



June 24, 2021

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Join with Google Meet: [meet.google.com/mmb-muhn-scq](https://meet.google.com/mmb-muhn-scq)

Or by phone: 848-456-7570, PIN: 276 569 092#

Meeting materials: <http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/meeting-information>

## AGENDA

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### Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
  - Discuss Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan and the Universal Preschool Recommendations Process and Next Steps
  - Learn about State Agency Legislative Updates
  - Listen to recent work of the ECLC Subcommittees
  - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
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| 9:30-9:35am   | Welcome, Introductions and Approve Minutes (Tom Massey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACTION: Approve the April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 9:35-9:40am   | Business Meeting (Tom Massey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• REVIEW: <a href="#">Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council - Workforce Waiver Update</a></li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9:40-9:50am   | Honoring Dr. Rebecca Kantor (Tom Massey)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9:50-10:50am  | Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan and Universal Preschool Recommendations (Pamela Harris) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of Legislation: <a href="#">HB21-1304</a></li><li>• Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities and Timeline</li><li>• Mission, Vision, and Values Discussion</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:50-11:00am | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 11:00-11:15am | Public Comment (Pamela Harris)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11:15-11:25am | Governor's Office Updates (Scott Groginsky)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 11:25-11:45am | <a href="#">Legislative Session Overview</a> and State Agency Updates (Susan Steele) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</li><li>• Colorado Department of Health Care Policy &amp; Finance</li><li>• Colorado Department of Education</li><li>• Colorado Department of Higher Education</li><li>• Colorado Department of Human Services<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Office of Early Childhood</li></ul></li></ul> |

- 11:45-12:20pm** Subcommittee Updates (Susan Steele)
- Communications Subcommittee
    - Department of Early Childhood Transition - Communications Plan
  - Data Subcommittee
    - 2021 Areas of Opportunity Indicators Report [Executive Summary](#) and [Social Media Toolkit](#)
  - Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee
    - ACTION: Consider approval of the Early Childhood Provider Co-Chair Recommendation
  - Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
    - ACTION: Consider Endorsement of the [DRAFT Home Visiting Investment Task Force Strategic Plan](#) (Ida Rhodes and Kendra Dunn)
    - ACTION: Consider Reauthorization of the [Home Visiting Investment Task Force Charter](#)
- 12:20-12:25pm** Thank You Outgoing Commissioners! (Susan Steele)
- 12:25-12:30pm** Co-Chairs' Next Steps, Final Thoughts and Adjourn (Susan Steele)

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### ECLC 2021 Meeting Schedule

- February 25, 2021
- April 22, 2021
- June 24, 2021
- August 26, 2021
- October 28, 2021
- December 16, 2021

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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.*

**The next ECLC Meeting will be held on August 26, 2021 from 9:30am to 12:30pm.**

For information about future meeting dates, times, and locations visit [www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org).



# Early Childhood Leadership Commission April 22, 2021 ~ 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

## MINUTES

### Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the February 25, 2021 and April 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Discuss Universal Preschool Planning Next Steps
- Identify opportunities for continued partnership with Colorado Early Childhood Councils
- Provide feedback on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan
- Listen to Early Childhood Leadership Commission Subcommittees updates
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community

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**Attendees:** Susan Steele, Pamela Harris, Tom Massey, Jeff Kuhr, Melissa Colman, Heather Craiglow, Kate Reinmund, Jai Scott, Ryan Beiser, Ida Rhodes, Sue Renner, Happy Haynes, Adeeb Khan, Anne-Marie Braga, Jeanne McQueeney, Rachel Hutson, Jehan Benton-Clark, Kristina Heyl, Mary Alice Cohen

### Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Pamela called the meeting to order at 9:33 am and asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2021 and April 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Sue Renner motioned to approve the minutes as drafted, Melissa Colman seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

The five state agencies have provided written updates available to read with the meeting materials at [www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information).

### Legislative and Budget Updates

Bill Jaeger from the Colorado Children's Campaign reviewed the 2021 [Early Childhood Budget & Legislative Items tracker](#).

He discussed HB 21-1097 which requires the Department of Human Services to submit a plan to the Joint Budget Committee for the creation of a Behavioral Health Administration.

He reviewed HB 21-1222 which requires that family child care homes be classified as residences for purposes of licensure and local regulations. This will help eliminate burdens for family child care providers. The bill passed the House unanimously and is now in the Senate awaiting the first hearing next week.

He also reviewed SB 21-201 which addresses concerns around children being cared for in settings that do not meet licensing requirements. The bill adds additional requirements for these facilities as well as some additional steps for the Department of Human services when issuing cease and desist orders.

Last, Bill discussed SB 21-236. This bill is part of the Governor's stimulus proposal to use state and federal stimulus money for the early care and education component of building the state back stronger after the pandemic. The bill creates four new grant programs to increase capacity for early childhood care and education, improve recruitment and retention rates for early childhood educators, and improve early childhood educator salaries. This will be the first time the Governor's budget includes a dedicated line item supporting early child educator compensation. The bill also creates the opportunity for community generated ideas to address an array of early childhood challenges such as affordability, workforce, availability, facilities and more.

The budget has moved through both chambers and is now being viewed by Joint Budget Committee members. It includes significant investments in state reserves to acknowledge the potential volatility of the state's pandemic recovery with additional pieces to sustain investments that had to be cut last year. There is also funding set aside to help support Proposition EE and Universal Preschool implementation.

American Rescue Plan funding will be awarded in the near future and the stakeholder input on how to spend those dollars will begin soon. The Office of Early Childhood and Early Milestones will be pulling together focus groups and reviewing previously collected survey results and additional data.

### **Universal Preschool Planning/New State Agency Recommendation - Updates and Next Steps**

Pamela shared that the Commission delivered a set of recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for a new cabinet level state department for early childhood. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the recommendations at a meeting on April 6, 2021. The components include a system to include Universal Preschool with a focus on holistic, equitable support for families and children age birth to five. The Commission centered their thought process on what is best for children and families with the goal of removing burdens for families and providers. The agency should have the authority and flexibility to align early childhood requirements, standards, and funding across the state. It should be responsive to families, communities, and the early childhood workforce, with the ability to innovate and create additional investments. Representative Sirota, Senator Buckner, House Speaker Garnett, and Senate Majority Leader Fenberg recognized the need for a new state agency and are anticipated to introduce legislation aligned with this recommendation. Pamela asked Bill Jaeger to share the materials and asked the group to consider how the legislation can be supported by the Commission's Universal Preschool Policy Discussion Guide.

Bill Jaeger walked everyone through the bill draft and shared a [Google drive](#) with related information including a fact sheet, key points, and bill drafts, concepts and policy issues.

The first section of the bill is focused on a transition plan for the new department including developing concrete recommendations for implementing the new Universal Preschool program ahead of the next General Assembly session. The bill presents the legislator's intentions to improve outcomes for children, supporting working families, implementing the requirements for Universal Preschool, expanding access to early childhood experiences, and the need to unify the early childhood system in Colorado. It calls out an important role for several entities including the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, the Governor's office, a consultant to help with the transition, and state agencies.

By November 1, the Governor's office and the consultant plan to submit a transition plan to the Commission and Joint Budget Committee for review. A set of recommendations for Universal Preschool will also be developed over the course of the year with a submission to the ECLC and relevant legislative committees.

The bill also requires the Governor's office, existing departments, and the ECLC to be involved in community engagement. The transition process includes a gap analysis to discern how programs are currently meeting needs and to reveal where gaps exist that need to be addressed in areas such as governance, mission and vision, fiscal structure, aligning and combining funding sources, technology, reduction of duplicative oversight of programs, promotion of administrative efficiency, alignment of the early education system with the K-12 system with a focus on K-3, program and system alignment, coordination and collaboration, stakeholder involvement in developing programs and policies including parents are caregivers, data systems, and the timeline for completing transition processes.

For Universal Preschool, the bill calls for alignment of existing Colorado Preschool Program funding with the new funds from Proposition EE, incorporating funding and administration for the existing Colorado Preschool Program so that there is a single, state level preschool program aligned with other relevant early childhood programs, to create a streamlined experience for families and providers. There is also a call out to ensure a focus on high quality preschool programs that implement developmentally appropriate, whole-child learning experiences including supports for dual language learners, students with special needs, and communities who have historically faced barriers, along with a mixed delivery system and blending of funding so communities can support full day early care and learning for working families. There are additional pieces around easy access for families and established standards and program evaluation.

The rest of the bill discusses the mechanics of establishing a new state department.

The group discussed the need to depoliticize the creation of a new agency, as well as the need to actively engage the business community to speak to the importance of this work from an economic standpoint and the idea that economic development starts with early childhood. They also discussed the need to recognize what funding happens at the local and regional level. The group would like to develop a concise set of talking points about the legislation to help with stakeholder conversations. There is a list of [talking points](#) included in the Google drive Bill shared earlier. The Commission will also set up an optional meeting with Bill to address additional questions around the drafted legislation. Kristina will send out additional information after this meeting.

### **Early Childhood Council Panel: Learning from Communities in Colorado**

Tom introduced Maegan Lokteff, Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance Executive Director. Maegan invited four early childhood council coordinators to share about their experiences navigating early childhood during the pandemic and what they see as opportunities for the future. Tom asked the panelists what opportunities, resources or partnerships have emerged over the past year; what has been the biggest challenge to supporting early childhood providers, children and families in your communities; and as we look to the future and the potential for a new state agency focused on children and families, what is something you would want the ECLC to keep in mind?

Lucinda Burns, Executive Director of Early Childhood Options in Summit County, shared that their local Chamber of Commerce and business leaders have become much more engaged in early childhood, thinking about child care and improving access. The council has become much more visible by helping essential workers find child care and helping providers complete loan applications. Policy makers have been contacting the council for advice. New people have are starting to recognize the funding challenges faced by child care programs and that the system does not currently support children and families effectively. People outside of the field are starting to realize the need to think about the early childhood industry and are looking for opportunities to collaborate. Lucinda stated that their biggest challenge to supporting providers is being able to recruit and retain high quality staff. Covid-19 added to that challenge. Despite trying a variety of strategies, there continues to be high turnover. The new state agency is a step in the right direction. Lucinda discussed two points to consider when creating a new state agency for early childhood. First is the relationship between a new state department and local communities, particularly in terms of governance, decision making, and program implementation. Second, she stressed the importance of not excluding any segment of the early childhood system, including family child care and Family, Friend and Neighbor providers.

