

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

June 25, 2020

9:30am- 12:00pm

Webinar Only

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/
4345378112750577167](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4345378112750577167)



Old Business

Business Meeting

- Review Meeting Objectives:
 - Discuss Opportunities and Challenges in Early Childhood & the ECLC's Role
 - Hear Updates from the Governor's Office
 - Learn about the Outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative
 - Vote on the changes to the ECLC Subcommittee Charges
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
- Approval of April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes



ECLC Statement & Action on Racial Justice

Elsa Holguín

A Statement from the ECLC

The Early Childhood Colorado Framework is founded upon the pillars of access, quality and equity in serving all children and families in our state. These guiding principles speak to the commitment of the early childhood community to declare unequivocally that racism has no place in our communities.

Sadly, for many children in our State, their experience is inequitable from birth. This is evidenced by numerous indicators that show that children of color consistently face barriers that lead to lower educational attainment, poorer health outcomes, and other lifelong challenges. The importance of early care and education in challenging and breaking through these systemic inequities cannot be overstated. Three-month-old babies can visually categorize faces by race. Toddlers begin to connect racial features to a person's behavior. Preschoolers can identify and act out against racial injustice on their own. Children's experiences in their formative years have the power to change our world.

The recent events our state and country have experienced, in addition to the unprecedented times we are facing already in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, have challenged all of us to stand united and steadfast in our determination to stopping a pattern of injustice and inequality.

ECLC Statement Continued...

Today, more than ever, we must stand together and turn anger and frustration into advocacy and action. We will first listen and then reflect, in order for other voices to be heard. We will examine our own organizational practices and procedures. We commit to walking together on this journey and supporting one another along the way, and we urge you to join us.

We express our sincere gratitude to all of you who have dedicated your work and your lives to fighting for access, quality and equity within your communities. If you need someone to talk to during this time, contact Colorado Crisis Services at 1.844.493.8255. Taking care of your health and well-being ensures you are prepared physically and mentally to care for others.

We stand with you and know that we have much more work to do, together.



Opportunities & Challenges around COVID-19

Susan Steele

Opportunities & Challenges around COVID-19

- Emergency Child Care Collaborative
- Future Federal Funding
- Child Care Supply & Demand



Budget and Legislative Updates

Tom Massey



Legislative Session Outcomes

Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign

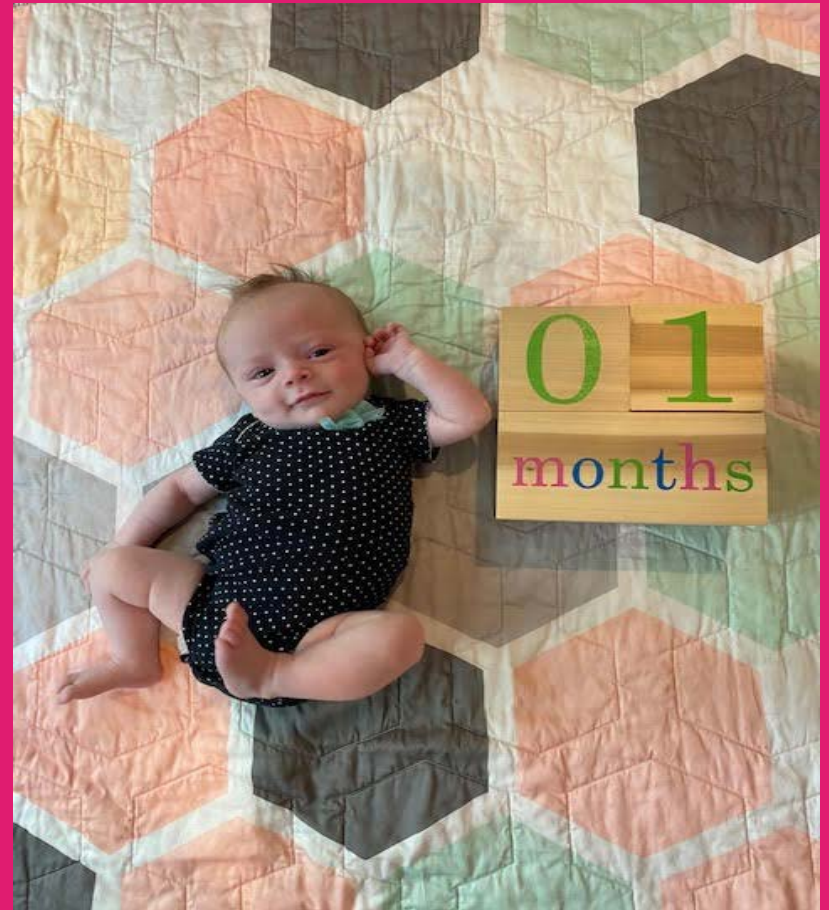


Public Comment & Commissioner Updates

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.

Congratulations Kate and baby Hazel!!!





Updates from the Governor's Office
Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early
Childhood



Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative Data
Erin Mewhinney & Jacob Barney, Office of Early Childhood;
Rob McDaniel & Matt Tessar, Metrix IQ



COLORADO

Emergency Child Care Collaborative

Draft Report on Administrative Outputs



COLORADO
Office of Early Childhood
Department of Human Services

Background and Objectives



What Happened?

- *Public-private partnership* was quickly established to ensure child care availability through initial COVID-19 outbreak
- Care subsidized using tuition credits paid to child care providers. Rates varied by age group.
 - Dates of care: March 23rd – May 24th, 2020
- Available to all “essential” workers, regardless of income.
 - “Essential” as defined in [Public Health Order 20-24](#)

Building the system

- Speed: Built this process and system in 4 weeks
- Based on DPP system (who acted as fiscal agent)
- Stewardship of funds and Auditability
- Reusability: Prepared for the future

Program Objectives

1. Ensure essential workers could find and afford child care during the initial COVID-19 crisis
2. Support operational and financial stability of child care providers

Estimated Need and Uptake

Office of Early Childhood estimated the number of eligible for care and likely to utilize based on:

- Number of children (0-11 y.o.) of workers likely in need of care. (Source: Child Care Aware/ACS)
- Number of workers in essential industries
- Early reported percentage uptake of similar programs responding to the outbreak nationally.

Expected between a 1-5% uptake.

| Percent Uptake | Children Served |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1% | 2,115 |
| Actual Served: 3% | 5,235 6,343 |
| 5% | 10,572 |



Program Outputs

Providers, Families, and Children

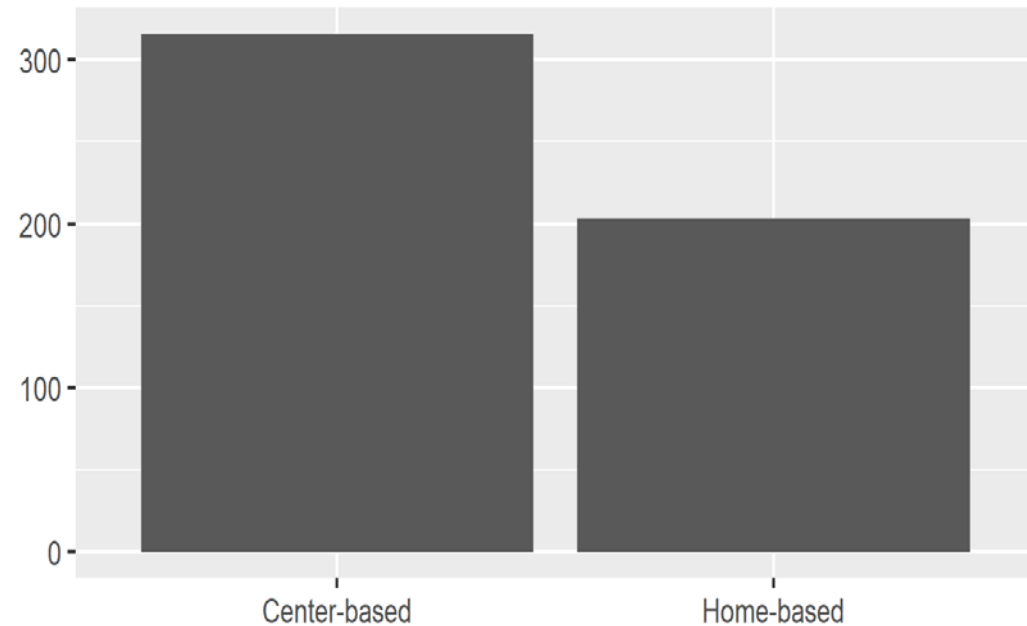


COLORADO
Office of Early Childhood
Department of Human Services

524 Emergency Child Care Providers

- Approved providers covered 45 counties
- Coverage in all counties with >50 COVID cases *except* Saguache (100) and Pitkin (80)
- Total net payments to providers \$10,603,974 (avg. \$20,236.59 per provider)

