



**Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council**

# MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 27, 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:

Berlinda Perdo-OJC  
Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First  
Brenda Rodriguez-ESCCC  
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First  
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70  
Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First  
Gina Wilburn-DHS/CCCAP  
Marcia Backes-SCC1  
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First  
Alexander Winters-PECC/Children First  
Joe Bellavia-PECC/Children First  
Harley Duke-CSU-P Nursing  
Audrie Brown-CSU-P Nursing  
Anna Knight-CSU-P Nursing

Gina Lopez-Ferguson-Caring for Colorado  
Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-CDI Head Start  
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First  
Anna Segura-SCC2  
Angie Rogers-ELV  
Josette Rusk-SCC123  
Matt Guy-Common Thread  
Angela Vigil-Mariposa  
Emilee Lopez-CDI Head Start  
Alyssa Hopkins-OJC  
Lynn Purcell-CSU-P Nursing  
Shaniqua Martinez-CSU-P Nursing  
Jessica Thorne-CSU-P Nursing  
Sarah Smith-CSU-P Nursing

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

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

**II. Approval of Minutes: October 2023-approved**

**III. Agency Highlight-Healthy Halloween Data/CSU-P Nursing Students**

CSU-P Senior Nursing Students

Audrie explained global/public health nursing.

- Improving health outcomes
- Providing resources
- Incorporating nursing process
- Implement health studies for equitable health care
- Enhance well-being of many populations worldwide
- Surveillance of possible/localized outbreaks

She explained Healthy Halloween is a yearly event promoting health and wellness, available resources and support for children ages zero through five years old and children with special needs. She stated it creates an ability for children to play and interact and their parents have the opportunity to receive support. She reported the pediatric rotation nursing students attended to provide information as well. Other students addressed the research that supports the benefits of Healthy Halloween through the following articles-

1. *The Influence of a Development Disability on the Child's Weight-related Behaviors: A Parent's Perspective*
2. *Association between Unhealthful Eating Patterns and Unfavorable Overall School Performance in Children*
3. *A Review of the Association of Blue Food Coloring with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Symptoms in Children.*
4. *Quality of Life and Family Impact in Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Co-Occurring Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder*

Another nursing student explained the process they use to determine the population (children 0-5yrs Special Needs and families living in poverty). They then explained how they picked exhibitors based on resources and education (Colorado Bluesky, Children First, Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado, CASA, Team Select Health Care, EPIC, WIC, CDPHE, Health Solutions, Head Start, Early Learning Ventures, Academy Kids Dental, Vision & Orthopedics, CSU-Pueblo Nursing Students.). Ana explained the planning portion of the event in regards to marketing, vendor contact and budget/décor. The students explained their advertisement-flyers and punch cards for the raffle they hosted. A student reported on the implementation process and lastly the evaluation. A discussion ensued.

#### **IV. New Business:**

##### **A. Support the Early Childhood Community (SECC)-Matt**

Matt Guy-Common Thread

Matt stated the parent coalition met a grant goal regarding a non-suspension and expulsion policy in District 60 and District 70. He stated they will now work on other programs with suspension/expulsion policies throughout the county. Angie reported due to the great work performed around the suspension and expulsion process, funding has been extended an additional year. She stated District 70 has taken to heart the process and are working on recording supporting documents in case that may lead to a suspension or expulsion. Matt stated they have developed a great relationship with the districts to support the children. He stated there is a great interaction with community supports such as Health Solutions and Children First. He reported the parent coalition was a great influence on the way the districts function. Angie stated that Pueblo is the only community in the state awarded CTC-A and CTC-B funds (Communities that Care). Matt acknowledged parents in the coalition. Teresa just reminded the parents to send in their documentation for their gift cards. Matt requested participants fill out the survey Angie has sent out to get a gift card for your response (name must be included). A discussion ensued.

##### **B. UPK Updates**

Angie Shehorn-Children First

Angie reiterated the monthly payments will be going into the programs monthly through May and then there will not be any payments during the summer. She mentioned there will be open applications in early 2024, possibly February. She reported programs can enroll in January and families maybe in February. Angie stated there will be many changes that will help the continuity of care next year. She emphasized three-year old's will likely be managed by the school districts going forward due to the burdens of cutoff dates and district differences. Angie reported the last UPK match was November 6, and the LCO inputted manually after that date to secure a seat for the children. She reported a fair amount of money is coming in to UPK programs and with the passing of Proposition II there will be much more funds available going forward. A discussion ensued. Angie stated the Governor has a WIG (Wildly Important Goal) of 94% retention of the UPK providers will remain and the governors proposed budget is requesting a two percent increase in UPK and CCCAP funding.

**C. New Staff and Open Position**

Angie Shehorn-Children First

Angie stated there is an open position for an early childhood coach. She mentioned a new staff member for the UPK Family Specialist was hired and will start December 1, 2023.

**D. Council Chair**

Angie Shehorn-Children First

Angie stated PECC needs a chair person. She explained the job duties of the council chair. She questioned the council members if we need a chair person and it was voted a chair person is not needed.

**E. 2024 Meeting Dates**

Angie Shehorn- Children First

Angie asked if anyone had questions regarding the meeting dates. She mentioned if one cannot attend, minutes are always available after the meeting. She stated the Zoom link will remain the same.

**F. NO December Meeting**

Angie Shehorn-Children First

There will not be a meeting in December.

**V. Evaluation**

Eileen Dennis

Angie stated Eileen Dennis 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.

**VI. Community Reports**

**Angie Shehorn--**Children First- Angie stated there is still time for programs to apply for QRIS funds.

**VII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

**VIII. Next Meeting — January 22, 2024. HYBRID-Virtually via Zoom**

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

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

Meeting ID: 934 9819 5039 Passcode: 570894

**Local Resources**

Children First Childcare 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