Lisa Jansen Thompson, with the Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County, discussed how child care has become a very elevated issue. They have seen new city and county level investment and have had opportunities to present to congressional members about what is happening in communities and how child care should be considered in pandemic response and recovery. The Early Childhood Leadership Commission has always been a place for state and local collaboration, but during Covid-19 there have been even more opportunities to engage and provide input from the local to state level. There was increased funding to the community as a whole to support child care, but also to families for food and housing access. The council has created new partnerships with all three housing authorities and have built partnerships with school-based before and after care programs. They have also built new partnerships with some early care and education providers who in the past had not been interesting in engaging. They were able to build those relationships by providing concrete supports during the pandemic such as toilet paper, paper towels, personal protective equipment and more. The council became a trusted resource. They also created a really strong volunteer base to help distribute supplies, food, diapers and wipes, and other essentials. In discussing challenges, Lisa pointed to the need for continued efforts to advocate to include early childhood in other issues related to social determinants of health as the community rebuilds and recovers from Covid-19. Early childhood leaders should be at the table discussing housing, food, and health care access. For the new state agency, early childhood and family services should be a part of the new agency or work in close collaboration with the new agency to ensure wrap around services continue to be provided and children

continue to be ready for school. Lisa hopes that the new agency can expand on the work of the Office of Early Childhood and make the system as comprehensive as possible.

Sherri Valdez, with the Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley, shared that her council made stronger connections with family child care providers and providers who hadn't interacted with the council much in the past. They partnered with the First Southwest Community Fund providing an additional \$14,000 to support small businesses and women-owned businesses. The council also experienced more growth and connection within their own staff. Sherri participated in the Small Business Task Force discussing small business economic impact and recovery and highlighting the importance of early care and education in the economy. Additionally, the Early Childhood Stakeholders Group was created in response to community members asking questions and brainstorming solutions to issues within the early care and education sector. Sherri described her council's biggest challenge as building public will to support early childhood efforts as part of the economic recovery. In discussing the potential for a new state agency, early childhood providers have expressed concerns about the addition of another level of bureaucracy. Sherri would be happy to help share messaging to address those concerns with members of her community. Despite those concerns, the fact that we have a state that values early childhood enough for it to have its own state department is fabulous.

Pamela Walker is Director of the ECHO and Family Center Early Childhood Council in Fremont, Colorado. Her council has been addressing significant social emotional needs worsened by the pandemic. They have a LAUNCH Together grant to help support families and have built stronger partnerships as a result of this work. Pamela explained that the council has now fully integrated early childhood mental health into their work increasing access to social emotional supports for families and children. Healthy Steps has invited their integrated early childhood behavioral health program to become a Health Steps site, and the Centura Community Health Coordinator wrote a proposal for \$70,000 to help as they become a Health Steps provider. In describing challenges, Pamela discussed the high number of people leaving the early childhood field with no one to replace them due to limited opportunities or ability to build income. When members of the workforce do see an increase in wages, they then lose their eligibility for food stamps or other aid, and many cannot afford public health insurance. The council is thrilled about the opportunity for a cabinet level early childhood agency. Councils are poised to accept the challenge of holistically serving children and families and are ready to expand to meet the needs of kids as opportunities become available.

Tom thanked the panel for their input and for their outstanding work in their communities.

### **Announcement**

Kristie Kauerz, Director of the National P-3 Council and professor at the University of Colorado Denver, made the sad announcement of the passing of Early Childhood Leadership Commissioner and University of Colorado Dean Dr. Rebecca Kantor. Early childhood was Rebecca's passion and purpose. The Commission will always remember her commitment to supporting providers, children, and families in Colorado. There will be additional opportunities to honor and remember Rebecca in the coming weeks.

### **Public Comment**

Liz Houston, Partnerships Manager with the Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) Program at the National Wildlife Federation, announced a national webinar they are hosting with New America Early and Elementary Education Policy Program. The event is titled [Children Thrive Outside](#) and will be held on May 11 from 12:00-1:30 pm ET. They have also received 33 applications for requests to become new ECHO seed sites. Those selected will receive a grant of \$5,000 and landscape design, professional development, and technical assistance. Liz also shared that are excited to be launching a new program in Detroit to improve the quality of their outdoor programs.

Bruce Atchison thanked the ECLC for their recommendation for a new early childhood state agency. He reviewed many examples of successful work in the early childhood field over the years and hopes for continued collaboration and leadership from the Commission in the future.

### Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan

Stacey Kennedy, the Director of Child Care Quality Initiatives for the OEC, is a co-administrator for the CCDF State Plan. She reminded the Commission that every three years, the Department has to submit a revised state plan that drives work around access to child care. She provided an [overview document](#) that has a link to the draft, which is currently in the public review stage and will be submitted to the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in June with a three month review process and an effective day of October 1, 2021. It will be in effect for three years. She introduced members of the OEC team to review specific parts of the plan, highlighting suggested changes to the previous three-year plan.

Carin Rosa, Director of Child Care and Licensing for the OEC, discussed the Disaster Preparedness and Response section of the plan. The proposed updates include pandemic information. OEC has an ongoing partnership with CDPHE to ensure child care providers have the most up-to-date information to properly implement public health and executive orders. They also developed an online provider status portal in Colorado Shines to allow providers to directly inform the department of their current operational status, availability of slots by age group, and needs for additional resources.

Stacey reviewed the section on Engaging Families through Outreach and Consumer Education. This area of the plan did not change. They continue to partner with county departments of human services as they work with families who receive support through CCCAP and continue to utilize their website to support consumer education. The website includes critical information about inspection reports and outlines the process for formal parental complaints to ensure families are able to make informed decisions.

Michelle Mackin-Brown provided an overview on Providing Stable Child Care Financial Assistance to Families. The four main focus areas are eligibility for children and families, family contribution to payment, increasing access for vulnerable children and families, and continuity for working families. This section also reviews how eligible children and families are defined as well as increased access for vulnerable children and families. Additional information was added around eligibility criteria to reflect CCCAP rules. They also included an updated copayment chart that will reflect copayments as of July 1, 2021 and more information regarding the 12 month eligibility period.

Lisa Castiglia, Chief Financial Officer for the Office of Early Childhood, discussed the section on Ensuring Equal Access to Child Care for Low Income Children. Main focus areas include maximizing parental choice and implementing supply building mechanisms, assessing market rates and cost of child care, establishing adequate payment rates, implementing generally accepted payment practices and timeliness of payments, and establishing affordable copayments. A core purpose of CCDF is to promote parental choice and empower working parents to make their own decisions regarding child care services that best suit their family's needs. There is a proposal to increase all CCCAP reimbursement rates by 5% across the board plus an additional targeted stimulus for infant and toddler and preschool rates to cover the disparities between the current CCCAP rate and the cost of quality child care for that rate type and county demographic. This would be funded with federal stimulus funds. There will also be a change to increase the minimum number of monthly absences paid to providers to come into compliance with providing full payment if a child attends at least 85% of authorized care. There will be added information about the new copayment structure going into effect July 1, 2021.

Next, Carin presented an overview of Health and Safety Standards. The Department of Human Services is required to have child care licensing requirements appropriate to the providers setting and the age of the children they serve. Some health and safety strategies include standards like ratios, group sizes, and qualifications; training requirements; annual inspections; and expanded background checks. Along with the traditional FBI background check, the new background checks implemented September 30, 2020 run through the National Sex Offender Registry. Those who resided outside of the state in the previous five years will need to complete additional registry checks.

Stacey then reviewed the section on Recruiting and Retaining a Qualified and Effective Child Care Workforce. The frameworks for workforce development in Colorado include the Colorado Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Professionals, the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System, and licensing requirements. Training and professional development are offered through the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS) and through face-to-face training opportunities, through business practices, and early learning and development guidelines. The Colorado Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Professionals and the Colorado Shines PDIS have both undergone a refresh. There has also been an expansion of recruitment and retention strategies.

Stacey then described the section on Supporting Continuous Quality Improvement, which includes two strategies: the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and the Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers (EQIT) training. The new strategies include a refresh of the QRIS framework, expanded quality improvement grant opportunities, and having all early childhood councils serve as CCR&R agencies.

Michelle discussed the section on Program Integrity and Accountability. The section includes topics related to internal controls, program integrity and accountability, and processes in place to recover fraudulent or improper payments. Changes were made to enhance internal controls around improper payments.

A new CCDF plan is required every three years to serve as a blueprint for how the funds will be spent. The presenters included their contact information on their last slide and would be happy to answer any questions. Additional information on the plan, upcoming public hearing, and the form to submit feedback can be found [here](#).

### **Governor's Office Updates**

Scott Groginsky revisited some of the Governor's priorities including new state agency legislation and Universal Preschool implementation, improving early childhood service quality, improving the early childhood workforce, increasing connections with higher education and K-12, improving facilities, stabilizing and sustaining early childhood programs, strengthening infant and toddler care, and more. Scott thanked the Early Childhood Leadership Commission for their recommendation for a new, cabinet level state department for early childhood and for highlighting the needs in early childhood that have existed for a long time. The new state agency bill includes a significant advisory and approval role for the Commission and an expectation of a broader stakeholder input process.

Scott highlighted the importance of SB 21-236 to the Governor's agenda. This bill puts two aspects of the regular budget into state law: workforce recruitment and retention grants and salary increases. It also addresses some of the state's stimulus funding as well as provides for employer-based on-site and near-site facility grants. It also gives more flexibility to the emerging and expanding grants approved last December and includes the new Community Innovation and Resilience for Care and Learning Equity (CIRCLE) grants.

Next, Scott addressed stimulus funding from the Coronavirus Response Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) approved by Congress in December 2020, and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) approved in March 2021. The Colorado Department of Human Services recently held a town hall meeting and developed an FAQ to answer common questions about the stimulus bills. There are four continuing components from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) from March of 2020 including sustainability grants, early childhood mental health support, lower copayments for parents, and CCCAP supports for providers. There are also new components from the more recent stimulus funds including expanded access through early childhood councils and CIRCLE grants. There is also additional focus on infant and toddler child care. The state will develop an inclusive and extensive process for input around thoughtful spending of these stimulus dollars over the next several years.

