



**Pueblo Early
Childhood Council**

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 24, 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
Gina Lopez-Ferguson-Packard	Cindy Keasling-D70
Alyssa-OJC/Head Start	JoAnne Shudell-D60
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First	Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First	Camalyn Armijo-D60
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Education/D70	Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Darlene Bermudez-D60	Berlinda Perdo-OJC/Head Start
Rhonda Dusky-Kochis-SCCOHS	Vanessa Mateo-OJC
Jennifer Walters-PECC/Children First	Justin Gage-PDPHE
Natalie Sparks-Kinderkirk	Alyssa Hopkins-OJC/Head Start

I. Introduction: Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:06 am.

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Approval of Minutes: March 2023

IV. Agency Highlight- NONE

V. New Business:

A. Pueblo Community Perspective-Early Childhood in Pueblo

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

1. What things would you like to see Pueblo offer in the summer?

- Books in the Park
- Fun activities
- Low-cost outdoor activities-ages 3 and up
- Free transportation
- Family Engagement
- Farmers Market
- Food access-Pueblo Food Project, Edible Landscape
- Community Garden-Farm to Table
- Outdoor science activities
- Free or low-cost swim lessons
- Fitness Program for youth (Community Days, Saturdays)
- Pueblo Food Project

- <https://pueblofoodproject.org/cgsp/>
- <https://pueblofoodproject.org/calendar/>

B. UPK Update

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

1. [HB23-1290](#)

Angie stated parents will be notified Wednesday about the first round of matching. She reported there were some snags, but it is being worked out. She stated the process will change going forward to address issues. Angie stated this is a clean-up bill to respect voter's intent of bill when passed in 2020. She reported there is over \$22 million over the original budget and voters will have to give permission for the department to keep the funds. Discussion ensued.

C. Legislative Tracker

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated the link will open the spreadsheet to track Colorado Legislation.

D. TA Guide – Strength-Based Environmental Rating Scale

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie reported the State is changing their direction regarding licensing. She stated they sent out a technical assistance guide to help prepare for a licensing visit. She included the strength-based environmental rating sheet which helps identify four to five strength-based items per program every time they go in. Angie said it is a way to show programs where they need more work to go through a quality improvement rating. She stated they will receive a higher payment from CCCAP (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program) if their rating is higher.

E. Colorado Shines funding

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie mentioned licensed programs can take part in the Colorado Opportunity Fund that can be used for coaching, materials and professional development starting July 1. She stated if any licensed program is interested, please contact the Children First team. She mentioned if the program is a Level I, they will have two years to receive support before submitting for a rating. Angie said if the program is a Level II, it is eighteen months before they submit for a rating.

F. Southern Colorado Early Child Conference

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated the attendees came from Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, Westminster and Brighton. She reported it was a wonderful day and an abundance of information. She stated the agencies will debrief in early May to discuss future plans.

G. May Training (See attached flyer)

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated there is another aha! Workshop-Before You Quit Teaching-May 19, 2023, at the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center from 9am to 3pm. She mentioned the training is free and breakfast/lunch will be provided.

VI. Subgroups: on hiatus

VII. Community Reports

Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Program – Dwanette mentioned the Migrant Education Program conducted a 5-day recruitment with staff from Grand Junction, Alamosa to bring awareness to their program. She

mentioned they shared strategies. Dwanette stated they are going to Albuquerque, NM to take part in a conference.

Berlinda Perdo-OJC-Berlinda mentioned they are still looking for a part time home visitor that would work 20 hours. She stated they are hiring for their migrant seasonal position working from June through September. She stated they will be looking for children that qualify to attend.

Gina Lopez-Ferguson-Gina mentioned Jeff from Southern Colorado Community Foundation hosting him May 4th at 9:30am to see if you may be a match for his funds.

Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-SCCOHS- Rhonda mentioned they are taking applications for next year. She reported they are waiting for information about the new grantee.

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 11:45 am.

IX. Next Meeting — May 22, 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