



## Data Subcommittee March 20, 2024 ~ 2:00-4:00 pm

### MINUTES

#### Meeting Objectives:

- Determine next steps for Subcommittee Work Plan
- Provide input on CDEC projects: ECIDS and Family Application Portal
- Provide input on the proposed alternative rate methodology for the CCDF Plan
- Learn about the Preschool Development Grant Evaluation results and consider how and where these results should be shared and used
- Learn about the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition Poll Results and consider how and where these results should be shared and used
- Advance the goals of the [ECLC Strategic Plan](#)

**Attendees:** Alisha Emile, Amy Coombe, Amy Smigielski, Andrew Brodsky, Angelica Prisciliano, Bob Midland, Carsten Baumann, Cristal Cisneros, Dawn Alexander, Floyd Cobb, Janelle Jenkins, Josh Weiss, Kristen Lang, Kristina Heyl, Laricia Reed, Maegan Lokteff, Mary Alice Cohen, Rick Winters, Sarah Sena, Shannon Wilson, Shannon Wilson, Steffanie Clothier, Stephanie Martin, Stephanie Stout-Oswald, Susan Steele, Tristan Clerihew, Whitney LeBoeuf

#### Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Whitney LeBoeuf called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm, welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting objectives. She asked for a motion to approve the January 17, 2024 meeting minutes. Susan Steele moved to approve the minutes, Whitney seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### CDEC BITS Updates

Whitney introduced Mary Alice Cohen, CDEC, to share about the Departments' Business Information Technology Systems unit's (BITS) work on Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) and the Family Application Portal. Mary Alice shared the three current focus areas which include creating a single point of entry for families to learn about the full spectrum of available early childhood services, developing a child care provider portal, and building the ECIDS platform.

Mary Alice discussed the goal to have a completed family portal and provider portal by September, both which will continue to grow over the next several years. The portals will also allow for the Department to collect data to guide policy decisions, legislative and budget requests, and many other areas of work and decision making. The Children and Families Application will allow the Department to uniformly track how families are using early childhood and family programs. Eventually, the goal is to be able to track the continuum of services families are receiving across state departments. The Providers and Early Childhood Programs Application will provide information on underserved communities across the state, allowing the Department to use census data to determine where gaps exist in early childhood services throughout Colorado. Whitney further clarified that ECIDS' purpose is to compile and repurpose the most meaningful existing data from a variety of sources to answer specific questions and meet specific data needs.

Next, Mary Alice described two programmatic use cases for this work. The first will be to bridge CCCAP enrollment and UPK enrollment information to allow the state and counties to know which families are

participating in both programs. Second, the system will show the Department which services children and families are currently accessing to ensure they are connected to the full spectrum of available resources to support their needs, for example, services for children with risk factors for delay or disability who could benefit from Early Intervention programs. The goal is to be able to use data to build cases for funding and building up critical programs.

The group discussed next steps for ECIDS development, developing the programmatic use cases, and potential sustainability and funding strategies.

### **Child Care Development Fund Plan: Alternative Rate Methodology**

Andrew Brodsky and Amy Coombe joined to share about CCCAP Provider Rate Setting Alternative Methodology. Colorado is developing provider CCCAP reimbursement rates that reflect the true costs of high quality care. The goals of the new methodology are to meet the needs of children and families, to incentivize providers to participate in CCCAP, to support high quality care, and to stabilize the child care system.

In September 2023, the U.S. Administration for Children and Families approved CDEC's alternative methodology proposal which Colorado is now working to implement. Key activities include ongoing engagement with stakeholders, development of a cost model to estimate costs across geography, validation of the cost model through a provider cost survey, recommendations of rates for the June 2024 State Plan, and development of timed phases of rate increase.

The new model is evidence-based and uses cost to measure and assess what is needed to provide high quality care for children in a variety of settings, across a variety of ages, for a variety of types of care, and in various geographic locations. They have used data from a variety of agencies and incorporated information from several studies identifying best practices and effective approaches to develop a more stable system. Amy shared many factors affecting costs including geographic location, access, workforce and quality, child and family characteristics, and facility costs. The model accounts for provider revenue and expense considerations. They also conducted a limited provider survey to validate the cost model. The model puts out an estimated cost of care through a variety of lenses such as cost per child, county, provider type, child age, and level of quality. The alternative model will help overcome key barriers such as current insufficient rates, inconsistent reimbursement policies, a lack of awareness of eligibility for families, an inadequate supply of care options, and the challenge of attracting and retaining more CCCAP providers/slots. The shift to cost-based rates will increase rates to cover provider costs and incentivize more providers to opt in to CCCAP, incentivize investments to enhance program quality, and increase provider financial health and the stability of the system.

Amy discussed the phased transition from the current market rate model to the new cost-based model. Next steps include continuing to incorporate stakeholder feedback, finalizing the model, recommending the rates for the June 2024 State Plan, and developing the phased implementation plan.

The group discussed the need to align the methods of developing CCCAP rates with the development of UPK rates, how counties will afford the new CCCAP rates and the impact on the number of children served, increasing awareness on the options for [families to participate in both CCCAP and UPK](#), and the pros and cons of changes to the rate model.

