Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.



# Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

September 8, 2023

9:00 - 11:00 am

Google Meet

- Please remember to mute your computer or phone when not speaking
  - We will be recording the meeting
  - All materials can be found at: www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org/ program-quality-and-alignment-subcommittee



## Meeting Objectives

- Approve the July 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Learn about the refreshed Early Childhood Colorado Framework
- Consider rules that should be added to the 2024 Regulatory Agenda
- Learn about the results of the Statewide Needs Assessment and consider strategies to address needs
- Provide feedback on strategies that should be included in the Statewide Strategic Plan
- Suggest edits to the PQA Subcommittee Charter to align with the ECLC Strategic Plan
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community



# Early Childhood Colorado Framework Refresh Update Shannon Wilson, ECLC

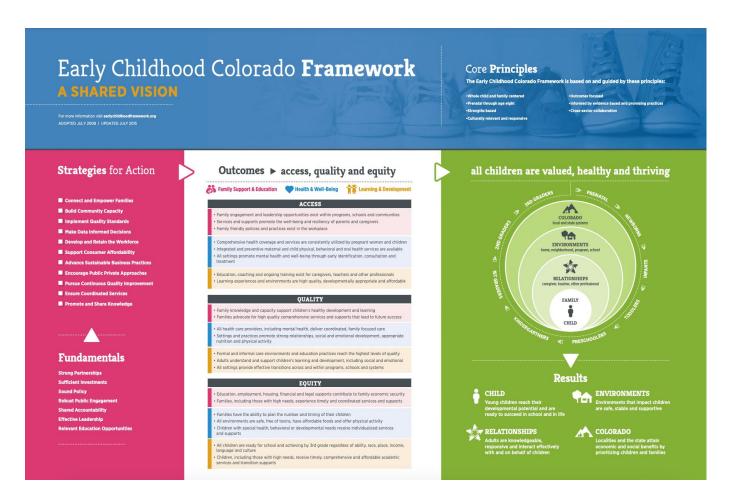
## EARLY CHILDHOOD COLORADO FRAMEWORK



2023 Refresh



## Previous Framework



## FROM A PROCESS STANDPOINT

October 2022-September 2023





# FROM A PARTNER ENGAGEMENT STANDPOINT

AS A RESULT OF SUPPORT FROM ECLC AND THE STEERING COMMITTEE...

## **602 PEOPLE**

throughout the state provided their ideas, feedback and insights to inform Framework updates

340
COMPLETED
THE SURVEY

256
ATTENDED
LISTENING
SESSIONS

11
PARTICIPATED
IN 1:1 CHATS

### GROUNDING IN THE VISION FOR THE FRAMEWORK

- A shared vision for Colorado to promote action and dialogue about the future of children across the state.
- A tool designed by and for the community to read, consider, and use.
- An iterative and living document that is meant to capture the best thinking of the time and be responsive to the current context.

It is meant to be nimble, iterative, and constantly evolving to improve.

## FEATURES OF THE UPDATED FRAMEWORK

- Introduction defining what the Framework is (and is not) and how to navigate the expanded Framework as a roadmap
- Highly visual theory of change that connects how the system components, domains, and outcomes work in alignment and coordination towards a shared vision
- Narrative that provides expanded context to represent comprehensiveness of the Framework (star pages)
   Vision, Values, the System, and Outcomes and Results
- \* Acknowledgement and appreciation to the families, providers, and communities that contributed to the Framework

### THE EARLY CHILDHOOD COLORADO FRAMEWORK

#### If WE BELIEVE



\* PRINCIPLES

**Equity Driven** 

**ALL CHILDREN SERVED** 

CHILD, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY CENTERED

HOLISTIC SERVICES APPROACH

THRIVING, EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE

MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM

HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS

INNOVATION

STREAMLINED EFFICIENCY

DATA-DRIVEN, OUTCOMES-**FOCUSED DECISIONS** 

**ACCOUNTABILITY** 

#### And BUILD A STRONG SYSTEM



#### \* EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



#### LEADERSHIP

A strong underlying network of leaders to sponsive decisions abou programs and policies

#### FUNDING

Collaboration

Abundant resources to children, families, and communities.

## understand the early childhood system and plan future actions that lead to improved, sustainable, and more equitable outcomes.

**DATA & RESEARCH** 

#### /t WILL LEAD TO



#### \* OUTCOMES



#### Access

All children and families have access to a range of early childhood services that are culturally relevant, meet their needs and preferences, and are equitably allocated and available.



