



Thursday, October 22, 2020

9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Webinar Only ~ Register ahead of time using this link:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3765143839061217295>

AGENDA

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2020 Meeting
 - Learn about Updates to the Future of Preschool Planning
 - Discuss ECLC Engagement in Future of Preschool Planning and Consider Endorsement of Guiding Framework
 - Hear from ECLC Subcommittees
 - Approve Additional Subcommittee Co-chairs
 - Discuss ECLC Business
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
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| 9:30-9:35am | Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTION: Approval of August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes |
| 9:35-9:55am | Proposition EE: Tobacco-Vape Tax for Healthy, Bright Kids Updates (Cody Belzley) |
| 9:55-10:15am | Future of Preschool Policy Planning Updates (Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign; Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado) |
| 10:15-11:10am | ECLC Engagement in Preschool Policy Planning (Jodi Hardin and Nancie Linville) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of Process• Review <i>Universal Preschool Policy Discussion Guide</i>• ACTION: Consider Endorsement of <i>Universal Preschool Policy Discussion Guide</i> |
| 11:10-11:25am | Break |
| 11:25-11:35am | ECLC Business Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECLC Fundraising• Review Written State Agency Updates• ECLC 2020 Annual Report |
| 11:35-11:45am | Updates from the Governor's Office (Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early Childhood) |
| 11:45-11:55am | Public Comment |

- 11:55-12:10pm** Subcommittee Updates
- Approve of Additional Subcommittee Co-Chairs:
 - Program Quality & Alignment: Jeanne McQueeney (joining Anna Jo Haynes and Anji Gallanos)
 - Data: Kate Reinemund and Whitney LeBoeuf (joining Susan Steele)
 - Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee
 - Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
 - Communications Subcommittee
 - Data Subcommittee
- 12:10-12:25pm** Appreciation Celebration for Mary Anne Snyder!
- 12:25-12:30pm** Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn
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ECLC 2020 Meeting Schedule

- **December 17, 2020**
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Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service or organization by the ECLC.

ECLC Meetings:

The next **ECLC Meeting** will be held on December 17, 2020 by webinar.

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



Early Childhood Leadership Commission Minutes
Thursday, August 27, 2020
9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Webinar Only

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2020
- Hear updates from State Agencies
- Discuss COVID-19 Research + Opportunities to Share the Information
- Learn about Implementation Planning for the Future of Preschool
- Consider Endorsement of Ballot Measure
- Approve Subcommittee Co-chairs
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

Attendees:

Mary Anne Snyder, Susan Steele, Tom Massey, Amanda Culbertson, Pamela Harris, Sue Renner, Ida Rhodes, Jeff Kuhr, Tracy Miller, Melissa Colman, Jeff Kuhr, Heather Craiglow, Kristina Heyl, George Welsh, Anne-Marie Braga, Jeanne McQueeney, Ryan Beiser, Adeeb Khan, Happy Haynes, Rebecca Kantor

Guests: Jennifer Stedron, Melissa Mares, Stephanie Perez-Carrillo, Bill Jaeger, Meg Franko, Suzanne Delap, Brittany Lane, Scott Groginsky, Whitney LeBoeuf

Welcome & Introductions

Tom Massey thanked everyone who joined the meeting. He called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 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 welcomed the three new members of the Commission: Adeeb Khan, Happy Haynes and Rebecca Kantor. He also welcomed and congratulated Pamela Harris for her appointment as co-chair of the Commission.

Follow Up from Previous ECLC Meeting Action Items

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion - Next Steps: At the last meeting the Commission discussed the importance of re-committing their work in a way that acknowledges the inequities in our systems that serve children and families and embrace the changes that are needed to fight for equity and justice for all children. Some of the action items created at the last meeting Kristina followed up on are:

- Subcommittees reevaluate how their work is supporting equity and inclusion,
- Ask presenters to speak to equity during their presentation,
- Ensure that the Subcommittee and Commission membership is reflective of the diverse population in Colorado and,
- Ensure that the Commission and Subcommittee meetings are accessible for all who are interested in joining.

The group discussed additional steps they could take to ensure the Commission is supporting equity including:

- Ensuring the Subcommittee meetings are scheduled at a time that allows for community members to participate and,
- Adopting an equity tool or set of questions to use for presenters and the Commission's work to evaluate the equity impact.

The ECLC is committed to continuing this conversation on equity, diversity and inclusion with ongoing

discussion and evaluation.

Family and Parent Engagement Plan: Kristina Heyl shared that in recognition of our parent/family representatives and the expertise that they bring to the table the Commission will start providing stipends to compensate parent/family members for their time during the meetings. The Commission is creating a connection to the CDHS Family Voice Council to engage a broader group of parents and families and get their feedback. Kristina shared the ECLC commitment to strengthen parents and families connection to the work happening at the state level and provide opportunities to bring family voices back to the Commission.

COVID-19 Early Childhood Sector Research

Early Milestones Colorado is taking the lead on coordinating a research response to the COVID-19 crisis that will allow Colorado to have the needed data to make informed decisions about getting through this crisis, preparing for any possible public health relapses, and rebuilding the early childhood system as the crisis winds down. They have sent out three surveys: provider, workforce and family survey. Meg Franko and Suzanne Delap shared the current results and data from the three surveys. For more information please visit the [ECLC Website](#).

Meg Franko shared if Commissioners or any stakeholders are interested in holding a meeting or having Early Milestones hold a meeting to share the data out to please reach out to her at mfranko@earlymilestones.org.

Department Updates

Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE): Brittany Lane share updates on behalf of Angie Paccione. CDHE is working on enrolling 100 new candidates for the Ed Prep program. They are hoping to support new and existing programs. They are looking at innovated Prep programs to including the University of Colorado Denver Program that Dean Kantor oversees.

Colorado Department of Education (CDE): Melissa Colman shared that CDE is taking part of discussions on universal preschool and providing information on Colorado Preschool Program (CPP). CDE is providing early literacy training for K-3rd grade teachers as part of the READ Act revision. All K-3rd grade teachers have to have training on the Science of Reading by 2021. They are able to offer this training to Preschool teachers as well with funding from the Preschool Development Grant; this will create alignment with K-3rd grade. Melissa discussed the flexible policy implementation for P-3 teachers for fall assessments. The Department worked with publishers of assessments for the READ Act to have information on how to implement the assessment in person and remote options. She also discussed the Kindergarten School Readiness (KSR) assessment and the problematic implementation of the assessment with remote learning. The Department is thinking about adjustments on how these assessments can be used and the implication to data collection. They may be flexible on whether to collect the KRA data this year.

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS): Anne-Marie Braga shared that CDHE has developed an Equity Action Plan. Each Office in the Department is also creating their own Equity Plan. The Department hired an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager who is based out of the Human Resources Department. The Department is looking at policy and program changes, their HR policies and diversity of the workforce and providing trainings for employees on equity, inclusion and diversity.

Anne-Marie stated that Mary Anne Snyder announced she will be retiring on October 31. CDHS began the search for Mary Anne's replacement immediately and is conducting an inclusive nationwide search for the right person to lead this crucial office. More information on candidate selection will be shared as available.

