

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission



August 23, 2018

Health Care Policy & Financing – 303 East
17th Avenue, 11th Floor; Denver



Welcome





Business Meeting

Business Meeting

- Welcome New Member and New Co-Chair
- Approve April 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- Approve June 28, 2018 Retreat Minutes



Updates from Lt. Governor Donna Lynne



Follow Up from ECLC Retreat



Data Subcommittee
Charlotte Brantley and Susan Steele

<http://earlychildhoodframework.org/reports/>





Communication Subcommittee

Tom Massey and Gerri Gomez Howard



Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
Letty Bass, Anna Jo Haynes and Melissa Colzman



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.



Early Childhood Council Waiver Discussion

Kristina Heyl



Early Childhood Council Waiver Discussion

- Waiver #18-01 Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Waiver #18-02 Denver Early Childhood Council



Department Updates

Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Human Services
 - Two Generation RFP (Mary Alice Cohen)
- Colorado Department Public Health and Environment (Erin Ulric)
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Tom Massey)
- Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colsman)
 - P-3 Office Overview (Anji Gallanos)
- Colorado Department of Human Services (Jerene Petersen)
 - Office of Early Childhood (Mary Anne Snyder)

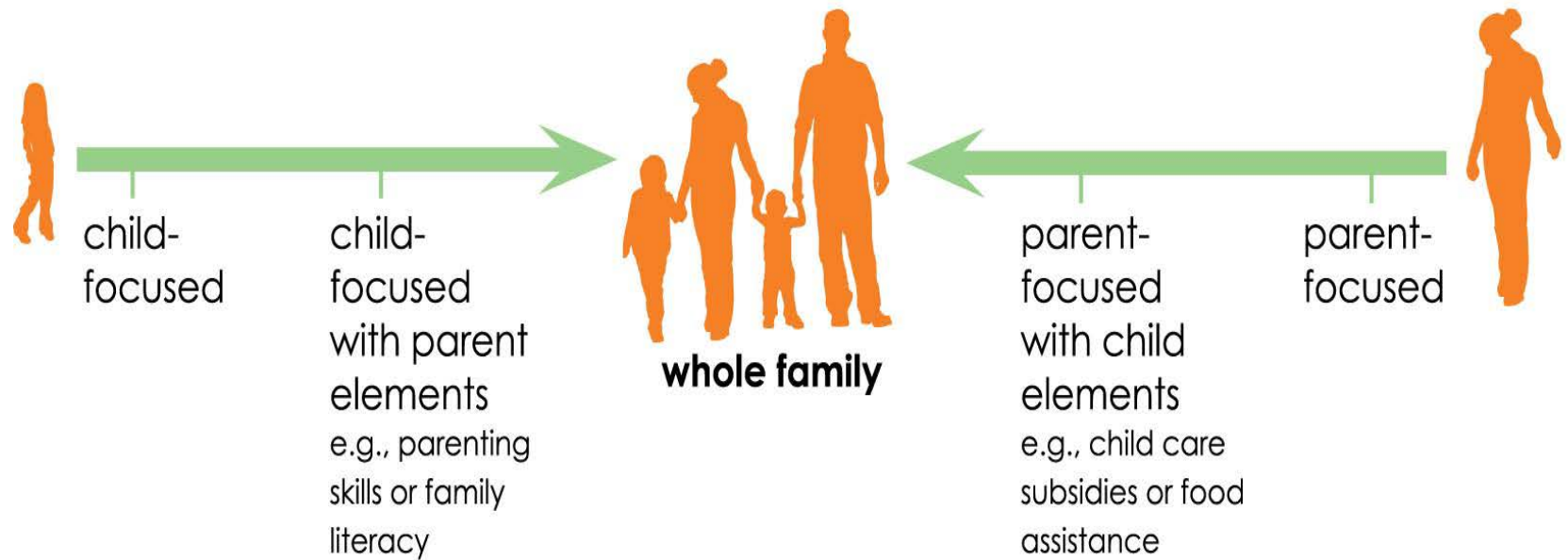


Two Generation RFP (Mary Alice Cohen)



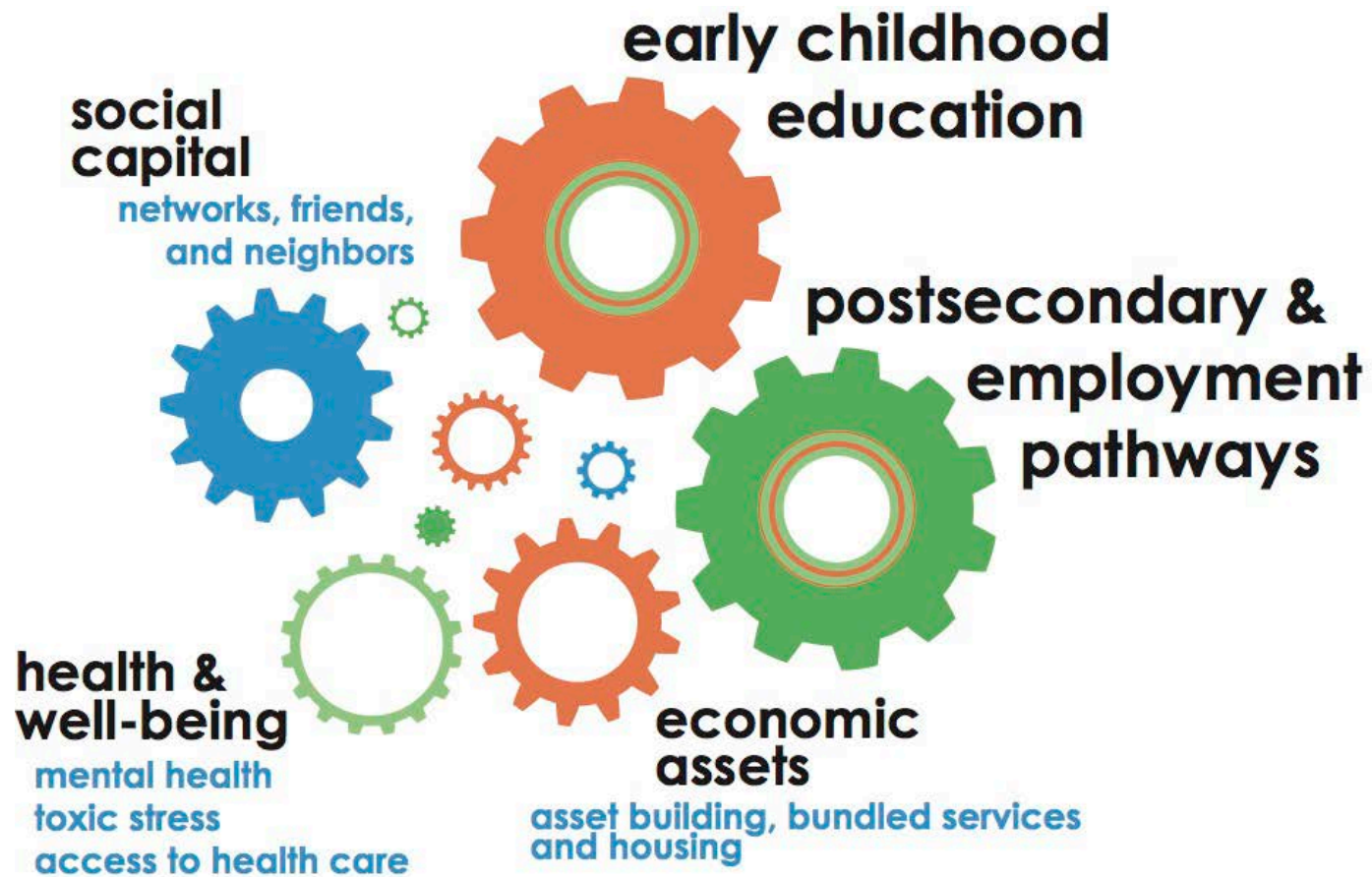


The Two-Generation Continuum



TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS, OR THE ADULTS IN THEIR LIVES, TOGETHER





2GEN COMMUNITY INNOVATION PILOT

When programs and policies are designed with the whole family's educational and economic future in mind, opportunity becomes a family tradition.

