



Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council

# MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2023 HYBRID VIA WEBEX

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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:

Emily Alcon-SCCOHS	Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-SCCOHS
Ida Rhodes-Catholic Charities	Dana Richardson-Life Center Academy
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First	Veronica Ibarra-ELV
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First	Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions	Matt Guy-Common Thread Group
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70	Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Maria Subia-ESCCC	Deanne Sandoval-ELV
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First	Cindy Keasling-D70
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First	Justin Gage-PDPHE
Vanessa Richardson-Life Center Academy	Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First
Amiee West-RRCC	Angela Vigil-YWCA
Valerie Maldonado-PECC/Children First	Darla Hall-PECC/Children First
Berlinda Perdo-OJC	Vanessa Mateo-OJC
Maria Chavez-Contreras-	JoAnn Collins-Trinity Early Learning
Emilee Alcon-SCCOHS	Giselle Ginther-Academy Kids Vision
Amanda Rosales-PECC/Children First	

**I. Introductions:** Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:02 am.

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

**III. Approval of Minutes: November 2022**

**IV. Agency Highlight- ECE Apprenticeships**

Amiee West-Red Rocks Community College

Aimee explained in 2000 there was funding in the State for Councils to use for apprenticeships. She explained for the next 12 years TRIAD worked with more than 150 apprentices to complete the program. She stated in 2022 the program went from time based (4000 hours) to a competency-based (86 guidelines) program. Aimee explained their program is a federally registered program. She stated there are two pathways to earn an early childhood certificate.

- Apprenticeship Program Requirements
  - Signed Agreements
  - Use of ApprenTiScope database
  - Apprentices attend weekly meetings with the Mentor Teacher
  - Mentors and Apprentices follow up monthly with Apprenticeship staff
  - Goal setting with an individual Professional Development Plan
  - Connection with the local workforce center
  - Use of the Professional Development Information System (PDIS)
  - Wage Increases

- Roles-Employer Site Sponsor
  - Sign the sponsor agreement
  - Have a qualified journey worker (mentor)
  - Agree to release time for classes/training
  - Agree to pay increases upon apprenticeship completing goals
  - Complete the paperwork in a timely manner
  - Allowing council/apprenticeship sponsor access as needed to do an evaluation of apprentice and journey worker
- Roles Mentor
  - Selected by Employer Sponsor
  - Early Childhood Teacher or director qualified
    - Mentor teachers are required to have a credential level higher than the person they are mentoring
    - 3 years or more in an early childhood program
  - Complete Mentor Teacher Training
- Roles Apprentice
  - 16 years of age or older
  - Employed or willing to be employed full time at an early childhood program
  - Shows a commitment to the quality of care they provide
  - Willing to make a 2-year commitment
  - Willing and able to meet all applicable licensing and employer requirements

Amiee explains the benefits for the apprentices. She provided the link to apply. [www.rccc.edu/childcareinnovations](http://www.rccc.edu/childcareinnovations) She asked members to reach out to her with questions about becoming an employee sponsor. Angie will send out the fact information flyer. A discussion ensued.

## V. New Business:

### A. Pueblo Community Perspective

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

- What are you hearing?
  - District 60 classrooms closing
- What are you experiencing?
  - Kinship for foster care
  - Attendance down due to illness
  - Enrollment at SCCOHS good
  - Requests for care for families-migrant
  - Enrollment
- What are your worries?
  - UPK
  - Programs not staying open
  - Attendance down

### B. New PECC Chair

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie introduced Matt Guy as the new PECC Chair for 2023.

### C. Children First NEW Location

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated Children First has moved to the new office space at 1000 Minnequa Avenue at St. Mary Corwin. She encouraged the council to stop by and see the new space. She mentioned excitement for opportunities at SMC. She invited all to the ribbon cutting on January 26 at 2pm and tour the building. Angie explained PECC Meetings will now be at the new location-1000 Minnequa at the East tower of SMC on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the IN Bank Conference Room.