#### Quality

Every young child and family experiences a high-quality environment that supports all areas of well-being, affirms all aspects of their identity, and leads to equitable opportunities.



#### Alignment

All the components of the early childhood system are aligned and coordinated so families are able to easily identify, navigate, and receive services.

#### The FUTURE OF COLORADO



#### \* VISION

CHILDREN ARE VALUED, **HEALTHY, AND THRIVING** 

#### \* IMPACT



## Next Steps

- We are now planning for launch and implementation
- School Readiness is creating a Communication Toolkit to support dissemination
- What should you do now?
  - Become familiar with the new Framework and consider how you could use it in your work
  - If you use the old Framework, continue to use it until the new Framework has launched
  - Look for more information about launch and implementation soon!

# Rules Advisory Committee 2024 Regulatory Agenda Elena Kemp, Rulemaking and Rules Advisory Council Administrator, CDEC

## Grounding: CDEC's Rulemaking Authority

CDEC oversees a variety of programs and services that support child and parent outcomes, that improve overall family well-being, defined in section <u>26.5-1-109</u>, <u>C.R.S</u>. These programs and services are located within the five (5) major departmental structures:

Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK) Division of
Early Learning,
Access and
Quality
(DELAQ)

Division of Early
Learning,
Licensing and
Administration
(DELLA)

Division of Early Childhood Workforce (DECW)

Division of Community and Family Support (DCFS)

Many of the programs and services located within these departmental structures/divisions have administrative rules, except DECW - where CDEC does not have rulemaking authority. The basis for developing the 2024 Regulatory Agenda is dependent upon CDEC's programs and services that 1) have administrative rules; and 2) subject areas that the Executive Director was granted rulemaking authority to create, revise, and repeal administrative rule.

## **CDEC Administrative Rules**

| Division / Program   | CDEC<br>Rule Number | CDHS<br>Rule Number | CDEC Rules Currently in Transition (Public Folders Located on "CDEC Rulemaking |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|
|  | (CCR No.)           | (CCR No.)           | and RAC Webpage"   |
| DELLA / General Licensing                                    | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Child Care Centers                                   | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Family Child Care Homes (FCCH)                       | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Resident Camps                                       | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / School Aged Programs                                 | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Special Activities                                   | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Neighborhood Youth Organizations (NYO)               | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| DELLA / Substitute Placement Agencies                        | 8 CCR 1402-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       | Public Folder  |
| UPK / Colorado Universal Preschool Program (UPK)             | 8 CCR 1404-1        | N/A                 |  |
| DELAQ / Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)       | 8 CCR 1403-1        | 9 CCR 2503-9        |  |
| DELAQ / Early Childhood Councils (ECC)                       | 8 CCR 1401-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       |  |
| DELAQ / School Readiness Quality Improvement Program (SRQIP) | 8 CCR 1401-1        | 12 CCR 2509-8       |  |
| DCFS / Early Intervention Colorado Program (EI)              | 8 CCR 1405-1        | 12 CCR 2509-10      |  |
| DCFS / Nurse Home Visitors Program (NHVP)                    | 8 CCR 1401-1        | 12 CCR 2509-9       | Public Folder  |
| All Programs / Administrative Appeals                        | 8 CCR 1406-1        | 9 CCR 2503-8        | Public Folder  |



## Overview: 2024 Departmental Regulatory Agenda

### What is a "Departmental Regulatory Agenda?"

A Departmental Regulatory Agenda (Regulatory Agenda) is a document prepared by each state department that identifies all proposed new, revised, and/or repealed administrative rules the department plans to consider during the next calendar year. [Section 2-7-202(6), C.R.S.]

### How does CDEC develop its Regulatory Agenda?

CDEC considers four (4) major components to develop the Regulatory Agenda:

- 1) Legislative Implementation
- 2) Programmatic Recommendations
- 3) Mandatory Rule Review
- 4) Stakeholder Feedback



## Development: 2024 Departmental Regulatory Agenda

### Legislative Implementation:

CDEC's Policy and Legislative Team tracks all proposed and passed legislation during the legislative session, and identifies all legislation that directly/indirectly impacts CDEC. Passed legislation that requires or allows (subject to additional approval) changes to CDEC's administrative rules, are incorporated in the Regulatory Agenda and implemented via rulemaking.

