

Conference Call Information

Dial:
303-839-4613
Code: 4622

**Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee Minutes
May 19, 2017 ~ 9:00-11:00 am
Conference Call**

MINUTES

Meeting Objectives:

- Approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2017
- Discuss schedule change
- Review and vote on the endorsement of the EC Workforce 2020 Plan
- Hear Legislative updates from the group
- Framework Updates
- Discuss Head Start requirements
- Allow an opportunity for updates, new business and public comment

Attendees: Letty Bass, Kristina Mueller, Anna Jo Haynes, Heather Craiglow, Dalia Milford, Bill Jaeger, Jolene Mutchler, Heidi McCaslin, Stacy Howard, Christi Chadwick, Pamela Harris, Lauren Heintz, Cindy Schulz, Evie Hudak

Welcome and Introductions

- Anna Jo Haynes called the meeting to order at 9:04am and the group reviewed the meeting minutes from March 10, 2017. Cindy Schulz moved to approve the minutes. Letty Bass seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Discuss Potential Schedule Change

- Kristina Mueller began the discussion by explaining the currently scheduled meeting time caused conflicts with a few PQA members' schedules, and that a better time might be the 4th Friday of each month. Evie Hudak noted that one of the conflicts was with Early Childhood Council's State TA day, and stated that TA Day would no longer be scheduled. Kristina stated she would check in with the absent co-chair and members to determine if this schedule change is still necessary.

Hear Legislative updates from the group

- Kristina notified everyone the ECLC has been reauthorized and the bill is on its way to be signed by the Governor. She thanked all the reauthorization supporters.
- Evie Hudak mentioned SB17-103 which specifically requires an early childhood learning needs assessment, in addition to the general needs assessment, for school districts that include a public school that is operating under a priority improvement or turnaround plan and enrolls students in kindergarten through third grade. She stated this could be a good opportunity for PQA and the ECLC as a whole to support those schools and communities. Bill Jaeger informed the group that the Colorado Department of Education will be holding a meeting pertaining to next steps and collaboration on this bill in mid-June and that ECLC would be invited to the discussion.

- Cindy Schulz inquired to how the reauthorization of the ECLC may have impacted funding needs for ECLC staff. Kristina Mueller explained that ECLC staff is currently funded using federal money and the reauthorization allowed this to continue. Kristina also stated that once the available federal funds are gone the ECLC may need to look to gifts, grants and donations for sustainability to be used to support the staff and ongoing ECLC priorities.

Professional Development Plan Work Session

- Christi Chadwick and Pamela Harris reviewed the updated Early Childhood Workforce 2020 Plan. The plan was created to develop sustainable and varied approaches to recruit, retain, compensate and support a well-qualified early childhood workforce. Christi noted there had been slight changes to the plan since it was discussed at the March 10th meeting. Changes included renaming Governance to Leadership, and the in depth amount of thought and discussion in the wording for alternative pathways. There had previously been concern that “alternative pathways” could infer the potential of lowering the quality of workers, but the task force that created this objective felt very strongly that it was a way to increase quality by specifically stating multiple pathways are supported. Letty moved to have the plan go in front of the ECLC for endorsement. Cindy Schulz seconded the motion and all present were in favor.

Framework Working Group Updates

- Letty Bass informed the group the *Framework* website is moving along and the working group will reconvene soon to discuss updates and survey results. 14 individuals from varying areas of the early childhood system tested the initial set of questions and provided great feedback. The timeline has been revised and the *Framework* website will be presented to the ECLC in August.

Head Start Requirements

- Heather Craiglow informed the Subcommittee there is conversation at the federal level about block-granting Head Start. Head Start professionals are expected to receive cost of living raises, but this will not affect directors.
- A new rule requires that prior to any Head Start staff being hired, all background checks must be completed. All Head Starts must be in compliance by August 1, 2017, unless an extension is granted.

Public Comment

- No public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 am.

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