



Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council

# MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 24, 2022 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	Ida Rhodes-Catholic Charities
Karen Garcia-PDHS/CCCAP	Katrina Appel-CO Bluesky
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First	Darlene Bermudez-D60
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First	Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Cindy Kesling-D70	Matt Guy-Common Thread Group
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70	Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Maria Subia-ESCCC	Natalie Sparks-Kinderkirk
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First	Lisa Gonzalez-UC-Anschutz
Jessica Oveson-Waterford	Leanna Montano-A Caring Pregnancy Center
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First	Maricela Palma-ECEMS
Gina Lopez-Ferguson-Caring for Colorado	

**I. Introductions:** Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:00 am.

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

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

**IV. Agency Highlight- [Waterford Upstart](#)**

Jessica Oveson- Outreach Development Manager

Jessica explained Waterford Upstart is a national nonprofit that helps families and children with free resources. She stated they received a grant for the entire state of Colorado to help families and children that are falling between the cracks, or have no surfaces. Jessica stated they are providing families of children with Pre-K children (ages 5 to 5 years old; birthdays between August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018), a year before the enter kindergarten, up to 10 hours of online and offline activities, a free Dell laptop and 1 on 1 coaching. She explained the computers will have reading, math and science software. She stated families will also get a STEM kit. Jessica mentioned they extended enrollment and have 75 slots available for families that need extra resources and will not be based on income requirements. She asked the council to let her know of any families that could utilize these services, before the November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Jessica emphasized if the families do not have internet a hotspot will be provided.

[Jessicaoveson@waterford.org](mailto:Jessicaoveson@waterford.org) 435-630-7196

**V. New Business:**

**A. Pueblo Community Perspective**

**1. Universal Pre-K**

- a. As the due date for the community plan nears, what do you want to be sure is included?
  - Family Support/Services
  - Mental Health
  - Basic Needs
  - Help Family to be Successful

- b. What questions do you still have?
  - Vigilant Language
  - Work with Providers
  - Directions
  - Definition of Kinship
  - CCCAP Eligibility
  - Centers reach out to Human Services
  - Child Find still used
  - What mentors will centers be using
  - IEP-have connections
  - Quality Standards
  - Faith Based Curriculum
  - Money to train Providers
- c. What excites you about this new initiative?
  - What can be learned
  - Confused
  - Early Childhood recognized
  - Colorado-own Department of EC

Angie explained the due date for the community plan is a week away. She stated UPK will roll out in the Fall 2023. She stated the State wants to make sure we include the community and parents will have a choice of licensed programs. She stated FFN providers will not be included. She explained it will be 10 hours of free care for children a year before they are eligible for kindergarten. Angie informed the council the cutoff date will be October 1, regardless of the school districts requirements. Angie stated there will be additional hours for children with one of the following risk factors: 270% of the federal poverty level, English is not their first language, child is in foster care or kinship care, or they are homeless. She explained rates have not been set yet because they are working with a pot of money and will have to determine how much will be left over after the first year. Angie stated information can be found on the Google Drive. She explained a vendor-BridgeCare- will provide a universal application. A discussion ensued.

**B. SECC**

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer-Common Thread Group  
<http://www.commonthread.group/>

Matt explained the Department of Public Health and Environment received a grant-Community Organizing for Prevention. He stated this was an off shoot of the Communities That Care Grant. He explained it allows for targeted work regarding changing policy and culture. Matt stated there is almost two years to start working on the policy and culture change. He stated his colleague Jim Lewis and himself have focused on building an advocacy group of parents and those that support parents to go out into the community to target suspension and expulsion policies. He mentioned they will have money to spend and will have authority to get things done based on skills and training they will receive. He mentioned these individuals will attend the Protective Risk Factors Conference and Rocky Mountain Childhood Conference. Matt stated Pueblo data from providers is needed. He stated Angie will send out an email to all members.

**C. Circle**

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

Matt explains this is a one time grant that must be used by June 2023. He explained this grant provides business coaching for early childhood providers as well as mentoring. He stated there will be new social emotional trainings in the community. Angie explained CIRCLE stands for areas for the community innovation and resilience for care and learning equity. Matt stated they hope to add a new set of trainers in the community for a different program and fund a pilot. He asked for members to look out for the survey. He mentioned they are looking for 4-5 parents. Katrina mentioned ASQ trainers are needed.

**D. LCO Funds**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)-Angie stated the budget for this year has been approved and she will be sending that information out. She mentioned there will be job openings for UPK.

**E. Healthy Halloween**

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie stated Healthy Halloween is October 25.

**F. ECE Expo- debrief**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)- Angie informed the council all were excited for those whom participated. She stated it was a great turn out from the State of Colorado and other agencies. Angie stated existing programs as well as programs working on becoming childcare providers, and people interested in exploring opportunities to become a program. Angie said there will be another Childcare Expo in April 2023. She asked members to encourage people they know who may be interested in childcare to attend in April.

**G. PECC Chair**

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie stated the council is soliciting nominations for a chair. She explained the only other option is to appoint someone. She asked the council members which direction the council should go. She mentioned it would be a member who attends the meetings consistently. She explained the expectation is to help run the meetings and the option to inform the agenda. Angie stated nominations for the chair will be solicited until the end of December.

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

**VII. Community Reports**

Matt Guy-Common Thread- Matt stated there is some money left for providers.

Angie Shehorn-Children First- Angie stated she had a request from Councilwoman Sarah Martinez. Angie stated Mrs. Martinez is looking for parents willing to provide testimony to city council regarding eliminating the tax on diapers, feminine products and incontinence products and the benefits it would be for parents.

Karen Garcia-DHS/CCCAP-Congratulated Angie for being nominated for the YWCA Woman’s Tribute.

**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. Darlene stated your contributions will be appreciated. Eileen will compile and share those reports. The information is received in aggregate.

**VIII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm.

**IX. Next Meeting — November 28, 2022 HYBRID-Virtually via WebEx**

**[WebEx Meeting Link](#)**

**Join by meeting number**

**Meeting number (access code): 2622 188 1273**

**Meeting password: MMeJwQWG846**

**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