Office of Early Childhood (OEC): Mary Anne Snyder discussed updates from the OEC. The OEC received CARES Act funding to support child care providers and families with the transition back to early care and learning environments. The CARES Act funding will be used to hire 15 Early Childhood Mental Health

Consultants and as well as fund statewide training in psychological first aid, trauma-informed care, and equity diversity and inclusivity training.

The Division of Early Care and Learning released an [operational memo](#) to county departments of human services to clarify how child care subsidy can support school age child care during remote learning times. Based on recent federal guidance (released August 10), counties may now authorize and pay for care of school-age children while they are completing remote, virtual, or online schoolwork as long as the child care provider is strictly providing care and supervision of the child who is participating in remote learning activities.

Mary Anne shared that Office is now offering sustainability grants from \$1,000 - \$3,000 available for open and operating child care programs, in response to the financial impacts of COVID-19. The deadline to update program information and receive a grant has been extended to August 30. There are numerous funding opportunities that will become available. All of these opportunities are funded through the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) including Business Supports for Child Care Providers, Child Care Start-up and Expansion Micro Grants and Child Development Associate (CDA) Scholarships. Please visit the [Office of Early Childhood website](#) for more information.

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF): Tom discussed an update on Senate Bill 19-195: Enhancing Children and Youth Behavioral Health Services . The Colorado General Assembly made the difficult decision to eliminate funding in the 2020-21 fiscal year for Senate Bill 19-195. An amendment to the statute, [HB20-1384](#) now makes those requirements subject to available appropriations, so the Department cannot move forward with these specific projects we maintain our commitment to child and youth behavioral health.

Tom shared the Department update on kids' enrollment. Enrollment of kids in Health First Colorado is currently 547,912, which is up 29,181 from March when the pandemic began. Enrollment of kids in CHP+ is currently 75,295 which are about the same as in March when the pandemic began. CHP+ kids' enrollment has remained steady because even though some Colorado kids are newly eligible for CHP+, some CHP+ kids have churned to Health First Colorado coverage since the pandemic began and are now reflected in those numbers.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE): Tracy Miller discussed CDPHE updates. Tracy shared that for the 2020 school year whether virtual or in-person, Colorado school and child care immunization entry requirements are unchanged. The 2019-2020 school & child care immunization data are available here: <http://covaxrates.org>. The Department [Maternal Mortality Report](#) in Colorado is now available. Some of the findings included maternal mortality in Colorado is increasing, similar to the nation, suicide, drug overdose, injury, & homicide are leading causes and $\frac{3}{4}$ of deaths were determined to be preventable. Tracy stated that the Maternal & Child Health (MCH) [Priorities and FY 2021 strategies](#) are now finalized.

Tracy stated that WIC continues to serve families remotely. They are preparing for expiration of remote service waivers & waiting for possible extension. WIC Main focuses included retention: Fewer families are leaving WIC by choice compared to last year and converting referrals to enrollments. Tracy shared Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) updates the Department has implemented joint claims & application system with CO Dept. of Education, Office of School Nutrition: less administrative burden for participants. She also stated Preschool Development Grant efforts with CDHS & others are working to expand access to quality nutrition, support child care business sustainability and outreach to non-participating providers. Lastly Tracy discussed the farm to ECE grant funding application.

Public Comment & Commissioner Updates

Early Care and Education Workforce Data Project: Whitney LeBoeuf from the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab shared the Early Childhood Educator [Data Project Dashboard](#) is up and running on the Office of Early Childhood website and they have developed a [2019 Snapshot report](#).

Christina Walker on behalf of the Raise Colorado Coalition shared concerns and asked for additional conversation around the learning pods that communities, business and families are creating to address remote learning. She shared that policies around learning pods need ongoing conversation and it is especially important to involve child care providers in these conversations. Some of the concerns she shared are:

- Ensure that these learning pods are held to the licensing standards to maintain health and safety of children
- Prioritize stabilization of existing child care licensing fields
- Create a strong consumer campaign to target families and target outreach to communities and business to educate them on child care licensing health and safety and importance of quality care
- Equity concerns: learning pods will be available to families who can afford private pay, concerns that some families cannot afford to join pods increasing inequities

Bill Jaeger from the Children’s Campaign expressed similar concerns as Christina. He noted that the OEC and Governor’s Office pulled together a group of stakeholders to discuss policies around learning pods. He shared the need for ongoing conversations to think through the unintended consequences of different policies measure especially to licensed child care providers. He also discussed the importance of ensuring children are not put into unsafe situation and that health and safety needs to at the forefront of these conversations.

Katie Facchinello announced that the 2020 Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference will be held virtually September 28-30, 2020 and the registration is now open.

Updates from the Governor’s Office

Scott Groginsky welcomed the three new Commissioners; Rebecca Kantor, Allegra “Happy” Haynes and Adeeb Khan. He welcomed and congratulated Pamela Harris on her appointment as co-chair of the Commission and congratulated Susan Steele on her reappointed to the Commission.

Scott shared challenges to the early childhood field due to COVID-19 including the uncertainty of schools opening. He shared that there will be more discussion on the Learning/Parent Pods. He stated that the COVID crisis caused an economic recession and that they do expect a tough budget year. They are already preparing for the next legislative cycle, looking at options from fiscal year 2022 budget, looking at top priorities and want stakeholder input.

Scott shared the Federal CARES ACT funding is now available to support child care. The funds are being used to provide sustainability grants to child care programs, continue support for CCCAP funded programs struggling with child attendance, provide coverage for more affordable copayments and increases the number of early childhood mental health professionals.

Future of Preschool Policy Planning Overview

Jennifer Stedron, Melissa Mares, Stephanie Perez-Carrillo and Bill Jaeger discussed Proposition EE that would increase tobacco taxes and close the vaping loophole and ways that the policy development process for implementing the measure should it pass. The design process for the future of preschool in Colorado will include several key elements:

- Engagement from researchers, advocates, philanthropy, non-profits, providers (both school-based and community-based), educators, and families
- Engagement from legislators who may carry forward necessary statutory changes in upcoming

legislative sessions

- Engagement from state and local agency leaders responsible for program implementation
- Perspectives from the Governor's office on policy considerations
- Perspectives from throughout Colorado (Front Range, rural, suburban, Western Slope, Eastern Plains, etc.) on implementation
- Data research and policy research

The process will allow for both the efficiency of a small group of leaders advancing a solution as well as the impact of a meaningful process of community input. The goal will begin these conversations in summer of 2020 and advance policy recommendations as they are developed so there is adequate time to implement policy changes ahead of the fall 2023 implementation of the universal preschool program. For information please review the [handout](#) from Colorado Children's Campaign.

Discussion and Consider Endorsement of Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax Ballot measure

Pamela Harris shared an overview of Proposition EE that would increase tobacco taxes and close the vaping loophole and if passed provide funding for preschool. The Commission discussed endorsing the ballot measure. The Commissioners expressed how important this measure is for increasing access and equity in Colorado's early childhood system.