**The 2Gen Community Innovation Pilot
addresses systemic challenges that
empower families to reach their full potential.**

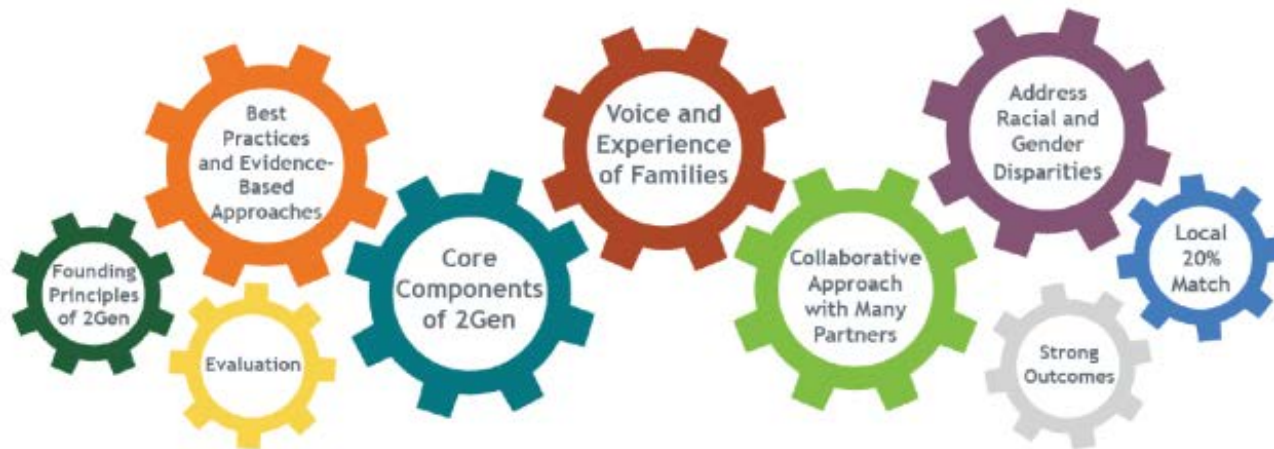
The 2Gen Community Innovation Pilot will award up to 10 grants of \$100,000 each to regional and community collaborators who propose innovative ways to create a path to the middle class for whole families.



Pilot Timeline



Components of Successful Proposals



Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Human Services
 - Two Generation RFP (Mary Alice Cohen)
- Colorado Department Public Health and Environment (Erin Ulric)
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Tom Massey)
- Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colsman)
 - P-3 Office Overview (Anji Gallanos)
- Colorado Department of Human Services (Jerene Petersen)
 - Office of Early Childhood (Mary Anne Snyder)



P-3 Office Overview (Anji Gallanos)



COLORADO
Department of Education

Update on P-3 Education

August 22, 2018

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STRATEGIC PLAN

2017-2022



COLORADO
Department of Education



NOVEMBER 2017



Starting to “Work” on Our Strategic Plan

The Four Goals

#1



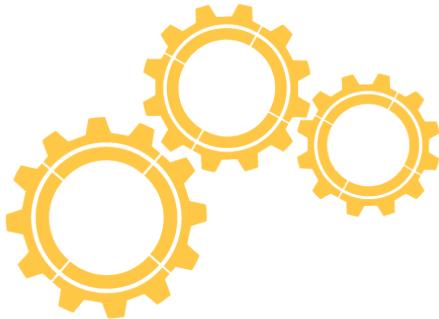
Reading by Third Grade

#2



Schools Improving

#3



Postsecondary Attainment

#4



Achievement Gap

Five Key Initiatives



Support High Quality Early Learning and Literacy for All Students



Expand Access and Opportunity for Historically Underserved Students



Prioritize and Maximize Support for Schools and Districts Identified for Academic Improvements



Expand High School Options to Ensure All Students are Ready for College and/or Living-Wage Jobs

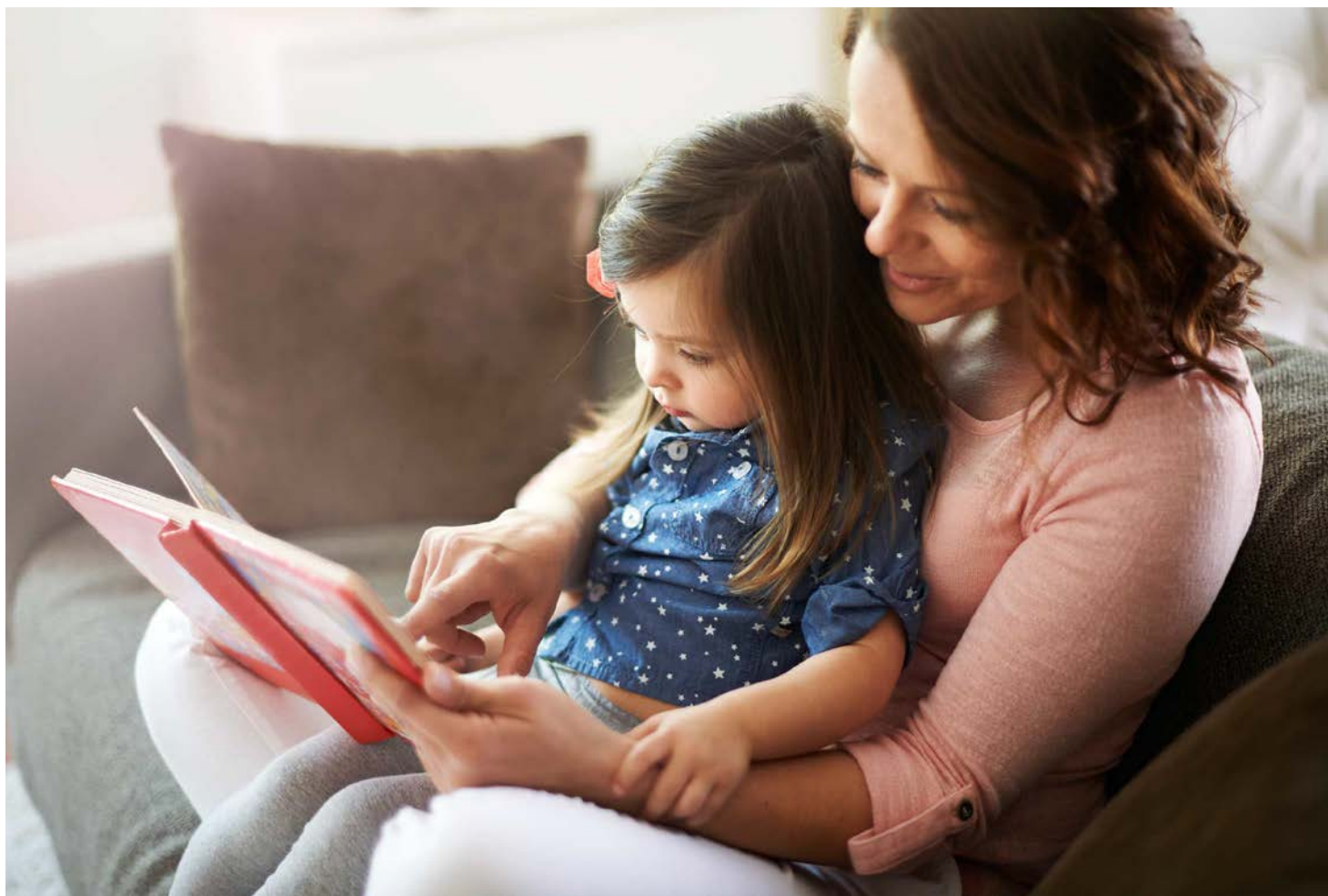


Develop a Strong Pipeline of High-Quality Teachers and Principals and Provide Deeper Support for School and District Leaders

Strong Foundations



Education Begins Before Elementary School



Working on Our Strategic Plan

The First Goal – Reading by Third Grade

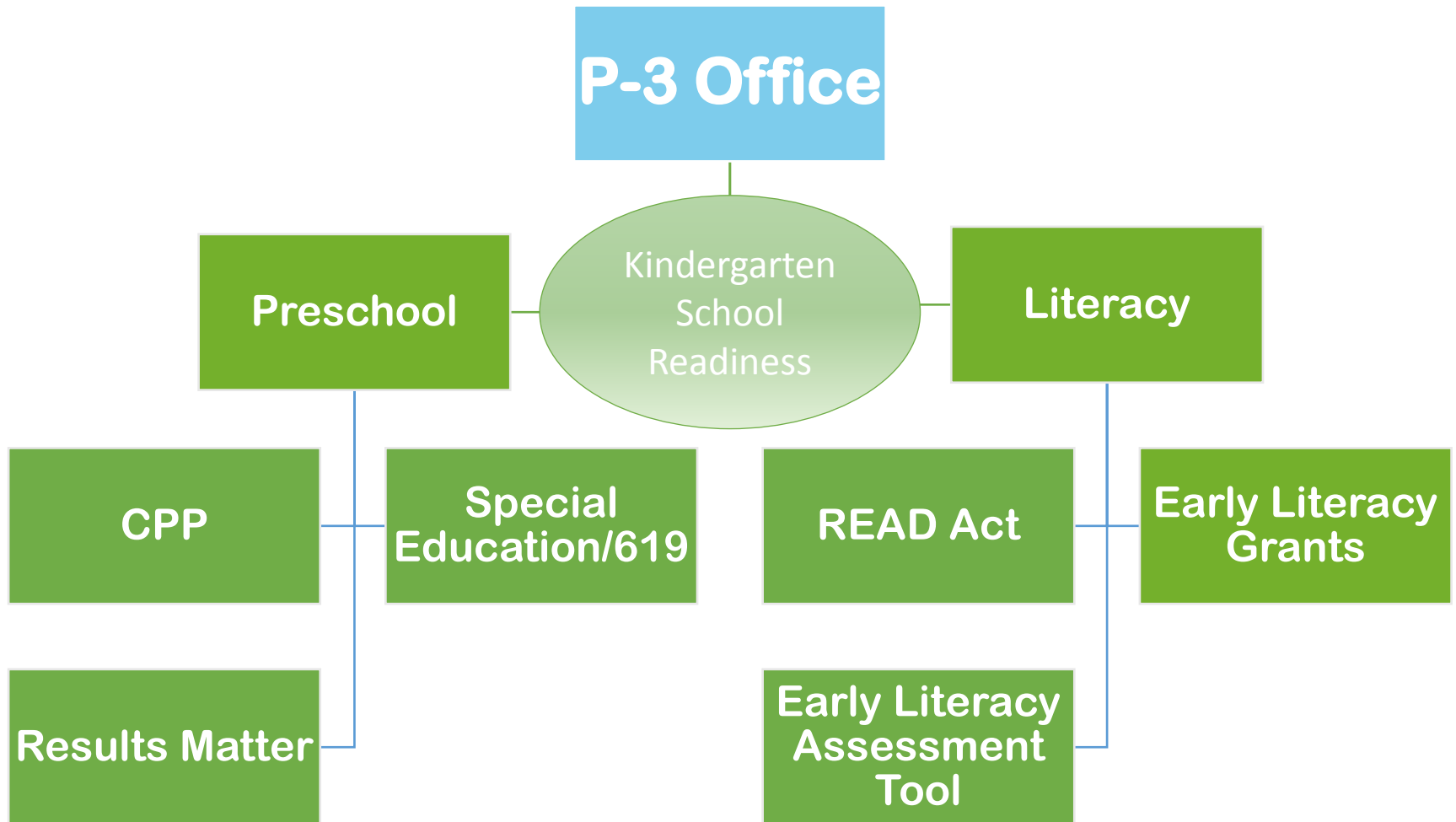
Strong Foundations and Our Reading by Third Grade Initiative



Colorado Department of Education P-3 Office



P-3 Continuum



CDE P-3 Office Mission

We partner with educators and leaders to create resources and structures that lead to seamless high quality early learning environments for children birth through age eight.

We strive for coherence and alignment throughout the P-12 system.



Where we work

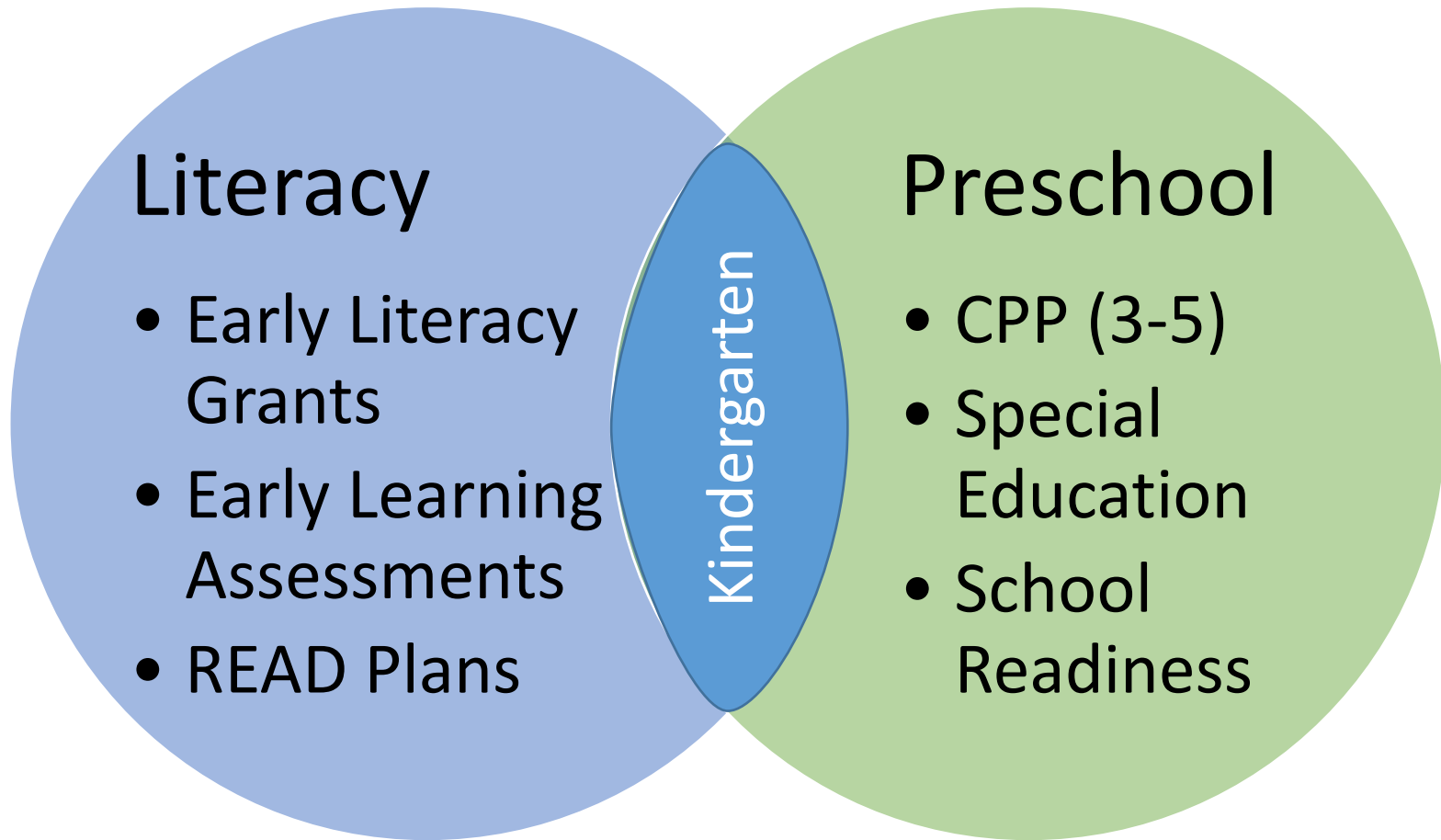
Literacy

- Early Literacy Grants
- Early Learning Assessments
- READ Plans

Preschool

- CPP (3-5)
- Special Education
- School Readiness

Where we work

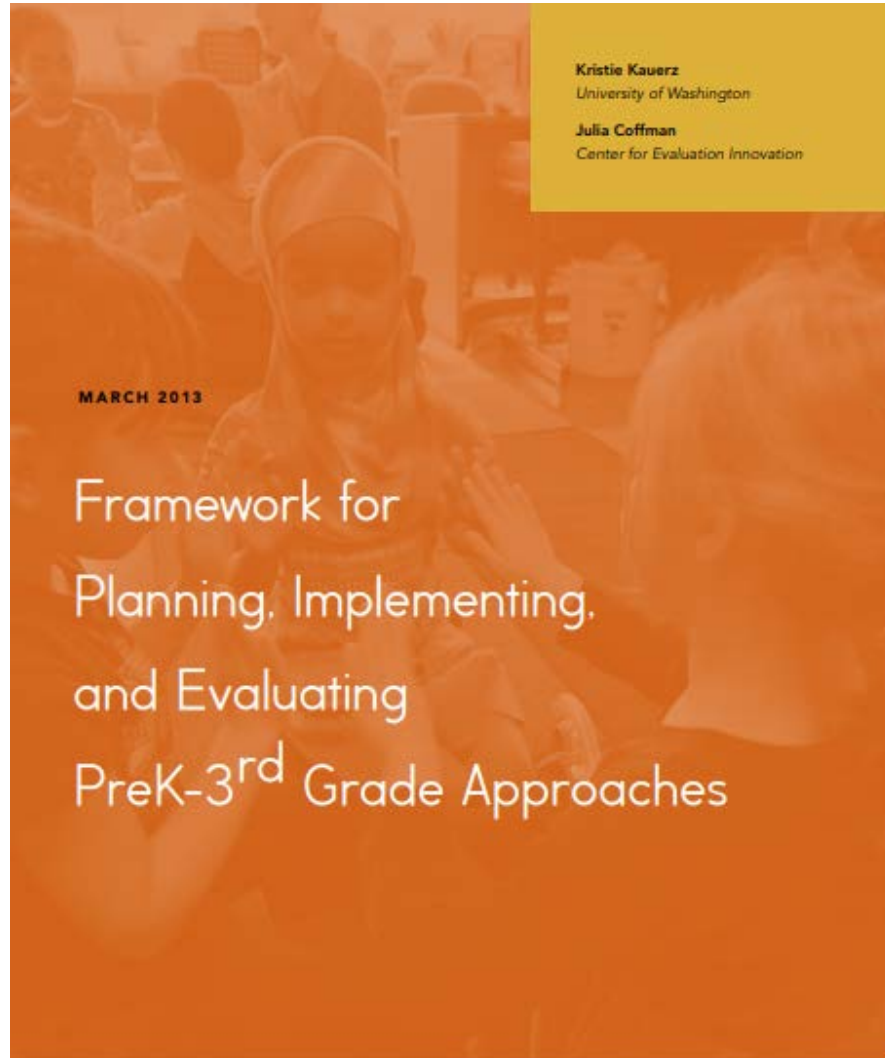


CDE P-3 Strategic Issue

We want a sustainable integrated plan to support high-quality developmentally appropriate kindergarten classrooms that are:

- Inclusive
- Evidence based
- Holistic

What is P-3 Education?



