



**Pueblo Early
Childhood Council**

MEETING MINUTES MAY 20, 2024 HYBRID VIA ZOOM

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:

Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First
Brenda Rodriguez-ESCCC
Lycynthia Asencio-OJC
Alexander Winters-PECC/Children First
Alyssa Hopkins-OJC
Emilee Lopez-CPLC
Ryan Montoya-PECC/Children First
Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First
Frankie Boone-DHS/CCCAP
Anna -SSCC
Maria Chavez-Contreras-Catholic Charities
Joe Bellavia-PECC/Children First
Cindy Keasling-D70

Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-CPLC
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First
Arlene Kennedy-SSCC
Angie Rogers-ELV
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant
Natalie Saler-Kinderkirk
Matt Guy-Common Thread
Hunter Johnson-PECC/Children First
Christina Hopewell-PDPHE
Annette Alcon-CPLC
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First
Vanessa Matteo-OJC
Joe Domko-Catholic Charities

I. Introduction: Meeting called to order by Darla at 11:05 am.

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Approval of Minutes: April 2024-approved.

**IV. Agency Highlight-
Joe Domko-Catholic Charities of Southern Colorado**

Joe stated they are celebrating their 80th birthday. He explained Catholic Charities started in 1944 with counseling and adoption services. He stated they now run over a dozen evidence-based programs designed around prevention and stabilization, family strengthening, and opportunity building. He distributed a brochure with the following information regarding their programs. Prevention and Stabilization

- SafeCare
- Representative Payee
- Emergency Assistance
- Family Support Services
- Colorado Community Response
- Supportive Ongoing Services

- Family Strengthening
 - Parents as Teachers (PAT)
 - Nurturing Parenting/Fatherhood
 - Kinship Navigation
 - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPIY)
 - Healthy Steps
- Opportunity Building
 - Immigration
 - ReHire
 - Colorado Works Subsidized Training and Employment Program (CW STEP)

Joe emphasized their mission is to alleviate intergenerational poverty. Joe encouraged council to refer Catholic Charities to those in need of their services and all direct phone numbers can be found in the brochure. A discussion ensued.

V. New Business:

A. SECC Update

Matt Guy-Common Thread Group

Matt stated the Parent Coalition has a great relationship with the Public Library to make deeper connections. He stated they are helping sustain the mailing of books each month to parents. He mentioned they are also hopefully restarting the program at Parkview and Corwin schools. Matt complimented D70-Cindy, Rhonda, and Dr. Tony to coordinate all efforts. He mentioned there will be more information regarding enrichment programs. He stated participants will be attending the Shared Risk Conference in Keystone.

B. UPK Updates

Darla Hall-Children First

Darla stated the following:

- Next round of matching direct placement begins August 1, 2024
- Direct Placement begins July 5, 2024
- Out of 855 applications for school year 24/25 243 are continuing students

C. Dates for 2025 Events

Joe Bellavia-Children First

Joe reported the following events:

- SBDC (Small Business Development Center) Early Childhood Conference March 29, 2025
- Fun Fair April 12, 2025
- Tree of Life Celebration April 15, 2025
- Provider Appreciation Day May 9, 2025

D. Community Baby Shower

Darla Hall-Children First

Darla stated the Community Baby Shower will be on June 11, 2024 at Praise Assembly.

E. Remember No meeting in June

Darla Hall-Children First

Darla reminded the council members there will not be a meeting in June.

F. [Legislative Tracker](#)

Darla Hall-Children First

Darla stated the legislative tracker is linked in the agenda. She stated the session ended in May.

VI. 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.

VII. Community Reports –

Catholic Charities-Joe Domko reported the Archbishop of Pueblo is having a piano concert at Memorial Hall on June 8, 2024. He stated tickets can be purchased online.

Children First-Hunter Johnson reported herself and Ryan Montoya in June and July will be at Langoni Park on Monday's and Minnequa Park on Fridays with Books in the Park in collaboration with the Pueblo Library District from 10am to 12:30pm. She stated they will have games, freebies and all kinds of fun stuff. Hunter stated the last week will be July 22nd.

PDPHE-Cristina Hopewell stated there will be a Respite Care Coalition meeting at the Health Department June 3, 2024 with hybrid attendance available. She stated they would appreciate parent and caregivers representation and. A discussion ensued.

VII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

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

In Person Meeting at TLC@ PCC, 1000 Minnequa Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004

SMC Conference Room on the Third 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

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