### **Programmatic Recommendations:**

The Policy and Legislative Team works closely with CDEC Divisions/Programs to identify administrative rules that should be promulgated or considered for revision, to support programmatic/operational needs.



## Development: 2024 Departmental Regulatory Agenda

### Mandatory Rule Reviews:

CDEC will develop and disclose (as part of the Regulatory Agenda) a regular schedule for each Division/Program with administrative rules that identifies when the Division/Program anticipates conducting a comprehensive rule review. These comprehensive rule reviews are mandatory, pursuant to section 24-4-103.3, C.R.S., and the purpose is for CDEC to assess the continuing need, appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of all the Department's rules to determine if they should be continued in their current form, modified, or repealed.

### Stakeholder Feedback:

To ensure CDEC's administrative rules are well vetted, thorough, inclusive, responsive, and mitigate unintended consequences, CDEC will solicit feedback from stakeholders to learn more about the impact its administrative rules.



# Recommendations: 2024 Departmental Regulatory Agenda

What challenges are you experiencing or have identified in your areas of expertise or in your local communities that are influenced by CDEC's administrative rules?

What are the impacts of CDEC's administrative rules on your communities?

What potential rulemaking opportunities should CDEC consider for inclusion in the 2024 Regulatory Agenda?



# Any Questions or Public Comments?

e will be accepting feedback and commendations for changes to the Department's liministrative Rules that will be considered for clusion on the Department's 2024 Regulatory genda until **September 15, 2023**.

ease submit all feedback and recommendations: <a href="mailto:CDEC\_Rulemaking@state.co.us">CDEC\_Rulemaking@state.co.us</a>.

**ALL COLORADO** CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS ARE VALUED, HEALTHY AND THRIVING.

# Statewide Needs Assessment Initial Findings Colorado Health Institute

# Colorado B-5 Needs Assessment

Initial Findings Overview



September 8, 2023

**ECLC PQA Subcommittee** 

# **Agenda**

- Needs Assessment process
- Review of initial findings
- Discussion

Next steps





## **Needs Assessment Process**

# **Early Childhood System**

- Efforts to foster well-being such as Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and The Incredible Years
- Family strengthening efforts such as Family Resource Centers, HealthySteps for Young Children, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, SafeCare Colorado, and Child First
- Early care and education programs such as licensed child care, informal
  early care and education, Colorado Shines, Head Start, Colorado Child Care
  Assistance Program, targeted preschool for 3-year-olds, the Individuals with
  Disabilities Education Act Part B preschool special education, and Universal
  Preschool Colorado
- Early Intervention Colorado through the Individuals with Disabilities Act Part C



# **Research Questions**

#### **Family Engagement**

**Research question 1.** What are the most effective methods for engaging families in the early childhood system, and how does this vary across select family contexts?

#### **Sustainability**

**Research question 2.** How can early childhood programs remain sustainable, both in general and considering the impact of COVID-19?

#### **Workforce**

**Research question 3.** What barriers and opportunities are there for better recruitment and retention of the early childhood workforce?

### **Availability**

**Research question 4.** How available are early childhood programs in Colorado, and how does this vary across select family contexts?

**Research question 5.** What are barriers to early childhood program availability and options to address them?

### Quality

**Research question 6.** What is the general quality of early childhood programs in Colorado, and how does access to quality programing vary across select family contexts?

**Research question 7.** What are barriers to providing and accessing high-quality early childhood programming and options to address them?



# **Select Family Contexts**

- Cultural and linguistic considerations. Families of different cultural backgrounds, families and children whose primary language is not English, immigrant families.
- Behavioral and physical health considerations. Children with special health needs, children with behavioral or social-emotional needs.
- Resource considerations. Families in rural areas, families in high poverty areas or other underserved family and child populations, families experiencing homelessness.
- Families with infants and toddlers.





# **Initial Findings**

# Family Engagement Initial Findings

- Hand-offs within the early childhood system are opportunities to increase program participation.
- Programs should use two-generation, whole family approaches to effectively engage families.
- Services need to use tailored approaches to reach families facing language and cultural barriers.





# Family Engagement Initial Findings: Discussion

# **Sustainability** Initial Findings

- Programs across the early childhood system need more alignment across funding streams and opportunities to secure and combine funding.
- Early care and education providers spent two-thirds of stabilization grant funding on personnel costs, highlighting an ongoing need for basic operational funding.
- Informal care providers need additional support and funding.