Emergency Child Care Providers by Type
(includes only those with confirmed attendance)

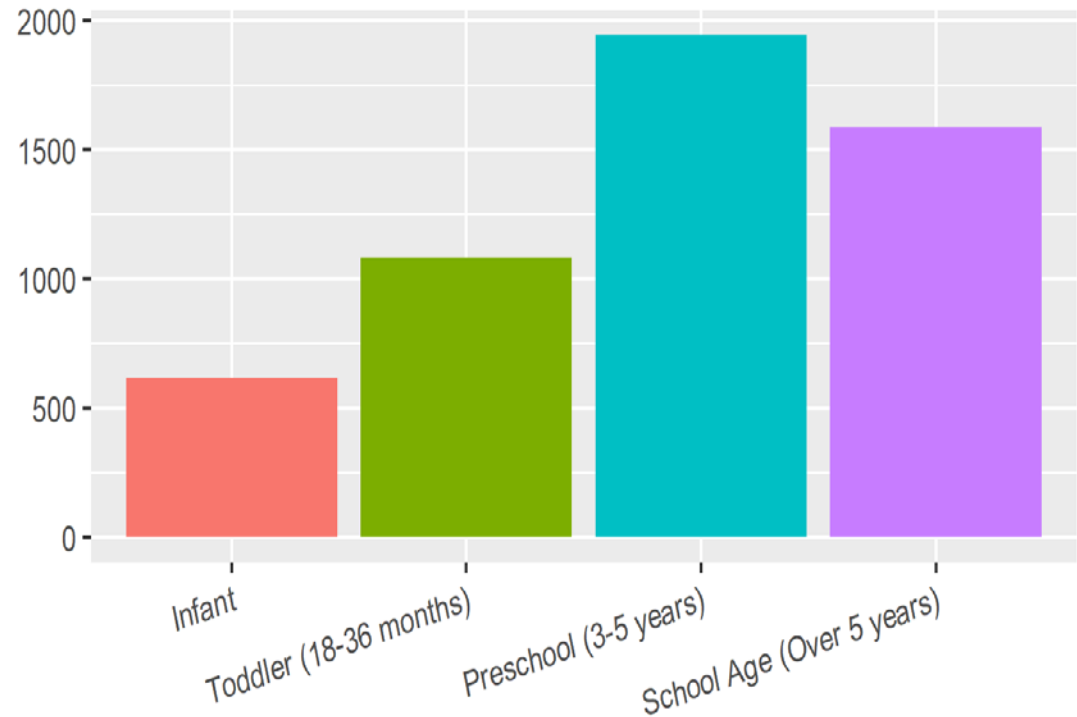


Represents 10% of open centers, and 12% of open homes

5,235 Children Received Care

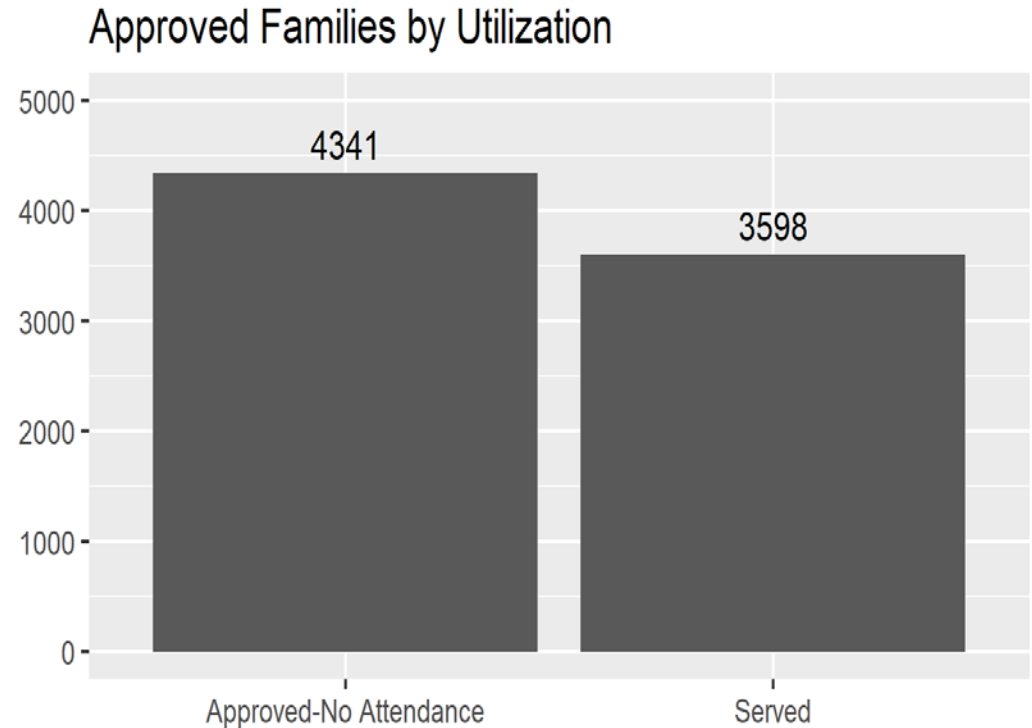
- 8 weeks - Median length of care. (of 9 possible weeks)
- Significantly more school-age care provided than is typical during this time frame.

Total Children Served by Age
By EmCC Providers: 3/23/20-5/24/20



3,598 Families Served

- 7,946 parent applications
- Parents served in 50 counties
- On average, about 1.5 children served per family
- Average of over 10 weeks of care per family
- Self-reported Median Household Income: \$80,500.



Less than 0.1% of families were not approved

Forthcoming...

Provider and Family Experiences




Parent and Provider Survey

- All parents who applied will be surveyed on their experience in July
 - Integrated with a broader parent COVID experience survey led by Early Milestones.
 - Initial data available late July, final data mid-August
- Providers to be surveyed in early July
 - Data available late July

Lessons Learned







Review & Vote on the Subcommittee Charges

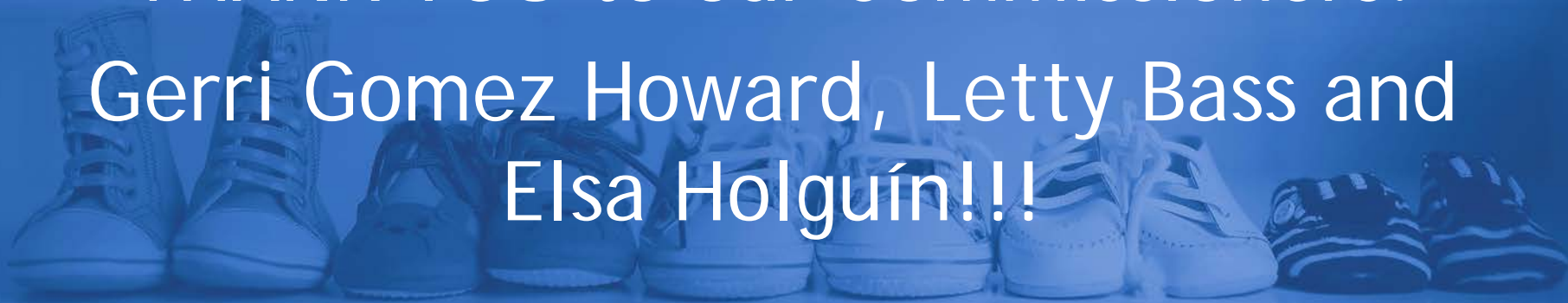
Kristina Heyl

Review & Vote on the Subcommittee Charges

- Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
- Communication Subcommittee
- Data Subcommittee
- Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee



THANK YOU to our Commissioners:
Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and
Elsa Holguín!!!