Pamela called for a motion to endorse the Tax Ballot measure. Jeanne McQueeney moved to endorse the measure, Happy Haynes seconded the motion; Jeff Kuhr, Melissa Colman and Susan Steele abstained from the vote. The Commission approved the endorsement of the Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax Ballot measure by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Kristina Heyl stated that the Commission needs to approve the new co-chairs for the Subcommittees. Kristina asked if any Commissioner engaged would like to consider being a co-chair to please reach out to her. Kristina reminded the group that at a past meeting the Commission voted to allow for non-ECLC members to be co-chairs. The Subcommittee then voted to approve the following Subcommittee co-chairs:

- Program Quality and Alignment: Anna Jo Haynes and Anji Gallanos
- Communication Subcommittee: Tom Massey and Katie Facchinello
- Data Subcommittee: Susan Steele
- Early Childhood Workforce Development: Heather Craiglow, Rebecca Kantor, Pamela Harris, and Jennifer O'Brien
- Home Visiting Initiative Working Group: Ida Rhodes

Kristina called for a motion to approve the Subcommittee co-chairs. Pamela Harris moved to approve the co-chairs, Melissa Colman seconded the motion; the Subcommittee co-chairs were approved by unanimous voice vote.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Home Visiting Initiative Working Group Charge. Kristina called for a motion to approve the Working Group Charge. Tom Massey moved to approve the charge, Heather Craiglow seconded the motion; the Working Group Charge was approved by unanimous voice vote.

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. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The next ECLC meeting will be held on October 22, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Health Care Policy & Financing 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room or by webinar.

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.

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Critical “Must Haves” in Colorado Preschool Policy

The ECLC embraces the following as essential components when reviewing, considering and recommending policies related to universal preschool.

- ❑ **Equity drives decisions and priorities:** CO recognizes that equity does not mean equality (the same answer, size, approach in every instance), rather it allows flexibility based on the context to best meet needs.
- ❑ **Universal and targeted:** CO designs universal preschool to serve all children while providing for additional resources and supports for those furthest from opportunity.
- ❑ **High quality standards:** CO sets comprehensive, high quality standards across all aspects of a program AND provides pathways and supports to achieve standards.
- ❑ **Child and family centric services:** CO designs programs and systems based on family voice and needs, while continuously engaging families to improve child and family experience.
- ❑ **Child and program outcomes:** CO demonstrates outcomes and impact with the necessary tracking and reporting systems to ensure accountability.
- ❑ **Access:** CO expands and increases options for family choice, including settings in licensed community centers, family homes, and school settings.
- ❑ **Diverse workforce:** CO supports and champions a diverse work force by ensuring pay equity, professional development, educational and training pathways for ECE professionals in all settings.
- ❑ **Mixed delivery system:** CO invests in building capacity of communities, programs, and workforce to ensure licensed community centers, family homes, and school settings implement quality standards.
- ❑ **Streamlined administrative burden:** CO creates efficiencies in administrative and eligibility functions at family, program and community levels to reinvest in services and workforce.
- ❑ **Strengthened and expanded resources:** CO creates policies and allocates funding in a way that strengthens the broader early childhood system, including birth to three services.

Colorado’s Early Childhood Leadership Commission - Stewards of Equity

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.

The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is charged with playing a key role in identifying, evaluating, and recommending policy alternatives aligned with key preschool design and implementation questions arising from the Future of Preschool Policy Development Process. The ECLC believes that Colorado’s universal preschool program will be successful when, and only when, policies and practices are in the pursuit of equity:

Equity from a
child and family perspective



Equity from a
workforce perspective



Equity from a
community perspective

What is Equity-mindedness in Policy?

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.

We express our sincere gratitude to all who have dedicated their work and lives to fighting for access, quality, and equity within communities. We stand with you and know that we have much more work to do together.

ECLC Statement on Equity, August 2020

“Equity is not ‘nice to have.’ It’s a ‘got to have.’ Unless we focus on African American and Latino students, our country will not get to where it needs to be.” -Jamie P. Merisotis, President and CEO, Lumina Foundation

An equity focus in policy recognizes the need to eliminate disparities in outcomes of children and families from underserved and underrepresented populations.

It is deliberately color-conscious and seeks to prevent or eliminate gaps for Native Americans, African American, Latinx, refugee and other marginalized children and families.

It prioritizes institutional or program accountability rather than child or family challenges/gaps/deficits and monitors the impacts of specific groups to see when policies and practices are creating or worsening inequality.

Applying an equity-minded focus requires policymakers to consider who benefits, who loses, and how children and families in greatest need fare as a result of the policy.

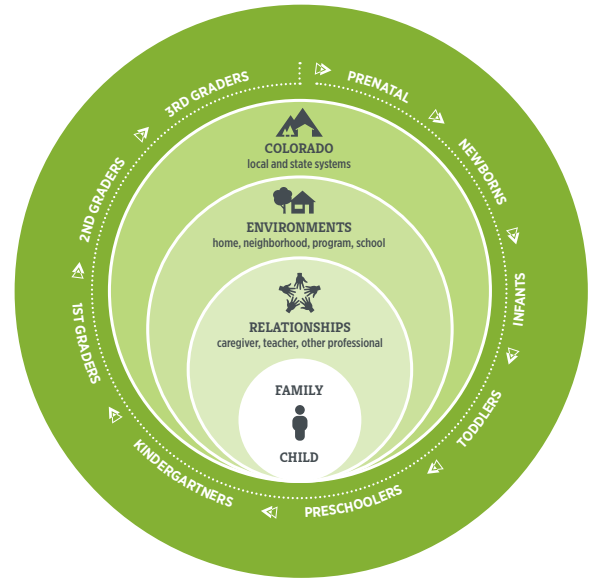
An equity-minded lens can also help identify equity “assets”, or policies that may already be in place that advance equity.

Protocol for Assessing Equity-Mindedness in State Policy, Center for Urban Education, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California, January, 2017

Equity Considerations

The ECLC will continually consider, review, and provide policy recommendations by asking these questions:

- How is this policy prioritizing those most in need, under-resourced, or furthest from opportunity?
- To what degree have parents and community members weighed in on this policy recommendation?
- To what degree have local programs, providers and school districts weighed in on this policy recommendation?
- How might this policy break down systemic racism?



Other Key Questions to Consider in the Review and Discussion of Preschool Policies:

- How does this policy meet the needs of working parents (e.g. full day, full year, non-traditional hours)? How does it promote a two-generation approach with comprehensive supports for the most under-resourced? How does it support parent choice and access to quality settings (e.g. licensed community centers, family homes, and school settings)?
- How does this policy ensure cultural relevancy and responsiveness in program services and delivery? How does it promote language justice and accessibility of services in the family's home language?
- How does this policy ensure community-based programs and school districts are paid at the same level? To what degree does this move all early childhood professionals towards a liveable wage? How does it support the infrastructure needed to ensure parity in salary? How does this policy expand professional development and credential attainment? How does this policy support a diverse workforce?
- How does this policy support program and quality standards? To what degree does it promote mixed delivery settings in an equitable fashion? How does it support evidence-based family and community engagement? How does it ensure a commitment to a whole child and family approach, build protective factors, and strengthen child outcomes?
- How does this align authority to create an environment for efficient and effective inter-governmental cooperation – local, state and federal? To what degree are funding and regulations streamlined for families, providers, and/or communities? To what degree does this policy create the needed monitoring, tracking, and accountability systems to ensure positive child and family outcomes?
- How does this policy incentivize innovation and flexibility to best meet the needs of children, families, and communities? How does this policy allow for continuous learning and adaptation, prioritizing, and scaffolding as investments increase?
- How does this policy strengthen the broader, prenatal to age 8 early childhood system? To what degree might it have an unintended consequence on broader early childhood systems, including birth to 3 services?