## **Preschool Development Grant Evaluation Results**

Laricia Longworth-Reed, Butler Institute, shared results from the [Preschool Development Grant](#) Evaluation. In 2018, Colorado was awarded the PDG Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 2019 the state developed the Colorado Shines Brighter Birth through Five Strategic Plan. In December 2019, Colorado was awarded a PDG B-5 Renewal Grant to implement the strategies identified in the Strategic Plan. From 2020 to 2023, Butler partnered with CDEC to assess implementation and impact of PDG B-5 funded strategies aligned with the Strategic Plan's core goals. PDG implemented over 40 statewide strategies to accomplish the six goals of Align and Coordinate Systems; Innovative Service Delivery; Increase Meaningful and Equitable Access; Strengthen Business Practices; Maximize Family Knowledge, Engagement, and Support; and Improve the Quality of Early Care and Education Environments and the Workforce. Laricia noted that the Covid-19 pandemic did impact implementation of PDG strategies and the evaluation process. The evaluation included data collection from system partners, early childhood professionals, and Colorado families.

Laricia walked through findings based on each goal of the Strategic Plan.

- 48.5% of funding was invested on Goal 1: Align and Coordinate Systems, which is foundational to all of the subsequent goals. Partners rated their partnership with PDG B-5 favorably with all ratings increasing over time. PDG focused on creating or changing aspects of early childhood system infrastructure.
- 6.5% of funding was invested on Goal 2: Innovate Service Delivery. Early childhood providers reported an increase in knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes around trauma-informed practices, an increase in participation in early childhood mental health consultation, and an increase in awareness of the ECMH Support Line.
- 6.9% was invested on Goal 3: Maximize Family Knowledge, Engagement, and Support. The evaluation revealed that 5,000 families were engaged in feedback forums or support groups through PDG, families reported access to resources like the PLAYbook improved their understanding of child development and resulted in more positive interactions with their children, FFN providers in rural regions reported increases in their knowledge of early literacy, and families need additional awareness of supports such as preschool special education, Child Find, and Early Intervention.
- 4.3% of the grant was invested on Goal 4: Increase Meaningful and Equitable Access. Families of children with special needs reported the greatest need across all types of child care, however, ECE providers reported a decrease in their ability to accommodate children with special needs from 2022 to 2023. Hispanic/Latino(a) families reported being less satisfied with care and having less access to early childhood education services.
- 2.9% of funding was invested in Goal 5: Strengthen Business Practices. More than half of ECE programs had a budget and just under half implemented a budget. Administrators felt confident managing the business aspects of their programs. Twenty percent of 2022 PDG workforce survey respondents reported accessing Business Practices training which increased knowledge of positive business practices.
- 15.6 % of funding was invested on Goal 6: Improve the Quality of Early Care and Education Environments and the Workforce. Professionals reported positive experiences with professional development and supports offered through PDG B-5, more than 70,000 early childhood professionals completed at least one PDG-funded course in PDIS, professionals reported increased awareness of a variety of EC programs for parents and families, and professionals reported increased awareness and use of the Colorado ELDGs and the PLAYbook from 2022-2023.

The evaluation concluded that PDG B-5 was able to implement the Strategic Plan strategies effectively, and that they had significant impact and reach. The full report and four infographics will become available once the CDEC clearance process is complete.

Members noted the importance of clarifying that while PDG funds supported all of this work, it was almost always incorporated as part of a larger pool of funding to accomplish the intended goals. They also discussed communication planning and opportunities for the ECLC and the Data Subcommittee to champion the PDG work.

### **Growing Our Future Poll Results**

Angelica Prisciliano, Policy Director with the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition, shared about their collaborative effort with the Colorado Children's Campaign to lead the [Growing Our Future Coalition](#). In 2021, they led a team of 18 organizations to apply for the national Child Care Next Grant and the Care Constellation Grant. Colorado is one of six states currently receiving the grant. Along with representatives from a variety of leading early childhood organizations, parents and providers are also included on the steering committee. The Coalition conducts business in four languages including Pashto, Dari, Spanish and English.

The Coalition recognizes that child care is not accessible or affordable, there is a lack of support for child care providers, child care is not accommodating for children with disabilities, child care is not inclusive of Colorado's cultural and linguistic diversity, and there is a lack of data on child care. They polled Coloradans, with an oversampling of interviews with people from BIPOC communities, to evaluate their views on key issues related to child care and early learning in the state. Coloradans recognize the importance of child care and early learning to families and to the state overall, understand there is a significant need for additional funding for services, and support funding programs through an increase on taxes on the wealthy. Growing Our Future hosts public meetings to provide more information on poll results and policy work.

### **Data Subcommittee 2024 Work Plan and Membership**

Carsten Baumann reminded the group that the Subcommittee's work supports the [ECLC Strategic Plan](#) and the work of the other subcommittees. He reviewed the Data Subcommittee's 2024 priorities and output goals and asked members if they agree with these goals and what structures and actions are needed to achieve them. The group discussed options to track progress and prioritization of the Subcommittee's goals as well as how they are interrelated. Carsten asked the group to add additional comments to the chat. He reminded everyone to review the [current membership list](#) and to complete [this survey](#) to share their membership preferences and suggestions. Susan asked the group to start to contribute to a list of data reports as the start of a compiled data resource hub.

### **Member Updates and Public Comment**

Shannon shared the link for a [tax credit webinar](#) on in-kind property donations.

### **Next Steps, Final Thoughts and Adjourn**

Carsten thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 3:59 pm.

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

**ECLC Data Subcommittee Charge:**

The Data Subcommittee of the ECLC will monitor progress across early childhood systems, support continued collection of data, use data to center equity, and evaluate progress on the ECLC’s strategic priorities in order to leverage and connect existing data efforts and encourage effective data use in decision-making.

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