



Pueblo Early
Childhood Council

MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 28, 2022 HYBRID VIA WEBEX

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
Maria Chavez-Contreras-Catholic Charities
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First
Darlene Bermudez-D60
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70
Maria Subia-ESCCC
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First
Anthony Adams-NTSC
Mandy-Mesa County
Whitney Keller-SCCOHS

Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-SCCOHS
Katrina Appel-CO Bluesky
Liza Reyes-ELV
Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Matt Guy-Common Thread Group
Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Veronica Ybarra-ELV
Cindy Kesling-D70
Justin Gage-PDPHE
Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First
Chantelle Washburn-Mesa County
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First

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

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Approval of Minutes: October 2022

IV. Agency Highlight- N/A

V. New Business:

A. Pueblo Community Perspective

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie asked council members to send any ideas for topics relating to early childhood that can be discussed at our meetings. She stated it would be helpful to learn perspectives from the Pueblo community that she can take to the state meetings.

B. SECC

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

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

Matt explained SECC means Supporting the Early Childhood Community. He stated a parent coalition is being developed in Pueblo and they are seeking parents willing to discuss their experiences in early childhood and the community. Matt explained the coalition is funded by a grant from the state of Colorado through June of 2024 with the bulk through 2026. He stated the council will be a parent majority council. Matt mentioned Dwanette has recruited parents and asked the council for their support in recruiting parents. He explained the participants will be paid, attend conferences and other educational and leadership opportunities.

Matt stated the goal is for the group to be self-sustaining. He said the first of February is the goal for the first monthly virtual meeting. Angie will send out the flyer. Matt mentioned the alliance with the CDEC (Colorado Department of Early Childhood). He stated the Pueblo community is exclusively talking about suspensions and expulsions. He will report on survey results and data sometime in January. A discussion ensued. Matt emphasized the end goal is to have relationships between parents, providers, and the broader Pueblo community to increase outcomes at a holistic level for early childhood and what is not discussed (housing and transportation).

C. Circle

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

Matt explains this is a one-time grant awarded through Early Milestones that must be used by June 2023. He explained this grant adds on to SECC. He explained there are funds for afterhours care but a group of childhood providers is needed for input about what it means, what they are hearing from parents and caregivers, and lastly what is the capacity. Matt stated these providers will be compensated for their time. Matt asked for members to let Angie know who may be interested.

D. Recruitment of New Providers

Rebecca Bellavia (Children First)-Rebecca explained the state has hired licensed provider navigators like herself to help new licensee providers through the process of becoming a licensed provider. She stated her new role is also to recruit new providers and existing providers with grants and new rules and regulations. Angie will send out a flyer with Rebecca's information. Angie mentioned there is a \$5000 bonus for new licensed providers. Contact Rebecca.Bellavia@pueblocc.edu

E. CF Move

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie stated Children First Offices will be moving to the East Tower of PCC Allied Health Building at St. Mary Corwin in the middle of December. She stated they will be on the third floor. She invited all to the ribbon cutting ceremony later in January.

F. UPK Updates

Angie Shehorn (Children First)- Angie informed the council rates have been released for our region. She stated it will be just over \$5000 for 10 hours per child. Angie reported provider agreements will be going out soon to those interested. She mentioned the new UPK portal will launch in the next month and families will be able to apply starting January 17, 2022 for Fall of 2023. She stated families will identify their top three choices for programs and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood will batch match the families with their choices that have openings to enroll the student and give them an offer. She said it is all done behind the scenes and there will be growing pains in regards to matching. Angie stated there are twice monthly calls to update the communities on changes. She will have information regarding rule setting for those interested and there is a shared drive available. A discussion ensued. [Shared Drive](#)

G. Emerging and Expanding Grant

Angie Shehorn (Children First)-Angie informed the council the E&E Grant will launch in January. She stated programs or individuals wanting to start a program can apply for funding from \$3000 to \$200,000 to open a new program or expand the number of licensed spots within a program. She stated these fund can be used to purchase material and pay for construction costs.

H. Committees Update

Angie Shehorn (Children First)-Angie reached out to subcommittees and CO chairs of the subcommittees to discuss capacity to start back in 2023. She stated a request has been made to clarify the direction subcommittees will follow in 2023.

I. NO Meeting in December

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie informed the council there will not be a meeting in December.

VI. Sub Groups: (subgroups): on hiatus

VII. Community Reports

Paula Arellano-Children First – Paula presented the Waterford Upstart event for children 4-5 years old to participate in an educational program offering a free laptop and hotspot if the families need.

Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-SCCOHS- Rhonda stated they are almost fully enrolled-All sites full for the exception of the Kinderkirk site. She announced the application for a new grantee has posted and by July 2023 all should know who the new grantee will be.

Maria Chavez-Conteras-Catholic Charities-Maria reported there are three parent educator positions available and have been posted on Indeed. She asked the council members to let her know if anyone is interested or knows anyone interested in these positions. Maria also informed everyone they are rolling out the HIPPIY program for 3- or 4-year old children. She would like interested families to reach out to her. Angie offered to send out an email with the job announcement.

Angie Shehorn-Children First-Angie asked members to send her names of agencies they would like to highlight at future council meetings. She will send out the meeting dates for 2023.

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 12:31 pm.

IX. Next Meeting — January 23, 2022 HYBRID-Virtually via WebEx

[WebEx Meeting Link](#)

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2624 086 4337

Meeting password: cdTmQpbb968

Local Resources

Children First Child Care Connections – www.childrenfirstco.org

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

Statewide Resources

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