Summary of Preschool Program Details in Proposition EE Initiative: Expand and enhance the Colorado Preschool Program or any successor program in order to offer at least ten hours per week of voluntary preschool free of charge to every child in Colorado during the last year of preschool before entry to kindergarten.

| Program Design Requirements | Funding and Governance | Expansion Opportunities |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for parent choice • School and community based programs must meet quality and program guidelines • Must support and strengthen the diversity of the workforce • Will help to achieve state and local mixed delivery goals • High quality programming that helps prepare children for kindergarten • Coordination with existing systems, initiatives, funding streams, and advancing alignment with K-12th grade systems to support children's transitions to school • Opportunities for evidence-based parent, family, and community engagement • Evaluation of ECE program effectiveness including impact of preschool on child and family outcomes | <p>Priority funding: Through expansion of CPP or any other successor program, offer at least ten hours per week of voluntary preschool free of charge to every child in CO during last year of preschool before entry to kindergarten</p> <p>Remaining money: Programming for low-income families and children at risk of entering kindergarten without being school ready</p> <p>Uses of funding by designated department: Designated department means one or more departments that the general assembly has determined to be best qualified to administer the Colorado Preschool Program or any successor program to ensure the availability of quality, voluntary, mixed-delivery preschool by appropriating money from the preschool programs cash fund to the department or departments.</p> <p>The designated department may use money appropriated from the preschool programs cash fund for the costs of a third-party entity that administers the program on behalf of the designated department.</p> | <p>To meet an expansion of the current preschool population, money may be used to ensure the availability of quality, voluntary, mixed delivery preschool by which the department deems appropriate including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting, training, and retaining early childhood education professionals • Expanding or improving the staff, facilities, equipment, technology, and physical infrastructure of preschool programs offered by licensed provider to increase preschool access • Parent and family outreach to facilitate timely and effective enrollment • And other uses consistent with universal preschool program |

Source: Cigarette, Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax, HB20-1427, Colorado General Assembly, Pages 33-35.



October 22, 2020 State Agency Updates

Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)

Welcome Mary Alice Cohen, the OEC's new Director!

Mary Alice's vision for the OEC:

"My vision is that all children will develop to their full potential, regardless of the color of their skin, their abilities or their zip code. In close partnership with our early childhood stakeholders, we will increase access to high-quality learning environments in child care, home and community settings. To help children thrive, we will expand resources and support to our workforce of child care professionals, home visitors, family advocates, coaches and early childhood mental health specialists. And, most importantly, we will focus on strengthening families with comprehensive services that build resiliency and create strong foundations for babies. These collaborative efforts will lead to children having a strong start in school and in life."

The OEC and the Colorado Fatherhood Program (CFP) are excited to announce that Colorado has received an award for \$7,500,000 to support a 5 year fatherhood initiative.

This funding will:

- Help fathers build healthy parent-child relationships
- Support fathers' economic stability
- Help father build social capital in the context of a Strengthening Families approach

The program will serve 1,820 eligible fathers that span all demographic and socioeconomic spectrums. The program will target fathers living in poverty with newborns, noncustodial and custodial single parent fathers, fathers participating in Head Start, military and veteran fathers, fathers without a high school diploma, unemployed fathers, and fathers re-entering after incarceration. CFP participants will receive direct services, case management, and referrals from agencies in their community that addresses the three project focus areas of:

- Promoting and Sustaining Healthy Marriage (referrals to needed services, education regarding how to control aggressive behavior and build strong relationships, and financial planning)
- Responsible Parenting (skills-based parenting and co-parenting education, encouraging child support payments, and disseminating information about good parenting practices)
- Economic Security (employment support services, capacity building, and coordination with welfare-to-work and basic assistance programs)

The OEC has numerous active Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) initiatives happening as part of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG). Under the Preschool Development Grant (PDG), the OEC is engaging in a number of initiatives around ECMH.

In June, the OEC contracted with Government Performance Solutions to engage key stakeholders via workshops, focus groups and an online survey to develop and refine a Colorado model of ECMH Consultation service delivery that will responsively meet the needs of children, families and providers, while also being adopted by practitioners, administered to fidelity, and subject to evaluation.

- The Creating Trauma-Sensitive Early Care and Education Settings leadership series was designed to enhance early care and education directors' knowledge and application of trauma-informed care practices, develop peer networks, and connect center directors to local implementation partners and resources. Directors in the Denver Metro area were invited to apply for this new pilot program. Fifteen directors were selected for this pilot program. Inclusion in the first leadership series required that both the director and licensed child care center were in good standing. Preference was given to larger centers (4 or more classrooms), serving vulnerable populations, with a QRIS quality rating of 2 or above indicating quality engagement, as well as demonstrated center and director readiness to implement center wide change.
- Family facing, customizable Project LAUNCH materials, stored on the OEC website and previously available in English and Spanish, have been transcreated into Arabic, Vietnamese, Burmese, and Somali. This includes both child development education and support materials as well as social media graphics.

The OEC continues to provide business and financial support to child care providers, both through federal CARES Act Funding and the Preschool Development Grant (PDG).

- The first round of child care sustainability grants (funded through the CARES Act) have gone to approximately 2,550 child care providers, providing about \$4.4 million in funding.
- In partnership with Red Rocks Community College and Mesa County Public Health, the OEC has released an application for Child Development Associate (CDA) Scholarships for new CDA candidates and renewal candidates. Funding (through PDG) will support training costs and assessment fees for approximately 220 new CDA candidates and assessment fees for approximately 70 candidates.
- As part of the PDG Inclusion & Universal Design Program, 25 child care providers have been selected to receive technical assistance, training, and materials to ensure children with and without delays and disabilities can fully participate in their early learning setting. More information about the providers and the program is available [here](#).
- The Office is partnering with the State’s Office of Economic Development and International Trade to enhance the business acumen of licensed child care providers. This effort will promote business planning and sustainability to improve access to high-quality child care programs. The need for this type of support, while recognized previously, is especially critical given the additional pressures placed on child care businesses during the pandemic.
- The Office is partnering with Early Childhood Councils to administer Child Care Start-up and Expansion Micro Grants to prospective/new child care programs and existing child care programs across the state. The micro grants will assist with expenses related to becoming licensed for the first time or expanding an existing licensed child care program.
 - 32 awards in first round
 - 21 centers
 - 11 centers expanding
 - 10 new centers
 - 11 homes
 - 11 new FCCH

The OEC has created a resource guide for families hosting and/or participating in learning pods. The resource guide is available in both English and Spanish.

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 format <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.

