



**Pueblo Early  
Childhood Council**

# MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 23, 2020 VIRTUALLY 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:**

Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First  
Leanna Montana-ACPC  
Dayna Berry-Healthy Family Connections  
Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First  
Kristie Dorwart-Health Solutions  
Emilee Alcon-Catholic Charities

Paula Arellano- PECC/Children First  
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First  
Justin Gage-PDPHE  
Pamela Doyle-Healthy Family Connections  
Deanne Sandoval-Early Learning Ventures

- I. Introductions:** Angie reports Rene will not be present for this meeting. Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:01 am.
- II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A**
- III. Approval of Minutes:** Angie called for the approval of the September 2020 minutes as submitted. Hearing no additions or corrections, the September minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV. Agency Highlights:** Health Solutions  
Kristie Dorwart (Health Solutions)  
Kristie presented The Family Center power point. She explained they have a new facility located at 1591 Taos Road, Pueblo, Colorado 81006. She details what services Health Solutions provides to children and families.
- **Outpatient Behavioral Health:** Offers traditional therapeutic services to children, youth and families of all ages.
  - **Intensive Outpatient Therapy:** Program designed to keep children in their homes, and parents learning new skills. Children needing more intensive mental health services offered in traditional outpatient settings. Social- Emotional learning, leading towards staying in school all day.
  - **Early Childhood Services:** Direct services and therapy to clients and families. In home community based consultation. Referrals, psychiatric assessments and consultations.
  - **School Based Services and HFW:** Team at the Family Center. High fidelity wrap around team. Support to families.
  - **Traditional and Experimental Activities:** Experimental, Dialectical Behavior, and Outdoor Experimental Therapies.
  - **Social Emotional Learning During COVID:** The importance of continuing social-emotional learning.
- Angie informs everyone she will send out the power point.
- V. New Business:**
- A. Ask a Coach:** Children First  
Angie Shehorn (Children First)  
Angie shared Ask a Coach flyer with everyone. She stated Children First office started, twice a month, for anyone to call and ask questions- about pre-licensing, what does it look like to become a licensed provider- help navigating Colorado Shines (i.e. to create a profile, get to the next level), and help navigating the PDIS-Professional Development System as well. Angie reported there has been a great response to Children First thinking outside of the box to determine the needs of our community and

how to best meet them. Angie stated the flyer goes out once a month and a reminder email the week of the Ask a Coach Session. Angie fielded questions. She informed Leanna should would add her email address to the distribution list.

**B. EC Community Check-in**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie reports the Early Childhood Community Check In is a virtual presentation, twice a month, with Bill Jaeger, from the Colorado Children's Campaign, and nearly a hundred other individuals across the state. She stated they discuss a variety of things going on in the legislature-State wide and federally. Angie will send out the email if anyone is interested in attending. She stated it is great information all around early childhood. She shared a proposal within the Governor's budget, for Early Childhood stimulus-2021 funding year. Angie reports the state wants providers to stay open during COVID. She emphasizes a huge impact financially to providers when they have to close for two weeks, due to parents asking for fees to be returned. Governor Polis has in the proposal for Early Childhood stimulus money to help cover these costs. She stated he also includes money for an Early Childhood workforce package. This would help increase the Early Childhood workforce. She stated the economy bounced back must quicker than expected, therefore there is additional money to be spent for mental health and early childhood as well as for other areas affected by the pandemic.

**C. Community Connection Opportunity**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie thanks Health Solutions for the Pen Pal Project. She explains many elderly people in Pueblo, due to the pandemic, are feeling isolated and alone. She states they don't have cars or can't drive. They even call 911 for human connection. She states Health Solutions is looking for individuals over 18 years of age to correspond with these individuals to help better their health and well-being. She states if you or anyone you know is interested, just send her a name and email address so that she can connect you with Health Solutions. She explains that five addressed stamped postcards will be sent as well as a package. Angie then states you will send the postcard and package to the recipient and then they can write back at no cost to them. She empathizes the great benefit to the elderly during the holidays and the pandemic.