### **Subcommittee Updates**



### **Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee**

Jeanne McQueeney shared that the subcommittee recently finalized a set of [Norms and Guiding Questions](#) to use during meetings to help the group maintain focus and guide presentations. The subcommittee looks forward to aligning with the work to implement a new state agency if the legislation passes. The Home Visiting Investment Task Force will be presenting their plan for endorsement at the next subcommittee and Commission meetings.

### **Data Subcommittee**

Kate Reinemund discussed the subcommittee's work on the [2021 Areas of Opportunity Indicators Report](#). The group is developing a communication plan for sharing the report. They have also been working on creating a strong list of equity, diversity and inclusion questions to guide both a reflective and proactive approach to data development, analysis and presentation.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Katie Facchinello updated the Commission on the work of the Communications Subcommittee. She talked about a recent presentation by AnLar about their work developing the Office of Early Childhood's HUB website. The subcommittee was able to provide feedback about the website to the consulting group. Additionally, a group of subcommittee members recently presented at the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference to highlight communications best practices and resources available to providers to improve their communications efforts. The subcommittee has also focused on developing a comprehensive [Communications Plan](#) aligned with the Areas of Opportunity and the charge of the subcommittee. The plan helps the group focus on how to spend their time and helps the subcommittee serve as an example of the Communications Guidelines on the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* website. The subcommittee will be creating a marketing calendar for the Early Childhood Leadership Commission's Our Voice newsletter and developing a set of metrics to demonstrate for providers how to measure the impact of their communications efforts. Subcommittee members are also being encouraged to participate in Katie's peer-to-peer communications group at Illuminate Colorado, the Strengthening Communications Network, to share communications best practices and marketing and communications tips and guidelines.

### **Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee**

The Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee has continued to add to the [ECWD LiveBinder](#). The LiveBinder is divided into goal areas with resources and accomplishments sections and serves as way to reflect on all of the amazing work in this area of early childhood.

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

Susan closed by stating that the Commission's thoughts and prayers are with Rebecca Kantor's family and friends. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 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.*

Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council  
6 Month Waiver Summary  
June 24, 2021

We currently have one P-ECT in Eagle County at Mountain Tots Preschool. The program will be providing a quarterly update on progress in the next two weeks.

As summer rolls out and we are working with programs we are also advertising the waiver across the region. We have not had additional applicants at this time, but anticipate having some as we get closer to fall.



### Early Childhood Legislative Update – 2021 General Assembly

Contact: Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children’s Campaign, [bill@coloradokids.org](mailto:bill@coloradokids.org), 720-552-0002

#### Legislation That Passed

Category	Bill Number/Sponsors/Title	Summary
Early Childhood Governance & Preschool	<a href="#">HB 21-1304</a> [Sirota & Garnett/Fenberg & Buckner]: Early Childhood System	Creates the department of early childhood to expand access to early childhood opportunities, coordinate services, support a mixed delivery system of early childhood, prioritize the interests and input of children, parents, providers, and the community, and unify administration of early childhood programs and services. Creates a Transition Working Group and Transition Advisory Group to develop a transition plan for the new department and to make recommendations for implementation of universal preschool, with specific requirements for both. FN: \$1.06M (GF) in 2021-22, \$672K (GF) in 2022-23
Early care & education access and availability	<a href="#">SB 21-236</a> [Story & Sonnenberg/Tipper & Van Beber]: Increase Capacity Early Childhood Care & Education	Creates four new early childhood care and education grant programs and modifies the two existing grant programs created during the 2020 Special Session: 1) Employer-based child care facility grant program (\$8.8M GF, repeals 7/1/24), 2) Early Care & Education Recruitment and Retention Grant and Scholarship Program (\$7.1M CCDBG FF), 3) Child Care Teacher Salary Grant Program (\$3M CCDBG FF), 4) Community Innovation and Resilience for Care & Learning Equity (CIRCLE) grant program (\$16.8M CCDBG FF through FY22-23); Allocates federal funds for child care sustainability (\$293M CCDBG FF), CCCAP (\$23.8M CCDBG FF), child care quality and availability grants (\$43.5M CCDBG FF), early childhood mental health consultation (\$2.2M CCDBG FF), and administration (\$172K CCDBG FF); Modifies the Child Care Sustainability Grant Program (\$34.8M GF) by extending the grant deadline and range of awards as well as the range and allowed uses for the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant Program (\$8.7M GF), both of which were created in the December 2020 Special Session.
Child care regulation	<a href="#">HB 21-1222</a> [Valdez & Van Winkle/Smallwood & Winter]: Regulation of Family Child Care Homes	Requires that family child care homes be classified as residences for purposes of licensure and local regulations, including zoning, land use development, fire and life safety, and building codes. The bill also adds a provision stating that whenever the state department of human services reviews and rewrites its rules concerning child care agencies or facilities, it shall seek advice from the department of public safety when such rules relate to specific types of child care agencies or facilities. FN: No appropriation required.
Child care regulation, workforce, economic opportunity	<a href="#">SB 21-199</a> [Jaquez Lewis & Winter/Esgar & Gonzales-Gutierrez]: Remove Barriers To Certain Public Opportunities	Eliminates the current requirement of verification of lawful presence in the U.S. to receive benefits pursuant to federal stimulus or, effective July 1, 2022, for eligibility for eligible state and local public benefits and for public contracting or grant requirements. This includes child care licenses and eligibility for relevant grants. FN: \$131K GF, 131K FF.

<p>Child care regulation and workforce</p>	<p><a href="#">SB 21-077</a> [Gonzales/Benavidez &amp; Kipp]: Remove Lawful Presence Verification Credentialing</p>	<p>Eliminates the requirement that the department of education and each division, board, or agency of the department of regulatory agencies and CDHS, for child care licenses, verify the lawful presence of each applicant before issuing or renewing a license. Specifies that lawful presence is not required of any applicant for any state or local license, certificate, or registration. The bill affirmatively states that the bill is a state law within the meaning of the federal law that gives states authority to provide for eligibility for state and local public benefits to persons who are unlawfully residing in the United States. FN: No appropriation required.</p>
<p>Child care regulation</p>	<p><a href="#">SB 21-167</a> [Holbert &amp; Bridges/Gray &amp; Larson]: Regulation of child care centers</p>	<p>Eliminates duplicate fire or radon inspections for school-age child care on school grounds, updates playground facility inspection requirements to eliminate a duplicate inspection if one has happened in the last 12 months, permits self-administration of some medications for school-age child care on school grounds and at large child care centers, and provides some flexibility during emergencies regarding staffing. FN: No appropriation required.</p>
<p>Child care regulation</p>	<p><a href="#">SB 21-201</a> [Danielson &amp; Pettersen/Young &amp; Boesenecker]: Stricter Transparency &amp; Enforcement In Child Care</p>	<p>Requires CDHS to include names and locations of cease-and-desist orders that have been issued against a child care provider on the website, adds requirements related cease and desist orders issued to providers operating outside licensing exemptions, and increases penalties for operating after receiving a cease and desist order. FN: \$83K CCDBG FF</p>
<p>School finance &amp; CPP waivers</p>	<p><a href="#">SB 21-268</a> [Zenzinger &amp; Lundeen/McLachlan &amp; McCluskie]: Public School Finance</p>	<p>Sets the base per pupil funding and makes other changes to school funding programs; Notably, Sections 10 &amp; 11 authorize the continued use positions for children under age 3 in the Colorado Preschool Program for school districts currently operating with such waivers regarding age restrictions. FN: No appropriation required for Sections 10 &amp; 11.</p>
<p>Tax reform</p>	<p><a href="#">HB 21-1311</a>/<a href="#">HB 21-1312</a> [Sirota &amp; Weissman/Hansen &amp; Moreno]: Income Tax/Insurance Premium Property Sales Severance Tax</p>	<p>Make substantial reforms to Colorado's income tax and deductions and credit provisions. Most relevant to the early childhood sector will be the increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit to 25% of the federal credit, the funding of a state Child Tax Credit, and an increase in the Business Personal Property deduction available to small businesses. FN: HB 21-1311 – EITC, \$24M in 2021-22 to \$98M in 2023-24; CTC, \$53M in 21-22 to \$108M in 23-24 / HB 21-1312 – see <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

Behavioral health	<a href="#">SB 21-137</a> [Pettersen & Winter/Michaelson Jenet & Kennedy] Behavioral Health Recovery Act	Makes numerous changes and investments in behavioral health priorities, including expanded screening for perinatal mood and anxiety disorders for the parent of each child enrolled in Medicaid whether or not the parent is enrolled in Medicaid and implementing early childhood and mental health evaluation, gap analysis, and financing strategy. FN: 21-22 - \$190K GF to \$376K GF in 22-23 for ECMH infrastructure and \$500K for the ECMHC program; FY 21-22 - \$156K GF for PMAD screening expansion.
Child health and family economic security	<a href="#">SB 21-027</a> [Pettersen & Danielson/Gonzales-Gutierrez & Tipper] Emergency Supplies For Colorado Babies And Families	Requires CDHS to contract with diaper distribution center to administer a diaper and diapering essentials distribution program. FN: \$2M GF
Perinatal health	<a href="#">SB 21-193</a> [Buckner/Herod] Protection Of Pregnant People In Perinatal Period	Makes changes to statute concerning care for pregnant persons, which addresses medical malpractice insurance coverage, policies for health facilities that provide labor and delivery services, and the treatment of pregnant persons in correctional facilities. FN: \$241K GF
Maternal health	<a href="#">SB 21-194</a> [Buckner/Herod] Maternal Health Providers	Requires reimbursement from insurance for healthcare services related to labor and delivery to be delivered in a manner that promotes high-quality, cost-effective care and prevents risk in subsequent pregnancies and must not discriminate based on the type of provider or facility. Requires licensed labor and delivery service providers to accept transfers from a home or birthing center, allows a person who was eligible during pregnancy under Medicaid and CHP+ to remain continuously eligible postpartum for 12 months, and expands the scope and work of Colorado's Maternal Mortality Review Committee. FN: 2021-22 -- \$160K GF, \$481K FF; 2022-23: \$8.1M GF, \$10.2M FF
Behavioral health	<a href="#">SB 21-116</a> [Danielson/Benavidez & McLachlan] Prohibit American Indian Mascots	Prohibits the use of American Indian mascots by public schools, including charter and institute charter schools, and public institutions of higher education as of June 1, 2022, with some exceptions. The bill imposes a fine of \$25,000 per month for each month that a public school continues to use a mascot after such date, payable to the state education fund. FN: No appropriation required.

Child safety	<a href="#">HB 21-1106</a> [Duran & Mullica/Bridges & Hansen] Safe Storage of Firearms	Requires firearms to be safely stored away from juveniles and creates penalties for unlawful storage; requires licensed gun dealers to provide with each firearm sale or transfer a locking device capable of securing the firearm. FN: No appropriation required.
Child care availability	<a href="#">HB 21-1274</a> [Titone/Zenzinger & Hisey] Unused State-owned Real Property Beneficial Use	Requires the creation and maintenance of an inventory of unused, state-owned real property and a determination of whether the property is suitable for construction of housing, renewable energy, child care, or residential mental and behavioral health care facilities. FN: No appropriation required.
Early Intervention administration	<a href="#">SB 21-275</a> [Moreno & Rankin/McCluskie] Child Find Responsibilities	Transfers responsibility for Part C of IDEA Child Find from CDE to CDHS on July 1, 2022, including the referral intake process and Part C evaluations. Requires an interagency operating agreement for coordination of transitions from Part C to Part B services under IDEA. FN: \$8.3M GF

#### Legislation That Failed

Category	Bill Number/Sponsors/Title	Summary
Child care assistance allocation formula	<a href="#">SB 21-014</a> [Kirkmeyer] Allocation Formula Colorado Child Care Program	Would have required a change in the allocation of CCCAP funds to counties to account for utilization rates as well as offered counties additional authority to change eligibility levels.

#### Ballot Measures of Relevance Anticipated for November of 2021

Initiative/Referred Measure	Summary	Funding Level
<a href="#">Initiative 27</a> : Property tax cut	The ballot measure would reduce the residential property tax assessment rate from 7.15% to 6.5% and the non-residential property tax assessment rate from 29% to 26.4% with authorization to retain and spend 25 million per year for 5 years credited to homestead exemptions (tax breaks for seniors for their tax bills).	Preliminary estimates are that this would reduce

		revenue by ~ \$1 billion.
<u>Initiative 25:</u> Extended learning opportunities	Establishes the Learning Enrichment and Academic Progress (LEAP) program to provide funding to low- to moderate-income families to access out of school learning opportunity for children or youth five years of age to age 18 from revenue generated from marijuana sales tax and state school trust lands.	<u>Increases</u> expenditures by \$55.8M in 2021-22 and \$109.1M in 2022-23 and beyond.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Update to the Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
June 24, 2021

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is embarking on a process to develop a comprehensive Colorado Oral Health Strategic Plan (COHSP). The goal of this work is to create a plan that helps tackle the systemic inequities that lead to poor oral health outcomes statewide. We hope to create an equitable future in which all Coloradans can achieve optimal oral health. To do this, we will work in close collaboration with underserved, poorly served, and never served communities to design this COHSP. We have convened a Project Design Team (PDT) composed of representatives from community-based organizations and others representing the communities mentioned above. The PDT will steer the development of our COHSP by designing an equitable planning process, developing the plan, and guiding CDPHE's Oral Health Unit's and partners' programmatic and funding strategies. We have recently begun a statewide community and stakeholder engagement process (e.g., interviews, focus groups, survey) to inform next steps. The PDT and other partners will then take what we've learned to develop our COHSP. This work is set to be complete by spring 2022. We look forward to engaging you as the process unfolds!

The Oral Health Unit partnered with Healthy Child Care Colorado (HCCC) to train CDPHE's four Regional Oral Health Specialists as master trainers for Cavity Free Kids (CFK). This expands their reach beyond medical and dental provider trainings through Cavity Free at Three, to further support early care and education and home visitation professionals through hands-on training. The Regional Oral Health Specialists frequently provide oral health screenings, preventive services, and education outreach for HCCC's priority populations and now have additional training and resources to better tailor their outreach efforts, training delivery, and messaging, and will access future consultation from Healthy Child Care Colorado, including technical assistance for PDIS trainer credentialing and support for the HCCC CFK training delivery. The Regional Oral Health Specialists provide oral public health services and educational outreach in over 20 of Colorado's 47 rural and frontier counties.

Maternal and Child Health Legislative Recap:

Here is a [summary](#) of key bills impacting the Maternal and Child Health population in Colorado compiled by the Prevention Services Division legislative liaison organized by the seven Maternal and Child Health priorities.

Update on the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Emergency Operating Costs Program:

The Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture approved Colorado's implementation plan for the CACFP Emergency Operating Costs Program, which provides additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs that participating child care homes and centers incurred during the public health emergency. In the coming months, CACFP will distribute over \$2.5 million to CACFP



participants throughout the state. For more information, contact Naomi Steenson, CACFP Director at CDPHE.

# 2021 HCPF Legislative Session Update

# All 5 2021 HCPF Legislative Agenda Bills Were Signed into law!

Bill	Summary
Telemedicine Policy Refinements (HB21-1256)	Allows HCPF to promulgate rules for entities that provide services predominantly or exclusively via telemedicine.
Case Management Redesign (HB21-1187)	Allows HCPF to build a high performing conflict free case management system that serves all people with all types of disabilities (cross-disability).
Skilled Nursing Facility Demo (HB21-1227)	Permits HCPF to develop criteria for authorizing the expansion of new skilled nursing Medicaid facilities.
Remote Supports HCBS Waivers (SB21-210)	Adds remote supports for adults in Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.
Prescription Drug Importation (SB21-123)	Expands HCPF ability to import prescription drugs from other countries beyond Canada, if allowed under federal law and regulations.



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

# All Our Other Legislative Priorities Were Passed!

- Establish Behavioral Health Administration (HB21-1097)
- Authorize Federal Stimulus to transform Home and Community Based Services (SB21-286)
- Establish Prescription Drug Affordability Board (SB21-175), one of our report's recommendations
- Create shared inter-department Health Equity Plan (SB21-181)
- Create an affordable Colorado Option insurance plan (HB21-1232)
- Require health care facilities to screen uninsured patients for public program coverage (HB21-1198)



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

Colorado Department of Higher Education  
Update to the Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
June 24, 2021

The Colorado Department of Higher Education is pleased to announce that Sondra Ranum has been hired as the Director of Early Care and Education Workforce Policy. The role will work with the community college system and IHEs to focus on improving early childhood teachers' pathways into and through bachelor's degree programs and providing policy recommendations to the Governor's office. Sondra will begin July 6, 2021.



# COLORADO

## Office of Early Childhood

Department of Human Services

### **Safe Child Care Task Force:**

Recently, tragic deaths in child care facilities that are caring for too many children and breaking the law have shown a light on how important it is for Colorado to continue to address our role in keeping all children safe in child care, both licensed and unlicensed.

The Office of Early Childhood has created the Safe Child Care Task Force, to bring together our statewide experts to address this vital issue.

The Safe Child Care Task Force will recommend necessary reforms in child care settings to keep children safe, inform parents and care providers about licensed and unlicensed care options, and inform practices regarding illegal child care. The task force will review local laws and regulations as well as national best practice models to make recommendations for reforms in Colorado.

All members of the public are invited to attend Task Force meetings. [Learn more here.](#)

### **Safe Sleep Campaign:**

Safe Sleep is for Every Baby, Everywhere!

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is excited to announce a new safe sleep mini-campaign, “Safe Sleep is for Every Baby, Everywhere.” The campaign focuses on encouraging safe sleep practices, and helping everyone, including parents and caregivers; licensed child care staff; family, friend and neighbor providers; and anyone who cares for a young child to learn about and talk about safe sleep.

We encourage partners to share and use the campaign toolkit. The toolkit includes social media posts, a blog post, newsletter content and more.

Get the toolkit in [English here](#) and [Spanish here](#).

### **OEC Family Voice Council Update:**

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is currently developing an OEC Family Voice Council!

The OEC Family Voice Council's purpose is to provide input to optimize the design and delivery of early childhood programs and services to ensure all children and families in Colorado are happy, healthy and thriving. The Council will consist of a diverse group of people who are pregnant, parents, and/or caregivers of children ages birth through eight. The Council will

come together each month to advise, exercise leadership skills, give feedback, and ultimately improve services for children and families.

The Office of Early Childhood is currently in the process of selecting Council members by holding interviews over the next few weeks. Once selected the onboarding process for members will start in July and the Council will hold its first meeting in August.

Please reach out to Amanda Culbertson at [amanda.culbertson@state.co.us](mailto:amanda.culbertson@state.co.us) with any questions. Thank you!

Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee  
Update to the Early Childhood Leadership Commission  
June 24, 2021

One of the goals in [Colorado's Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan](#) is to *recruit and retain effective, qualified, and diverse early childhood educators*. This year, the Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee decided to prioritize this goal. As such, the Subcommittee has been working with the [Colorado Workforce Development Council](#) (CWDC) and the [Talent Equity Agenda](#). The Talent Equity Agenda makes the case for targeting resources, raising awareness, and accelerating shared strategies to close racial economic disparities in the state and measure the results. Recently, the CWDC released an application to apply for a technical assistance opportunity whereby participating groups would learn about tools and strategies for moving to action with the Talent Equity Agenda within their unique context. After a call out to all participants in the Subcommittee, two groups formed, one representing state level staff and one representing higher education, and both applied for the opportunity. If accepted, these two groups will participate, bring the learning back to the larger Subcommittee, and the Subcommittee will determine which work products to create. A project plan, along with the Subcommittee's expertise and desire to dig into a project together, will bring the work products to life!





## Home Visiting Investment Task Force

The Home Visiting Investment Task Force will guide the implementation of the [HV Strategic Plan](#). This work will lead to the creation of a further continuum of home visiting services in Colorado and guide the release of the future funding solicitations from the Office of Early Childhood, including Federal MIECHV funding. The strategy will support planning for state budget requests, the solicitation of new federal funding opportunities, and alignment with philanthropic funding for home visiting. The Home Visiting Investment Task Force is defining the scope of home visiting to include any voluntary program touchpoint with parents/caregivers that have children up to age 6 across a continuum of intensity (one visit up to meeting for several years) for the purpose of ensuring child and family well-being.

Workgroups will be formed for each of the strategies in the plan and these work groups are open for public participation. Members of the task force serve as voting members with all participants encouraged to actively participate in the important efforts.

### **ECLC Areas of Opportunity:**

After engaging with stakeholders to understand the history and progress of early childhood in Colorado as well as the wide array of policy strategies and opportunities that exist to ensure the state continues to move forward, the Commission has identified three Areas of Opportunity that are most critical to continue the advancement of work in early childhood across the state.

- Area 3: Support improved family health and economic security through a Two Generation approach.

### **Goals of Home Visiting Investment Strategy Task Force**

- The task force will develop implementation plans to guide the work to implement the strategic planning work.
- The annual deliverable will be a written report of progress made in relation to the strategic plan and recommendations for ongoing implementation to best serve the needs of families in Colorado.
- The task force will determine promising and evidence-based home visiting programs that support priority populations in the underserved geographic locations.
- The task force will explore the continuum of home visiting in Colorado and determine how to sustain/expand existing models and implement new home visiting programs to address gaps in alignment with the goals of the strategic plan.
- The task force will explore funding best practices and investment strategies.
- The task force strongly values family voices and will ensure that family perspective is included throughout the process.

**Membership Sectors:**

- Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Education
- Invest in Kids (state intermediary for Nurse Family Partnership and Child First)
- Kempe Center (state intermediary for SafeCare)
- ABCD (state intermediary for HealthySteps) Early Intervention
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Early Childhood Funders
- County human services departments
- County public health departments
- Health Care
- Local community providers including family resource centers and early childhood councils
- Research and evaluation partners
- Families
- Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
- Policy Makers - *one word, please*
- Advocacy organizations
- Parent Possible (state intermediary for HIPPPY and PAT)

**ADDITIONAL POTENTIAL CATEGORIES FOR REPRESENTATION:**

- Child Welfare
- Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance
- Family Resource Center Association
- Higher education
- Illuminate Colorado (state intermediary for Family Connects International and Healthy Families America)
- Local Regional Accountability Entities (RAEs)
- School districts (including Colorado Preschool Program)

All meetings will be supported through an independent facilitator and have remote participation options.

**Home Visiting Investment Strategy Task Force Next Steps**

- Implementation teams formed and meetings to work on implementation strategies and efforts with monthly reports to the full Task Force of progress and challenges for insights support, and coordination.
- Implementation Chairs monthly coordination meetings to ensure that work activities are aligned and that synergies are occurring throughout the teams.
- Convening of monthly task force meetings for coordination, reporting, and further understanding and engagement of families.

- Plan for annual family voice survey and application of information learned.
- Provide input into opportunities for federal and state stimulus funding to support implementation of the strategic plan.
- Request opportunities to educate community members and elected officials regarding the strategic plan and implementation efforts, and further gather input.

**Duration:**

The Subcommittee membership was designated in June 2021, for one year, until June 2022 subject to annual review and reauthorization.

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

# ECLC

*Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

June 24, 2021

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Google Hangouts



- Please remember to mute your computer or phone when not speaking ●
- We will be recording the meeting ●
- All materials can be found at: [www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/eclc-meeting-information) ●



# Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Tom Massey

# Meeting Objectives

- Approve the April 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Discuss Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan and the Universal Preschool Recommendations Process and Next Steps
- Learn about State Agency Legislative Updates
- Listen to recent work of the ECLC Subcommittees
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

# Business Meeting

- REVIEW: [Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council - Workforce Waiver Update](#)



Dr. Rebecca Kantor





Department of Early Childhood Transition Plan and  
Universal Preschool Recommendations  
Pamela Harris



# It's Signed!!!



# OBJECTIVES

- Ensure common understanding of new legislation
- Discuss the ECLC's role and the stakeholder process
- Draft a mission and vision for the new agency

# UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL BY 2023

In November 2020, Colorado voters overwhelmingly passed a [proposition](#) to increase the state tax on nicotine and direct the **funding to a voluntary universal preschool program**. Under the program, beginning in 2023, all Colorado families, regardless of income, will have the opportunity to access **10 hours of early care and education per week**, per child, in the year prior to the child entering kindergarten.

The crisis of access to high-quality early childhood care and education is a family issue, an economic issue, and a school readiness issue.

Colorado's universal preschool program has the opportunity to build on existing success; expand affordable access to early childhood care and education for all families, including those who need it most; provide developmentally appropriate, high-quality learning experiences to our children and ensure they are prepared to enter kindergarten; and empower caregivers, particularly women, to return to work and school, and in turn, boost the economy.

# A UNIFIED DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Colorado General Assembly approved [legislation to create a new unified Department of Early Childhood](#), effective July 1, 2022. A unified agency will:

- Streamline systems, funding, and programs to **increase access** to early care and education for families and support providers.
- Position the **universal preschool program** to equitably increase services for low-income children and simultaneously expand access to early care and education to all preschool-age children in Colorado.
- Place a **champion in the Governor's Cabinet** to ensure early childhood education remains at top of the statewide agenda.
- **Align efforts and funding** to improve quality early care and education and to bolster the workforce.
- Define what **high-quality, age-appropriate care and education** looks like for teachers and for children.

# NEW AGENCY CHARGE

According to [HB21-1304](#), the new state agency will be responsible for:

- Providing **high-quality, voluntary, affordable early childhood opportunities** for all children in Colorado and ensuring its availability to meet the needs of all families.
- Establishing **state and community partnerships** that provide for a mixed delivery of child care and early childhood programs through school-based and community-based providers.
- Ensuring that **parent and community input are prioritized** in the continuing design and implementation of programs and policies.

# NEW AGENCY CHARGE (CONTINUED)

According to [HB21-1304](#), the new state agency will be responsible for:

- Unifying within the department the **administration of child care and early learning programs** to effectively and efficiently support a streamlined parent and provider experience.
- **Improving outcomes** for children and families through:
  - recruiting and retaining high quality early childhood care and education workforce;
  - implementation of evidence based practice;
  - continuous program evaluation; and
  - training on how to address child and family trauma.

# ECLC DUTIES

[HB21-1304](#) calls on the ECLC to approve the transition plan within 14 days after receiving the plan from the Office of the Governor.

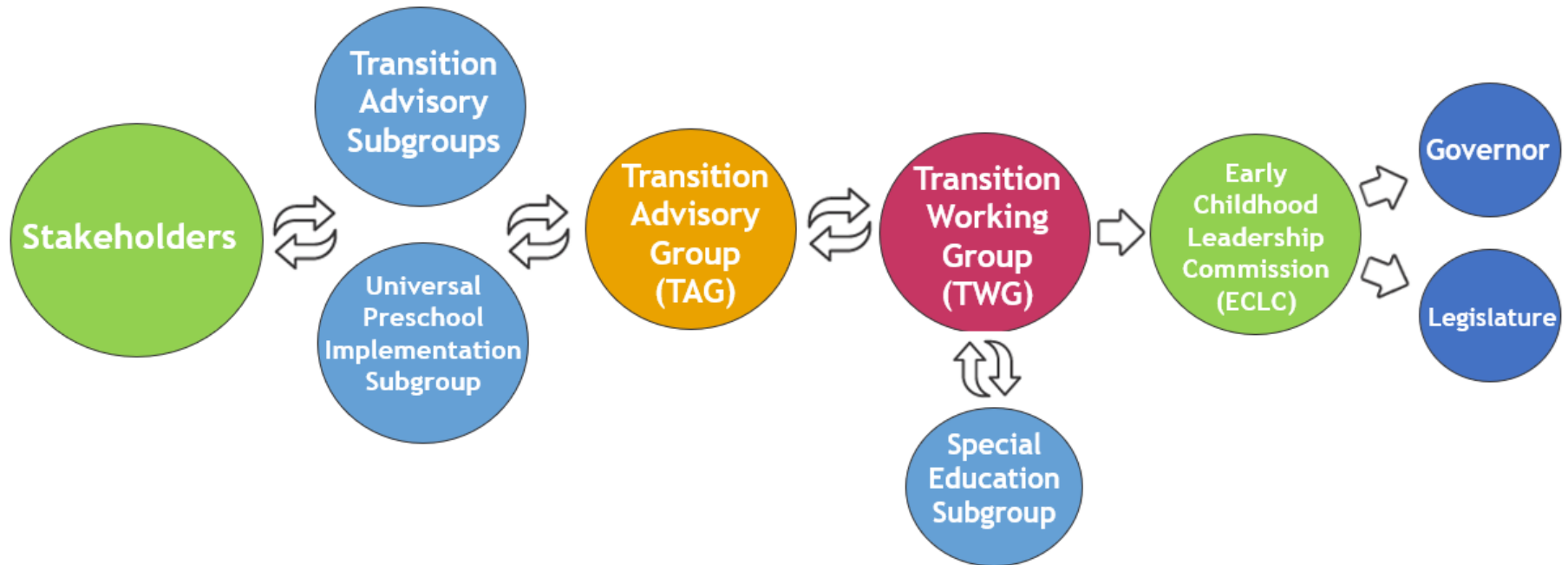
[HB21-1304](#) calls for the the transition plan to include:

- The **governance and structure** of the new department;
- **Mission and vision** statements, as well as guiding values and principles for the coordination and administration of early childhood programs;
- The **fiscal structure** for the new department and the services provided and programs administered;
- **Aligning and combining funding** sources for early childhood services and programs;
- The **timeline** for completing key transition activities for the new department

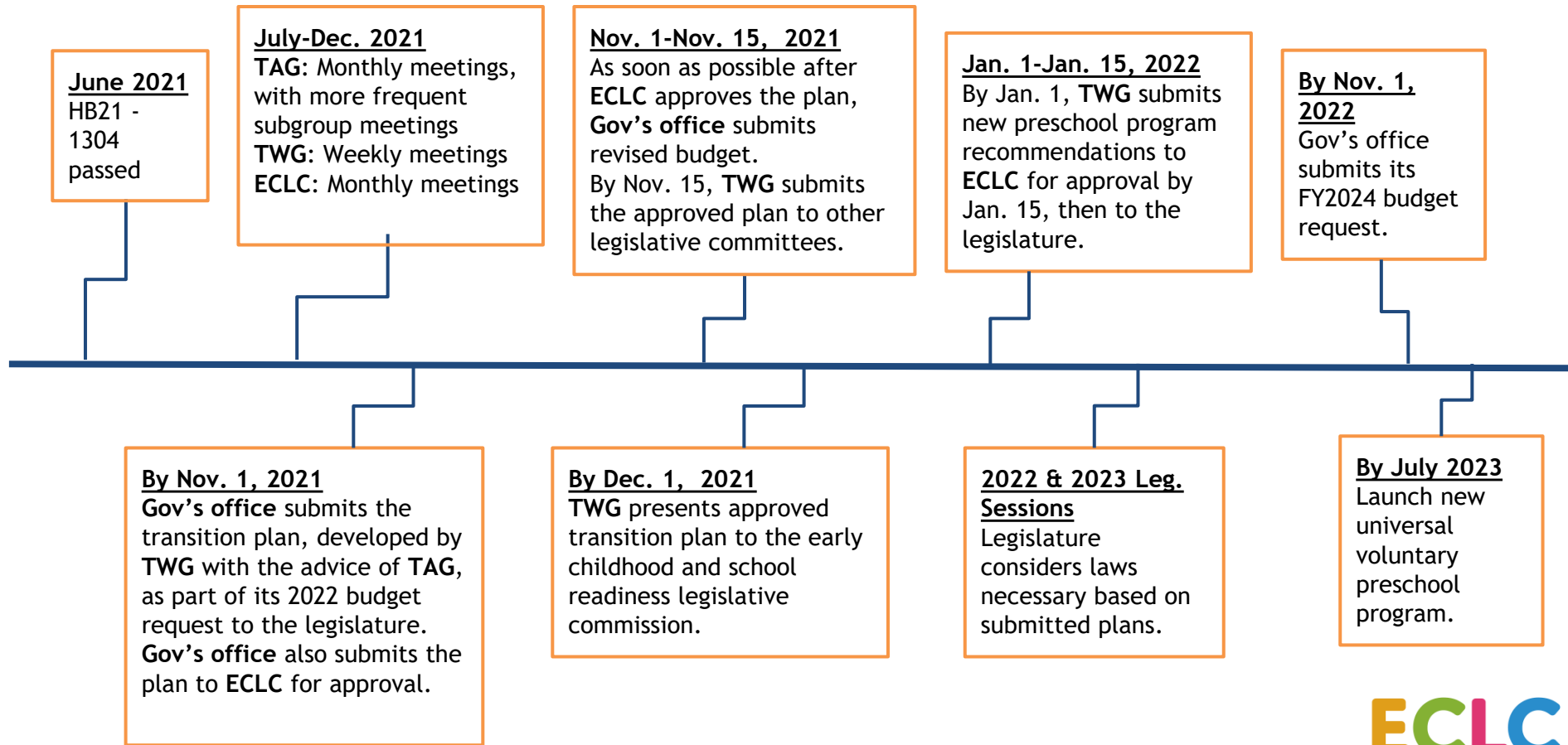
[HB21-1304](#) also calls on the ECLC to approve recommendations for the new voluntary universal preschool program.



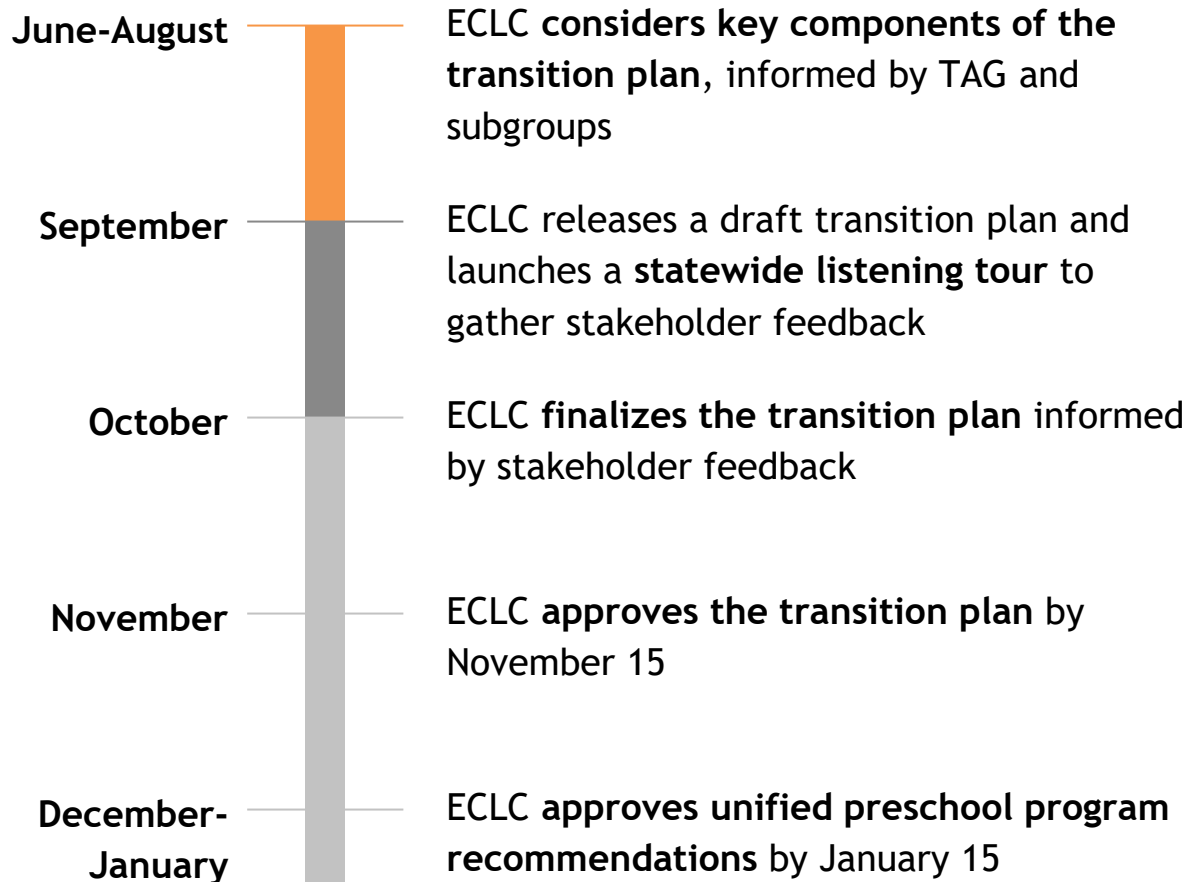
# TRANSITION PLANNING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



# TRANSITION PLANNING TIMELINE



# ECLC PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



# MISSION/VISION EXAMPLES

Organization	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	<a href="#">CDHS- OEC</a>	<a href="#">ECLC</a>
Mission	“Optimize the health, development, education, and well-being of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers through a family-driven, equitable, community-based systems”	“support families and communities so every child thrives”	“To be the trusted and proactive champion for high-quality, outcome-focused programs and services for pregnant women, children birth to age 8 and their families, in Colorado across all sectors.”
Vision	“All New Mexico families and young children are thriving”	“To ensure all children are valued, healthy, and thriving, we lead bold and innovative programming, remove barriers, and implement systems change”	“Colorado has comprehensive, aligned, effective, and fully-funded service delivery systems that support families to ensure all Colorado children are valued, healthy and thriving.”

# ECLC GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ECLC is committed to the following guiding principles in the development of the transition plan and universal preschool recommendations:



# DRAFTING NEW AGENCY MISSION/VISION

## **Mission**

Colorado is a place where all children are valued, healthy and thriving.

## **Vision**

Colorado has a unified, equitable and supported early childhood system that expands access to high-quality, voluntary, affordable early childhood opportunities, supports parents in accessing programs & services, coordinates the availability of services, promotes equitable delivery of resources, and unifies the fragmented administration of early childhood services to reduce duplicative oversight and administrative burden on families, providers, and educators.

# NEXT STEPS

- **In June:**
  - Announcement of TAG and Special Education subgroup membership
  - Launch of [feedback form](#)
- **In July:**
  - Cross-agency kick-off webinar
  - TAG and Subgroup meetings begin
  - Begin Monthly ECLC Meetings

For more information, or to submit feedback, please visit [www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/transition](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/transition)



Break





# Public Comment

Pamela Harris

# Public Comment

- Each speaker may take up to five (5) minutes to make his or her comments. This time constraint may be modified by the ECLC Co-Chairs.
- Any opinions, advice, statements, services, offers, or other information or content expressed or made available by stakeholders or members of the public during public comment does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the ECLC.



# Governor's Office Updates

## Scott Groginsky



Legislative Session Overview  
and State Agency Updates  
Susan Steele

# State Agency Updates

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Finance
- Colorado Department of Education
- Colorado Department of Higher Education
- Colorado Department of Human Services
  - Office of Early Childhood



# Subcommittee Updates

Susan Steele

# Subcommittee Updates

- Communications Subcommittee
  - Department of Early Childhood Transition - Communications Plan
- Data Subcommittee
  - 2021 Areas of Opportunity Indicators Report [Executive Summary](#) and [Social Media Toolkit](#)
- Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee
  - ACTION: Consider approval of the Early Childhood Provider Co-Chair Recommendation
- Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
  - ACTION: Consider Endorsement of the [Draft Home Visiting Investment Task Force Strategic Plan](#)
  - ACTION: Consider Reauthorization of the [Home Visiting Investment Task Force Charter](#)

# Sharing the 2021 Areas of Opportunity Indicators Report - [Executive Summary](#) and [Social Media Toolkit](#)

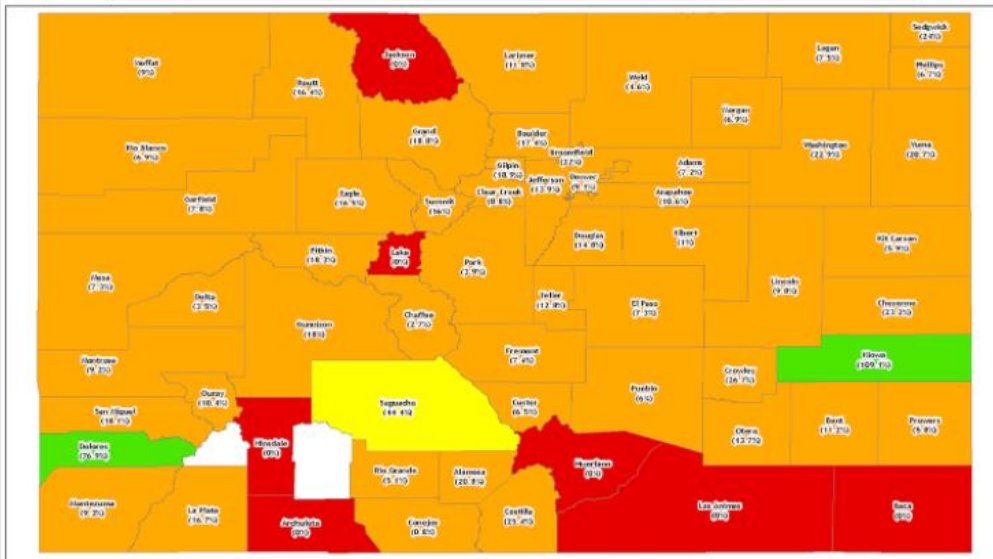


Constellation Philanthropy

2m · 🌐

Did you know: Most counties in Colorado have licensed capacity for only 30% or less of the infants in their communities. How can our state support access to affordable, high-quality infant and toddler care? For more info and ways you can get involved, check out the state's Early Childhood Leadership Commission report!  
<https://bit.ly/3gtJ82Y>

Licensed Capacity as a Percent of Population: Infants by County



- Websites
- Newsletters
- Blog Posts
- Social Media
- Other



## Paula Smith

### Vice President, Educational Services Clayton Early Learning

- More than 25 years of experience in early care and education overseeing Clayton's Early Head Start and Head Start
- Coordinates with child care partners statewide to ensure access to quality early care and education in underserved communities
- Provides leadership on professional development and coaching throughout Colorado
- Brings expertise in providing direct services to children and families as well as a focus on staff development
- Centers her work and vision on equity and brings her life experience in advocating for those farthest from resources.



# Home Visiting Investment Plan

*June 24, 2021*

# Home Visiting Investment Plan

Implementation of this plan will strengthen family capacity and maximize children's developmental potential across Colorado. Through the scaling of a continuum of culturally and linguistically appropriate Evidence-Based Home Visiting services and other family-strengthening supports, Colorado families will have access to the Home Visiting services that most benefit them and their communities. When fully implemented and funded, a minimum of **1,700 additional families will receive Home Visiting services (a 20% increase)** over the next five years.

# Home Visiting Definition

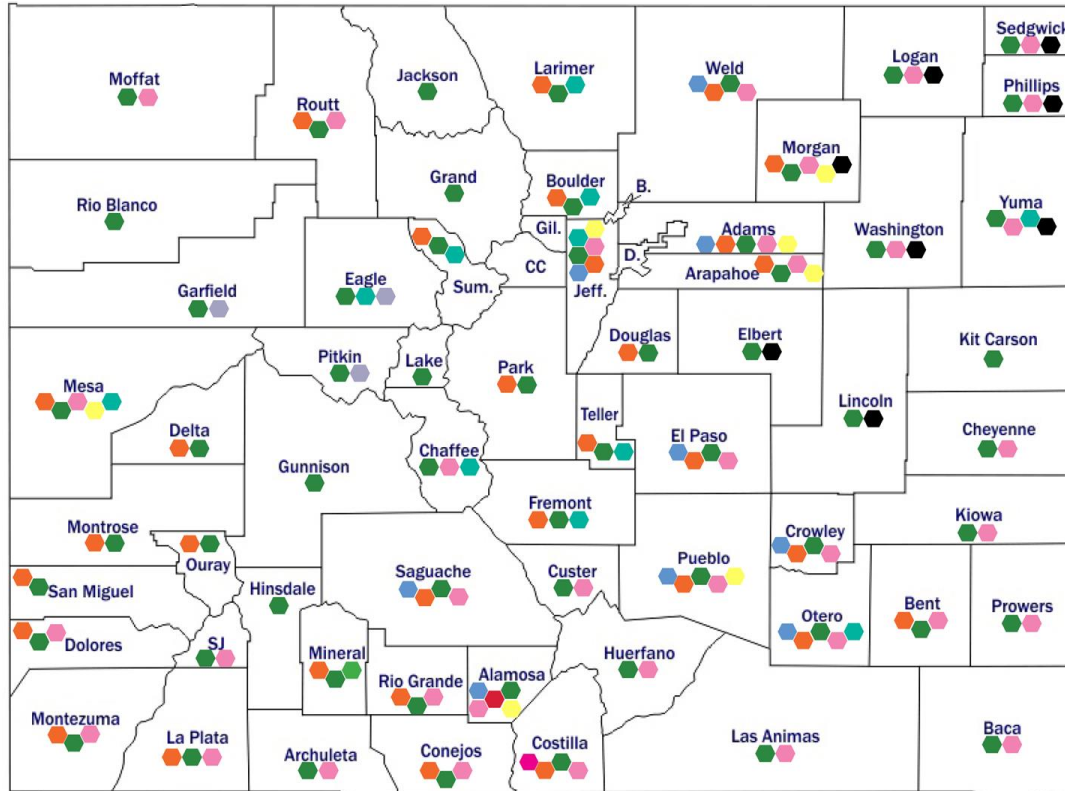
- “Home Visitation” is used to refer to evidence-based home visiting programs identified in national evidence-based program resources and promising practices under evaluation. More broadly, **home visiting is a voluntary program that serves parents /caregivers with children up to age six for the purpose of ensuring child and family well-being.**
- Home visiting has demonstrated a **positive impact on child, parent / caregiver, and family outcomes**, including:
  - Reduction in child maltreatment
  - Improvements in child health
  - Increased maternal health
  - Improved positive parenting practices
  - Increased child development
  - Improved family economic self-sufficiency
  - Reductions in family violence, juvenile delinquency, and crime

# Home Visiting Landscape

- Colorado has seven evidence-based home visiting models being implemented.
  - SafeCare Colorado
  - Nurse-Family Partnership
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Early Head Start and Home-Based Head Start
  - HealthySteps
  - Home Instruction for the Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPI)
  - Healthy Families America
- There are also several locally developed home visiting programs.
- In addition, there are efforts underway to bring two additional evidence-based programs - *Child First* and *Family Connects*.
- These programs are all different based on who they serve, duration, content covered, and intended outcomes.



# HV Coverage Map



County Coverage: Denver (D) ●●●●●●●●  
 Gilpin (Gil) ●●●●●●●●  
 Clear Creek (CC) ●●●●●●●●  
 Broomfield (B) ●●●●●●●●

Note: Seven metro counties, including Denver County, have been discussing ChildFirst®.

While some level of home visiting services are available in all Colorado counties and Evidence-Based Home Visiting services reach over 10,000 families per year, coverage is incomplete due (3-8% of families at any time) to the lack of resources, eligibility criteria, and difficulty in accessing the right services at the right time for the right family.

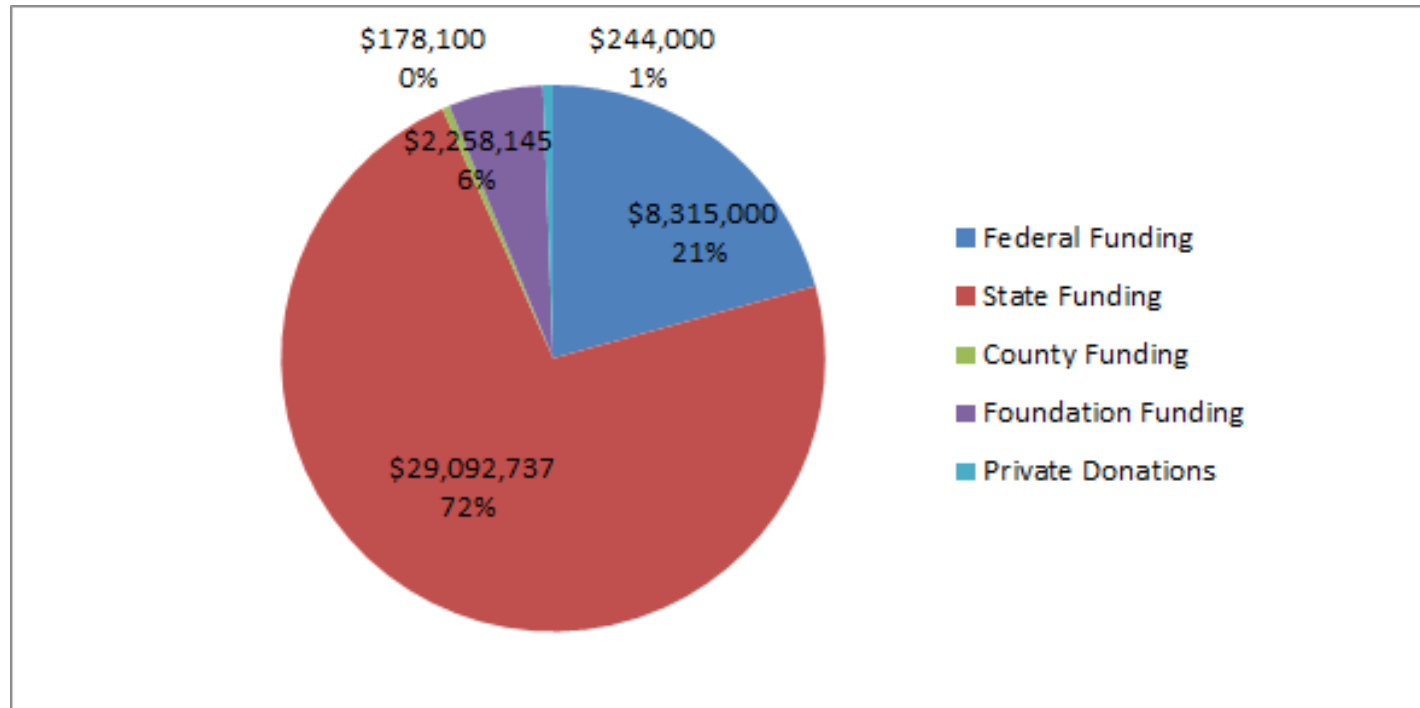
The home visitation programs funded by the State of Colorado are:  
 Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters ([HIPPY](#)) ●  
 Parents as Teachers ([PAT](#)) ●  
 Nurse Family Partnership ([NFP®](#)) ●  
[SafeCare® Colorado](#) ●  
[HealthySteps®](#) ●  
 Early Head Start, Early Head Start-Home Based Option ([EHS-HBO](#)) ●  
[Healthy Families America](#) ●  
[Baby Bear Hugs](#) ●

# Existing Funding Landscape

- CDHS worked to assess a baseline investment in home visiting to track increased investment over time
- In 2019, approximately \$40,100,000 supported home visiting services



# Existing Funding Landscape



Total:  
\$40,087,982

*The baseline aggregated funding for known evidence-based models and participating programs from Federal Government, State Government, County Government, and Foundations. It is comprehensive but not exhaustive. The estimate did not include all Medicaid reimbursements for all programs or county investment in locally developed home visiting programs.*



# Task Force Membership

**Rebecca Alderfer** - Zoma Foundation

**Carsten Baumann** - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Melissa Buchholz** - Assuring Better Child Health & Development

**Megan Burch** - Eagle County Human Services

**Katherine Casillas** - Kempe Center

**Alexa Chenoweth** - Parent Representative

**Heather Craiglow** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Deborah Daro** - Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

**Kelly Dougherty** - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**Kendra Dunn** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Samantha Espinoza** - Colorado Children's Campaign

**Courtney Everson** - Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, University of Denver

**Senator Rhonda Fields** - Colorado Senate, Co-Chair

**Brooke Greenky** - Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

**Scott Groginsky** - Office of the Governor

**Kristina Heyl** - Early Childhood Leadership Commission

**Lisa Hill** - Invest in Kids

**Katelyn Lammie** - Caring for Colorado

**Jenny Lerner** - Colorado Department of Education

**Lesla Nesbit** - Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation

**Ida Rhodes** - Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pueblo, Co-Chair

**Christy Scott** - Colorado Department of Human Services

**Ruth Seedorf** - Baby Bear Hugs

**Amanda Smith** - Parent Representative

**Saundra Swanson** - Family Visitor Programs

**Kellie Teter** - Denver Health

**Heather Tritten** - Parent Possible

**Sherri Valdez** - Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley

**Jade Woodward** - Illuminate Colorado

- Many additional non-voting task force participants contributed to the development of this plan throughout the entire process.

# Task Force Process

- The task force was created by ECLC to **address the scaling of home visiting services** in Colorado.
- The full task force met twice-monthly from November, 2020 through April, 2021
- **Six work groups were created** to develop the recommendations within the plan and met throughout
- **Parent representatives were invited** to participate in the task force
  - ▶ Two surveys, one in English and one in Spanish, were distributed, 1,431 parents completed the survey
  - ▶ Two focus groups, one in English and one in Spanish, were held to gain further **parent input** from 13 panelists
- All materials, the final plan, and the charge can be found on the [ECLC website](#)

# Parent Feedback

*The task force put family voice at the heart of the work.* 1,431 parents completed a survey and 13 parents participated in focus groups in English or Spanish

- Parents said that help building **social capital** would be appreciated
- Parents wanted **systems to be coordinated** so that data gathering and conversations did not have to be repeated to engage in multiple services/programs
- Parents were primarily offered home visiting through medical facilities, and they reported that the **trusted relationship** was beneficial
- Parents expressed a need for **marketing to increase awareness** of home visiting
- Parents also reported a desire to **include fathers, partners, spouses, or other family members** in the programming and visits.

# Task Force Values



# Strategies

## Availability and Collaboration

Expand capacity by 20% to reach additional families based on an analysis of service gaps and opportunities for expansion.

Extend access to culturally and linguistically-appropriate family services by incorporating diverse means of service delivery.

Create systems to provide all new parents opportunities to discuss concerns and learn about resources by capitalizing on formal and informal sources of support.

## Coalition and Advocacy

Establish a broad coalition of home visiting support across the early childhood system in Colorado.

Advocate for the expansion of MIECHV funding during reauthorization which will be underway in the first two years of the plan.

Develop consistent messaging that stakeholders can use to educate and raise awareness of home visiting needs and services.

Host an annual “Home Visiting Awareness Day” at the Colorado State Capitol to educate Coloradans on the work of home visitors.

# Strategies

## Financing and Funding Opportunities

Grow and diversify investments in home visiting utilizing private, local, state, and federal resources.

Explore tax and fee structures to support early childhood and family outcomes.

Align COVID-19 stimulus funding with the plan implementation.

## Innovation and Learning from COVID-19

Expand virtual home visiting service delivery and improve access for families.

Link existing efforts and identify strategies for cross-agency data sharing for families receiving home visiting services.

Bring together existing evidence-based models and emergent home visiting practices to better meet multiple family needs.

# Strategies

## Outreach, Marketing, and Awareness

Hire an outreach and engagement coordinator to increase family and partner knowledge about home visiting programs and lessen the burden on home visitors.

Increase the capacity of parents to build social capital through the creation of home visiting family advocates.

Create shared messaging for community use.

## Qualified Workforce

Increase the benefits and compensation of home visitors to recognize them as professionals supporting the early childhood system.

Support efforts to recruit and train a diverse home visiting workforce.

Increase workforce retention by elevating home visitor voices and expanding strategies to promote professional and personal mental health wellness and well-being of home visiting staff.

# Implementation Steps

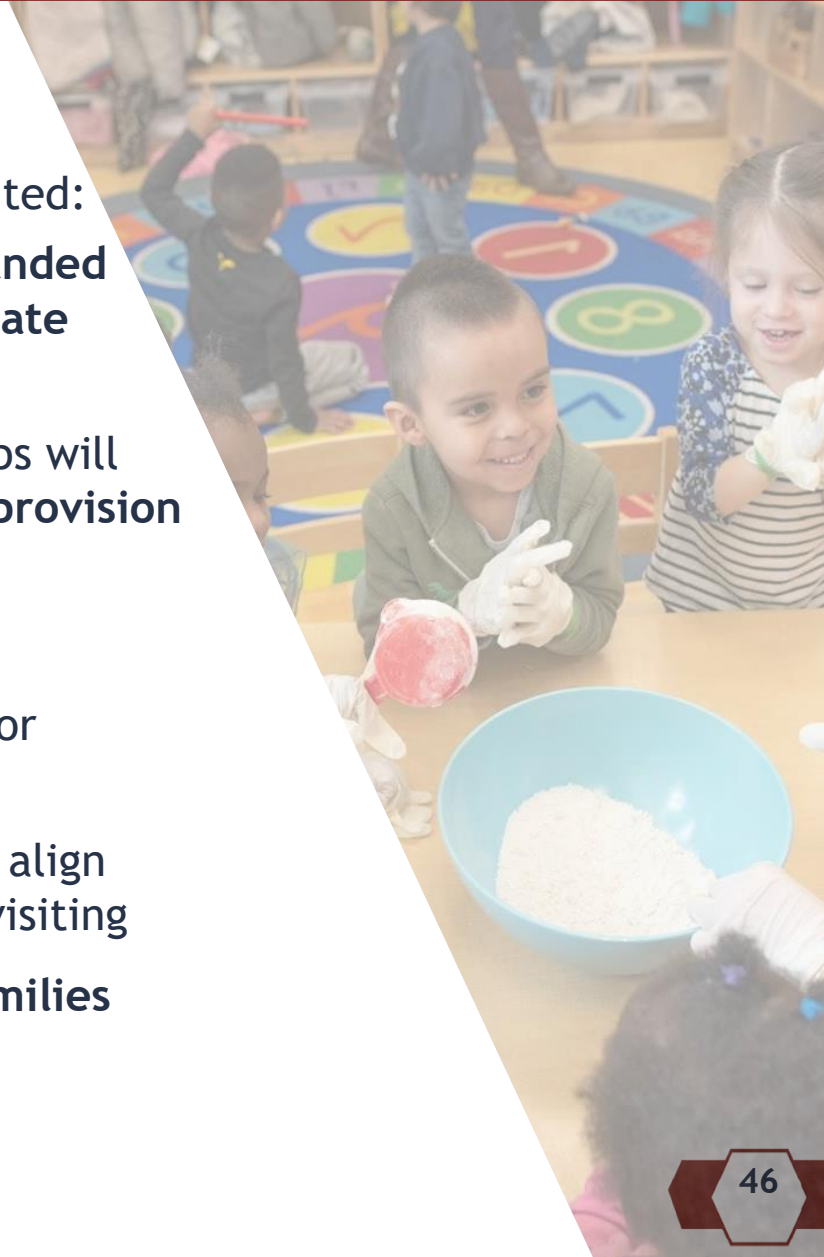
- The ECLC will annually reauthorize the **home visiting task force to oversee implementation**
- A robust **implementation plan** is underway
- The home visiting investment task force will act as the day-to-day implementation entity
- The home visiting task force will submit an annual report to the ECLC
- The **ECLC program quality and alignment** will act as the **oversight entity**
- Staffing and facilitation support will be provided by CDHS
- All future investments will be decided through the lens of the Investment Plan





# Conclusion

- When this plan has been fully implemented:
  - Home visiting services will be **expanded and offered in culturally-appropriate ways**
  - Increased advocacy and partnerships will result in **more consistent service provision**
  - Streamlined funding will allow for **maximum utilization of funds**
  - Embracing **innovations** will allow for **further reach and impact**
  - **Consistent, shared messaging** will align Colorado behind supporting home visiting
  - A minimum of **1,700 additional families** will be engaged in home visitation.





Congratulations  
Jehan!



thank  
you!

George Welsh

Kate Reinemund

Jai Scott

Jeanne McQueeney

Jeff Kuhr

**Thank You Commissioners!**



# Co-Chairs' Next Steps, Final Thoughts and Adjourn

## Susan Steele

# ECLC

*Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

Next Meeting:

August 26, 2021

9:30 am- 12:30 pm

