



**Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council**

# MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 23, 2024 HYBRID VIA WEBEX

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## 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  
Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions  
Alexander Winters-PECC/Children First  
Tonya Garcia-SSCC1  
Donna Salvador-  
Ryan Montoya-PECC/Children First  
Darena Herschler-CDPHE/CTC  
Frankie Boone-DHS/CCCAP  
Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First  
Gina Wilburn-DHS/CCCAP  
Joe Bellavia-PECC/Children First  
Josette Rusk-SSCCC  
Christina Hopewell-CDPHE

JoAnn Collins-Trinity  
Darla Hall-PECC/Children First  
Katrina Appel-Colorado Blue Sky  
Molly Milusnic-ECE/PCC  
Dwanette Martinez-Migrant  
Natalie Guyhazard-CPLC  
Paula Arellano-PECC/Children First  
Hunter Johnson-PECC/Children First  
Angela Velazquez-OJC  
Annette Alcon-CPLC  
Rebecca Bellavia-PECC/Children First  
Berlinda Perdo-OJC  
Mari Palma-ECEMS  
Matt Guy-Common Thread

**I. Introduction: Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:03 am.**

**II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A**

**III. Approval of Minutes: July 2024-approved.**

**IV. Agency Highlight-  
Pueblo County Department of Human Services-Frankie Boone**

Frankie stated she has worked with the Pueblo County Department of Human Services for the last eighteen years and before that she worked with El Paso County totally 23 years of service. She reviewed Pueblo County Department of Human Services mission statement. She preceded to explain all the services the Department of Human Services offers.

- Protective Services
  - Intake, Outgoing, Adoption Supportive Services, Report Abuse/Neglect
- Housing Services Program
  - Everyday Eats
  - Black Hills-Direct Install
  - LEAP
  - Weatherization
- Adult Program

- Single Entry Point
- Long Term Care and Medical Only Unit
- Adult Financial Unit
- Pueblo Area Agency on Aging
- Adult Protective Services
- Adult Protection Reporting Line
- Family Services
  - Colorado Works
- CCCAP-Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
  - Low Income Childcare
  - Co Works
  - Child Welfare and Protective Services, Eligible Activities- Self Employment, Employment, Post-Secondary Education Training or Job Search

See attachment for detailed information. Pueblo County CCCAP contact information. Gina Wilburn-Supervisor 719-253-7929 [gina.wilburn@pueblocounty.us](mailto:gina.wilburn@pueblocounty.us), Frankie Boone-CCCAP Navigator 719-253-5637 [francisca.boone@pueblocounty.us](mailto:francisca.boone@pueblocounty.us)

## V. New Business:

### A. LENA Presentation

Hunter Johnson-Children First

Hunter explained LENA Grow is a program building talk into classroom activities using a feedback cycle on increasing quality interactions and the importance of early talking from birth to five years of age.

Early Talk is related to:

- Optimal brain development
- Becoming a stronger reader
- Later IQ and academic success

LENA Program

- Building talking
- One time a week for five weeks-run LENA Grow
- Teacher Materials
- Measure Talk
- Privacy Features
- Family Engagement and Consent
- LENA Days-procedure for LENA day steps
- LENA Reports
- Teacher Certificate

### B. SECC Update

Matt Guy-Children First

Matt stated it has been a slow summer. He stated they have been working with school districts about suspension and expulsions. He reported the Coalition is deciding what they want to work on next. Matt stated a survey has been sent out. He stated their meeting will be the second week of September (one in the evening and one during the day).

### C. UPK Update

Angie Shehorn-Children First

Angie stated the following:

- Over 100 children not placed due to only picking one site-sites full
- Waitlisted if family doesn't have a second-choice school
- Working through challenges-families switching programs
- Children First will assist parents with placement if programs are full

- Approved \$1 million for LCO Budgets-Children First will be appraised of new funding

**D. CCCAP Update**

Angie Shehorn-Children First

Angie stated CCCAP updates are as follows:

- 12-month eligibility
- Background Check Requirements-Child Pornography
- Customer Service Expectation and Performance Contracts
- Standardize Education as eligibility activity
- Limiting copayment to 7% of income-currently at 14%
- Increasing customer education
- Pay based on enrollment
- Increased provider rates
- Paying providers in advance
- Mandatory registration fee reimbursement
- Slot contracts for underserved populations
- Application and redetermination simplification
- Increase access for substance use, disorder and treatment
- Qualified exempt pilot
- Engaging employers in child care costs
- Delinking child care adult program from CCCAP study

Angie will send out the detailed information sheets.

**VI. Evaluation**

Eileen Dennis

Angie 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.

**VII. Community Reports –**

**Children First-**Angie encouraged programs to apply for coaching. She stated if interested in LENA apply for coaching and it will be provided.

**VII. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:27 am.

**VIII. Next Meeting — September 23, 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](http://www.childrenfirstco.org)

Pueblo County Childhood Resources <https://county.pueblo.org/public-health/pueblo-county-childhood-resources>

**Statewide Resources**

[www.coloradoshines.com](http://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