



Minutes
Thursday, February 23, 2017
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Clayton Learning Center
3801 Martin Luther King Blvd, Denver CO 80205

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve meeting minutes from November 10, 2016
- Discuss 2017 Colorado Preschool Program Legislative Report
- Learn about Prenatal Plus Program
- Review and Approve Strategic Plan
- Discuss Early Learning Professional Development Plan
- Learn from the early childhood community during public comment

Attendees: Anna Jo Haynes, Barbara Grogan, Charlotte Brantley, Cindy Schulz (by phone), Doug Clements, Elsa Holguin, George Welsh, Gerri Gomez Howard, Heather Craiglow, Jeanne McQueeney (by phone), Jeff Kuhr, Jerene Petersen, Karen Trierweiler, Letty Bass, Lydia Prado, Melissa Colman, Tom Massey, Mary Anne Snyder, Kristina Mueller, and Dalia Milford

Welcome and Business Meeting

Barb Grogan called the meeting to order at 9:36 am and introduced the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff David Padrino.

- Hickenlooper Administration Update:
David Padrino delivered an overview of the administration's approach to supporting Colorado. He informed the Commission that on February 22, 2017 the Governor and Lt. Governor demonstrated support and inclusion of refugees at a reception at Union Station. David stated the Hickenlooper administration welcomed any and all feedback as to what the Commissioners were seeing in their respective professions around this topic. Many of the Commissioners expressed an overall feeling of fear throughout the community.
- Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission Update:
Bill Jaeger provided a legislative update handout on the bills being discussed during the 2017 legislative session. He noted a bill that's yet to be introduced called 'Achieving a Vision for Education in Colorado Strategic Planning Process'. This bill is of particular relevance to the ECLC because it requests an ECLC co-chair to serve as a co-chair on the proposed education steering committee.
- ECLC Reauthorization Legislation – HB17-1106:
Barbara Grogan informed the commission on the current status of the ECLC Reauthorization Legislation. The bill was introduced Thursday, January 19, 2017. The first hearing took place on Monday January 30, 2017 at 1:30pm and was approved. The bill is now awaiting a date to be heard before the House Appropriations Committee.

- Approval of minutes from November 10, 2016:
Barbara Grogan called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting. Karen Trierweiler moved to approve the minutes as distributed; George Welsh seconded and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.
- Welcome New Commissioner Jerene Peterson:
Jerene Petersen is the Deputy Executive Director for Community Partnerships, and the Colorado Department of Human Services representative on the ECLC. She is responsible for operational oversight of the external entities and agencies with whom the Department contracts and partners.
- Debrief 2016 Annual Report Presentation to Legislature :
Kristina Mueller provided copies of the 2016 Report for the Commissioners who had been unable to attend the presentation on January 20th, 2017. She mentioned highlights from the event which was hosted by Representative Brittany Pettersen. Kristina Mueller also mentioned the ECLC's role in assisting the Early Childhood School Readiness Legislative Commission in preparation and facilitation of the committee's four required sessions.
- Early Childhood Funders:
The ECLC Co-chairs Anna Jo Haynes and Barbara Grogan had the opportunity to speak to the EC Funders Network on February 15, 2017 to provide the funders with an overview of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission.
- Speak up for Kids!:
Next Kristina Mueller introduced the topic of Speak Up for Kids. This event will take place on March 22, 2017 at the Capitol. It brings together child advocates from across Colorado to learn about effective advocacy and policy issues facing the Colorado legislature and to put their skills into action by speaking with legislators. Since its inception in 2012, Speak Up for Kids has trained nearly 500 people who care about Colorado kids to make their voices heard on important policy issues that affect kids and families.
 - Charlotte Brantley stated her support of the ECLC participating in the event. Clayton Early Learning has participated in past years and Charlotte found the experience valuable. Melissa Colman asked whether the ECLC has participated in previous year; to which the answer was no.
 - Barbara Grogan motioned for a vote on whether the Commission would partner this year with Speak up for Kids! Jeff Kuhr moved to approve the motion which was seconded by Tom Massey. Doug Clements, Melissa Colman and Karen Trierweiler abstained from voting. The rest of the commission moved to approve the recommendation.
- Subcommittee and Working Group Alignment:
Kristina Mueller introduced the Working Group Alignment document. This document was created to ensure the ECLC was in compliance with Open Records laws and to keep the Commission up dated on the happenings within Subcommittees and Working Groups. Melissa Colman moved to approve the Working Group Alignment document. Gerri Gomez

Howard seconded the motion, and the ECLC unanimously approved. For next steps, Kristina would like to facilitate a meeting consisting of the co-chairs from all the Subcommittee and Working Groups for alignment and collaboration.

- Strategic Plan:
The ECLC's strategic plan draft had been discussed in length at previous ECLC and Executive Subcommittee meetings. Kristina Mueller requested a vote on finalizing the plan. Anna Jo Haynes moved to approve the strategic plan, it was seconded by Elsa Holguin and unanimously approved.
- Early Learning Professional Development Plan Updates:
Heather Craighow and Pamela Harris provided a project update on the Professional Development Plan creation. The goal is to develop sustainable and varied approaches to recruit, retain, compensate and support a well-qualified early childhood workforce. They have completed the research portion of the project and final reports will be available in June. The current goal is to provide the ECLC with an overview of the draft plan at the April ECLC meeting. On May 4th they will host a webinar for the ECLC to provide feedback and ask questions. On June 22nd the ECLC will be asked to endorse the updated plan.
- Early Childhood Council Systems Building Updates:
Stacey Kennedy and Liz Houston presented on the Early Childhood Council Systems Building Updates. The purposes of the councils are to elevate the quality of care for Colorado's young children and to connect services, resources and professionals on behalf of the families. The requests to the ECLC were to (1) support the network for Early Childhood Councils, (2) Help build upon the Councils' many successes (3) Learn from partners in Colorado and other states to develop strategies that fit Colorado (4) Help find innovative solutions to continue supporting Councils in their critical role.

Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Human Services
Mary Anne Snyder provided updates from the Office of Early Childhood. The Home Visiting Program Evaluation Reports completed by Parent Possible, the state intermediary for 2 home visiting programs in Colorado (home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and Parents and Teachers), recently completed an evaluation which showed statistically significant increases in school readiness and well-being outcomes for children involved in the programs. More information can be located on parentpossible.org
- Colorado Department of Education:
Melissa Colman reported that the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan development is in process and will be submitted to the State Board of Education by April 2017. The draft state plan is currently out for stakeholder review. The Colorado Department of Education led a wide stakeholder engagement process, and the early childhood community is encouraged to provide input.

Nick Ortiz provided an overview of the 2017 Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) Legislative Report. CPP graduates are more likely to meet or exceed expectations in most subject areas on statewide Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) assessments, compared to their at-risk peers who did not attend publicly funded preschool.

- **Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:**
Karen Trierweiler provided a handout on the School-Based Health Center Program (SBHC). The SBHC program promotes quality, quantity, sustainability, and partnerships. The program also prioritizes services for low-income children and youth without health care access or adequate insurance coverage. Every center must provide a minimum level of 24/7 primary behavioral and oral health care on-site, with a contracted provider or by referral to other community providers.
- **Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing:**
Susanna Snyder provided an overview of the Prenatal Plus Program. The program was created in 1996 in order to reduce low birth weight rates, improve maternal mental health and decrease health disparities. The program seeks support in identifying/recruiting potential sites and increasing enrollment at existing sites.

Public Comment

- No public comment given

Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn

Barbara Grogan adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.

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

For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.