therefore, are unable to utilize their full allocation of state and federal child care and child development funds; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 300 offers Monterey County the opportunity to test strategies to overcome these challenges and pilot efficiencies that may be replicated statewide to improve the stability of the subsidized child care system in California; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pilot plan has been approved by the Monterey County Child Care Planning Council; and,

WHEREAS, the pilot plan intends to stabilize the child care system in Monterey County, allow families to remain in care for a longer period with higher earnings, and implement strategies that stabilize child care placements for families by implementing the following six (6) components:

- 1. Increase the income threshold for entry and exit into subsidized care to 85% of the State Median Income (SMI). Currently the threshold to enter care is 70% of SMI and exiting is 85% of SMI. The pilot would allow families to enter and exit at the higher level of 85% of SMI.
- 2. Modify contract terms in the second year of the pilot (including new maximum reimbursable amounts, child days of enrollment and pilot reimbursement rates) to allow for redistribution of funds between contracts so as to maximize child care provider capacity to serve children.
- 3. Authorize 24-month eligibility for families utilizing half-day services only.
- 4. Authorize 12-month eligibility for families certified with seeking employment as the basis for need.
- 5. Restore the age eligibility for California State Preschool Program (CSPP) contracts to 2.9 years old. Children can then receive two years of state preschool before moving into TK. This amends the definition of "three-year-old children" to include children who will have their third birthday on or before December I in the fiscal year in which they are enrolled in a CSPP program.
  - Additionally, authorize children born after December 1<sup>st</sup> to begin services immediately on or after their third birthday
- 6. Incorporate additional changes to meet the needs of low-income families in Monterey County, including: Authorizing families for 6.5 hours of service if their only need is seeking housing or seeking employment.

that the Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey