



**Pueblo Early
Childhood Council**

MEETING MINUTES MARCH 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:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Emilee Alcon-SCCOHS | Dana Richardson-Life Center Academy |
| Nancy Medina-D60 | Cindy Keasling-D70 |
| Rita Samora-CSU-P | Maricela Palma-CSU-P |
| Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First | Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First |
| JoAnn Collins-Trinity | Matt Guy-Common Thread Group |
| Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70 | Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First |
| Maria Chavez-Contreras-Catholic Charities | Berlinda Perdo-OJC |
| Rhonda Dusky-Kochis-SCCOHS | Vanessa Mateo-OJC |
| Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First | Justin Gage-PDPHE |
| Natalie Sparks-Kinderkirk | Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First |
| Darlene Bermudez-D60 | Angela Vigil-YWCA |
| Ida Rhodes-Catholic Charities | Darla Hall-PECC/Children First |
| Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions | Camalyn Armijo-D60 |
| Donna Salvador-Community Member | |

- I. Introductions:** Meeting called to order by Matt at 11:04 am.
- II. Additions to the Agenda:** N/A
- III. Approval of Minutes:** February 2023
- IV. Agency Highlight-** NONE
- V. New Business:**
 - A. Pueblo Community Perspective-Early Childhood in Pueblo**
Angie Shehorn (Children First)
 - 1. What is going RIGHT in early childhood in Pueblo?
 - Awareness Early Childhood Education
 - Social/Emotional support for kids
 - Funding/grants ECE, college courses
 - Increase in home providers participating in Colorado Shines
 - UPK
 - Professional Development for staff
 - Public events
 - Business Community interested/part of solution
 - Increased home child care
 - E&E grants-home providers and centers
 - Father participation in home visiting programs
 - Unique events/workshops/tangible interest
 - Parent view-explore museums, part of community w/child

B. UPK Updater

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated emails went out to parents to accept offers. She mentioned the District cutoff is October 1st and the children 5 years old by this date will not be eligible for UPK. Angie explained children turning 4 years old by October 1st are eligible for UPK enrollment. She explained there is far more children with IEP's than capacity. She stated by the middle of April parents will have a two-week timeframe to accept matches and then there will be a second matching. She mentioned some programs have dropped out already and there is shortage of slots for projected about of children needing preschool. She was excited to share 86% of four-year old children were matched with their first choice. Angie proceeded to explain there is \$22 million extra dollars collected from Prop EE (tobacco and nicotine tax) and the state will have to go back to the voters on the ballot in November, due to the Tabor Act, to see if the money can be kept for the UPK program. A discussion ensued.

C. SECC

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

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

Matt stated the first parent coalition meeting was held Thursday during the day and the evening virtually for introductions. He informed the council the coalition is fully staffed with two men and eight women including parents and grandparents. He stated the summer meeting will be in person.

D. CIRCLE

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

Matt stated events will be discussed further into the meeting-April events.

E. New suspension and expulsion legislation

Matt Guy-Community Mobilizer (Common Thread Group)

Matt informed the council there is a new suspension and expulsion piece of legislation wandering through. He explained that in 2019 legislation was passed eliminating expulsion and suspending of children by providers that accept state funding. He stated the new legislation will add due process for parents and the children. Matt explained it will add interaction between primarily school districts, the parents, children and outside agencies. He stated there will be training at the Department of Education Facility between parents, school districts and outside entities. Matt stated it has passed the House and is waiting for the Senate approval. He emphasized Pueblo's perspective is needed. He stated the committee hearings are online.

F. RMECC-recap and thoughts

Brenda mentioned she took pictures to share. Kristie Dorwart stated she was very pleased with the leadership and social/emotional sessions at the conference. She loved the behavioral health sessions. Matt mentioned conversations with Pueblo group discussing what is done already. A discussion ensued. Dwanette thought the conference was organized, resourceful, and appreciated the networking. She agreed they are on track with professional development at their program. She appreciated the support given to parents in attendance. Matt recommended those with positive thoughts should speak at next years conference to highlight Pueblo. There was a concern that Pueblo was not represented at the awards ceremony. Berlinda mentioned Otero had a huge presence at the conference and the flexibility to attend sessions.

G. Legislative [Tracker](#)

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie explained the legislative link is updated constantly and anyone can find information regarding legislative bills in Colorado.

H. April Events

Paula Arellano (Children First)

Paula announced all the trainings and events in March and April.

- **March 30**- Health Solutions Learning Tree Open House 4:30-6:30pm Taos Road
- **March 31**-Pre-K to Grade 2: Preventative Discipline and Students Out of Control, 8:30am-3:30pm, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center
- **April 6**-Cherish the Child, 4:30-6:30pm, Pueblo Mall
- **April 14**-Understanding Hispanic Latino Students & Their Parents, 8:30 am-3:30 pm, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center
- **April 18**-Tree of Life, 10:00 am, Mineral Palace Park
- **April 22**- Southern Colorado Early Childhood Business Conference, 9:00am-3:00 pm, PCC-Fortino Ballroom
- **April 29**-Fun Fair, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, City Park-George Williams Pavilion

VI. Sub Groups: (subgroups): on hiatus

VII. Community Reports

Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Program – Dwanette mentioned the Migrant Education Program will have their CORE-community outreach recruitment event from April 13-17th . She asked for suggestions of places for recruiting migrant workers families.

Berlinda Perdo-OJC-Berlinda mentioned they will be hiring for their summer program.

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 12:15 pm.

IX. Next Meeting — April 24, 2023. 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 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