Co-Chair Final Thoughts and Adjourn

ECLC 2020 Meeting Schedule:

- August 27, 2020
- October 22, 2020
- December 17, 2020

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

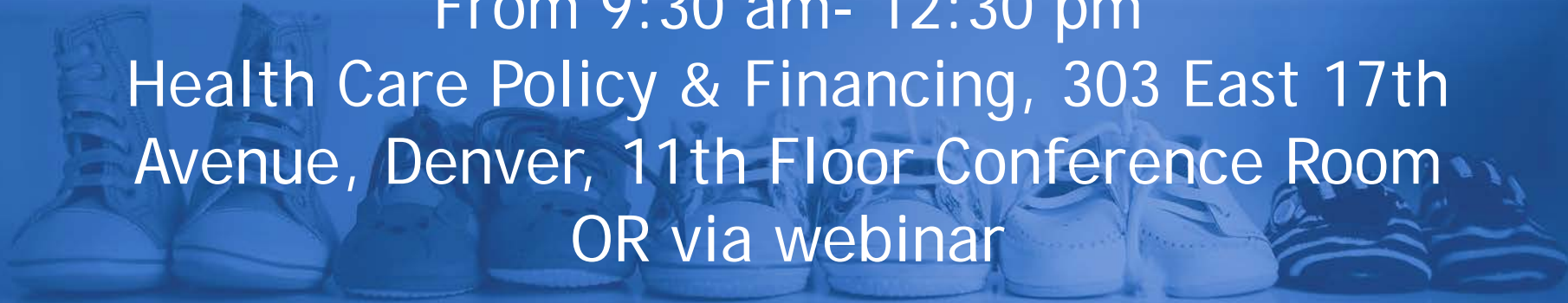
Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: August 27, 2020

From 9:30 am- 12:30 pm

Health Care Policy & Financing, 303 East 17th
Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room

OR via webinar





Thursday, June 25, 2020

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

WEBINAR ONLY:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4345378112750577167>

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2020 Meetings
 - Discuss Opportunities and Challenges in Early Childhood & the ECLC's Role
 - Hear Updates from the Governor's Office
 - Learn about the Outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative
 - Vote on the changes to the ECLC Subcommittee Charges
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
-

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:30-9:40am | Welcome & Introductions (Elsa Holguín) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Approval of April 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes |
| 9:40-10:00am | ECLC Statement & Action on Racial Justice (Elsa Holguín) |
| 10:00-10:20am | Opportunities & Challenges around COVID-19 (Susan Steele) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Child Care Collaborative• Future Federal Funding• Child Care Supply & Demand |
| 10:20-10:40am | Budget and Legislative Updates (Tom Massey) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legislative Session Outcomes (Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign) |
| 10:40-10:50am | Public Comment (Tom Massey) |
| 10:50-11:00am | Updates from the Governor's Office (Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early Childhood) |
| 11:00-11:20am | Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative Data (Erin Mewhinney & Jacob Barney, Office of Early Childhood; Rob McDaniel & Matt Tessar, Metrix IQ) |
| 11:20-11:50am | Review & Vote on the Subcommittee Charges (Kristina Heyl) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee• Communication Subcommittee• Data Subcommittee• Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee |
| 11:50-12:00pm | Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn (Susan Steele) |

THANK YOU to our Commissioners: Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and Elsa Holguín!!!

ECLC 2020 Meeting Schedule

- August 27, 2020
- October 22, 2020
- December 17, 2020

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

ECLC Meetings:

The next ECLC Meeting will be held on August 27, 2020 at Health Care Policy & Financing, 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room

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



Early Childhood Leadership Commission Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2020
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Webinar Only

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2020 and March 20, 2020
- Vote on changes to Working Groups
- Learn about COVID-19 Response from the State Agencies
- Plan ECLC Next Steps
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

Attendees:

Mary Anne Snyder, Susan Steele, Tom Massey, Jehan Benton-Clark, Amanda Pelletier, Kate Reinemund, Pamela Harris, Sue Renner, Ida Rhodes, Jai Scott, Ryan Beiser, Jeff Kuhr, Gerri Gomez Howard, Angie Paccione, Tracy Miller, Melissa Colman, Jeff Kuhr, Heather Craiglow, Kristina Heyl, Michelle Barnes, Brittany Lane, Bill Jaeger, George Welsh, Elsa Holguin

Welcome and Business Meeting

Tom Massey called the meeting to order at 10:01am. He welcomed Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services Michelle Barnes.

Michelle Barnes shared opening remarks. Michelle thanked everyone for the work they are doing to support children and families especially during the challenging times. She expressed her appreciation for the innovative approaches to connecting with families and making sure they have the resources they need. She shared that she is grateful for the way that the industry has come together across the public and private sectors and stated that this is a model that other sectors of our state can look to for how to coordinate and collaborate during challenging times. Michelle stated that it is clear that child care and all of the other early childhood supports are essential to keeping the communities going and allowing health care and other essential workers to be able to do their job. She ended by stating that Colorado will need all of the early childhood community to keep supporting families so that the state can move quickly to normal and move toward long-term economic recovery for the state.

Approval of December 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Tom thanked everyone who joined the meeting. He called for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2020 meeting. Pamela Harris moved to approve the minutes as distributed, George Welsh seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote. Tom then called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2020 meeting. Ida Rhodes moved to approve the minutes as distributed, Kate Reinemund seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ECLC Organizational Structure Update

Kristina Heyl stated that at the last ECLC meeting the Commission started talking about some updates to the ECLC current structure for working groups and subcommittees. After that meeting the Executive Subcommittee reviewed the updates and created some recommendations. She then walked through the three proposed changes to the ECLC structure and shared the Executive Subcommittee recommendations on each. Tom Massey called for motion to approve each update to the structure.

Home Visiting Investment Strategy Working Group- George Welsh moved to approve the creation of the Home Visiting Investment Strategy Working Group under the Program Quality and Alignment (PQA)

Subcommittee. Letty Bass seconded the motion; the creation of the Working Group was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Working Group- Susan Steele moved to approve the creation of the Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Working Group under the PQA Subcommittee. Melissa Colman seconded the motion; the creation of the Working Group was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory (ECPD) - Pamela Harris moved to reclassify the ECPD Working Group as a full Subcommittee. Ryan Beiser seconded the motion; the reclassification of ECPD was approved by unanimous voice vote.

COVID-19 Response to Support Early Childhood

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Melissa Colman shared updates on CDE's response to COVID-19 to support early childhood. She shared that CDE has been disseminating learning materials for early childhood through K-12 that are all available on CDE's website (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/>). She shared that with the suspension of in person learning for the rest of the school year the Department has suspended the spring assessments for Colorado Preschool Program (CPP). The P-3 Office is working with CPP to develop CPP's annual report; Melissa noted that the report may look different this year due to the pandemic. She discussed that the Department has allowed for flexibility with Colorado READ Act and that Governor Polis has suspended assessments and recording requirements for the spring. The National P-3 Center is working with the Department around Kindergarten assessments and transitions. Lastly she noted that the State Board of Education did vote to change the reporting and data collection of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment in alignment with the recommendation from the ECLC.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)

Tracy Miller shared that CDPHE convened maternity care providers and community partners to understand new barriers, achieve equitable, safe, patient-centered care practices, including breastfeeding support and guide hospitals, community delivery settings, and the public. Tracy stated that WIC is currently open and supporting families. WIC referrals are now increasing, WIC has worked to rapidly implement nationwide waivers and supply special waiver requests for Colorado. The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is supporting child care providers with food costs with focused outreach to emergency child care providers. Farm to child care program is connecting local farmers & producers to child care centers and food vendors. CDPHE has developed FAQs for providers on health and safety, is providing ongoing guidance and TA for providers, has support and partnership with local health inspectors and partnered with Governor's Office to modify Executive Order D2020 035: decrease amount of time of facility closure after a positive case. CDPHE has a focus on child maltreatment during this time, working with the Kempe Center to hold virtual convening's among child maltreatment professionals; the Kempe Center also has been given attention to family violence and impact of racism and discrimination on COVID outcomes. They have launched a new website: [Kempe COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Finance (HCPF)

Tom Massey shared that the Department is committed to providing health care coverage and peace of mind during the COVID-19 pandemic, when Coloradans need it the most. The Department moved in lock step with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and federal guidance to reduce exposure for our most vulnerable, those in long-term care facilities and other populations who are more susceptible to COVID-19, through a number of provider care directives. HCPF has taken steps to reduce administrative burden on providers through requests for program flexibility from federal partners. HCPF has asked county partners and all vendors to activate their continuity of operations plans including work from home capability to ensure they can answer the phones and serve members during the state of emergency. They have reduced face-to-face engagement requirements where clinically appropriate and enabled telemedicine as an

alternative and enacted temporary enhancement to telemedicine policy to improve overall access to care for members to further mitigate the spread of the virus. Tom stated that HCPF is working with federal partners at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to request temporary changes to ensure continuous coverage for individuals currently enrolled in Health First Colorado and CHP+, ease administrative burdens on new enrollees, and support long-term care.

Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)

Brittany Lane shared updates on CDHE's response to COVID-19 on behalf of Executive Director Angie Paccione. Brittany discussed that CDHE has been working with Governor's Office to clarify concerns to focus on the health and safety of students and staff at higher education campus. She shared that campuses have mostly closed except for students who are experiencing housing or food insecurity. All learning has been moved to online learning; due to this CDHE has established a fundraising campaign to make sure there is not a lapse in education for students. They are working to make sure each student has a laptop and continue to fundraise to meet the demand. She stated that institutions are leading research on COVID-19 vaccine and developing hand sanitizers and masks. CDHE is also convening students and families through regular town halls to discuss current and future needs. Institutions with early childhood programs report that candidates are still working with mentor teachers. Candidates in early childhood preparation can help support early childhood educators in existing centers with filling in or preparing lessons. Candidates are already fingerprinted and have background checks to work in early childhood programs.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

Mary Anne Snyder shared that the Emergency Child Care Collaborative began on March 23 by serving the children of health care and emergency personnel responding to COVID-19. On March 30 it was expanded to include all essential workers outlined in Updated Public Health Order 20-24. The OEC launched a portal for providers to register their status during times of emergency that will inform the Office if they are at risk of closing and why; the number of classrooms they have opened (compared to licensed capacity); status and need for staff, etc. This portal will provide important information during any emergency situation, including the remainder of this period under COVID-19.

Mary Anne shared updates from the Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS). She stated that Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) consultants have been reaching out and connecting to child care centers that remain open in their region, and they are also ready to support emergency child care centers. She also stated that Early Intervention and Home Visiting services have transitioned to tele health. The OEC has coordinated with the Emergency Operations Center to procure essential baby supplies through a FEMA request, including 8,200 cases of formula, 23,260 packages of diapers and 53,167 packages of diaper wipes. The DCFS team has created two new resources. One is a webpage to guide programs and professionals as they implement new service delivery models utilizing available technology. The second is a Resource Roundup, to help support children's learning and development in line with the state's Early Learning and Development Guidelines.

Mary Anne discussed updates from the Division of Early Care and Learning stating that as of April 14th there has been 52 counties that have adopted temporary policy changes due to COVID-19 to expand the number of absences paid to licensed CCCAP providers. These paid absence policy changes will provide much needed support to our CCCAP child care providers who are experiencing very low attendance or have closed due to COVID-19. In addition, as of April 14th, 37 counties have implemented temporary policies to waive monthly parent fees effective 4/1/20 which supports families by alleviating child care costs for families receiving CCCAP at this time. Licensing specialists have been deployed to support local child care programs across the state that are providing emergency child care, as well as to help identify facilities that are willing to reopen in areas of the state that still face a shortage of available emergency child care.

Federal Updates on COVID-19 Response

Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign shared Federal Updates around the COVID-19. Bill shared information on the last three phases of the federal stimulus package and a summary of the key provisions. Bill shared that the Federal Stimulus #3.5 included the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*, 3.5 stimulus packet is scheduled to go before the House. Bill shared that advocates are pushing Congress on the need for substantial, significant, direct investment for child care relief and recovery, and the more that states can elevate their needs, the better.

Public Comment & Commissioner Updates

Kristina Heyl announced that the Office of Early Childhood will be holding a virtual Town Hall for child care providers around Small Business Support on Thursday April 23rd from 4:00-5:30pm. The Office of Early Childhood and partners from several state agencies will share support available for child care providers and businesses during COVID-19.

Nicole Riehl shared that EPIC worked with Costco leadership and Colorado warehouses to lift purchase limits and provide priority shopping hours and access for early childhood businesses who have a letter from CDHS that designates them as an early childhood provider.

Charlotte Brantley shared her concern that as the childcare industry comes back to think about the churn and change children will be facing and that providers will need supports for behavioral and mental health in order to support children and families.

Updates from Governor Polis on Colorado's Early Childhood COVID-19 Response

Governor Polis joined the ECLC webinar. Governor Polis thanked early childhood child care providers for their commitment to supporting emergency workers and their families and all Colorado families during the pandemic. Governor Polis discussed the importance of partnering with the ECLC to address current and future challenges to the early childhood field.

Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn

The co-chairs thanked all that joined the meeting for their continued support of the early childhood community during this time. They thanked Executive Director Michelle Barnes, Governor Polis, and the other presenters for the incredible work and information they shared.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The next ECLC meeting will be held on June 25, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Health Care Policy & Financing 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room.

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



Early Childhood Legislative Update – 2020 General Assembly

Contact: Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children’s Campaign, bill@coloradokids.org, 720-552-0002

Legislation That Passed

| Category | Bill Number/Sponsors/Title | Summary |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| ECE Access & Child Health | <p>HB 20-1427 (Caraveo & McCluskie/Fields & Moreno) Tobacco & Nicotine Tax to address education budget shortfalls, housing, and preschool access</p> | <p>Refers a measure to voters that would, if approved at the November 2020 election, phases in higher rates of taxation on tobacco products over the next ten years and institutes a tax on liquid nicotine (vaping) for the first time and increases the rate over ten years. These policies have some of the strongest evidence base for reducing tobacco and nicotine use among pregnant people and youth. Revenue generated from the increased rates of taxation would go to several purposes over time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-21 through 2022-23 (2.5 years of revenue = \$415M): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$5.5M for tobacco tax cash fund in '21, \$11M in '22, \$11M in '23 ○ \$2M, \$4M, \$4M for General Fund in '21, '22, & '23 ○ \$11.7M/yr for various housing initiatives (eviction legal defense fund, housing development grants) ○ \$25M, \$30M, \$35M (per year for each of the 2.5 years of revenue) to rural schools ○ Remainder to the State Education Fund (~\$289M total or ~\$96M per year) • 2023-24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$11M to tobacco tax cash fund ○ \$4M to General fund ○ Remainder to Preschool Programs Cash Fund • July 1, 2024 through July 1, 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$11M to tobacco tax cash fund ○ \$4M to General Fund ○ \$20M to tobacco education ○ Remainder to Preschool Programs Cash Fund • July 1, 2027 and beyond <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$11M to tobacco tax cash fund ○ \$4M to the General Fund ○ \$30M to the Tobacco Education Fund ○ Remainder to the Preschool Programs Cash Fund <p>Our estimates are this would create a dedicated funding stream that would exceed \$1.5 billion for preschool over the first 8 years (how long we have cost models for) of operation beginning in 2023.</p> |

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| <p>EC Workforce, Mental Health, & Quality</p> | <p>HB 20-1053 (Sirota & Wilson/Story & Pettersen) Supports for the Early Childhood Workforce</p> | <p>HB 20-1053 combined elements of three Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission bills (HB 1053, HB 1006, & HB 1016) and eliminated elements of the bills that drove costs. As amended, this bill will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support child care programs that are reopening to serve children and families. Child care providers stepped up to care for children during the height of the crisis to make sure our emergency and essential workforce could get to work. These programs were already facing a crisis in recruiting and retaining educators so that they can provide child care so parents can work before the crisis. With the components of HB 20-1053 retained in the bill, we can streamline pathways to the classroom, including alternative routes to the profession, and reduce burdens paperwork on our early care and education providers. (HB 20-1053) 2) Support programs in responding to a spike in early childhood mental health needs we are seeing as a result of the crisis. The economic and health trauma of this crisis, the disruption to children's learning, and the mental health challenges parents of young children are facing are all resulting in a need for a more efficient alignment of programs supporting young children's behavioral health needs. (HB 20-1006) 3) Support greater flexibility for the 34 statewide Early Childhood Councils and the state Office of Early Childhood in supporting quality, responsive programming for all programs and educators regardless of their level of quality. (HB 20-1016) |
| <p>Child Care Availability</p> | <p>SB 20-126 (Story & Smallwood/Roberts & Van Winkle) Allow Home Child Care In Homeowners' Association Community</p> | <p>Limits the grounds under which a homeowner's association can restrict the operation of family child care.</p> |
| <p>Child Care Regulation</p> | <p>HB 20-1347 (Young & Jaquez Lewis/Danielson & Hansen) Licensure Exemption For Family Child Care Homes</p> | <p>Extends the licensing exemption allowing for providers to care for no more than 4 unrelated children (no more than 2 under the age of 2) until 2026 but adds specific requirements for the providers and the state including (1) required notification of the parents of children in care that the caregiver is not licensed and that the state has not verified the health and safety of the setting or performed background checks on anyone in the residence, (2) reporting by the state regarding complaints filed against those claiming this exemption as well as cease-and-desist orders for those operating under these exemptions, and (3) posting of information for these providers on pathways to becoming licensed.</p> |

