

**Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
MINUTES
October 15, 2018 ~ 9:00- 11:00 am
Colorado Department of Human Services, 1575 Sherman St
Denver**

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the meeting minutes from September 21, 2018
- Hear updates on Preschool Development Grant
- Learn from CDE Early Childhood Workforce Presentation
- Learn about ECLC Areas of Opportunity and Transition Planning
- Allow an opportunity for updates, new business and public comment

Attendance: Nicole Riehl, Anna Jo Haynes, Rebecca Wilson, Heather Craiglow, Lindsey Dorneman (phone), Sondra Ranum (phone), Stacey Kennedy, Christina Walker, Erin Mewhinney, Evie Hudak (phone), Jackie Florendo (phone), Andrea Abbot(phone), Lisa Jansen Thompson (phone), Lisa Matter (phone), Jane Walsh (phone), Jennifer O' Brien, Anji Gallanos, Stefanie Stevens, Brett Reeder, Kathryn Harris, Bill Jaeger, Judy Williams, Brittany Lane(phone), Heather Hanna (phone), Katie Poston (phone), Lydia Prado, Rachel Burke(phone), Letty Bass, Brian Conly, Kristina Heyl, Amanda Pelletier

Welcome and Introductions

Anna Jo Haynes called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She had the meeting start with introductions. The group reviewed the minutes from September, which Letty Bass moved to approved. Heather Craiglow seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Preschool Development Grant Opportunity (Mary Anne Snyder, Erin Mewhinney, Lindsey Dorneman, Brett Reeder and Heather Craiglow)

Brett Reeder discussed the Department's outcomes they hope to achieve from the Preschool Development Grant. Brett stated that the overarching goal for the grant opportunity is school readiness: every child to be ready for success by the time they enter Kindergarten. Then Brett shared the Departments three long term outcomes:

1. Colorado parents have access to quality formal early childhood education settings for their choosing which best meet the needs of their child and family
2. Informal early childhood education environments are supported to become enriching environments that support children social, emotional and cognitive development
3. Colorado's birth to five systems is coordinated and aligned to enhance resources available to parents and support human interactions.

Brett discussed the three goals in more detail, and then discussed the medium- term outcomes related to the each of the three goals. For the first goal of access to formal quality care, some of the medium – term outcomes Brett discussed are licensed care options are high quality, sufficient subsidy where it's needed, sustainable workforce and clear provider pathway to becoming licensed. For the second goal of supporting informal care environments, some of the medium- term outcomes the Department identified are having developmentally appropriate curriculum available and applied, opportunities for child socialization, and available professional development/ trainings. For the last goal to coordinate and align early childhood systems, Brett discussed a "No Wrong Door" concept meaning that when a family that enters the system through one program they are offered other relevant services throughout the system.

Brett then briefly discussed the Needs Assessment activity of the grant. Some questions and concerns from the group then came from this discussion around inclusion of state-funded preschool, transitions and schools and addressing inequalities and disparities. The Department representatives agreed to further look into how to include these areas into the grant. Heather Craiglow shared the approximate timeline for the grant with the group. She stated that the Department will be submitting the application for the grant on November 2nd; they are anticipating hearing back from the federal government by mid-December. If successful, they have a year to plan and can move forward onto the strategic plan, need assessment and gathering stakeholders.

CDE Early Childhood Workforce/ Educator Talent Alignment (Jennifer O' Brien)

Jennifer O' Brien discussed Colorado's Department of Education (CDE) change in their office structure to include the early childhood workforce into the Educator Talent Office. Jennifer shared CDE's mission statement and value statement and discussed how it aligned with the work of the ECLC. Then she discussed key initiatives at CDE and how the office is focusing on two initiatives: strong foundations and education matter. She discussed that working on "strong foundations" and "education matters" they hope to develop a pipeline for educators and elevate the early childhood work force. She noted that this is aligned with the ECLC's Areas of Opportunity to support and elevate the early childhood workforce. Jennifer then discussed the organization change within the office and noted the continued alignment with P- 3 office and the continuum of work, also that they still maintain a strong partnership with the Office of Early Childhood. She discussed the Department's work to recruit, deploy and support effective educators for every student and effective leaders of every school. Jennifer then discussed the four major projects from the Educator Talent work: Education Preparation, Licensing Office, Educator Effectiveness and Development Office. Jennifer connected the similarities of each group to the work of the commission. Lastly Kristina Heyl noted that Jennifer is a Co-chair on the Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Group, and connected the ECLC's work to the CDE Early Childhood workforce.

Public Comment and Member Updates

Nicole Riehl shared an update to the group on the Denver Initiative around early childhood work force development; she stated that 30 individuals applied to be part of the cohort. When these individuals met for coaching they found out 8 people were very close to or at qualifications for EC-T accreditation. These individuals did not participate in the initiative but did continue to receive coaching and professional development training. Nicole shared that the system would be easier for individuals to navigate with reciprocity between the two qualification systems and asked if this could be discussed at the PQA Working Group- Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory.

Jennifer O'Brien shared that the Colorado Department of Education will be doing an evaluation of the early childhood credential system. She invited the group to participate in the Credential Evaluation Group and stated she would share the results of the evaluation with the Subcommittee.

ECLC Transition Document and Areas of Opportunity (Kristina Heyl)

Kristina Heyl shared the ECLC's Three Areas of Opportunity document with the group. She stated how the document was created from the Commission thinking about the need to align early childhood systems and create something that could be given to the new administration. Then she went over the three areas of opportunity the ECLC has prioritized, the first being improved access to high quality early care and education, the second a supported and sustained early childhood workforce, and lastly enhanced family health and economic security. She then asked the group to take the document and share it with their communities. Also she asked the group to think about their work, and how it connects and aligns to the ECLC's Three Areas of Opportunity. She lastly noted that the more support around these three areas, the stronger the voice will be when discussing early childhood with new state leaders.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Kristina Heyl asked members to send her ideas for meeting topics for the next meeting in January.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service, or organization by the ECLC.