An approach to improve quality and coherence of a child's learning experiences before entering the school system and throughout elementary school.

P-3 approaches include;

- Effective instruction
- Instructional coherence
- Meaningful learning opportunities.

Categories of Effort

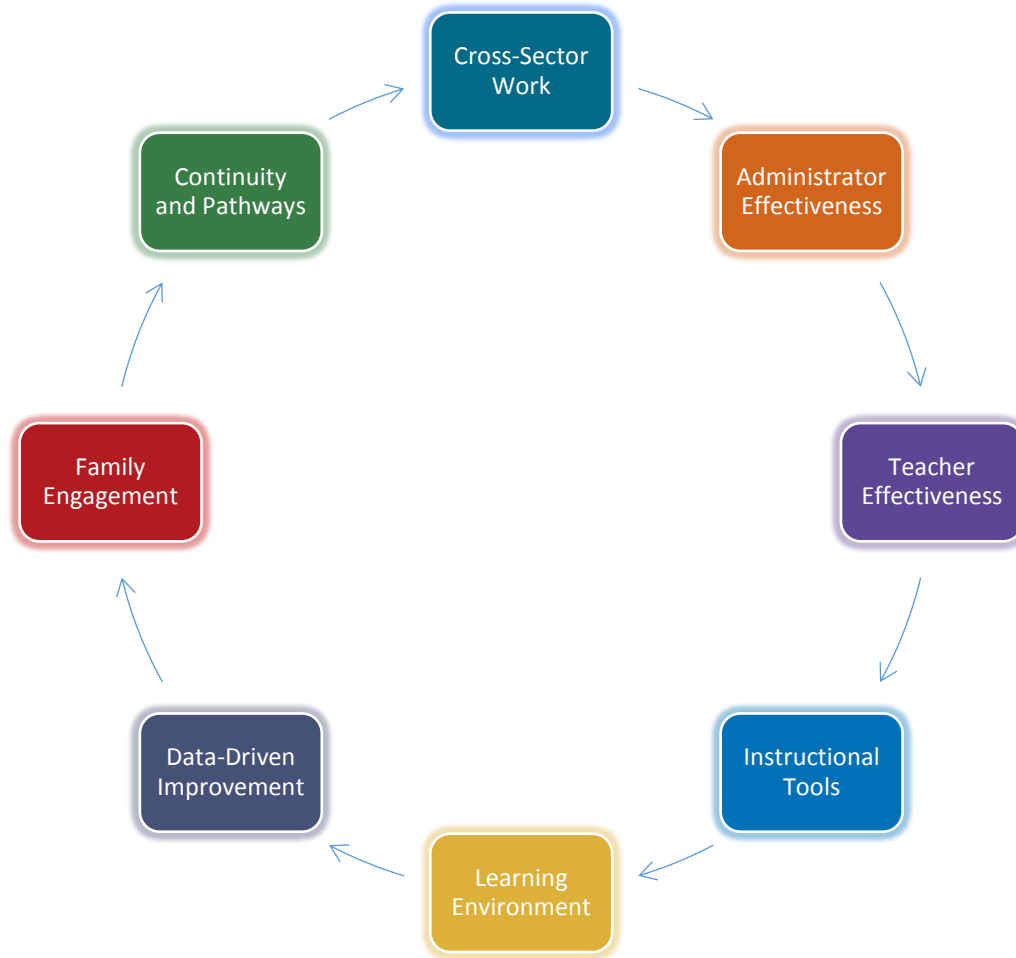


Figure from Kauerz, K. & Coffman, J. (2013). Framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating PreK - 3rd grade approaches. Seattle, WA: College of Education, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/pthru3/framework.html>.

Categories of Effort

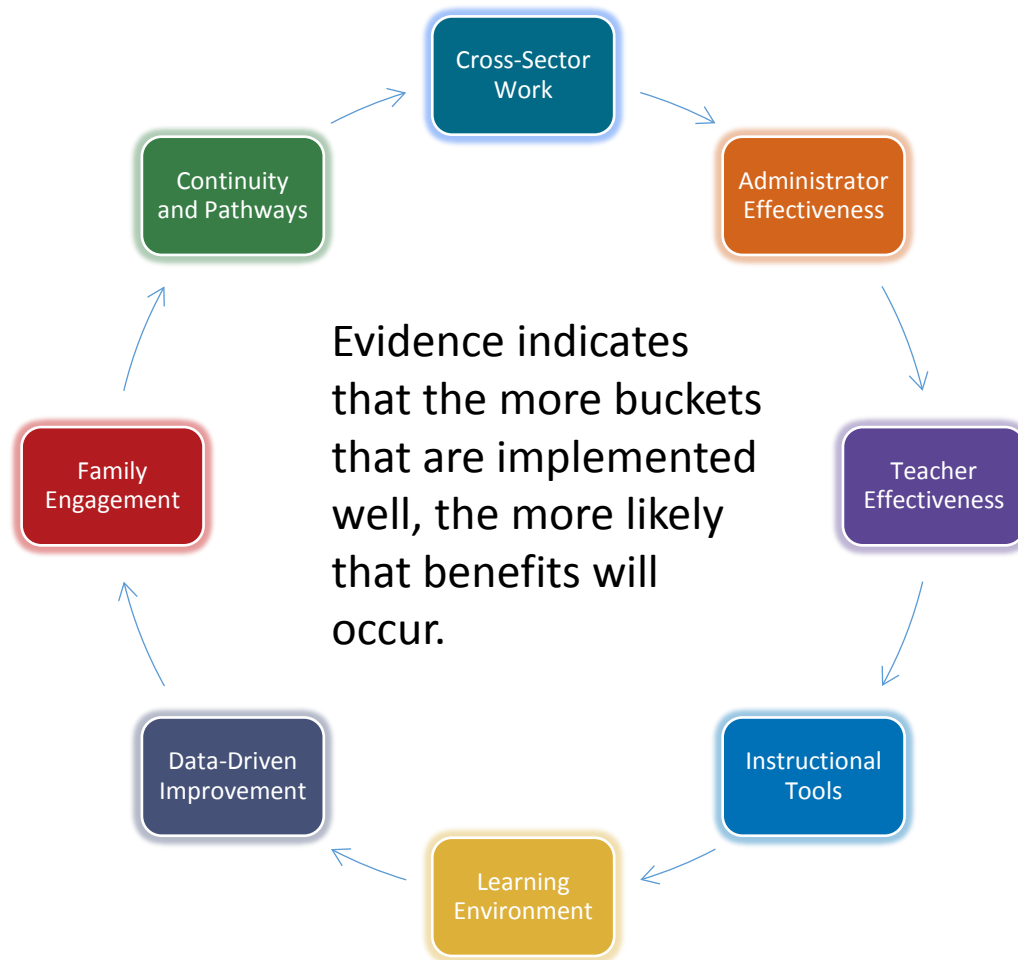


Figure from Kauerz, K. & Coffman, J. (2013). Framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating PreK - 3rd grade approaches. Seattle, WA: College of Education, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/pthru3/framework.html>.