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| <p>Family Economic Security</p> | <p>HB 20-1420 (Sirota & Gray/Moreno & Hansen) Adjust Tax Expenditures For State Education Fund</p> <p>*HB 20-1203 which had previously proposed expanding the EITC (and instituting a state-level CTC) did not pass, but key elements were included in HB 20-1420.</p> | <p>Closes out specific state tax deductions at the state level to allocate additional revenue to the State Education Fund. The bill also makes the state EITC level immediately available to ITIN filers and expands the EITC beginning in 2022 from 10% of the federal EITC to 15%.</p> |
| <p>Health</p> | <p>SB 20-163 (Gonzales & Priola/Mullica & Roberts) School Entry Immunization</p> | <p>Clarifies that parents may take medical or nonmedical exemption and requires a standardized form and submission process for those taking a nonmedical exemption. Those claiming a nonmedical exemption can do so by submitting a physician-signed certificate or completion of an online education module certificate. Requires schools to publish immunization and exemption rates. Ensures providers utilize the state's immunization tracking system.</p> |
| <p>Early Literacy</p> | <p>SB 20-185 (Bridges & Tate/Tipper & Wilson) The Colorado Imagination Library Program</p> | <p>Requires, subject to available appropriations, the state librarian in to contract with a Colorado nonprofit organization for the creation and operation of the Colorado Imagination Library program which provides children birth to 5 years old with access to books on a monthly basis at no cost to families.</p> |
| <p>Family Economic Security</p> | <p>SB 20-029 (Fields & Moreno/Coleman & Duran): Cost Of Living Adjustment For Colorado Works Program</p> | <p>The bill allocates up to \$10M from the TANF Long-term Reserve to provide every family receiving Basic Cash Assistance via TANF with a one-time payment of \$500.</p> |

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| Health | SB 20-215 (Moreno & Donovan/Kennedy & McCluskie) Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise | The bill continues, at the state level, a federal fee on health insurance carriers that is expiring in order to establish a dedicated revenue source to cover the costs of the state reinsurance program, increase the value of various benefits offered under the state insurance exchange, and expand coverage to individuals who were left out of the Affordable Care Act, including those without proper documentation. |
| Health | SB 20-205 (Fenberg & Bridges/Backer & Caraveo): Sick Leave for Employees | Requires all employers to provide paid sick to employees, accrued at one hour of paid sick for every 30 hours worked, up to a maximum of 48 hours. |

Legislation That Failed

| Category | Bill Number/Sponsors/Title | Summary |
|----------------|---|--|
| ECE Facilities | HB 20-1138 (Coleman & Larson/Bridges & Gardner) Public Real Property Index | The bill would have required each state agency, institute of higher education, and local government to provide the state architect with information (that would be publicly posted) regarding real usable real property. |
| ECE Workforce | HB 20-1043 (Buckner & Wilson/Todd & Priola) Income Tax Credit For Early Childhood Education Fix | The bill would have corrected a drafting error affecting the trigger for creating an income tax credit for most early childhood educators. |
| Home Visiting | SB 20-144 (Fields & Lee/Larson & Michaelson Jenet) Home Visiting Expansion Grant Program | The bill would have created a grant program to fund nationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting models throughout the state. |

Budget Action of Relevance

| State Agency (HB 20-1360) | Summary | Impact of Budget |
|--|---|--|
| HCPF | Children's Basic Health Plan (CHP+) faced proposed cuts but was not reduced in the final budget. In fact, the state budget slightly increases funding to account for declining federal revenue from the last reauthorization | No reduction; slight increase |
| CDE | Colorado Preschool Program: No changes to slots funded despite a proposal to do so. The per pupil expenditures in CPP are tied to our School Finance Act so cuts to K-12 education mean that the per pupil expenditures (on average) will be slightly reduced | No reduction in slots |
| CDE | Full-day Kindergarten: No cuts to full-day kindergarten | No reduction in funding children as 1.0 FTE |
| CDHS | Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP): Slight increase in funding and slight increase in spending authority of federal funds | Slight increase of \$5.6M (+\$1.7M CF, -\$1.2 GF, +\$5.2 FF) |
| CDHS | Family Resource Centers: Budget cut of \$500K+ out of a previous allocation of \$1.3M | Funding cut |
| CDHS | Early Intervention: While EI did not see cuts, the legislature flat funded the program despite anticipated increases in caseload growth in 2020-21. Funding that caseload growth via the supplemental request or changing eligibility to avoid a wait list will be a challenge. | Flat funding despite anticipated caseload increase |
| CDE | K-12 Education: Budget stabilization fact has grown to \$1.18B (some cuts offset by federal money this year) | Cuts to nearly all grant & pilot programs and slight decrease in PPR |
| CDHE | Major cuts to the higher education budget (58% of prior year's allocation). Some impact will be slightly offset by federal stimulus money this year. | Major reduction in funding |



Ballot Measures of Relevance Anticipated for November of 2020

| Initiative/Referred Measure | Summary | Funding Level |
|---|--|--|
| Initiative #271: Fair Tax Colorado | If signatures are collected by Fair Tax Colorado and the measure passes in November, this would create a graduated income tax for individual taxpayers by lowering the tax rate on taxable income up to \$250,000 (more than 97% of taxpayers) from 4.63 to 4.58 percent, and raising the tax rates on taxable income above this amount; and increase state income tax revenue, with a requirement that at least half of the new revenue be spent on pre-primary through twelfth grade (P-12) public education and the other half be used to address Colorado's growing population and changing economy. | ~\$2 billion per year beginning in 2021 |
| Referred Measure from HB 20-1427: Tobacco & Nicotine Tax for Education, Housing & ECE | See summary above for HB 20-1427 | 2020-21: \$83M 2021-22: \$168M 2022-23: \$166M 2023-24: \$168M+ |
| Initiative #283: Paid Family & Medical Leave | If signatures are collected by Colorado Families First and the measure passes in November, this would establish a social insurance paid family and medical leave program funded by employee and employer contributions and would provide 12 to 16 weeks of paid family and medical leave for all Coloradoans. | |
| Gallagher Repeal | The legislature referred a measure to the voters to repeal the Gallagher amendment. | |



ECLC Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge:

The Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee (PQA) of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission is charged with identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children and to enhance the alignment and provision of services and supports for young children.

§ 26-6.2-104 Legislative Duties associated with Subcommittee:

In addition to any other duties specified in law, the commission has the following duties:

- (a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children;
- (b) To advise and make recommendations to the state departments and to other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the early childhood Colorado framework;
- (c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children and their families, including securing funding and additional investments for services, programs, and access to these services and programs for children and their families;
- (e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:
 - (I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career advancement system;
 - (II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and
- (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
 - (I) Increasing children's school readiness;
 - (II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs; and
 - (III) Promoting family and community engagement in children's early education and development.

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 1: Improve Access to High Quality Early Care & Education For All Families

Area 2: Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation

Area 3: Support Improved Family Health & Economic Security Through a Two-Generation Approach

~~ECLC Strategic Plan Alignment:~~

~~THEORY OF CHANGE: Through data gathering, policy development and community engagement, ECLC improves service delivery and interagency support for Colorado children birth to age 8.~~

~~Goal 2: Elevate Early Childhood Professional Workforce~~

~~Goal 3: Align Early Childhood Systems~~

The PQA Subcommittee will achieve this Vision by:

- Creating an environment for early childhood stakeholders to share their work and collaborate across systems;
- Monitoring early childhood systems and making recommendations for changes that would better align services and supports for families;
- Aligning state and local efforts to the Early Childhood Colorado Framework;
- Review and analyze EC systems alignment through an audit that measures baseline alignment of EC programs and services to be guided by the committee and relevant state agencies (subject to adequate fundraising); and
- Developing Working Groups to explore specific early childhood topic areas and develop strategies and solutions for better coordination.

Membership:

- ECLC Members
- Parents/Caregivers
- Early Childhood Councils
- Statewide Early Childhood Organizations
- Foundations/Philanthropic partners interested in early childhood alignment efforts
- Representatives from State Agencies who interact with early childhood systems, including CDPHE, CDE, HCPF and CDHS
- Health or Behavioral Health subject matter experts
- Organization focused on Family and Community Engagement
- Representative from Early Care & Learning organizations
- Representative from P-12 Education System
- Policy advocacy organization
- Representative from each of the Working Groups established by ECLC/PQA

PQA Subcommittee Next Steps:

- Identify opportunities for alignment across early childhood systems and leverage existing work, such as:
 - Coordination / Communication / Trust / Relationship Building across state agencies and partners
 - Framework Website + Inclusion of Policy Strategies and Vision
 - Support the implementation of the EC Workforce 2020 Plan
 - Advocate for Infant and Toddler strategies that connect with other early childhood systems
 - Support Prenatal - 3rd grade Strategies and alignment across school and early childhood systems
 - Manage the implementation of the Colorado Shines Brighter Statewide Strategic Plan

Duration:

- Subcommittee membership designated on February 27, 2020 ~~August 23, 2018 for two years, until~~ until February, 2021 ~~August 2020~~.