# **Sustainability Initial Findings: Discussion**

# **Workforce**Initial Findings

- Across the system, the early childhood workforce needs increased compensation and benefits.
- Additional resources are needed to support professional development for the early childhood care and education workforce.





# Workforce Initial Findings: Discussion

# **Availability Initial Findings**

- The early childhood system is not adequately meeting the needs of families who prefer or only speak a language other than English or Spanish.
- The early childhood system is not adequately meeting the needs of families with children with special health needs; however, more data are needed to understand the extent of this problem.
- Families need child care at all hours.
- Most preschool providers are not participating in UPK yet those that are participating hold the majority of preschool-aged licensed capacity.
- The greatest need for child care is among families with infants and toddlers. (\*)





# **Availability Initial Findings: Discussion**

# **Quality**Initial Findings

- •Early childhood programming should focus on more than just "school-readiness" and emphasize a whole-child approach.
- About half of early child care and education providers have not advanced their Colorado Shines rating beyond a Level 1.

•Families view quality as important, but they do not use quality ratings to make decisions about child care.





# **Quality Initial Findings: Discussion**



#### **Emily Santich | Sara Schmitt**

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# Updating Colorado's Early Childhood Strategic Plan

Tamilah Richardson & Rebecca Klein, Start Early



# Agenda

- Brief Reorientation
  - o Strategic plan purpose
  - o Progress update
- Strategy Ideation
- Closing/Next Steps



# Who We Are: Champions of Early Childhood





## Purpose of Updating Strategic Plan

- To reflect progress that has been made since the original drafting of the strategic plan
- To build on new needs assessment
- To better integrate equity in the strategic plan
- To expand the scope from birth-to-five to prenatal-to-five and to include other sectors beyond but related to early care and education
- To integrate goals and strategies from the broad array of CO plans related to early childhood that currently exist – the "plan of plans" - and to align with the new Early Childhood Colorado framework



# Overview of Strategy Development Process

Gather Information

July-Sept.

Update Goals & Strategies

August-October

Finalize & Add Detail

November-January

Package, Endorse, Promote

January-February



# Strategy Ideation

 <u>Strategy</u>: approaches or plans of action (the "how") to successfully achieve a vision or a set of goals/objectives

#### **Individual Brainstorming**

- Go to the <u>Padlet</u> and share your ideas for strategies that could be included in the new strategic plan, informed by the needs assessment and your experience.
  - If you know of existing strategies that speak to the needs, please add them and note they are ongoing strategies.
  - If you have strategy ideas that don't relate to the needs assessment findings or fit these domains of the Early Childhood CO Framework, please add them to block 8.
  - We will reconvene after 10-15 minutes and discuss.



# Strategy Ideation

#### **Large Group Review and Reaction**

- Take a few minutes to review the proposed strategies on the Padlet.
- You can use the vote feature to denote a strategy you would like to prioritize for the strategic plan.
- Ask any clarifying questions.



# Closing/Next Steps

- Continue adding ideas/reactions to <u>Padlet</u>
- Support survey dissemination
- In coming months, provide input and/or feedback on the new drafts of the Strategic Plan, KPIs and branding/design elements



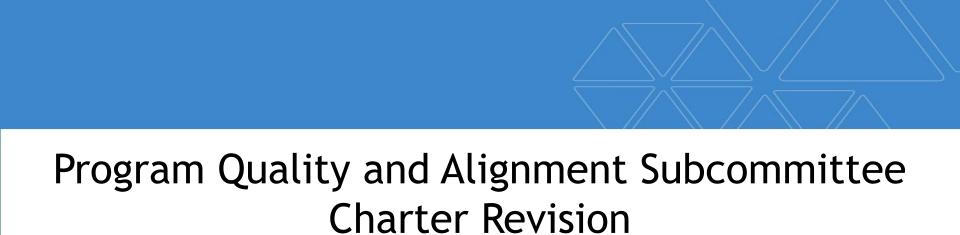


Every child has equitable opportunity to reach their full potential to thrive in school and in life.