Action Steps

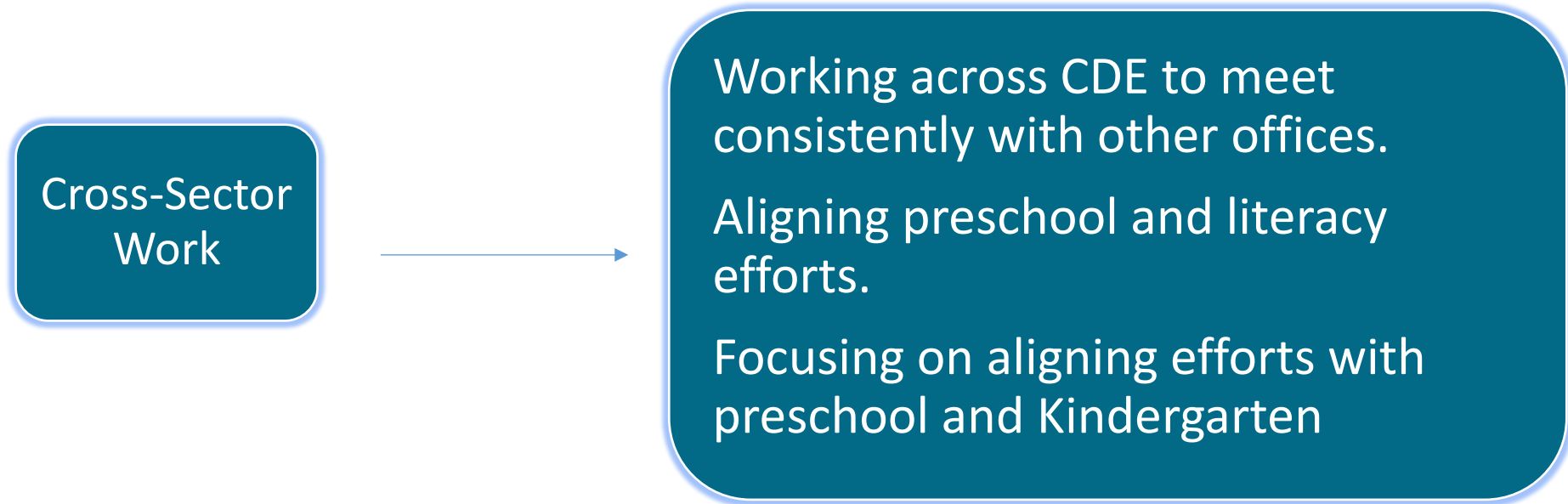


Figure from Kauerz, K. & Coffman, J. (2013). Framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating PreK - 3rd grade approaches. Seattle, WA: College of Education, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/pthru3/framework.html>.

Action Steps

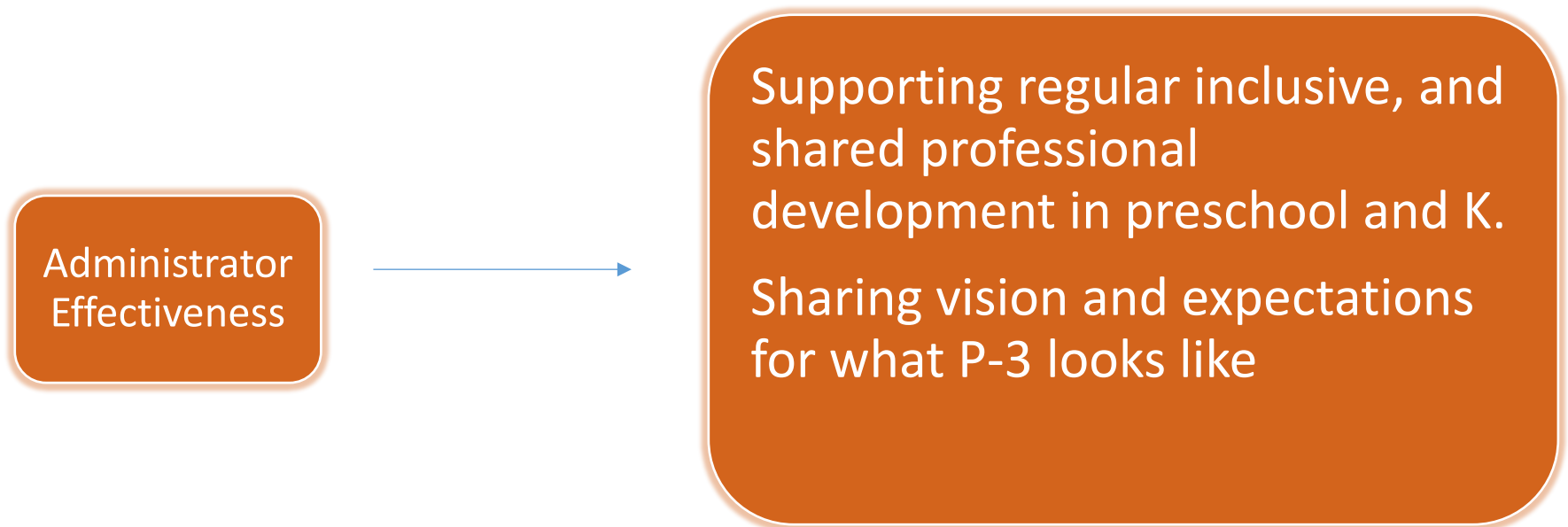


Figure from Kauerz, K. & Coffman, J. (2013). Framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating PreK - 3rd grade approaches. Seattle, WA: College of Education, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/pthru3/framework.html>.

Action Steps

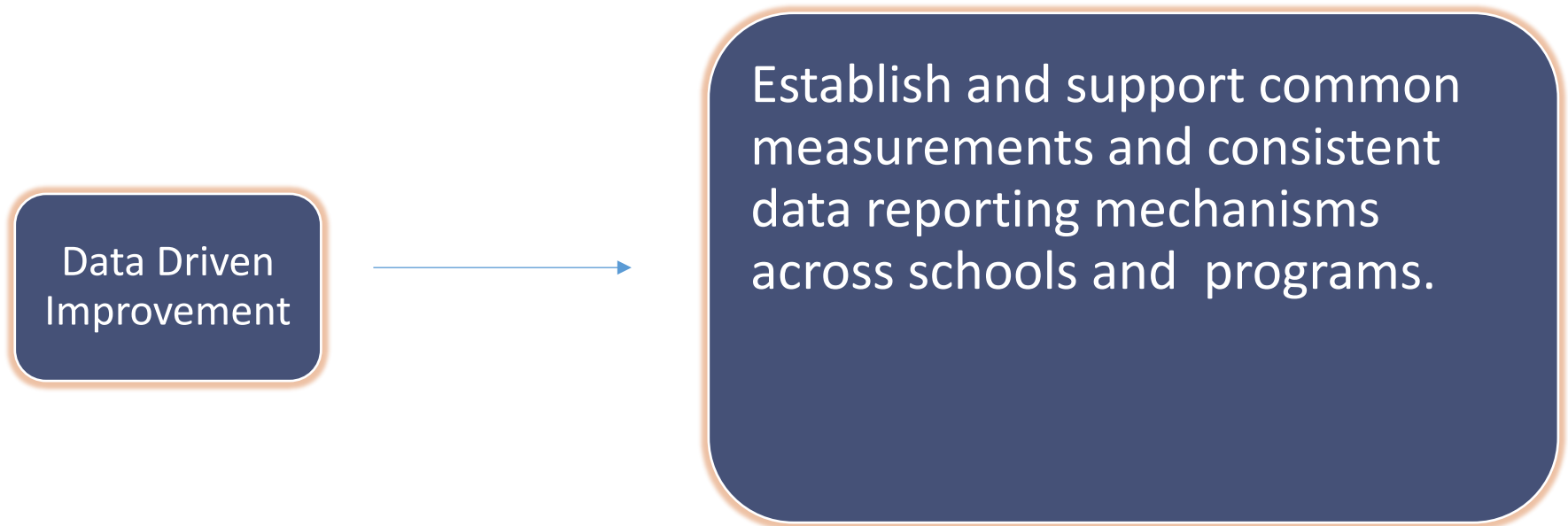


Figure from Kauerz, K. & Coffman, J. (2013). Framework for planning, implementing, and evaluating PreK - 3rd grade approaches. Seattle, WA: College of Education, University of Washington. Retrieved from <http://depts.washington.edu/pthru3/framework.html>.



P-3 Theory of Action

If we

support high quality early learning, which includes literacy for all students...

Then

performance gaps will be prevented and...

existing gaps will close and...

students will be able to
read by third grade.



Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Human Services
 - Two Generation RFP (Mary Alice Cohen)
- Colorado Department Public Health and Environment (Erin Ulric)
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Tom Massey)
- Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colsman)
 - P-3 Office Overview (Anji Gallanos)
- Colorado Department of Human Services (Jerene Petersen)
 - Office of Early Childhood (Mary Anne Snyder)



Co-Chair Final Thoughts

Next Meeting: October 25, 2018

Health Care Policy & Financing, 11th Floor
303 E. 17th Avenue; Denver



ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission



Thursday, August 23, 2018

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Health Care Policy & Financing

303 East 17th Avenue, Denver

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/724832693>

Join the Conference Call: 515-739-1223 Code: 690666#

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April 26 Meeting and June 28 Retreat
 - Discuss the ECLC Retreat and Next Steps
 - Hear Updates from Departments and ECLC Subcommittees
 - Review and Vote Whether to Approve 2 Early Childhood Council Rule Waivers
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
-

9:30-9:35am Welcome & Business Meeting (Anna Jo Haynes)

- Welcome to New Member and New Co-Chair
- **ACTION:** Approval of April 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes and June 28, 2018 Retreat Minutes

9:35-10:00am Updates from Lt. Governor Donna Lynne

10:00-10:30am Follow Up from ECLC Retreat (Elsa Holguín)

10:30-10:50am Subcommittee Updates

- Data Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee
- Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

10:50- 11:00am Public Comment (Anna Jo Haynes)

11:00-11:30am Early Childhood Council Waiver Discussion (Kristina Heyl)

- Waiver #18-01 Early Childhood Council of Larimer County
- Waiver #18-02 Denver Early Childhood Council

11:30am-12:25pm Department Updates

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Erin Ulric)
- Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Tom Massey)
- Colorado Department of Education (Melissa Colsman)
 - P-3 Office Overview (Anji Gallanos)
- Colorado Department of Human Services (Jerene Petersen)
 - Office of Early Childhood Updates (Mary Anne Snyder)
 - Two Generation RFP (Mary Alice Cohen)

12:25 – 12:30pm Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn (Anna Jo Haynes)

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 October 25, 2018 at Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF), 11th Floor Conference Room: 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, CO.

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



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 Colsman, 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 Colsman 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 and 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.



RETREAT MINUTES

June 28, 2018 9am-3pm
Colorado Health Foundation

Meeting Purpose: Why are we doing this work?

We have a tremendous opportunity to build on and sustain the strengths of early childhood successes in Colorado. Sustainability is essential and the state of Colorado is also in the midst of notable change at the state and federal levels. It is important that we as a Commission:

- Identify short- and long-term areas of opportunities that continue to build on successes and sustain through transition ensuring that we:
 - Continue the current momentum
 - Educate new policy leaders on progress in the early childhood arena
 - Communicate our shared public/private partnership and commitment to moving this work forward
 - Create a platform for early childhood advocates to work from the same set of priorities and policies across Colorado; and
 - Maintain our credibility as nonpartisan experts and trusted advisors to all sectors.

Welcome by Chairs and Goals for the Day

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Anna Jo Haynes. She welcomed everyone, and then reiterated that the goal of the day-long retreat was to identify short- and long-term areas of opportunities that continue to build on the successes of early childhood in Colorado, identify opportunities to educate policy leaders on the progress the state has made, and determine strategies for sustaining the work during the transition in state leadership. Anna Jo welcomed Kristina back and thanked Stacy Howard for all the support while Kristina was at the leadership academy. Both had done a remarkable job during the past seven weeks.

Introduce and Role of Facilitator

Barb Grogan welcomed Roxane White as the facilitator for the day. She shared her background briefly, which included formerly directing Nurse Family Partnerships and serving as Governor John Hickenlooper's chief of staff and Director of Denver Human Services during his time as Mayor of Denver and during his transition to Governor.

Room Facilitation & Agreement to Proceed

Roxane began the meeting with a few notes and reminders, asking everyone to be vocal about any topics or issues that warrant additional discussion or clarity and to ensure that

she captured everything correctly for the notes. She also clarified the role of facilitator is to be neutral except when asked for their expertise in particular areas such as transition work.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Transitions

Roxane shared that she has been working with states throughout the country on preparing for a transition in state leadership. She offered suggestions about ensuring continuity and sustainability across these transitions, such as not attributing the work to a particular Governor or using the term legacy, having key next steps to be completed by the new administration, and ensuring that grants or multi-year programs cross administrative transitions, rather than trying to finish work prior to a leadership change. Based on conversations with nine other people from six states (Republican and Democratic) who led transition teams, Roxane also spoke to the importance of very focused and 2-3 maximum pages of information.

Roxane also shared that it's critical for a commission like this to provide early childhood information and support for anyone interested in learning about the work, not just particular candidates or parties and to document all offers to educate candidates. She encouraged the Commission to reach out broadly with the Commission's priorities and offers of support, and also to ensure the Commission's language is reflective of candidates' language in describing and promoting supports.

Kristina talked briefly about the previous gubernatorial transition to Governor Hickenlooper, sharing that each department had a transition committee that developed suggestions for short and long term goals for incoming cabinet members. She suggested that the ECLC stay as connected as possible to the new Governor's transition plans to see how early childhood can be included and coordinated across as many departments as possible during the transition. The volume of information received was very high and having succinct recommendations was important for gaining traction.

David Padrino, Chief of Staff to the Lt. Governor and Deputy COO, talked about how the current administration is preparing for the transition. He noted that the Governor and Lt. Governor are committed to ensuring a smooth transition that focuses on content, people, and processes, that continues services for the people of Colorado.

David also mentioned that the Education Leadership Council (ELC) is in the middle of developing a broad state plan on the education system and encouraged the ECLC to stay connected to ensure that early childhood education is included robustly in the ELC's work.

State Agency Preparations

Roxane asked each of the state agencies to share the work they are currently doing in preparation for the transition and any major concerns or opportunities:

- Colorado Department of Human Services - Office of Early Childhood

Mary Anne Snyder shared that the Office of Early Childhood is working on budget and legislative ideas for the 2019 Legislative session. The office is working on some IT builds to

the attendance tracking systems and the Professional Development Information System (PDIS). She shared they are also in conversation with CDE regarding the transition of Child Find from CDE to CDHS.

- Health Care Policy and Financing

Tom Massey reiterated HCPF's commitment to ensuring that kids have access to health care coverage and protecting the gains in coverage the state has seen across all populations over the past few years while containing costs.

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Erin Ulric noted that CDPHE is working to develop one-page strategic frameworks for each of their divisions as a quick reference tool and suggested there are opportunities to ensure early childhood supports and services are embedded across many of the division frameworks. She highlighted that there are some opportunities through increased maternal health block grant, essentials for early childhood funding, family friendly workplace policy efforts, and expansion of school-based health centers.

- Colorado Department of Education

Floyd Cobb mentioned the creation of the P-3 Office as a strategic way to align early childhood and school readiness efforts. He reiterated the State Board of Education's support for their strategic plan that highlights students reading by 3rd grade as a key measure for long-term outcomes.

History and Accomplishments of the Commission - Consensus on what our role is as a Commission during this Transition

Anna Jo talked briefly about the history of the Commission, saying it started under the Ritter administration and has continued across the Hickenlooper administration. She noted that a particularly strong asset of the Commission is the ability for departments to work together across early childhood issues, and how important it will be to continue this work throughout the next transition and beyond. She also called out the specific duties of the Commission, including advising and making recommendations to the general assembly and the departments, implementing the Early Childhood Colorado Framework, and serving as a reference and a leader to the early childhood community. The Commission has developed due to a strong private and public collaboration that the group felt is important to continue; they also noted that the Lt. Governor position has been essential to the success of the Commission, though this is not mandated in statute, so it will be something to consider how to stay connected when a new administration comes into the office.

Roxane asked members to brainstorm what they felt the role of the Commission should be. Comments included (** indicates a top priority of the Commission):

- Develop goals and materials to support new state leadership during the transition**
- Protect progress and continuing the momentum that the field has enjoyed**
- Continue to support alignment and communication**
- Become the "go to" for early childhood and being responsive to community needs**
- Be a place to consider and support change
- Educate policy partners, such as the Early Childhood & School Readiness Legislative Commission
- Support equity through diversity of service delivery and messaging
- Be intentional about stakeholder engagement with the broader early childhood community

- Review waivers submitted from Early Childhood Councils.

Lunch and Celebration of Service

Barb Grogan shared that Anna Robinson's term as the ECLC parent representative would be ending on July 1, and thanked her for her 3 years of valuable service to the ECLC.

Anna Jo Haynes thanked Barb Grogan for serving as a co-chair of the ECLC and for her many contributions to the work in her leadership role and presented her with a thank you gift. She also announced that the Governor would be appointing Elsa Holguin as a new co-chair, beginning July 1.

Updates from Lt. Governor Donna Lynne

Lt. Governor Lynne talked about several ways the administration is preparing for transition and highlighted a few areas the Commission could be supportive of these efforts. She mentioned a few topic areas including continued support for Colorado's Health Insurance Program, embedding two-generation strategies into our work, and workforce development, that she believed will be vital to include within transition documents from the departments to encourage their continuation. She also mentioned opportunities within the Education Leadership Council's work and encouraged members to stay connected with that group to ensure early childhood education is part of the broad state plan. She stated that the Governor's office is reaching out and offering to brief the candidates.