ECLC Data Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge:

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

§ 26-6.2-104 Legislative Duties associated with Subcommittee:

In addition to any other duties specified in law, the commission has the following duties:

- (b) To advise and make recommendations to the state department and to other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework;
- (e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:
 - (I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career advancement system;
 - (II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and
 - (III) The sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs;
- (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
 - (I) Increasing children's school readiness;
 - (II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs; and
 - (III) Promoting family and community engagement in children's education and development.

ECLC Strategic Plan Alignment:

~~THEORY OF CHANGE: Through data gathering, policy development and community engagement, ECLC improves service delivery and interagency support for Colorado children birth to age 8.~~

~~Goal 1: Expand Early Childhood Awareness~~

~~Goal 2: Elevate Early Childhood Professional Workforce~~

~~Goal 3: Align Early Childhood Systems~~

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 1: Improve Access to High Quality Early Care & Education For All Families

Area 2: Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation

Area 3: Support Improved Family Health & Economic Security Through a Two-Generation Approach

ECLC Data Vision:

Reliable, relevant and secure data guides and informs early childhood decision-makers at all levels who are working to ensure all children are valued, healthy and thriving in Colorado.

The Data Subcommittee will achieve this Vision by:

- Serving as a Data Champion - encourage collection and use of data in decision making and policy development across all levels of early childhood systems
- Modeling Effective Use of Data - incorporate data as an essential component in all early childhood conversations and decisions
- Accumulating Information - obtain and share current information from state agencies and other trusted data sources
- Building Data and Report Reference Library - create and maintain library of reports and resources on early childhood outcomes
- Facilitating Connections - create space for early childhood data collectors to connect, collaborate, and advance the use of data in decision making

Membership:

- ECLC Members
- Parents/Caregivers
- Early Childhood Programs with Data Efforts or Expertise
- Early Childhood Councils with Data Experience or Expertise
- Data and Research Subject Matter Experts
- Statewide Early Childhood Organization
- Foundations/Philanthropic partners interested in Data efforts
- OEC, CDHS Strategic Operations
- CDPHE Data and Operations
- CDE Data and Operations
- HCPF Data and Operations

- Institutes of Higher Education
- EC Workforce 2020 Plan Representative
- Health and Mental Health Representatives

Data Subcommittee Next Steps:

- ECLC Approves Subcommittee and Membership
- Review and disseminate trusted, publicly available early childhood data resources and reports on the Early Childhood Colorado Framework website
- Advance the three ECLC Areas of Opportunity and monitor the progress of each area
- Advocate for the importance of school readiness data
- ~~Determine priorities from EC Workforce 2020 Plan and Data Questions~~
- ~~Identify Framework Website Data/Report Criteria Requirements and Process for approving reports~~
- ~~Presentations and Awareness of Data Efforts:~~
 - ~~Colorado Information Marketplace~~
 - ~~Early Childhood Participation Project~~

Duration:

- Subcommittee membership designated on February 27, 2020 for one year, until February, 2021 ~~on August 24, 2017 for two years, until August 2019.~~



ECLC Communications Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge:

Work with parents, providers and stakeholders to advance appropriate, accessible, and timely communication efforts with parents and caregivers throughout Colorado.

§ 26-6.2-104 Legislative Duties associated with Subcommittee:

- (c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children, including securing funding and additional investments for services and programs for children and their families;
- (e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:
 - (II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and
 - (III) The sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs;
- (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
 - (II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs; and
 - (III) Promoting family and community engagement in children's education and development.

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 1: Improve Access to High Quality Early Care & Education For All Families

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ECLC Strategic Plan Alignment:

~~THEORY OF CHANGE: Through data gathering, policy development and community engagement, ECLC improves service delivery and interagency support for Colorado children birth to age 8.~~

~~Goal 1: Expand Early Childhood Awareness~~

~~Goal 2: Elevate Early Childhood Professional Workforce~~

Key Principles of Communications Work:

- Use research and recommendations from ECCC
- Authentic family/caregiver engagement
- Two Generation Lens
- Subcommittee will operate in an inclusive and accessible manner

Communications Subcommittee Next Steps:

- ECLC Approves Subcommittee and Membership
- Distribute the best practices resource document [Communication Guidelines for Engaging with Parents and Caregivers](#)
- Continue working on an online platform for sharing tools, resources and strategies to improve the coordination of communication efforts within Colorado
- Encourage all who connect with new parents to incorporate parent and caregiver engagement strategies and messages into their programs and outreach
- Support the communications activities of the [Colorado Shines Brighter Preschool Development Grant](#)
- ~~Determine 3 actionable strategies~~
- ~~Develop a work plan by December 2017~~
- ~~Secure adequate resources needed for projects~~

Membership:

- ECLC Members

- Parents/Caregivers
- Local/Regional Early Childhood Programs with Communication efforts
- Early Childhood Councils with Communications Experience or Expertise
- Communication Subject Matter Experts
- Foundations/Philanthropic partners interested in Communication efforts
- OEC, CDHS Communications
- CDPHE Communications
- CDE Communications
- Early Childhood Council member
- Statewide communication initiatives

Duration:

- Subcommittee membership designated February 27, 2020 for one year, until February, 2021. ~~on August 24, 2017 for two years, until August 2019.~~
-



Early Childhood ~~Workforce Development~~~~Professional Development Advisory~~ Subcommittee

Working Group Charge:

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission endorsed the Colorado Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan in June, 2017. The Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Working Group (ECPD Advisory) will leverage comprehensive, collaborative, and responsive leadership to achieve the vision of the EC Workforce 2020 Plan.

§ 26-6.2-104 Legislative Duties associated with Subcommittee:

In addition to any other duties specified in law, the commission has the following duties:

- (a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children and to recommend to the appropriate committees of reference of the general assembly pursuant to part 2 of article 7 of title 2, C.R.S., and to government and nonprofit agencies and policy boards changes to enhance the alignment and provision of services and supports for young children;
- (c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children, including securing funding and additional investments for services and programs for children and their families;
- (e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:
 - (I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career advancement system;
 - (III) The sharing and use of common data for planning and accountability among early childhood programs;
- (f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:
 - (II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs.

ECLC Strategic Plan Alignment:

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 2: Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation

~~THEORY OF CHANGE: Through data gathering, policy development and community engagement, ECLC improves service delivery and interagency support for Colorado children birth to age 8.~~

~~Goal 2: Elevate Early Childhood Professional Workforce~~

~~Goal 3: Align Early Childhood Systems~~

Goals of Colorado's Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan:

The EC Workforce 2020 Plan provides an ambitious three-year roadmap for a comprehensive professional development system designed to recruit, retain, compensate, develop and support a high-quality, diverse, early childhood workforce so Colorado's young children from birth through age eight and their families can thrive. The plan's 6 main goals include:

Workforce Development Goal: Cultivate the competencies of a highly-qualified, diverse early childhood workforce.

Recruitment and Retention Goal: Recruit and retain effective, qualified, and diverse early childhood educators.

Compensation Goal: Ensure worthy and livable compensation for the early childhood educators.

Leadership Goal: Leverage comprehensive, collaborative, and responsive leadership to achieve the vision of the EC Workforce 2020 Plan.

Finance Goal: Finance the early childhood professional development system through efficient coordination of funding, innovative financing models, and an informed and engaged public.

Data and Continuous Quality Improvement Goal: Continuously improve the effectiveness of the professional development system through the use of data.