**D. 2021 ECC Meeting Dates**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie states she attached the dates to the PECC Meeting Agenda email. She reports the dates were approved by the Executive Advisory Committee and if there are any questions or concerns let her know. She informs everyone there is no desire to move to person as of yet, therefore the meetings will be virtual. Angie informs everyone once we are able to meet in person again information will be sent out regarding the meetings.

**VI. Old Business:**

**A. Child Care Referrals Update:**

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie reports Children First is in the final stages of a new child care referral portal up and running. She states it will roll out early January and Children First staff will be trained in early December. She mentioned it has three faces, specialist facing portal for staff to perform customized referrals, provider facing portal for providers to update their information, and finally for family facing portal for parents and families to search customized information. Angie states a FAQ page will be available for providers and parents to help direct them to additional services in the community. She said the link to the portal will be shared and asked if the link could be put on agencies website.

**B. COVID-what are people experiencing or needing help with**

Angie Shehorn

Angie asked if there is anything new or more that providers or agencies are experiencing now. She stated she is advocating for more resources to come to Southern Colorado. Paula informed the group that providers were experiencing shortages in cleaning supplies once again. Leanna stated parents were having a hard time navigating online schooling. She stated parents are having a hard time keeping up with the technology. She asks for help. Angie states she will reach out to District 60 and 70 for more information. Kristie states Health Solutions provides their clients with an IT technician and training group to assist parents. Angie asks anyone to reach out for resources if they are needed.

**VII. Sub Groups: (subgroups); please read mission statement**

- A. Social Emotional** – Lindsey Dunbar – Lindsey reports Gerald Gallegos has moved over to Safe Baby Court. She stated they will still partner with him with mental health for state trainings. She announces Gwendolyn (Wendy) Romero, from Health Solutions, will co-chair with her. She states the

next meeting will be Wednesday, December 9, 2020 from 1PM – 2 PM. She stated they will discuss next steps for the new year and bringing the Public Health Planner from the Health Department, Derek Coe, to partner with the Youth Behavior Health Campaign. She reports Gwendolyn Romero will be trained on ASQ trainings and trainings will resume in the coming year. Lindsey stated mental health updates faced many barriers with the new curriculum, and virtual formatting difficult and is trying to get training in the new year.

- B. Early Care and Learning-** Rita Samora and Mari Palma-(Not Present) Angie reported she is the council representative for the work group and they met virtually in November to discuss early childhood program barriers as well as an increased licensing fees. She stated she reached out to the state and they informed her early childhood programs can decrease their capacity to what they currently have and pay the licensing based on those numbers. Then they would go back to their normal capacity pre-pandemic. She informed everyone she is unsure of the next meeting date but will let everyone know when that date is set.
- C. Family Connects** –Emilee Alcon- Emilee reported they met last Tuesday for a Family meeting and selected Maria Contreras as their new Co-Chair moving forward. She will connect with her and then Maria could attend meetings and report if necessary. She stated as a group they are creating an article for the importance of fatherhood. Emilee stated there will not be a meeting in December. She reports they will be a meeting January 19, 2021 at 2 PM and she will send out the Zoom information.
- D. Health and Wellness Advisory** - Pamela Doyle and Justin Gage –Pamela states she will get together with Justin to discuss meeting dates. She stated once that happens, the next meeting may be in January. She was concerned about children that may be behind in immunizations due to COVID. She reports children are not attending well child checks, vision checks or dental screenings. Justin mentions children missing developmental screenings also. Pamela encourages anyone to join their group because they will need all the help they can get. She will reach out to Angie with the meeting information.

**VIII. Community Reports:**

- **ACPCWC** – LeAnna reports they partner with Intervention and they offer community service hours in the form of attending family enrichment classes. She stated they offer one on one mentoring. She reported all life services are virtual and parenting classes are via Zoom.

- IX. + and ▲ – (Plus/Delta Evaluation)** Deanne stated the meeting was very informational and easy to follow. LeAnna likes screen sharing and makes it easier for her to take notes. Molly stated there weren't any technical glitches. Justin liked the Health Solutions power point. He stated it went well and was informational. Angie felt Mary Jo getting booted off didn't go well.

- X. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

- XI. Next Meeting:** The next meeting is Monday, January 25, 2021 at 11:00 am. Location: Virtually via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Arellano