StartEarly.org/Consulting

Find startearlyorg on: **f y in o** 

rklein@startearly.org
trichardson@startearly.org
sbeilmann@startearly.org
kfisher@startearly.org



# **PQA Charter**

- Last revised in 2021
- Suggestions were made last fall, but we decided to pause charter revisions while the new ECLC Strategic Plan was being created

#### **Timeline**

- The Subcommittee will make suggestions
- The ECLC Executive Subcommittee will meet to discuss alignment
- The full ECLC will vote to approve Charter in October

Check out the current charter here

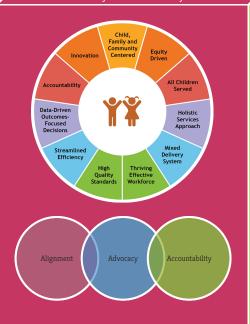


### 10-Year Strategic Plan

#### Vision: All children are valued, healthy and thriving

#### Guiding Principles & Functions

From its unique position as the federally authorized state advisory council on early childhood...



#### Strategies

...the ECLC focuses its time, energy, and resources to influence systems and policy advancements.....

- Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
- · Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
- Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
- Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable, quality care
- · Monitor and provide feedback on state agency strategic plans and priorities to promote alignment, mutual reinforcement, and interagency partnerships
- Develop policy strategies for stronger recruitment and retention, increasing workforce diversity across all leadership levels
- Champion strategies to enhance early childhood workforce compensation across public and private settings
- Advocate for the public and private funding needed to fully implement Colorado's Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan
- Regularly review workforce data to advise on new opportunities and any course corrections
- Advocate for and monitor progress on a multi-agency integrated early childhood data system
- Inform and support the use of a data-driven evaluation and learning approach so state initiatives are designed with accountability measures and a plan to evaluate impact
- Promote collaborative, interagency, multi-year fiscal planning for early childhood
- Set the direction for fiscal policies and decisions that prioritize children and families across public and private systems

#### Results

...so that Colorado achieves its vision for early childhood



Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care, education, and supports so that all families can easily identify. navigate and access services for their children



Colorado recruits, retains, and equitably compensates a diverse and qualified early childhood workforce that provides quality care, education, and supports to children and their families



Colorado's early childhood system has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions and the funding resources to put best practices and plans into place, so all communities have what is needed to best support children and families.

Levers of Change: The ECLC aims to increase access to data, enhance financing, and inform policies by utilizing a variety of public and private resources, such as:

- Family, provider, and community voice
- Federal, state and local public

- State agency plans, goals and
- National best practices

- State early childhood plans and

Service and program data

#### ECLC Work Plan: 2023-2025 Activities and Milestones



Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care and education supports so that all families can easily identify, navigate and access services for their children.

#### Strategies (5-10 years)

- · Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
- Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
- · Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
- Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable and quality care
- Monitor and provide feedback on state agency strategic plans and priorities to promote alignment, mutual reinforcement, and interagency partnerships

#### Activities and Milestones (2-3 years)

- Regularly connect with existing early childhood forums to gather family and provider experience, satisfaction, and need so policy recommendations are informed by on-the-ground experiences (e.g. FFN Advisory Council, CDEC Family Voice Council)
- By Spring 2024, identify existing family satisfaction and engagement surveys to bring that data forward to inform ECLC committees and work groups (e.g. PDG Family Survey, CO Child Health Survey)
- Annually review relevant early childhood plans and progress to identify policy and system change recommendations (e.g. UPK, ECCS, PDG)
  - Annually elevate innovative policy strategies that support statewide access to high quality early childhood services, including FFN
  - By spring 2024, provide guidance and recommendations to inform the universal preschool quality standards development
- · Review and provide feedback on new state plans as they are being developed
- By January 2024, create a process to request and review state agency plans and goals related to children and families
  - Elevate recommendations for increased alignment across state agency plans and goals on a regular basis
- Each summer/fall, work with Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission to align early childhood policy agendas
- Annually review CDEC's legislatively required Transition Report and provide guidance and recommendations to ensure progress towards a comprehensive, equitable early childhood system of supports and services.

#### Outputs: Progress Measures

- Aligned state agency SMART/WIGs related to young children and families
- Annual policy recommendations generated
- Surveys and information, such as family satisfaction and engagement, collected through partner and state data efforts

See full 2-3 Year
Activities and
Milestones
Document <u>Here</u>.

# **Revision Process**

#### So far:

- Created <u>this document</u> to determine what Subcommittees best fit with the activities outlined in the plan
- Along with the co-chairs, added aspects of the ECLC strategic plan to <u>a draft</u> of the Charter
- Need to consider membership and next steps

#### Today:

- 5 minutes: Read through and add any comments to the document
- 10 minutes: Discuss needed changes



# **Public Comment**





# Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Next Meeting:

November 3, 2023 9:00 - 11:00 am

Thank you!