The full plan can be found at www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org

Membership Sectors:

- Institutes of Higher Education: Community College Early Childhood, Four Year Early Childhood and Alternative Teacher Prep
- Early Childhood Professionals representing each of the following: Program Director, Educator and Family Home Care Provider
- For-profit Early Childhood sector
- Family, Friend & Neighbor care provider or representative
- State Agencies: Colorado Department of Higher Education, Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Department of Human Services (specific to CCDF State Plan, this needs to include Child Care Licensing and QRIS), Office of Early Learning and School Readiness, Colorado Department of Education (specific to CCDF State Plan, this needs to include Effective Educator System)
- Head Start
- Public School District
- EC Training, Coaching and Quality Improvement Providers
- EC Council and Resource/Referral Agency
- Early Intervention, Preschool Special Education and Colorado Preschool Program
- Family Engagement
- Home Visitation
- EC Mental Health
- Workforce Development

Meetings:

- Bi-monthly ~~or Quarterly (TBD)~~
- All meetings will be accessible/supported with [Adobe Connecta virtual meeting component](#)

Early Childhood Professional Development Advisory Working Group Next Steps:

- ECPD Advisory Working Group Chairs complete recruitment of members
- ECPD Advisory Working Group completes implementation plan for Colorado's EC Workforce 2020 Plan
 - Establish clearly-defined, shared terminology for different roles and different credentials
 - Explore relationships with Early Childhood Councils to develop professional learning communities to share effective strategies around recruitment, retention, and improving efficacy
 - Identify barriers and convene a roundtable to identify solutions to successfully recruit and retain people of color in leadership roles

- Explore relationships with Early Childhood Councils to develop Peer Learning Communities to share effective strategies around enhancing compensation, including wages and benefits
- Continue to ensure that this group is representative of all partners involved in early childhood workforce development in Colorado
- Continue to be a group that connects all early childhood workforce development efforts and map how those efforts relate to the EC Workforce 2020 Plan
- Create a plan beyond the EC Workforce 2020 Plan to address Colorado's early childhood workforce needs
- Be responsive and supportive of current trends and initiatives, such as the COVID-19 Pandemic response and the additional supports needed for the early childhood workforce.
- Presentations and Awareness of Data Efforts:
 - Routine progress updates to the Program Quality Alignment Subcommittee Early Childhood Leadership Commission
 - Work with PQA-ECLC Communications Subcommittee to develop a communications and reporting process to document and share progress. ~~on the EC Workforce 2020 implementation.~~

Duration:

Working group membership designated on August 24, 2017 for three years, until August 2020. April 2020, for one year, until April 2021.



June 25, 2020 Department Updates

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

CDHS has been hosting listening sessions with staff and our Family Voice Council. The leadership team will soon be unveiling a plan of action to address inequities in our department and system that was developed with input from colleagues from a variety of backgrounds and lived experiences; across all offices and at all levels.

Office of Early Childhood

Division of Early Care & Learning

Child Care Provider Open / Closed Status

The Office created a new portal for providers to register their open / closed status during emergencies (including COVID-19, but also for other future disasters).

Below is current data regarding open and closed child care facilities. Open/closure data is self-reported by providers. Data is current as of June 8:

- Number of licensed child care centers with open licenses: 1,533. Number registered as temporarily closed: 622 (no response: 284).
- Number of licensed child care homes with open licenses: 1,687. Number currently registered as temporarily closed: 125 (no response: 851).
- We have had 43 license closure requests (permanent closures) since March 25th, 2020. This is lower than historical monthly averages.

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) saw a drop in the number of children served in April and May due to the COVID-19 crisis. The number of children being served is beginning to rise, due to more children returning to child care and more providers opening.

- Number of children served by CCCAP
 - April 2020: 6,600
 - May 2020: 7,961

By implementing expanded absence payments (paying providers even if children are not in care), CCCAP was able to provide stability and support to child care providers that had to close temporarily or that were impacted by the number of CCCAP children not in attendance due to COVID-19. The number of providers served represents providers that were reimbursed for care that was attended as well as these absence payments. We have also started seeing a slight increase in the number of providers receiving payment from CCCAP.

- Number of providers that received payment from CCCAP

- April 2020: 1,527
- May 2020: 1,566

Additional Child Care Provider Support

The Office joined a group of partners to support the [“Keep the Lights On”](#) fund, which is distributing much needed cleaning supplies and masks to over 1,200 child care providers across the state. This is important, because child care providers may close their doors (thus families lose access to care) if they can’t access necessary supplies.

Division of Community & Family Support

Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Consultations

The Early Childhood Mental Health data system collects information on why Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations stop. A “Pandemic/Natural Disaster” selection was added to the system to help ensure the Office has the most accurate data regarding why these services may have stopped between March 16 and the present.

Early Intervention (EI)

Early Intervention (EI) continues its exceptional growth of providers certified to deliver services via telehealth. Since March 1, 2020, 886 providers have become newly certified, contributing to a total of 1,413 providers trained statewide.

Head Start

Early Intel and the National Head Start Association have released findings from a joint survey of over 300 Head Start programs, regarding how they’re responding to closures from Covid-19.

The survey found that while most programs were forced to close their doors, staff continued to provide services, often in creative ways, and moved quickly to meet basic needs, stay connected and provide distance learning. [More information from the report is available here.](#)

Colorado Department of Education(CDE)

CDE continues to work to support school districts in preparing for the fall. A cross-departmental team has developed a 2020-21 School Year Toolkit for districts, which includes information and supports for health and safety, continuity of learning, planning and communication, policy and funding, as well as information on supporting the conditions for learning. This P-12 guide is available online in draft form at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/planning20-21>. The department is currently seeking feedback on the resource and will finalize the initial version in the coming weeks. The guide will continue to be updated with new information to respond to the changes as necessitated by the current health crisis. To augment this work, CDE’s P-3 team is currently working on guidance for fall related to supporting districts with reopening, specific to beginning of the year assessment requirements and needs. This is in response to specific questions related to

how to plan for READ Act and kindergarten school readiness assessment given that districts need to plan for a range of instructional delivery scenarios.

Finally, CDE will be completing a review of vendors for the Results Matter assessments, which will take place in July. The department will be working with the DaSy center to support the technical review.

Colorado Department of Higher Education(CDHE)

The Department of Higher Ed has been working closely with the Governor's office through the Education and Workforce Subcabinet on 2021 Wildly Important Goals (WIGS).

As you know, the Governor is committed to: Increase early state childhood capacity to implement an increase of 20,000 half-day 4 year old preschool slots by June 30, 2023.

Long-term WIG: Increase # of licensed/credentialed/qualified professionals by 500 by June 30, 2023 to accommodate increased number of 4 year-olds w/access. We project that approximately *50 new early childhood education teacher candidates in higher education will need to be added each year* to maintain the proportions in the field.

WIG 2: Increase % of individuals in each underserved group (race/ethnicity, economic, geographic) who enroll in postsecondary education/training opportunities from X% to Y% by June 30, 2021

WIG 3: Increase employer participation in apprenticeships from X to Y by June 30, 2021.

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)

Legislative Session and Budget Cuts

The budget played a large role in the decisions made at the Capitol during the second half of the legislative session. Colorado is facing a \$3.3 billion dollar shortfall. As a result, the Colorado legislature passed several bills aimed at reducing state expenditures within our Department.

Fortunately, even as they made many difficult decisions, the Joint Budget Committee **voted unanimously** against an option to reduce CHP+ funding.

Budget reduction actions include:

- Delaying implementation of wraparound services for children and youth at risk of out-of-home placement as required by [SB19-195 \(HB20-1384\)](#). This budget reduction impacts children specifically; it is the only budget reduction item our Department is implementing that is expected to have a significant impact on children.

- Reducing the Health First Colorado adult dental benefit ([HB20-1361](#)) This bill changes the cap for the benefit from \$1,500 to \$1,000 per year for each recipient until December 2022. The savings from this change will be transferred to the State General Fund. This bill reduces state expenditures by \$5.2 million in FY 2020-21
- Increasing Health First Colorado member co-pays (included in the Long Bill). Joint Budget Committee Staff approved an increase in member co-pays to the federal maximum on pharmacy, physician services, Federally Qualified Health Center visits, Regional Health Center visits, inpatient services, outpatient services, durable medical equipment, lab & x-ray, anesthesia, Non-Emergent Medical Transportation (NEMT), and dental services.
 - Members currently exempt from co-pays, including pregnant women, children, and American Indians and Alaska Natives will continue to be exempt from co-pays. Long-term services and supports (LTSS) will continue to be exempt from co-pays; however, members who receive LTSS may have co-pays for other services, such as hospitalization.
- The Department also [decided to delay implementation of the Substance Use Disorder benefit until January 2021](#), as required by [HB18-1136](#), due to budget and COVID-19 social distancing concerns.

Enrollment Surge & Provider Recruitment

The Department anticipates more than 500,000 Coloradans will enroll in Health First Colorado and (CHP+) in the coming months.

- The expected surge represents an increase of more than 40 percent from the 1.3 million Coloradans enrolled in Health First Colorado and CHP+ as of March 2020.
 - By comparison, when Medicaid expansion occurred under the Affordable Care Act, enrollment rose by approximately 400,000 over a two-year period.

The drivers of this increase are two-fold.

1. The first is the unemployment rate, which is now 11.3%, up from 2.5% in February - the highest since the state began tracking unemployment in 1976.
 - a. As Coloradans lose their jobs due to the economic downturn caused by COVID-19, they often lose their employer-sponsored health coverage, as well.
2. The second driver of the projected enrollment increase is the impact of the federal public health emergency, which requires the Department to refrain from disenrolling members from Medicaid during the emergency period.