Preschool

CPP Support Provided: This fall, the CDE Preschool team is engaging with local education agency preschool contacts through a series of content webinars and technical assistance meeting, focused on implementing state funded preschool. Content webinar topics include leadership, social wellness and recovery, dual language learners, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The team is also working with districts on their fall enrollment and pupil count process, reallocating CPP positions as needed, and approving requests for combining preschool positions for full day services, as allowed up to a state cap of 5% of CPP positions. This process continues through early November.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten School Readiness Reporting Requirement Relieved: At their September meeting, the State Board of Education voted to relieve districts of the requirement to submit results of kindergarten school readiness assessments this year due to the variability in conducting these observational assessments while many students are learning remotely. There is no change the requirement to conduct the assessments.

The State Board voted at their March 2020 meeting to change the reporting system for kindergarten school readiness to one the field deems more meaningful; the department cannot change the data collection system until the 2021-22 school year.

Early Literacy Grants Launched: Initial grants to support early literacy in preschool funded by the Preschool Development Grant were awarded this month. These grants will provide funds for preschool educators, leaders, and coaches to participate in professional development on scientifically based reading instruction, collaborate with families and local elementary partners, and establish local literacy training facilitators to build on-going sustainability.

Kindergarten Support Provided: CDE is continuing to hold *Collaboration for K* sessions this fall to provide opportunities for discussion and presentations from district leadership. Topics include fall assessment support, integrating kindergarten assessment data to inform school readiness and READ plans, and, looking ahead, rolling closures and temporary transitions to remote learning.

Early Literacy

Public Information Campaign on Reading Launched: This month, CDE launched a public information campaign on importance of reading with children at home to encourage and empower parents to make reading part of their daily routine with their children. The campaign theme places reading on the same level as other fundamental needs of young children -- food, water, shelter and love. The campaign will include social media, digital video, broadcast television advertising and a website at [ReadWithMe.Today](https://www.readwithme.today) that provides parents with tips and resources to support their children's reading progress. The website includes materials parents, community members and organizations can use to support reading at home. Youth serving organizations and libraries will be engaged to spread the word and help encourage parents. The campaign is required by legislation passed in 2019 to revamp the READ Act.

CDE Receives \$16 Million Literacy Grant: CDE was awarded the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program from the U.S. Department of Education, which is a competitive federal grant to advance literacy skills birth through grade 12. The grant has an emphasis on disadvantaged children, including children living in poverty, English learners, and children with disabilities. CDE was awarded \$16,212,160 to implement the Colorado Comprehensive Literacy Project (CO-CLSD). The CO-CLSD project will target resources to school districts, both rural and urban

that are geographically diverse and will direct funds to at least three Qualified Opportunity Zones throughout Colorado.

The project goals are as follows:

1. Revise and update the State Literacy Needs Assessment and revise the Colorado Strategic Literacy Plan
2. Subgrant 95% of awarded funds to sites meeting criteria established by the CDE; and
3. Improve literacy outcomes for disadvantaged children from birth-grade 12.

Evidence-based Reading Training Requirements for K - 3 Teachers On-track: At their September State Board of Education meeting, the board affirmed its commitment to the new requirements for teachers to ensure that all students have teachers who are trained in evidence-based reading instruction before the 2021-22 school year as required by the READ Act.

READ Act External Evaluation Begins: The external multi-year evaluation of district and state implementation of the READ Act has begun. The evaluation will include the department's list of approved assessments, instructional materials, and professional development as well as use of READ funds and outcomes at the district level.

October is Dyslexia Awareness Month: Dyslexia affects about 15 to 20 percent of the population, making it the most commonly diagnosed learning disability. Although dyslexia impacts many of our students, it remains one of the least understood disabilities. Visit CDE's dyslexia [webpage](#) for resources including our recently release handbook for school districts.

Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE)

Last year CDHE and CDE published a report on the [best practices in educator preparation](#) to fulfill a requirement in SB-19-190. In response, prep providers had to reply with their current levels of implementation, goals, and 3-year plans for full implementation. About the same time, CO was chosen as 1 of 7 states to participate in a [consortium](#) convened by the National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE) to help create a framework for infusing family, school, and community engagement into prep and then pilot it in the state team's educator preparation partner (Fort Lewis College).

As a result of needs identified in implementing the best practices and in response to recent needs assessments by both [Early Milestones](#) and the [Colorado Education Initiative](#) we have decided to have the topic of this year's conference for Ed Prep faculty be on: *Family, School, and Community, Partnership in Culturally Responsive Education*. In partnership with CO consortium partners (CDE, and FLC) we have identified a handful of engaging presentations to include a keynote by: [Mavis Sanders](#), a book chapter discussion by [Adeyemi Stenbridge](#), and we are calling on prep providers to submit proposals to present as well.

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)

The Department is happy to share some good news with you all today. The federal government has [extended the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency\(PHE\)](#) that was set to expire on October 23.

The PHE is in place through January 20, ending on January 21. We will still be diligent in planning and preparing for the end of the PHE, but this extension is very welcome news. Many advocates and other partners joined the Department in asking our federal partners for this extension and for as much notice as possible about any changes to the PHE. Thank you to all who engaged in this important effort.

We have launched a new [PHE planning stakeholder page](#) and will continue to update this link to include the latest federal guidance as it becomes available; we encourage you to periodically visit this site.

Thank you for your collaboration and partnership during these uncertain times.

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

October 22, 2020

9:30am- 12:30pm



Webinar Only:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3765143839061217295>



Welcome & Introductions

Business Meeting

- Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Objectives:
 - Approve Meeting Minutes from August 27, 2020 Meeting
 - Learn about Updates to the Future of Preschool Planning
 - Discuss ECLC Engagement in Future of Preschool Planning and Consider Endorsement of Guiding Framework
 - Hear from ECLC Subcommittees
 - Approve Additional Subcommittee Co-chairs
 - Discuss ECLC Business
 - Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment
- Approval of August 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes



Proposition EE: Tobacco-Vape Tax for
Healthy, Bright Kids Updates
Cody Belzley

Early Childhood Leadership Commission



Tobacco-Vape Tax for Bright, Healthy Kids

October, 2020

WHAT IS PROP EE?

This November Colorado voters will consider a statewide ballot initiative to boost taxes on tobacco products and create a new tax on vaping products to:

1. **Save lives by reducing tobacco and vape** use through higher product prices & funding tobacco prevention & cessation programs.
2. Shield K-12 schools from deep budget cuts caused by COVID and provide **universal, free preschool**.



HOW WILL IT WORK?

