



Pueblo Early
Childhood Council

MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2023 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
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First
Gwendolyn Romero-Health Solutions
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70
Maria Subia-ESCCC
Whitney Keller-SCCOHS
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First
Natalie Sparks-Kinderkirk
Darlene Bermudez-D60
Kristin Gettler-SCCOHS
Cindy Keasling-D70

Cori Tanner-Red Cross
Meaghan Chelsey-Red Cross
Gina Ferguson-DHS/CCCAP
Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Matt Guy-Common Thread Group
Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Berlinda Perdo-OJC
Vanessa Mateo-OJC
Justin Gage-PDPHE
Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First
Angela Vigil-YWCA
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First
Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions

I. Introductions: Meeting called to order by Matt at 11:15 am.

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Approval of Minutes: January 2023

IV. Agency Highlight- Red Cross

Cori Tanner-Red Cross

Cori explained she is the disaster program manager for the Red Cross in Colorado Springs. She stated they install smoke alarms for people in their homes for free and all they have to do is ask. Cori stated the alarms are Kiddie Alarms with a ten-year battery. She reviewed a flyer about escaping from a home in two minutes when there is a fire. Cori precedes to show the information needed to request up to three smoke alarms, and test smoke alarms. She stated they also have alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing. Cori explained their two youth preparedness presentations-Prepare with Pedro, ages second grade and below and Pillow Case, ages third grade and up- they offer for free. She stated they present throughout 16 counties in Colorado. Cori asked for anyone to call her at 719-839-0236 with questions.

V. New Business:

A. Pueblo Community Perspective

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

- What does quality coaching mean to you?
 - a) Provider
 1. Resource
 2. Gather information
 3. Sustain a change
 4. Building trust
 5. Personal connections to staff
 6. Expand on thinking, plan
 7. Encouragement-pursue and challenge
 8. Another brain
 9. Relationships-trust
 - b) Parent
 1. Support
 2. Personal connections
 3. Resources
 4. Mental Health Professionals
 5. Want to see services used
 - c) Community Member
 1. Continued learning
 2. Know families on personal level
 3. Encouragement
 4. Doing their best
 5. Better self
 6. Meet with staff to offer support
- What are important aspects of coaching?
 - Hand in hand-sustain changes
 - Take different approach
 - Offer support in person
- What are some fears about coaching?
 - UPK
 - Programs not staying open
 - Attendance down
 - Feelings of doing wrong

B. UPK Updater

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated parents were matched as of today and within the weeks to come with the programs of their choice for preschool. She mentioned there were 900 applications and programs were notified. She stated parents cannot edit online any more. Angie stated District 60 cutoff is October 1st. She mentioned applications still coming in every day throughout our 6 counties and 56 programs in our service area. She stated programs are waiting for bugs to be worked out. She stated if anyone wants their voice to be heard on decisions yet to be made please reach out to her. Angie stated if families have questions reach out to her and she will do her best to help them. A discussion ensued.

C. SECC

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

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

Matt stated the parent coalition is fully staffed and they will meet on Thursday for introductions. He stated several members are attending the RMECC on March 10th and 11th.

D. CIRCLE Upcoming Training Series

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated D&E are being merged together. She stated the first training is Pre-k to Grade 2-Preventative Discipline, second training is Understanding Hispanic Students and their Parents, and third training is Before you Quit, and breakfast and lunch will be served at the Sangre De Cristo Arts Center, all presented by Ruben Perez from aha!. She asked everyone to register and spread the word. Angie stated there will be online trainings around emotional poverty for those unable to attend trainings in person.

E. Kids Count 2022

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie informed the council Kids Count 2022 can find information online due to copies being paired back. She stated the publisher specific information from 2020 is very useful for writing grants.

F. Breastfeeding Friendly Recognition

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated the Breast-Feeding Friendly Recognition in childcare programs have a unique opportunity to build or support families, children and staff by achieving the Colorado Breast Feeding Family Childcare Recognition. She stated this is from Healthy Childcare Colorado. Angie explained the programs go through a process to assess and approve policies and practices that contribute to creating a breastfeeding, friendly environment and culture. She stated a recognition includes a program self-assessment, goal setting, professional development enhancements to environment and writing of revising their program policies or procedures. Angie emphasized there aren't any Pueblo programs that have received this recognition. She stated if anyone is interested in looking into this recognition please reach out to Angie and/or coaches at Children First and she will send out the link to the application.

G. Resource Sharing Day debrief

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie reported it was held Friday and the evaluations overall indicated great feedback. She stated some would like to see the event happen on other days other than Friday. Angie stated the team will meet very soon to set the date for next years event and if anyone has additional feedback regarding next years event please contact Children First.

VI. Sub Groups: (subgroups): on hiatus

VII. Community Reports

Teresa Mathews-Children First – Teresa mentioned the Cherish the Child event is coming up on April 6th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. She explained the event will be held in front of JCPenney's at the Pueblo Mall with entertainment and the candlelight vigil. Teresa asked if anyone would like to have a table please contact Paula at 719-549-3407.

Justin Gage-PDPHE- Justin mentioned their quality childcare strategy team is continuing to look into funding streams to afford childcare specifically for middle income parents that do not qualify for CCCAP. He mentioned they are looking at potential tax revenues on a ballot.

Emilee Alcon-SCCOHS- Emilee stated they are hosting a Community Literacy Event celebrating March's reading from 2-5 pm at the Pueblo Rawlings Library. She stated they are looking for vendors and items to be donated for giveaways. Emilee stated if anyone is interested just let her or Whitney know.

Angie Shehorn-Children First- Angie mentioned Children First and SBDC is hosting a Southern Colorado Early Childhood Business Conference April 22, 2023 at PCC, Fortino Ballroom from 9am-3pm. She stated information will be going out soon.

VII. Evaluation Process

Eileen Dennis

Matt 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 12:18 pm.

IX. Next Meeting — March 27, 2023. HYBRID-Virtually via WebEx

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

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