When the public health emergency ends, the Department projects an estimated disenrollment of more than 300,000 members who do not meet eligibility criteria.

Coloradans can apply online any time - there is no open enrollment period, and about 75 percent of people who apply online find out immediately if their coverage is approved.

Applicants can apply online at [Colorado.gov/PEAK](https://colorado.gov/PEAK), by phone, through the mail or at county offices or application assistance sites.

Providers are encouraged to become part of Health First Colorado network to maintain their relationships with patients who may have lost their employer-sponsored coverage. Providers can learn more at CO.gov/hcpf/become-a-provider. Resources for provider recruitment are also on our webpage Colorado.gov/HCPF/HereForYou.

Please help us! Visit Colorado.gov/HCPF/HereForYou for materials and messaging you can share through your channels.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE)

Child Abuse Response and Evaluation (CARE) Network

Partners at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect recruited primary care providers from across the state to participate in the CARE Network to become champions for the early detection and prevention of child maltreatment in their communities. Expecting to recruit around 10 providers in the first year of this program, Kempe Center recruited 40 providers to be a part of the system and trained them in a two-day virtual summit in May. Kempe Center developed training materials to help providers understand risk and protective factors for maltreatment and guidelines for how providers can best support families, before the need to involve the child welfare system. Amid concerns about the potential for increases in family violence and child maltreatment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kempe Center developed the Kempe COVID-19 Virtual Village to bring together partners from across the state and country to talk about how to best support families at this especially challenging time.

For more information, please visit www.kempecarenetwork.org.

Child Fatality Prevention System

The Colorado Child Fatality Prevention System (CFPS) brings together partners across the state to review cases of children who die in Colorado. These reviews help our state understand the circumstances of these deaths and take action to prevent deaths from occurring in the future. Each year, CFPS engages partners across the state to develop a legislative report with recommendations for policymakers to support infants, children, youth, and their families and prevent future deaths. This year the system puts forward recommendations calling for more supports for families from improving child and family behavioral health and paid family leave to increasing access to affordable housing, child care, and home visiting. All of these recommendations help families, especially those families

disproportionately impacted by social inequities, remain resilient in the face of a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, please reach out to Kate Jankovsky at kate.jankovsky@state.co.us

Adverse childhood experiences prevention

Colorado applied for COVID-19 supplemental funding from the CDC to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Colorado proposes to use COVID-19 supplemental funding to enhance the ACEs prevention efforts implemented by the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center (RMPRC) at the Colorado School of Public Health. Based on COVID-19-related needs identified by community partners in the San Luis Valley, CDPHE will contract with RMPRC to expand the STANCE (Linking Systems To address ACEs in Childhood Early on) framework activities in the San Luis Valley. As part of the evaluation efforts of the proposed project, CDPHE intends to partner with RMPRC to collect local-level data about barriers to accessing services such as child care and food assistance programs, which will inform Colorado's Essentials for Childhood efforts to improve systems to strengthen economic supports and prevent ACEs. Colorado intends to enhance ACEs prevention projects that seek to accomplish two primary goals: 1) Promote socio-emotional development and competence in children who have adverse childhood experiences who reside in the San Luis Valley; and 2) Provide mental health resources to parents residing in low resourced areas of the San Luis Valley. Colorado plans to implement and evaluate three projects during the project period (June 1, 2020-July 31, 2021) to enhance strategies for ACEs prevention: provide a modified, intensive version of Positive Activities Lead to Success (PALS) program; promote parenting skills among families; and provide behavioral health telemedicine to parents who have experienced high ACEs.

For more information, please contact Colleen Kapsimalis Doyle at colleen.kapsimalis@state.co.us

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (Colorado WIC)

Colorado WIC is still involved in communicating ongoing need for waiver extensions allowing for remote WIC operations to ensure that clients and families wishing to join the program are served despite most local agencies still being closed to the public.

WIC and the Maternal and Child Health Program are coordinating their work to align goals for the next five years for the priority related to economic and nutrition security.

WIC continues to work in collaboration with LiveWell Colorado to distribute Community Supported Agriculture boxes directly from farmers to WIC families.

For more information, please contact Heidi Hoffman at Heidi.hoffman@state.co.us

Environmental health and safety in child care

The child care and schools team of the Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability is still heavily involved in the COVID response. The team continues to work with child care providers, CDHS, and other stakeholders to provide answers to their questions and offer suggestions on implementing the current restrictions. We are working on developing a protocol for conducting virtual inspections.

The team reviewed a percentage of inspection reports from each local agency to collect statewide data and assess the quality of inspection reports issued. Ten of 28 critical violations have a non-compliance rate of 10% or higher, the highest being 34%. The team will use this information to develop focused training tools for both child care providers and health inspectors at local public health agencies. The team will also work with child care health consultants who are instrumental in helping providers achieve understanding and compliance in these areas.

For more information, please contact Amy Gammel at amy.gammel@state.co.us

Early Childhood Obesity Prevention (ECOP)

The team continues to implement strategies to increase early care and education providers' access to local foods through the growing season. Strategies include:

- Matchmaking interested providers with interested farmers in their community.
- Pilot projects with home and center providers to have access to local produce procurement from the food hub in the San Luis Valley.
- A new pilot project for home and center providers to procure local food from a food cooperative in LaPlata and Montezuma counties.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Dellaport at Jennifer.dellaport@state.co.us

Immunizations

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination uptake among Colorado children and adolescents has shown a dramatic decrease. Data from the Colorado Immunization Information System (CIIS) shows a 26% average weekly decrease in immunizations administered between the weeks of 3/15 through 6/7. While the immunizations team is distributing resources to address this decline in routine immunizations, we also face the challenge of preventing the combined impact of seasonal influenza and COVID-19 from overwhelming the healthcare system during the upcoming 2020-2021 influenza season. CDPHE will convene an interagency influenza taskforce whose focus will be the implementation of strategies to increase influenza vaccination coverage statewide. CDPHE will soon begin the work required to implement [Senate Bill 163 - School Entry Immunization](#) through the end of 2020 with a goal of having the new requirements in place for the 2021-22 school year.

For more information, please contact Diana Herrero at diana.herrero@state.co.us

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

The CACFP continues collaboration on participation outreach with the Colorado Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition, Blueprint to End Hunger, CDHS Preschool Development Grant and sponsoring organizations.

Nationwide waivers were extended by USDA allowing flexibility in meal patterns through July 31, 2020. Meal times, non-congregate meal service, parent pick up without the child present waivers were extended through August 31, 2020. Please refer to the CACFP [At A Glance USDA Nationwide waivers](#) for more information.

The CACFP and the Colorado Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition merged separate technology systems into one. School Food Authorities and sponsoring organizations participating in multiple child nutrition programs can now submit program applications and claims in one technology system. CDPHE will provide training to CACFP participants this summer.

As part of the Preschool Development Grant, representatives from the CACFP, the Office of School Nutrition at the Colorado Department of Education, the CDHS Office of Early Childhood, and Tri-County Health Department are convening regularly to expand access to quality nutrition for underserved or vulnerable children in the early childhood care and education system. In pursuit of this goal during COVID-19, the group sent an email to open licensed child care providers who were not participating in CACFP to emphasize the benefits and eligibility criteria of CACFP participation to both students and providers. The email also included a link to the Colorado Department of Education's Free Feeding Site Map. Since the email, the CACFP received inquiries from several interested homes and centers.

For more information, please contact Naomi Steenson at naomi.steenson@state.co.us

Colorado Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

Colorado MCH established the focused priorities for the next five years. Teams and stakeholders are in the process of building action plans and measures.

MCH funded WIC to be part of a discovery process with the Community Resource Inventory Service for Patient e-Referral project (CRISPeR). This worked informed Colorado WIC and Colorado MCH of the technology, resources, workflows, challenges, and barriers to become a part of a closed loop referral system to enhance care coordination. Plans for a potential CRISPeR discovery project is underway focused on developmental screening referrals involving the MCH team and the Early Intervention Team at CDHS.

For more information, please contact Rachel Hutson at rachel.hutson@state.co.us

With funding from MCH and renewed support from the Zoma Foundation, the Pregnancy-Related Depression and Anxiety public awareness campaign continues statewide through the end of the year. The campaign is primarily promoted through social media channels, which direct pregnant and postpartum people and their support systems to reach out to Postpartum

Support International (PSI) to connect to local resources. During this time, virtual support from PSI has expanded to provide more online and phone-based options, and there are also an increasing number of maternal mental health therapy options offered virtually.

For more information, please contact Mandy Bakulski at mandy.bakulski@state.co.us