#### **D. SECC**

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

<http://www.commonthread.group/>

Matt stated they are still looking for parents. He explained the participants will receive a stipend and will meet once a month for 15 minutes (over Zoom), the last part of February. He explained the participants will be paid, attend the Rocky Mountain Childhood Conference, March 10-11 and the Shared Risk Factors Conference May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Keystone. He stated it provides educational and leadership opportunities.

#### **E. Circle**

Matt Guy (Common Thread Group) <http://www.commonthread.group/>

Matt stated there is a training for teachers, March 31, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Pre-k to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, in the Hoag Theater at PCC. He stated there will be a speaker from the *aha!* Group. Registration flyer is going out and lunch will be provided sponsored by Early Milestones. Matt shared the results of the survey regarding early childhood suspensions and expulsions. He stated the work is funded by a Colorado Department of Environment called Communities that Care. Angie will share the slides.

- Three Main Components
  - Gathering basic early childhood program information (number of children enrolled, number of staff, demographics, full time vs part time, zip code)
  - Collecting data on the number of children suspended or expelled from early childhood programs over the past 12 months
  - Inquiring about the use of support programs (mental health consultation, Pyramid model, other resources) to help avoid suspensions and expulsions
- Conclusions
  - There is a need for a common language regarding early childhood suspensions and expulsions in the Pueblo County early childhood community
    - Early childhood providers need to have suspension and expulsion policies that are consistently followed and match state regulations and law
  - Informal suspensions and expulsions do occur in early childhood programs in Pueblo County
    - There is a need to link supports to programs who perform informal suspensions and expulsions
    - Informal suspensions and expulsions are strictly prohibited by state law for programs receiving state funds (including CCCAP)
  - Available interventions are not widely known and used by Pueblo County early childhood providers
  - More training is desired on child development, dealing with challenging and concerning behaviors, and creating effective relationships (child/teacher/parent)

#### **F. Pre-Licensing**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie informed the council there will be an online training starting February. She mentioned if participants live within Pueblo County the fees will be covered by scholarships. She stated Rebecca Bellavia will be available to help with the licensing process. Angie asked that interested parties reach out to Children First.

#### **G. Southern Colorado Business Conference**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated April 22, 2023 there will be a Southern Colorado Business Conference for Early Childhood. She stated a Save the Date flyer has gone out and an agenda will go out with more information.

#### **H. Resource Sharing Day**

Paula Arellano (Children First)

Paula stated Resource Sharing Day will be February 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. She stated the theme this year is Mental Health Matters. Paula stated breakfast and lunch will be served and participants will receive professional development hours for attending.

#### **VI. Sub Groups: (subgroups): on hiatus**

#### **VII. Community Reports**

**Teresa Mathews**-Children First – Teresa mentioned the Cherish the Child event is coming back to the Pueblo Mall this year on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. She explained the event is bring awareness to children in our community that are being abused. Teresa stated tables are available and the contacts are Zane at CASA and herself.

**Justin Gage**-PDPHE- Justin mentioned he and Katrina at Colorado Bluesky are working on a Train the Trainer for ASQ offering trainings in the summer.

**Berlinda Pardo**-OJC- Berlinda invited community partners to attend their parent meetings. She stated if anyone is interested just reach out to her.

**Angie Shehorn**-Children First- Angie mentioned Stephanie, a dental hygienist student at PCC, that needs patients to complete her requirements to graduate. She asked if anyone was interested she would pass along their information to Stephanie.

#### **VII. Evaluation Process**

Eileen Dennis

Angie stated Eileen Dennis from Triple Aim will be sending an evaluation (1-5 rating with feedback) email after every council meeting. Eileen will compile and share those reports. The information is received in aggregate.

#### **VIII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

#### **IX. Next Meeting — February 27, 2023. HYBRID-Virtually via WebEx**

**In Person Meeting at TLC@ PCC, 1000 Minnequa Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004  
IN Bank Conference Center on the First Floor**

#### **WebEx Meeting Link**

**Join by meeting number**

**Meeting number (access code): 2624 086 4337**

**Meeting password: cdTmQpbp968**

#### **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,  
Paula Arellano