Building a Shared Roadmap

Guest: Bill Jaeger, Sarah Barnes, Christina Walker, Jennifer Stedron

Kristina started the conversation by introducing the guests and reminding Commissioners of the collaborative processes that have ensued to develop the Principles & History Document (Early Milestones Colorado) and the Policy Strategies Document (Clayton Early Learning & Colorado Children's Campaign). In order to help the Commission identify areas of opportunity for incoming state leaders, this smaller group worked with Kristina to develop a draft Roadmap document that included topic areas, references to both of the reports mentioned above, and potential ECLC Action Items.

She noted this was just a place to start and welcomed discussion on the topics provided, as well as ones that were missing, in order to ensure the Commission could identify what they felt were most ready for opportunity. The group discussed that even if topics from the reports were not included in the top areas of opportunity, it is important to note publicly that they are all part of the broader vision for the state (though may not be able to be realized at this time). They also noted that the ECLC Actions should be wide enough that they allowed for differing policy strategies and communication framing based on the audiences.

Creating Our Shared Roadmap

Roxane asked members to review the draft document and comment on additions, questions, duplications or concerns the members had before proceeding. Several topics were added to the document, including Health, Paid Family Leave, Adult Literacy, and Trauma-Informed Practices.

After several rounds of voting, the Commissioners had tremendous alignment about the ECLC Actions that they felt would be most important to continue to protect and advanced. The following areas of opportunities rose to the top:

Access to High Quality Early Care & Education

- Take the lead in articulating the interplay between expanding preschool and implications for community-based child care and infant and toddler care in particular
- Be the voice for a full spectrum of quality early care and education investments: As some advocate for preK or full-day kindergarten (and others for child care simply to address workforce issues), the ECLC can connect all of the dots, making sure state leaders understand child care, preK, full-day K and aligned K-3 systems are all under-resourced and in need of policy action

Early Childhood Workforce - Career Pathways and Compensation

- Place the child care access and affordability crisis many communities are facing in direct connection to the challenges of the early childhood workforce, with a particular emphasis on compensation challenges

Family Health & Economic Security

- Connect the dots between child development and the toxic levels of stress associated with poverty so that addressing child poverty is seen as a root cause solution to downstream outcomes many leaders are trying to change

***The Commission expressed the need to support equity and diversity across all of the priority areas and will work with policy makers and stakeholders to ensure this.

Messaging Our Roadmap

Elsa led a conversation about the next steps that the Commission should take in terms of messaging the work to a broader audience:

- Accomplishments and Goals: Develop a 1-2 page briefing document for candidates and new leadership that outlines the ECLC, the role of early childhood in Colorado, and the areas of opportunities the Commission feels are most ready to be advanced.
- Proactively Engaging with Others: The Commissioners agreed it is important to be proactive in outreach to candidates and partners to ensure others are informed about the work and we can align wherever possible
- Primary Audiences: Develop materials that can be shared with candidates and also with the early childhood community, to ensure the messages are aligned as much as possible
- Partnerships: Share the work with partners and ask for support or alignment where possible
- Support from ECLC Members: Several of the members volunteered to help with development of communication language and materials: Elsa, Gerri, Jeanne, Barb and Anna Jo. Cindy Schulz offered to help find resources for the work if needed.
- Resources: The group agreed there could be a need for financial resources to help with communication language and materials development

Kristina will develop the next steps and start creating the materials needed to share with the smaller group before sending to the full Commission for review.

Close Out by Group

Roxane asked members to share how they felt about the day and capture notes for any ongoing needs or supports for the members. There were no additional requests but high praise for the productivity of the day, the shared goals and next steps.

Next Steps

Barb, Anna Jo and Elsa all expressed appreciation for the members and for the work everyone did throughout the day. They reiterated the importance of engaging over the next few weeks as the staff prepares the materials necessary to move forward to ensure everything is reflected accurately and appropriately. There is a lot to be done but the progress the members made during the retreat is a great step forward for the early childhood community!

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

Early Childhood in Colorado

STATEWIDE COMMITMENT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Colorado has a long history of working together to ensure children and families to grow and thrive. Our state has made admirable advances across the three domains of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework: Health & Well-Being, Family Support & Education, and Learning & Development. Families, professionals, advocates and policy makers have worked together to advance statewide investments to build coordinated systems that support local areas to be responsive to the needs of their communities. The collaboration between state and local entities across private and public domains is a testament to Colorado's long and unwavering commitment to supporting children and families. However, there is much more work to be done to ensure all children and families have the supports they need to reach our shared vision:

all children are valued, healthy and thriving

WHY FOCUS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD IS IMPORTANT:

Children's healthy development depends on the nurturing and supportive relationships they have with the caregivers in their lives. When children are provided safe, healthy and learning-rich environments, the returns to society are abundant and communities thrive. Early childhood investments in high quality services help children build a foundation of cognitive and social skills that supports their growth and development. These investments also provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to enhance their own educational and career opportunities to become self-sufficient and provide for their families. Investments in early childhood are one of the most effective strategies in achieving significant social and economic outcomes.

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION:

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is Colorado's statutorily recognized state advisory council for early childhood. Our role is to be a statewide leader, subject matter expert and champion of best and promising practices throughout the state.

The ECLC is comprised of 20 individuals representing parents, business, five state departments, school districts, local municipalities, foundations, nonprofits and other important early childhood stakeholders. We serve as the trusted and proactive early childhood champion for high quality, outcome-focused learning and development, health and well-being, and family support and education for pregnant women, and children birth through age eight and their families.

The ECLC:

- Develops strategies to monitor and align efforts that increase the access, quality and equity of services through the Early Childhood Colorado Framework;
- Assists in the development of public-private partnerships to coordinate and enhance services and supports;
- Advises and makes recommendations to the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, and state agencies.

OUR COMMITMENT:

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission is committed to working with the incoming Governor, the Colorado General Assembly, state agencies and stakeholders to address the early childhood challenges Colorado faces to ensure that all children are healthy, valued and thriving.



Early Childhood: Areas of Opportunity

While Colorado has experienced tremendous progress in the early childhood sector, there are still challenges that must be addressed at the local and state level. The ECLC encourages efforts to support and enhance the following Areas of Opportunity:

- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY EARLY CARE & EDUCATION FOR ALL FAMILIES**



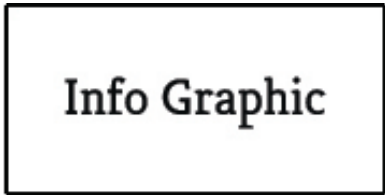
Info Graphic

Quality early care and education environments provide a stable place for children to grow and thrive, allowing them to build the strong foundation of cognitive and social-emotional skills they need to be prepared to succeed in school and develop life-long positive outcomes. Although out-of-home care is a necessity for many Colorado families, the availability of quality early care is severely lacking and is a significant expense to families. Our investments must provide access to services and supports for parents and

informal caregivers along with licensed settings in order to ensure that wherever children are cared for, they are in high quality, supportive environments. Particular attention should be paid to infant and toddler care, which is often more difficult for families to access and afford.

- **ELEVATE THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE TO ENSURE COORDINATED CAREER PATHWAYS AND APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION**

Early childhood educators provide the critical foundation for children in out-of-home care to develop the literacy and social-emotional skills they need to succeed in school. The early care and education sector is a cornerstone of local and state economic health, enabling parents to work and provide for their families while employing a large workforce of educators. However, as professional development opportunities and expectations for these educators have increased, compensation lags behind most other industries, and communities throughout Colorado are facing significant challenges recruiting and retaining a stable early childhood workforce. Ensuring that Colorado has a qualified, consistent and diverse early childhood workforce is critical to supporting the healthy development of children and maintaining a thriving economy.



Info Graphic

- **SUPPORT IMPROVED FAMILY HEALTH & ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH**



Info Graphic

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. Ensuring that parents have the health and economic supports they need to provide a nurturing home environment and meet their children's basic needs is essential for a child's healthy development. Children who are cared for in stable environments with access to vital health services, nutritious foods, safe water, and quality learning environments are better able to develop the skills they need to succeed in school and thrive in their communities.

Unfortunately, many children are living in environments without these basic supports, which can lead to long-term physical and emotional adversity. Colorado should continue to support family health and economic security through state and local programs and ensure that interventions provide opportunities for both children and caregivers.

The ECLC expressly acknowledges the importance of supporting equitable outcomes for all of Colorado's residents and encourages thoughtful inclusion of supports and services for diverse communities.



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 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 (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

Duration:

- Subcommittee membership designated on August 23, 2018 for two years, until August 2020.

Background and Current Status for Colorado's CCDF Block Grant

- The Office of Early Childhood was an early adopter of many of the new requirements under the reauthorized Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) thanks to the federal Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant it received in 2012/2013.
 - Colorado had a significant jump start in its implementation of the new requirements compared to other states.

