



Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council

# MEETING MINUTES JULY 24, 2023 HYBRID VIA ZOOM

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## Mission Statement

Pueblo Early Childhood Council is a diverse, active network that collaborates and advocates to enrich and strengthen the lives of children, families, and the community.

### Attendance:

Emilee Alcon-SCCOHS	Justin Gage - PDPHE
Gina Lopez-Ferguson-Caring for Colorado	Alyssa Hopkins-OJC/Head Start
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First	Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First	Angela Vigil-Mariposa
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70	Darlene Bermudez – D60
Berlinda Perdo-OJC/Head Start	Maria Subia – East Side Child Care Center
Rhonda Dusky-Kochis-SCCOHS	Vanessa Mateo-OJC
Matt Guy-PECC/Common Thread Group	Cindy Keasling – D70
Angie Rogers – Early Learning Ventures	Darla Hall-PECC/Children First
Maria Chavez-Contreras-Catholic Charities	Gina Wilburn – Pueblo DHS
Danna Hollander – LEGO Education	

### I. Introduction: Meeting called to order by Matt at 11 am.

### II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

### III. Approval of Minutes: May 2023

### IV. Agency Highlight

#### A. LEGO Education in Early Childhood

Danna Hollander [dannahollander21@gmail.com](mailto:dannahollander21@gmail.com)

Danna provided some history of LEGO and an update of some of the initiatives they have going on across the nation. She provided each attendee in the room with a small bag of legos and gave 20 seconds for attendees to create a duck. Then she had individuals discuss why they chose to make that style of duck. She shared another activity that emphasized the importance of clear communication.

### V. New Business:

#### A. UPK Update

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie provided an update on the current round of matching and the upcoming CCCAP trainings. Discussion occurred.

#### B. New Hires/Open Positions

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie shared information about the hiring of the Professional Development and Education Specialist (Joe Bellavia) and the Family Specialist (Alex Winter), both start August 1. She also shared information about the Implementation Specialist position that is still vacant. Visit [HERE](#) for more information.

### **C. Illuminate Colorado (RV)**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie shared information about the plan from Illuminate Colorado to continue services in the two-county region. They plan to hire two staff members to work on the RV. Children First will be the community connection partner. More to come...

### **D. New Positions**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie shared information about upcoming legislation (Proposition HH & II). More information can be found [HERE](#) and [here](#)

## **VI. Subgroups: on hiatus**

### **VII. Community Reports**

**Gina Ferguson**-Gina shared information about the DOLA grants that are available.

<https://pueblounitedway.org/NPIGrant>

**Gina Wilburn** – Gina shared that Cheryl is retiring and they have not decided yet if she will be replaced. She also shared that they are hiring a Navigator to support child care programs and families who are navigating the CCCAP process.

### **VII. Evaluation Process**

Eileen Dennis will send each attendee (both in person and virtual) an email to rate and provide feedback. This evaluation helps us with continuous quality improvement.

### **VIII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

### **IX. Next Meeting — August 28, 2023. HYBRID-Virtually via Zoom**

**In Person Meeting at TLC@ PCC, 1000 Minnequa Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004  
St. Mary Corwin Conference Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/93498195039?pwd=eDJvamY0UkU3Wjdsb3Y5Zm8wMzFKQT09>

Meeting ID: 934 9819 5039 Passcode: 570894

### **Local Resources**

Children First Child Care Connections – [www.childrenfirstco.org](http://www.childrenfirstco.org)

Pueblo County Childhood Resources <https://county.pueblo.org/public-health/pueblo-county-childhood-resources>

### **Statewide Resources**

[www.coloradoshines.com](http://www.coloradoshines.com) (Colorado Shines)

<https://www.coloradoshinespdis.com/s/login/> (Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System –PDIS)

<https://earlylearningco.org/> (Colorado Early Learning and Development Guidelines)

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Shehorn