



Thursday, April 26, 2018
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Clayton Early Learning – Main Auditorium
3801 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd; Denver, CO
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/422518637>
Join the Conference Call: 515-739-1223
Code: 690666

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve meeting minutes from February 22, 2018
- Discuss Department & Legislative Updates
- Learn from Early Childhood experts to help inform the Commission's future prioritization work
- Hear from the Early Childhood community during Public Comment

Attendees:

Barbara Grogan, Cindy Schulz, Anna Jo Haynes, Letty Bass, Elsa Holguin, Melissa Colman, Heather Craiglow, Charlotte Brantley, Tom Massey, George Welsh, Lydia Prado, Doug Clements (by phone), Mary Anne Snyder, Kristina Heyl

Welcome and Business Meeting

Barbara Grogan called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Approval of February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were not available; the Commission will have them at the next meeting to approve.

Department & Legislative Updates

Colorado Department of Education: Melissa Colman shared that the Department is in the process of bringing forward final revisions to the academic standards which have been aligned to the Early Learning and Development Guidelines in grades P – 3. The revisions to the arts and computer science standards were recently adopted, and at their May meeting, the State Board will be taking action on social studies and math. She introduced Anji Gallanos, the new P-3 Director for CDE, whose focus will be to align work across programs that all support school readiness outcomes such as 3rd grade reading levels. Finally, she mentioned that a Public Education Accountability bill is moving through the state legislature and they will be working with the State Board to implement the changes to schools and districts at the end of the accountability clock.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment: Mandy Bakulski (on behalf of Erin Ulric) stated that the Department's Oral Health Unit:

- is collaborating Children's Hospital to develop a strategic plan to implement promotores de salud teaching parents of young children how to care for their and their children's teeth.
- received an increase in state funds to support the Cavity Free at Three program, based on an evaluation of the CF3 model by Dr. Patty Braun at Denver Health and the improvement in the health of kindergarteners in the report below.

- released at the end of February in the mouth screening report of the oral health of kindergarteners and third graders. The screening is done every five years. The report's main findings show that early preventive interventions, like Cavity Free at Three, have significantly decreased over the last ten years the number of kids experiencing cavities when they enter school (a 14% decrease). However, disparities based on race/ethnicity and income still remain. The only significant difference between children in rural versus urban schools was that urban third graders were more likely to have experienced cavities than rural third graders (52.3% and 36.8% respectively). We attribute this lack of disparity to interventions by Regional Oral Health Specialists who work in rural local public health agencies

She also noted the Maternal Wellness & Early Childhood section launched the Spanish-language version of the public awareness campaign on maternal mental health at the end of January with early indicators of success as there were nearly 2,000 views of the landing page in the first month of promotion. She attributed this to the high level of engagement from community members and providers serving Spanish-speaking clients in both the development and implementation stages of the campaign.

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing: Tom Massey noted that HCPF continues to try to keep eligibility and benefits constant with reduced funding. They are working with the Colorado Hospital Association and continuing to watch legislation as the session comes to a close in early May.

Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood: Mary Anne Snyder provided an overview of the Child Trends Colorado Shines Validation Study, which showed that the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System is a valid and trustworthy tool for measuring quality in early childhood centers and homes. The group recently presented to PQA, and they will present at a future ECLC Meeting if it would be helpful to the Commission. She also shared that the office has been developing materials for early childhood providers around child's mental health, which can be found at earlychildhoodmentalhealthco.org.

She stated that the increase of funding for CCDBG should provide additional funding for early childhood in Colorado; however, the majority of the funds will most likely support current and ongoing efforts, so there will not be a great opportunity for new initiatives or programs. The Commissioners asked for more information on the funding coming into the state as it becomes available. Finally, she mentioned that the Zoma Foundation and the state legislature are both contributing funding for a Colorado Community Response evaluation study, and that they continue to track legislation as the session closes.

Public Comment

Kathryn Harris shared that the Workforce Development goal group of the ECPD Advisory was recently made aware of an opportunity to propose that Early Childhood Workforce be considered by the Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) as a focus industry for 2018-19. Each year, the CWDC chooses two focus industries to provide support and guidance throughout the state. They will be selecting the next two industries on May 10-11, and of the four proposed industries, early childhood workforce and K-12 workforce are two

of the considered industries. The ECLC had a discussion about combining with K-12 and considering P-20 workforce as one industry; this would provide opportunities for alignment across the education spectrum. While the “P” in a “P-20” system isn’t clearly defined, the ECLC recognized the importance of being considered as a statewide industry in need of workforce supports. The ECLC agreed to send a letter to the CWDC members from the co-chairs encouraging them to consider early childhood workforce in their discussions.