Sustaining the work of the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant:

- Colorado is viewed nationally as a leader for its innovative early implementation of the new CCDF requirements. Through increased use of CCDF funds in the last two years, the Office has bolstered and sustained systems developed under Race to the Top and invested more in child care quality initiatives and direct services through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.
 - Colorado used Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge funds to embed a statewide quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) in child care licensing. At the conclusion of RTT, the Department requested and received authority to spend an additional \$3 million in ongoing CCDF funds to sustain that effort. Colorado was one of first states in the nation to create a quality rating and improvement system and currently is one of only 6 states that have a QRIS embedded in licensing.
 - CCDF has also been used to support Colorado's consumer education requirements for parents and providers. Race to the Top funds enabled the state to build the child care-specific website, ColoradoShines.com, which has given the State an advantage in meeting CCDF requirements. Ongoing updates and enhancements have necessitated the use of CCDF funding for both the Colorado Shines and Office of Early Childhood websites.
 - CCDF is also used to develop and print consumer education resources, such as brochures or postcards, for counties and other agencies to be distributed to families eligible for CCCAP.
 - The state now uses CCDF funds to develop and offer required and ongoing trainings to child care providers free of charge in anticipation of the new federal requirements. To date, the Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System (PDIS) boasts 263,809 course completions for 53 courses available to take online for free. The state spends \$135,000 in CCDF annually on hosting and licensing costs for the Colorado Shines PDIS.
 - A portion of CCDF funding has been used to print materials promoting the Early Learning and Development Guidelines (ELDG) and to maintain the ELDG website (including annual hosting fees, domain name fees, etc.).

Increases to provider rates and access to quality care through CCCAP:

- Within CCCAP, the Department has incorporated supports for higher quality through tiered reimbursement and reduced parent copays, which required the Department to request an additional \$1.9 million in CCDF spending authority in 2017. This is an innovative practice that has not yet been replicated in many other states.

- In order to comply with federal requirements around equal access, providers saw an increase in their provider reimbursement rate for CCCAP starting in 2016. The state increased the recommended reimbursement rate and worked diligently with counties to ensure those higher rates were adopted. In the past, all counties opted out of the state-recommended rates and most paid around the 10th percentile of the child care market. In 2016, 51 counties accepted the state-recommended rates with most paying the 75th percentile of the market for high quality providers.
- The OEC has requested incremental increases in CCDF spending authority over the last five years to support quality and access as dictated by the 2014 reauthorization of CCDF, including a \$20 million increase for CCCAP direct services during the 2018 legislative session.
 - This additional funding for CCCAP was intentionally built into the FY 2018-19 CCCAP appropriation with the knowledge that the state would be receiving a large influx of CCDF funds. It would not have been possible otherwise.
- It is the policy of this administration to take full advantage of all available resources to address the widespread need for child care. For CCCAP in particular, the Office wanted to utilize all available resources, including the CCDF roll-forward funding the OEC previously built up, to sustain access within the program.
 - For example, the Department put forth a supplemental budget request in FY 2017-18 for additional CCDF funding to address CCCAP wait lists so that families could receive the help they needed as soon as possible.

Ongoing federal funding amounts are unknown:

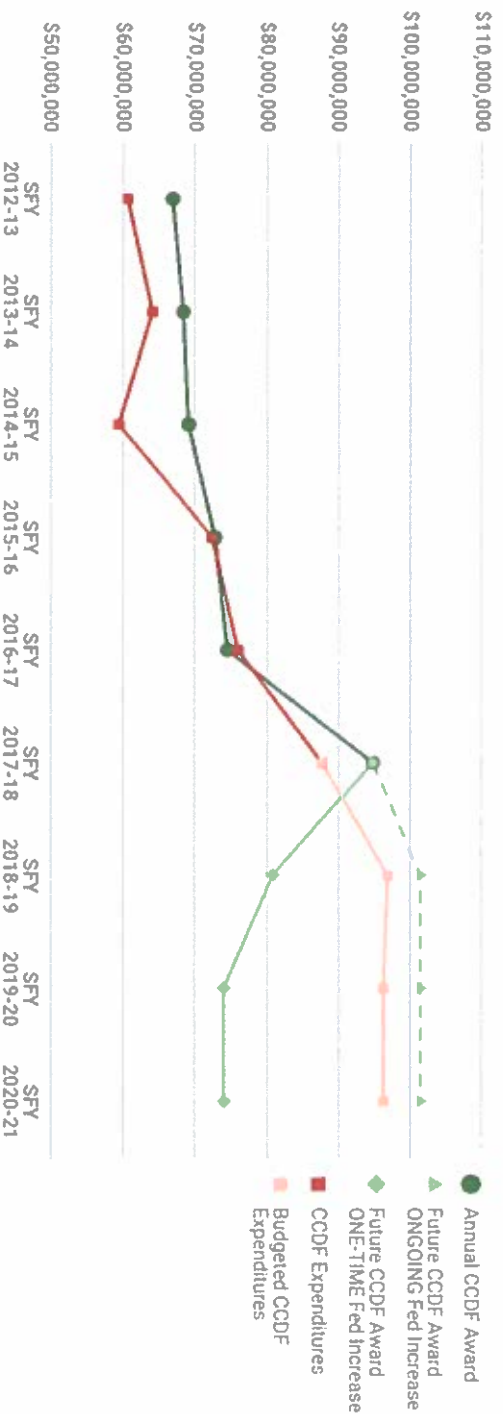
- The OEC had previously rolled forward CCDF funds but through the strategies listed above has spent down those dollars and no longer has reserve funding at its disposal. The OEC was in the process of exploring all available options when the new CCDF funds were awarded.
- The new CCDF funding that Colorado received through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 allows us to maintain services and supports for Colorado families at their current level for the coming year. Because it is not yet clear if these funds are one-time or ongoing, any funding available for new initiatives or expansion beyond current service levels would be limited and not sustainable.
- If funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 is not ongoing, a funding shortfall will have the following effect:
 - The State may need modify CCCAP eligibility that could result in fewer families being served
 - Updates to trainings on the Colorado Shines PDIS would take much longer or would need to be discontinued
 - The State may need to reduce or eliminate funding for child care quality improvement activities, including funding for Colorado Shines QRIS
 - The State may need to consider requesting new state funding in order to sustain current services levels.

Colorado's CCDF Grant Funds Over Time August 2018 Update



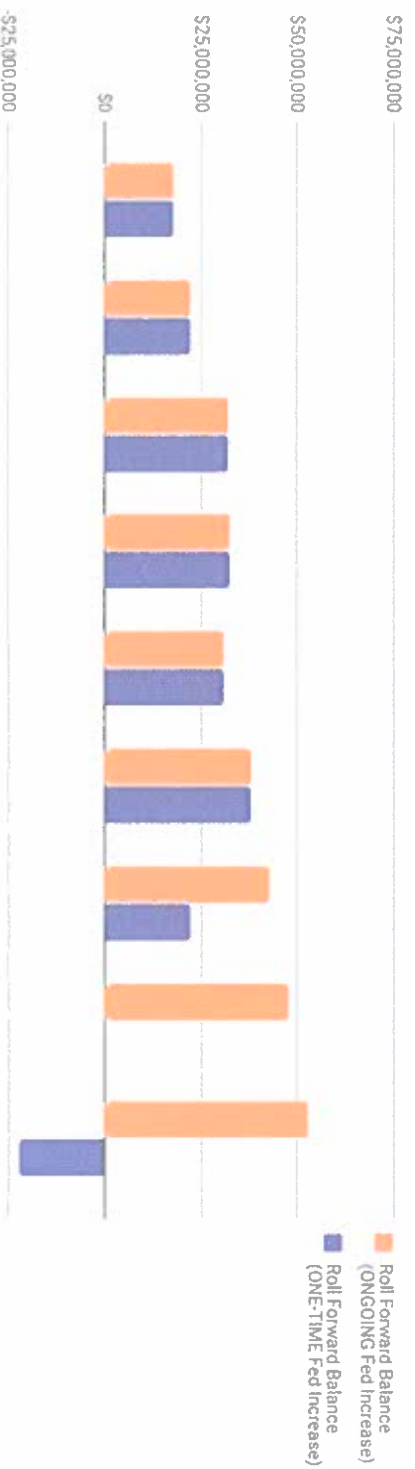
COLORADO
Office of Early Childhood
Department of Human Services

CCDF Award and Expenditures Over Time



If the additional Federal Funds received in SFY 2017-18 are ongoing, then the CCDF Award will be larger than our currently budgeted expenditures. However, if those funds are one-time, then our currently budgeted expenditures will exceed our award.

CCDF Roll Forward Balance Over Time



The State can maintain current budgeted expenditures through SFY 2019-20 without additional ongoing funds (Federal or Otherwise). In the absence of ongoing funds, cuts would need to be made by SFY 2020-21.