



**Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
MINUTES
January 11, 2019 ~ 9:00- 11:00 am
Merle Chambers Fund, 3200 East Cherry Creek South Drive,
Denver, Colorado**

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the meeting minutes from October 15, 2018
- Hear updates on Preschool Development Grant
- Learn about ECLC Areas of Opportunity and Transition Planning
- Hear updates on *Framework* Website
- Allow an opportunity for updates, new business and public comment

Attendance: Nicole Riehl (phone), Anna Jo Haynes, Melissa Colzman, Rebecca Wilson, Heather Craiglow, Lindsey Dorneman, Erin Mewhinney (phone), Bill Jaeger (phone), Brian Conly (phone), Karen Enboden (phone), Emily Bustos (phone), Liz Houston, Heidi McCaslin, Zarah Levy, Laura Knudtson, Ben Graessle, Michelle Ebendick (Phone), Kristina Heyl, Amanda Pelletier

Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Colzman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. She had the meeting start with introductions. She asked the group to review the meeting objectives. Melissa then asked the group to review the minutes for October 15, 2018, which Heather Craiglow moved to approved. Melissa Colzman seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Preschool Development Grant Opportunity

Heather Craiglow and Lindsey Dorneman shared that the Office of Early Childhood was awarded \$ 5.8 million from the Federal Government for the Preschool Development Grant birth through five (PDG). Heather Craiglow shared the purpose of the grant: to support the state in efforts to analyze the current landscape of the early care and learning mixed delivery system and implement changes to the system that maximize high quality care and education for low income families, improve the quality of care, streamline administrative infrastructure and improve state-level early childhood care and education funding efficiencies. Lindsey reminded the group that the first year is a planning period and setting up structures; if awarded, funding in following years could put new programs in place. Heather then reviewed the required grant activities: statewide birth-5 needs assessment, statewide birth-5 strategic plan, parent choice and knowledge, share best practices, and improve the overall quality of early childhood care and education services. Heather then reviewed the outcomes for the grant, the overall outcome being to ensure all Colorado children are ready for school when entering kindergarten. Then Heather and Lindsey shared with the group the strategies for implementing the five activities of the grant. The group discussed the strategies for the five grant activities.

Kristina Heyl discussed with the group how the Subcommittee could move forward and support the PDG work. She proposed to the group to use the Subcommittee as the advisory group for the PDG. She shared that the Subcommittee would be a place for communication on the grant, feedback, updates, and sharing best practices. The group responded positively to using PQA as the advisory group for the PDG for the next year. Kristina shared she will be working with the co-chairs to review the PDG and PQA membership requirements and will be reaching out to stakeholders. She then discussed with the group the plan for meetings for the year. The group agreed to have monthly meetings with PDG as the focus of the meeting every other month. Also the group agreed to have the meeting be available by phone and

webinar.

Review PQA Alignment Priorities

Melissa Colman shared the PQA Alignment Priorities handout with the group and asked them to review the handout. She asked the Subcommittee for their thoughts on how the PQA priorities align with the PDG. The group responded positively and agreed that the PDG aligned and supported the PQA's priorities. Kristina will update the PQA Alignment Priorities to include the PDG.

Public Comment and Member Updates

Rebecca Wilson shared that the Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) team has a new role of Child Family Advisor, working with the Community College of Aurora and Denver, training coaches to work with parents to help them access jobs in high demand industries.

Heidi McCaslin shared that Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) is having a reception in honor of CPP 30th year. The reception will be on Feb. 27, 2019, more information to come.

Laura Knudtson shared that Parent Possible is in process of hiring a Research Manager working with home visiting across the state.

Nicole Riehl shared that Early Childhood Connect is working on a project to create a workforce marketplace and hired a new position for the project.

She also shared that the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference is on March 1 & 2 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. She shared that the two keynote speakers will be Dr. Dana Winters, Director of the Simple Interactions and Academic Programs for the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media and Shiza Shahid, Co-Founder and Founding CEO of the Malala Fund.

Nicole also shared that the Denver Early Childhood Council has made progress with building code issues around family child care homes such as sprinkle systems, in Denver. She shared that a draft memo will be shared by end of January giving further guidance on family child care homes in respect to international building codes. She shared that she would be happy to pass along the information and memo.

Bill Jaeger shared some early childhood bills that have been introduced:

- Early Childhood Educator Tax Credit
- Low Income Child Care Tax Credit to become permanent legislation
- HB 19-1052 will allow the creation of early childhood development special districts
- SB 19-1063 which is a strategic plan to address the declining availability of infant/ toddler child care and early child care home providers.
- He shared that there are two bills regarding behavioral health
- He also shared that the department put together a request for information on Colorado Child Care assistant program.
- Bill stated that in the Governor's State of the State address, he discussed his early childhood agenda and priority of full day Kindergarten.

Liz Houston shared that the Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) is now administering the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Colorado Scholarship Program.

ECLC Transition Document and Areas of Opportunity

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.

Kristina Heyl shared an update on the Data Indicator Development Project the ECLC's Data Committee has started. She shared that the Data Subcommittee is in the process of identifying indicators to measure a baseline and future progress on the ECLC three priority areas. The Data Subcommittee hired Heather Matthews as a consultant to review and compile existing data sources and indicators and develop a set of indicators that can be used to measure progress across the ECLC Areas of Opportunity, as well as identify gaps that exist in current data measurements related to the three Areas of Opportunity. The Data Subcommittee started this work by evaluating indicators Heather provided from exiting data sets. After this work the Data Subcommittee asked for feedback from the Commission. At the ECLC meeting the Commission met in small groups to select outcomes that best defined success for each of the Areas of Opportunity. With the results from the Commission a small group will be meeting to dive deeper into evaluating the indicators and outcomes. Kristina shared that if anyone is interested in the Data Indicators work to reach out to her.

Early Childhood Colorado Framework Website Marketing Update

Kristina Heyl shared the Framework Working Group has been working with Peak Creative in developing marketing tools with the intention of encouraging organizations around the state to register on the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* website. She shared that they have developed two flyers, newsletter content and Facebook content to be shared widely. Kristina also shared they have incentives for organizations to enter their information into the website. She shared that they just had a drawing this week and will have another in March. Kristina encouraged the group to register their organizations onto the website and to share the marketing materials with their networks.

Next Steps and Adjourn

Melissa Colman asked the group for future meeting topics, the group discussed the following for future agenda items:

1. PDG Update
2. Updates from the PQA Working Groups
3. Updates from Raise Colorado

Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 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.