Between 2021 – 2027 taxes slowly increase

\$.84
to
\$ 2.64



*(An increase
of \$1.80)*

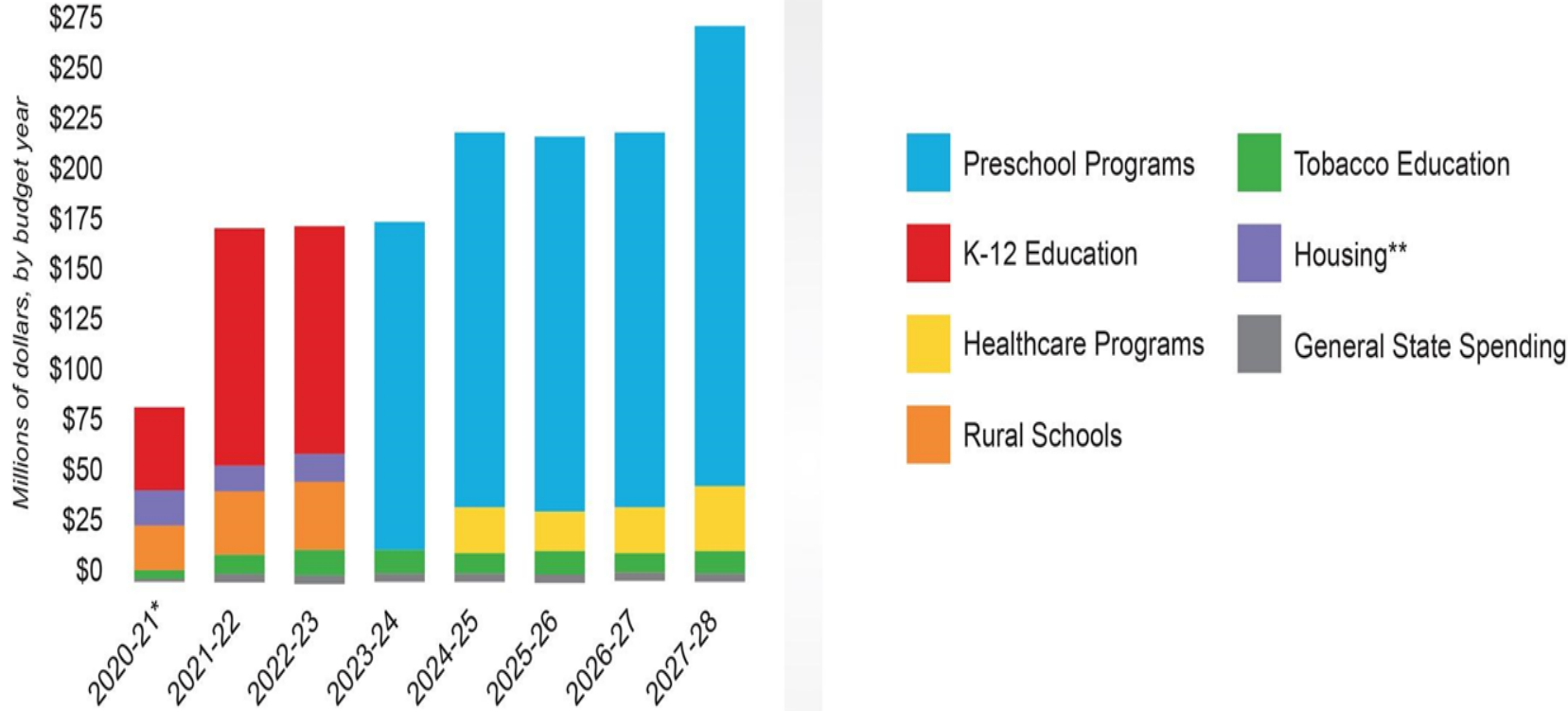
CIGARETTES & TOBACCO

0%
to
62%



VAPING PRODUCTS

DISTRIBUTIONS OF NEW TAX REVENUE



* Half-year impact

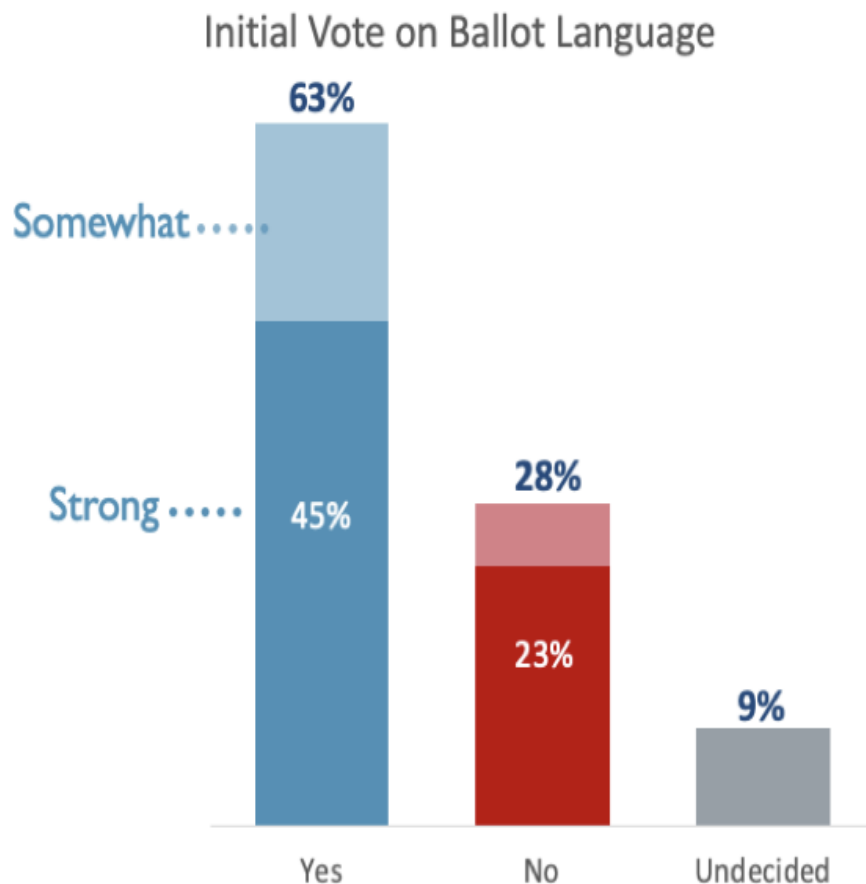
** Includes housing development and eviction legal assistance.

Source: Legislative Council, non-partisan legislative staff



STRATEGIC KEYS: STRONG BASE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

“If you were voting today, would you vote YES or NO on this measure? (IF YES/NO:) Is that strongly or only somewhat YES/NO? (IF UNDECIDED:) Well, which way would you say you lean?”



| | | Yes | No |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| ALL | | 63% | 28% |
| Registered Party | Democrat | 78% | 17% |
| | Republican | 45% | 44% |
| | Non-Partisan/ Other | 65% | 25% |
| Gender | Male | 59% | 33% |
| | Female | 67% | 24% |
| Age | <50 | 68% | 25% |
| | 50+ | 58% | 32% |

STRATEGIC KEYS: STRONG BASE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT

| Criteria | Outcome | Proposal Performance |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Yes vote should be at least 58%-60% | <input type="checkbox"/> | 63% |
| The No vote should be under 30% | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28% |
| Strong Yes vote should approach 40% | <input type="checkbox"/> | 45% |



STRATEGIC KEYS: BROAD, DIVERSE STATEWIDE COALITION

- 120+ endorsing orgs: Rural & Urban; Business & Labor; Civic Leaders, Health, Early Education & K-12 Groups
- 50+ endorsing elected officials: R & D, State & Local, Led by Gov. Polis
- Not just names on a list, but engaged and activated



STRATEGIC KEYS: EARNED MEDIA AND PRESS

- With 10 other ballot measures and diminished press corps, major push to supplement coverage through op-eds and LTEs.
- Editorial boards: have secured endorsements from The Denver Post, Grand Junction Sentinel, Durango Herald, Colorado Springs Independent, Aurora Sentinel, Denver Gazette and Colorado Springs Gazette.
- Layering in op-eds, LTEs and ed board positions into paid digital campaign, promoting into those specific geographies



OPPOSITION: “BAD DEAL FOR COLORADO”

- Expect opposition to spend \$5m at a minimum
- Potential late money from Liggett
- Engagement from tobacco-vape shop retailers
- This opposition is real, well-financed, and not to be underestimated



Who Else Is Supporting?