Statewide Early Childhood Prioritization and Visioning

Overview of Prioritization Process

Kristina Heyl provided a brief review of the process for the ECLC to develop 2-4 early childhood priorities. The purpose of this work is to have a shared vision that is aligned across the early childhood community to share with a new administration, new legislators, and other policy makers over the next 3-5 years. The Commission will continue to learn from partners during the following presentations, and then the June ECLC Meeting, to guide their work to set the priorities in June.

Early Childhood History & Principles

Jennifer Stedron, Executive Director of Early Milestones Colorado, talked about work that they have commenced to create a 20-30 year history of early childhood in Colorado. The report focuses on major statewide early childhood milestones, as well as the vision and principles that have led to today and is organized by the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*. Jennifer explained that after reviewing 300+ documents provided by stakeholders, the vision and shared accountability of this work has stayed consistent over time and across administrations, which has led to the remarkable gains the state has made. She highlighted that as the Commission works to develop priorities, it’s important to keep in mind several long-term guiding principles: 1) the Child and Family are central to our shared work; 2) It’s important to maintain and continue the Collective and Sustained vision we have in Colorado; and 3) Colorado has a collaborative and innovative context that future work should embrace and build upon. The report, organized by the *Framework*, will be available in early June and will be shared with Commissioners.

Early Childhood Policy Strategies for Colorado

Sarah Barnes (Colorado Children’s Campaign) and Christina Walker (Clayton Early Learning) presented on the work that their organizations have led with stakeholders throughout the state to develop a compendium of early childhood policy opportunities. Their work is organized by the Framework and outlines medium-long term options that communities can take to enhance early childhood supports. They presented a draft to the Commission and asked that members review the policy alternatives; they plan to share the draft broadly and have a survey for soliciting feedback before the document is final. Once it is complete, it will provide Colorado a detailed outline of policy opportunities across the *Framework* domains that are important to work toward to ensure all children are healthy, valued and thriving. The ECLC members praised them for their work in the creation of the policy alternatives and asked them to return to the June meeting to share the final product.

Strategic Communication for Policy Change: Trends in Public Opinion and Messaging on Early Childhood Issues

Kathy Bonk and Andrea Camp joined the ECLC meeting to share their insights and observations of early childhood messaging and framing in the current environment. They shared that across the country, early childhood advocates look to Colorado and applaud the

consistent and collaborative vision that ensures continued progress toward early childhood systems and supports.

When the ECLC works to communicate early childhood issues and priorities, they offered several communication and framing suggestions that allow for early childhood issues to be understood and supported across a large audience. They emphasized that how an issue is framed, and the words used to frame it, are very important. (One example they shared is that “day care” or “child care” is often seen as an issue for parents, but when the term “early learning” or “early education” is used, it is seen as a broader public good. Consistently, people share core values around hard work and discipline, equal opportunity for all, accepting responsibility, and caring for those who cannot care for themselves (particularly children and elderly). Generally, people support family/friend/neighbor solutions to child care, and they are open to tax increases to help support the educator workforce. They encouraged everyone to think about two generation coordination and how that coordination is key to economic stability for families. Finally, they promoted the idea that it’s important to focus on the end results and not the means when thinking about values that promote better outcomes in early childhood.

Principles & Guidelines for Prioritization Work

Kristina Heyl read the Core Principles and Fundamentals from the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* to see if they were the correct guiding principles for the ECLC to work toward prioritization or if anything was missing.

The ECLC members discussed that it’s important to consider the current context of early childhood and education; the environment that kids learn is different than the past, and it’s important to consider the current environment and the skills kids will need to be successful in the future. It’s also important to consider short-term and long-term goals, and to use information and data to make informed decisions on priorities. Sufficient funding for all early childhood supports is also a critical component to ensuring a healthy early childhood system.

Co-Chairs’ Final Thoughts and Adjourn

Barb Grogan invited everyone in the audience to introduce themselves. She commented what a great group of stakeholders and early childhood supporters participating in this work. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.

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.