



**Pueblo Early
Childhood Council**

MEETING MINUTES MAY 23, 2022 VIRTUALLY 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:

Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First
Darlene Bermudez-D60
Karen Garcia-PDHS
Kevin Barkocy-American Kids Dental/Vision
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First
Berlinda Pedro-CDI Head Start
Ida Rhodes-Catholic Charities
Maria Chavez-Contreras-Catholic Charities

Veronica Ybarra-ELV
Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions
Terry Bond-Children's Palace
Angie Rogers-Children's Palace
Julie Zabolio-Health Solutions
Emilee Alcon-CDI Head Start
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant Head Start
Jenny Walters-PECC/Children First
Michael Cooke-CDEC
Rhonda Duskey-Kochis-CDI Head Start

I. Introductions: Meeting called to order by Darlene at 11:05 am.

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Approval of Minutes: Darlene called for the approval of March 2022 minutes as submitted. The minutes are approved.

IV. Agency Highlight-Mental Health Month

Julie Zabolio-Health Solutions

Julie stated May is health awareness month and since Health Solutions is part of the PECC she wanted to present the early childhood services they provide. She stated Health Solutions provides early childhood mental health services to develop capacity of the child birth to 5 years of age, all in the context of family, community, and cultural expectations for young children.

- Experience, regulate, understand, & express emotions
- Form close & secure interpersonal relationships
- Explore the environment & learn

Julie sent participants to breakout rooms to discuss the definition. She stated their early childhood programs are ages 0-5 years.

- Mental Health Consultation
 - Program/Classroom
 - Child Specific
 - Family consultation/ home visits
 - On call or embedded
- Outpatient Counseling
 - Individual play therapy
 - Family therapy-Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP); Filial Play Therapy
 - Parent support-Beyond Consequences; Circle of Security; Seedlings-coming soon

- Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)

Julie explained the mental health consultation programs receive grant funding from the Colorado Office of Early Childhood and Temple Hoyne Buell. She shared the online referral system.

www.coloradoofficeofearlychildhood.com/OEC_ECMHReferralForm

- Colorado Office of Early childhood
 - 3 EC Specialists-Masters Level Clinicians
 - Provide center-based and individual child/family consultation
 - All services are non-billable
- Temple Hoyne Buell
 - 2 EC Consultants-Bachelor's level, EC education background
 - Provide center-based consultation, family case management
 - Can bill for services under Medicaid

Julie proceeded to explain mental health consultation vs. outpatient counseling. She mentioned Health Solutions early childhood commission works with Morton, Bessemer and Bradford elementary schools in District 60. She mentioned they are embedded in other counties through the Head Start program. A discussion ensued.

- Mental Health Consultation
 - Intake/assessment with no diagnosis needed for services
 - Treatment focus is on caregiver-child relationship
 - Does not require insurance and there is no fee for services
 - Community-based
 - Telephone or online referral
- Outpatient counseling
 - Clinical intake/assessment which may or may not result in a mental health diagnosis
 - Treatment requires a diagnosis
 - Medicaid only services
 - Can be community based
 - Open access walk-in enrollment

Contact: juliez@health.solutions Open Access Enrollment for Medicaid clients:

The Family Center
 1591 Taos Rd.
 Pueblo, CO 81006 719-545-2746
 719-545-2746 #152 M-F 8:30-3:30pm

V. CDEC Transition Team

Michael Cooke-CDEC-Transition Director m.michael.cooke@state.co.us , tova.cohen@state.co.us

Michael gave a background on Universal Preschool. She explained Proposition EE, nicotine tax measure for universal preschool was passed. She stated HB1304 created the Office of Early Childhood. She stated two reports were created from stakeholder meetings, numerous committees, listening tours, statewide monthly town hall meetings, and a live feedback form-Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan, and the Colorado Universal Preschool Recommendations. Michael stated these two forms led to HB1295. She explained the Colorado Universal Preschool Program.

- Provides a minimum of 10 hours of voluntary preschool to every child in the year before kindergarten
 - Children with qualifying factors will be eligible for additional hours
 - Additional potential funding sources for additional hours
 - Family co-pay for additional hours
- Families will apply through a unified application for UPK and eventually, all birth 5+ services
- Mixed delivery
- Base-rate to be developed by representative stakeholder group and finance experts
- Quality standards to be developed in the coming months
- Colorado Preschool Program to become unified with Universal Preschool Program beginning in July 2023
- Special education will continue to be administered by the Department of Education

Michael explains the Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOS) as an agency or organization that is responsible for supporting access and equitable delivery of early childhood and family support programs and services, including Universal Preschool, for their community.

- Any public or non-profit entity can apply to be the LCO (school district, county, early childhood council, family resource center)
- Application must include demonstration of community support
- Following CDED's selection, LCO must develop and submit community plan
- CDEC will use community plans to allocate resources and help communities prepare for UPK
- LCOs will have a three-year agreement initially, with 3-5-year cycles thereafter
- LCOs will serve as liaison between ECE service, providers, parents, and CDEC

Michael reviewed the catchment areas were determined by following the early childhood council boundaries made the most sense. She stated 178 school districts were placed into a catchment area. She stated the LCO Application process is open and the link can be found at www.cdec.colorado.gov . She explains the next steps for CDEC/UPK planning. Michael stated Dr. Lisa Roy is the Executive Director and some staff will transition from the OEC and Department of Education. She reports the strategic marketing and communications plan to inform the communities are aware Universal Preschool launches July 2023. A discussion ensued.

VI. New Business:

A. Pueblo Community Perspective

1. Behavior challenges

- a. Are they more prevalent?**
In Pueblo they are prevalent
- b. Are they more concerning?**
Baffled, challenged veteran staff, fearful
- c. Do you have the training you/your staff need?**
Health Solutions support and flexibility
- d. What resources would you like to see in the community?**
Looking for resources in community, grandparents in need of help with technology
- e. What would you like us to know?**
Gerald at Health Solutions tremendous help
Children ages 3 socially and emotionally much younger

B. Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Kirsten Dees (Early Literacy Library at the Rawlings Library)

Kirsten reported Colorado has done a statewide expansion of the imagination library and approved the legislation for 50% funding and helped the public library district leverage program costs. She stated the public library district is the public county affiliate for the imagination library and the goal of the state-wide expansion is to make books available to children, 0 to 5 years old in every zip code in the United States. Kirsten explained Dolly Parton started Imagination Nation in 1995, to benefit her home county of children and foster love of reading among young children and their families. She stated the book is mailed directly to the home. She stated the website is where registration will take place. Kirsten mentioned the summer reading program that started June 1st. www.pueblolibrary.org

C. Fun Fair

Angie Shehorn (Children First) - Angie stated the Fun Fair is June 11, 2022 on the PCC Campus-Academic Building on the lower level. She stated free tables are still available to advertise programs.

D. Community Baby Shower- June 14, 2022 10am – 1pm

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie informed participants Children First will notify every one of the location.

E. NO Meeting in June

Angie Shehorn (Children First) – Angie stated there is not a meeting in June. She stated the next meeting will be in July and will be hybrid (in person or virtual). She mentioned lunch will be provided for those attending in person and will be asked to RSVP.

VII. Sub Groups: (subgroups): on hiatus

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. Darlene stated your contributions will be appreciated. Eileen will compile and share those reports. The information is received in aggregate.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

IX. Next Meeting — August 22, 2022 HYBRID Virtually via Google Meets

<https://meet.google.com/nap-qgti-mxo>

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