We have a strong and growing coalition of supporters, including:

Early Childhood Leadership Commission
Early Childhood Council Leadership Association
Children's Hospital Colorado
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Succeeds
Education Reform Now
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children (EPIC)
Stand for Children
Save the Children Action Network

Check out the full [list of endorsers here](#)



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP- FINAL PUSH

- **Vote!!**
 - [Register to vote](#) and find where to [vote in person or drop off your ballot](#)
- Communicate your support of EE with your friends and neighbors
- Connect with the Campaign on Social Media
 - [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)



Discussion & Next Steps



Tobacco-Vape Tax for Bright, Healthy Kids

ForCOKids.com

Cody Belzley, Outreach Director | cody@forCOKids.com | 303.913.1453



Future of Preschool Policy Planning Updates

Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign and
Jennifer Stedron, Early Milestones Colorado

The Future of Preschool

As Colorado legislators, Governor Polis, providers, advocates, and community members consider policy options to improve our current state preschool program and expand access in the years ahead, the community has the opportunity to provide guidance, recommendations, information, data, feedback, and more through these engagement platforms:

Preschool Policy Leadership Committee



Invite-Only

Engages in shared learning and makes recommendations on the components of preschool policy design with community feedback in mind.

Contact Bill Jaeger (bill@coloradokids.org) for more information

Preschool Policy Advisory Group



Open to all

Engages in shared learning and provides input, feedback and perspectives on the policy design process.

Contact Stephanie Perez-Carillo (stephanie@coloradokids.org) for more information

Community Input Sessions



Open to all

Focus groups, listening sessions and tools for local community conversations

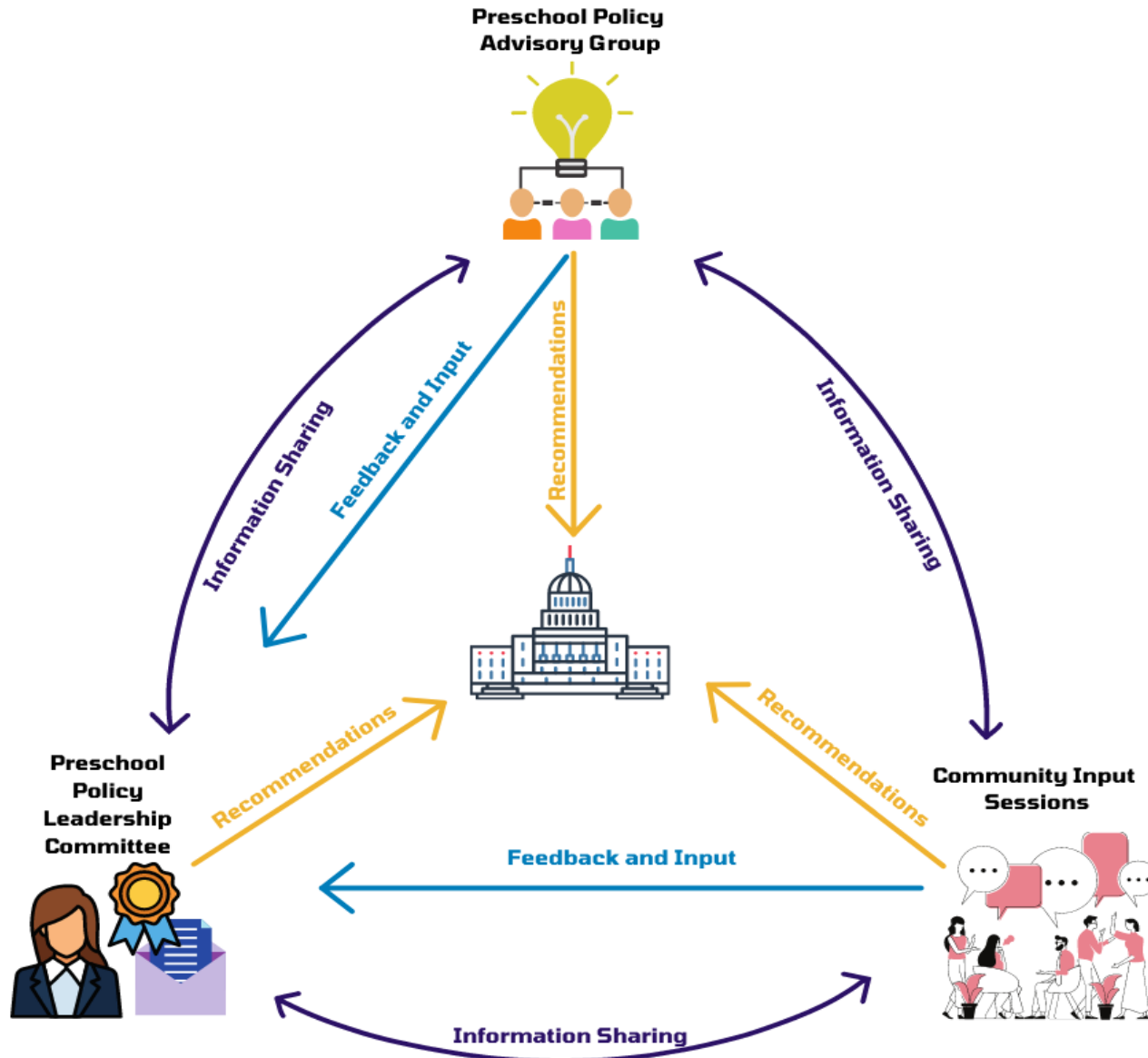
Contact Melissa Mares (melissa@coloradokids.org) for more information or if you would like to host a community input session

The Future of Preschool

The Preschool Policy Leadership Committee, Advisory Group and Community Input Sessions will **continuously share information** during the policy development process. The Preschool Policy Advisory Group and Community Input Sessions will offer direct **feedback and input** to the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee as recommendations are being considered.

When the process is complete, Colorado legislators, Governor Polis, and state agency leaders will receive a set of **recommendations** from the Preschool Policy Leadership Committee, the Preschool Policy Advisory Group, and based on Community Input Sessions.

The General Assembly, Governor Polis, and Executive Branch agencies will use the recommendations and reports to inform the policy decisions.



Shared learning agenda

- Summary of key questions to address & shared learning agenda:
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11WYREMdS1LFsyUDuO7jRgaLSsKxF1EF1/view?usp=sharing>
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16HlygylgifAuWFO69JrNJW6O-4nsTZx/view?usp=sharing>

| Question Category | Description |
|---|--|
| PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS AND STANDARDS | What children learn/experience; structure and quality of learning environment |
| PROGRAM PARTICIPATION | Which providers and children can take part |
| GOVERNANCE | Who administers the program finances and operations; who makes decisions about the program |
| SYSTEMS ALIGNMENT | Coordination with other programs or services |
| FUNDING ALLOCATION | Who gets money, how much, and what determines funding amounts |
| FUNDING ADEQUACY | Ability of money to meet learning and quality goals |
| WORKFORCE | Who can teach, what education they need, what they get paid |

Accessing Policy Development Information

- Preschool Policy Leadership Committee
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fa6Nlc6wDwBKsNqhMsNWldgZoNLdceFO?usp=sharing>
- Preschool Policy Advisory Group
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K62RzeVzFALbISPxbcgS9kEkGhkGAlxE?usp=sharing>



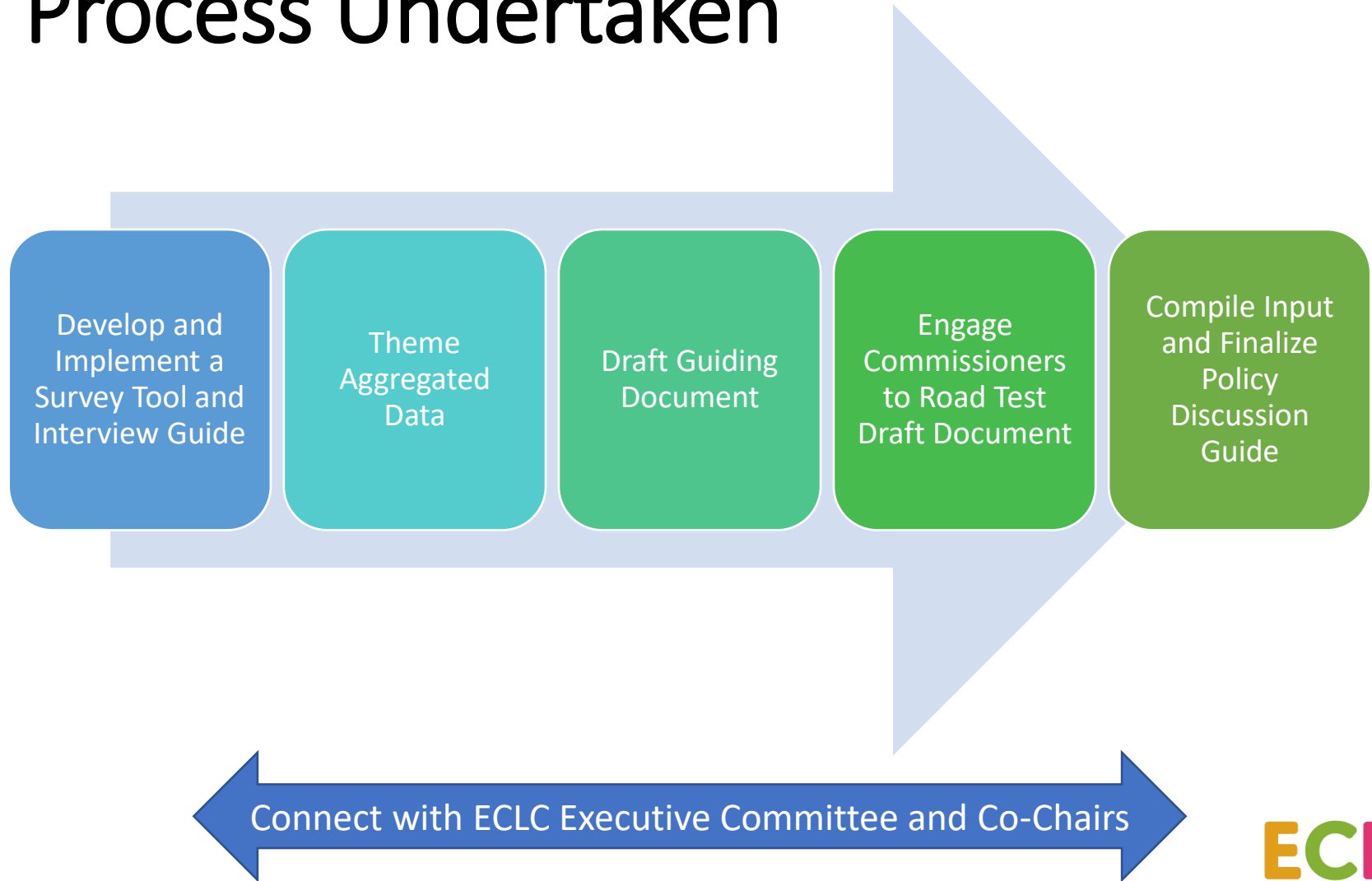
ECLC Engagement in Preschool Policy Planning

Jodi Hardin and Nancie Linville

Purpose of Project

Engage the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to create a framing document that could be shared with policy makers and leaders in the early childhood and education space as the state begins to develop a plan for universal preschool in Colorado.

Process Undertaken



Purpose of the Policy Discussion Guide

- Documents what is most important to the ECLC and broader early childhood system as a universal preschool system is designed
- Highlights the essential elements that need to be part of the preschool system
- Provides a tool to evaluate alignment of policy alternatives

Components of the Policy Discussion Guide

- Critical “must haves” the ECLC has identified
- ECLC’s commitment as stewards of equity
- Key questions for the ECLC and others to consider when reviewing potential preschool policies
- Summary from the Prop EE initiative
- Link to the Early Childhood Colorado Framework

Potential Use of Policy Discussion Guide

- Communication tool
- Resource to identify areas and topics for deeper ECLC discussion
- Guide to review potential preschool policy recommendations
- Tool to identify preschool policy recommendations and positions the ECLC wants to advance

Topics for ECLC Consideration

- The Policy Discussion Guide – reactions and feedback
- Role the ECLC wants to play in the preschool policy development process
- Information needed when considering policy options
- Role the ECLC might consider in the implementation of UPP
- Integration of universal preschool policy work with existing ECLC infrastructure

Discussion

- Review *Universal Preschool Policy Discussion Guide*
- ACTION: Consider Endorsement of *Universal Preschool Policy Discussion Guide*



Break

ECLC Business Updates

- ECLC Fundraising
- Review Written State Agency Reports
- ECLC 2020 Annual Report



Updates from the Governor's Office

Scott Groginsky, Special Advisor for Early Childhood



Public Comment

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.



Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee Updates

- Approve of Additional Subcommittee Co-Chairs:
 - Program Quality & Alignment: Jeanne McQueeney (joining Anna Jo Haynes and Anji Gallanos)
 - Data: Kate Reinemund and Whitney LeBoeuf (joining Susan Steele)
- Early Childhood Workforce Development Subcommittee
- Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee
- Data Subcommittee



Appreciation Celebration for Mary Anne Snyder!

Thank you Mary Anne Snyder
for your unwavering commitment to the
children and families of Colorado!





Co-Chairs' Final Thoughts and Adjourn

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Next Meeting:

Next Meeting: December 17th, 2020

From 9:30 am- 12:30 pm



By Webinar Only