

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Friday, May 12, 2023

9:00 - 11:00 am

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/iho-jrzs-drt>

Or by Phone: 669-238-0523 PIN: 984 743 671#

- 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 March 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Provide feedback on the draft Emergency/Disaster Plan
- Hear updates on the Preschool Development Grant (PDG)
- Provide support and input for the PDG Needs Assessment
- Learn about current research projects in early childhood math education and provide support
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community



Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Floyd Cobb

Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

- **ACTION:** Approve the March 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes



Draft CDEC Emergency/Disaster Plan

Mark Browne, CDEC Division of Early Learning Licensing and Administration



Preschool Development Grant Report and Updates

Kristen Lang, CDEC State Systems Building Initiatives Unit Manager



A young girl with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a red dress, is seen from the side, playing with wooden toys on a table. The background is softly blurred, showing other children and toys. A dark blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing white text.

A Year in Review: Sampling 2022 Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Renewal Grant Work



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Developing and enhancing CO's
comprehensive early childhood
care and education system



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Colorado Shines Brighter Strategic Plan Updates

- Updates increased focus on: equity; programming in the broader early childhood care and education system; workforce; and UPK.
- Integration of Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Grant strategies
- 36 of 61 strategies funded by PDG B-5 Renewal Grant in 2022



Individuals Served by PDG B-5 Funded Strategies in CY 2022

Licensed Child Care Providers	28,553
Pre-School/ K-12 School Teachers or Administrators	8,793
FFN/Informal Providers	6,839
Early Childhood Service Providers (1)	2,144
Community Partners	1,510
Other Individuals	3,193
Families (2)	1,586
Workgroup Members (3)	207
Dissemination Recipients (4)	129,958



Over 400 Advisory and Implementation Partners Engaged

“Systems-change endeavors, such as this one, require strong collaboration to achieve the scope of work and sustain benefits. As this report highlights, the existing success of PDG B-5 was based on the participation of various local- and state-system partners, strong collaboration, strong leadership, and effective grant management and administration.”

([Partner Evaluation Report](#), p. 19)





Using existing resources more efficiently to strengthen the delivery of existing programs



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- Quality Nutrition Workgroup: data sharing to understand provider participation in food programs
→ creation of promotional materials →
incorporation of materials into CCCAP fiscal agreement notices (2.2.1)
- ECMHC Program: data system redesign + development of various ECMHC model fidelity tools, including the *ECMHC Program Implementation Manual* (2.2.3)



Improving coordination and delivery of services across models and funding streams in the state's mixed delivery system



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- Home Visiting for ECE Home Providers: pilot  created [Home Visiting for Home Child Providers - The Power of Early Childhood Partnerships](#) to support model adoption (2.1.2)
- Growing Readers Together: 500+ library staff trained to support FFN providers  promoted on-demand videos in English and Spanish for FFN (3.1.2)
- Consultative Roles Workgroup: [Whole Child Consultative Roles Conference](#) with  446 cross-role participants (6.1.2)



Serving more children and families and improving the overall participation of all children in a mixed delivery system



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- CCCAP Contracted Slots: privately-funded pilot 
development of implementation rules, system updates and
resources  county CCCAP staff training  rule revision
 initial adoption (4.2.1)
- Coaching for Inclusion and Belonging - Supporting Ordinary
Needs: COP for ECE Coaches  start of PDIS course (6.1.5)
- ECMHC Support Line & Teleconsultation: support line launched
 strategic promotion  statewide brief consultation
(2.2.2)



Improving program quality, and
maintaining access and
availability of services



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- Accessible Training: FCCH orientation + new pre-licensing curriculum, with accompanying online train-the-trainer, in English and Spanish (6.2.1)
- Coaching: revised and translated EQIT + develop revised coaching competencies (6.2.3)
- Colorado Shines QRIS Updates: standard updates to increase effectiveness and reduce participation barriers → updated framework → implement new framework + ECERS-3 + kick off validation study (6.1.1)



Maximizing family choice, knowledge and engagement with existing mixed delivery system programs



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- Family Voice Council: designed and lifted  advised on at least 7 statewide initiatives, participated on state staff interview panels, and reviewed grant proposals (3.3.1)
- CCCAP Application: application revised to make it easier for families to complete accurately and to connect to other services  finalized, translated and rolled out as fillable PDF (1.2.1)
- CCCAP Flyers: created for providers and families in English and Spanish to ensure family awareness and choice (4.1.3)



Enhancing school readiness for children from low-income and disadvantaged families, and developing effective transitioning practices for children into elementary school



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- Early Literacy Grants: expand K-3 Early Literacy Grants to ECE providers  186 educators in 7 communities 
increased collaboration and vocabulary across pre-K-3;
improved early literacy skills; increased literacy-focused family engagement (3.1.3)
- ELDGs: revised Guidelines and supportive videos  family promotion via trusted messenger and digital campaign 
41% of families aware of ELDGS and of those that used it, 81% report increase in child development knowledge  increase in supportive transition practices (3.1.6)



Enhancing data coordination and sharing in CO's early care and education system



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- ECE Workforce Link Project: integrate PDIS data + CDLE data + CDHE data = refreshed Workforce Dashboard (1.1.4)
- ECC Shared Measures: shared measures developed → pilots with revisions + data dashboard (1.2.4)
- Supporting Rural Service Delivery: offline electronic data entry for providers and consultants from Early Intervention, ECMH, Colorado Community Response, SafeCare Colorado, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families (1.1.1)

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a purple shirt, is sitting at a table in a classroom, reading a large book to a group of young children. The children are sitting around the table, looking at the book. The classroom has shelves with books and toys in the background.

THANK YOU. Questions?

Kristen Lang
State Systems Building Initiatives Unit Manager
kristen.lang@state.co.us
[2022 PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Annual Report](#)



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Discussion: Informing Colorado's 2023 Preschool Development Grant Needs Assessment

Suman Mathur & Emily Johnson, Colorado Health Institute

2023 PDG Shines Needs Assessment

Emily Johnson & Suman Mathur



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The logo features a stylized mountain range in blue with a yellow sun or peak in the center. Below the graphic, the text 'COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE' is displayed in a blue, sans-serif font, with 'HEALTH' in a bold weight.

We improve the health of all Coloradans through independent research, analysis, and insight that advance sound policies and decisions.

Project Background



Goals and Outcomes

1. All families have **equitable and easy access** to high quality and affordable early childhood services to meet the unique developmental needs of children in mixed delivery settings
2. Recruit, retain, well-compensate, and support a diverse and qualified early childhood **workforce**
3. **Strengthen, coordinate, align, and sustain** Colorado's comprehensive statewide early childhood system and **meaningfully and equitably engage**, support, and empower families and communities to promote children's overall development, learning, and well-being

Preschool Development Grant B-5 Project

Needs Assessment

- What is the ECCE landscape?
- What barriers exist?

Strategic Plan

- How will we address identified needs?

Maximize Family Engagement

- How are parent and family voices incorporated into CDEC decisionmaking?

Workforce Support

- What are opportunities to train and support the ECCE workforce?
- What are the workforce best practices employers can follow?

Quality Improvement

- How can the ECCE system be improved?
- How are programs aligned with UPK and READ?

Evaluation

Preschool Development Grant B-5 Project

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Evaluation

Our Research Questions



Research Questions

Availability:

- How available are early childhood care and education programs in Colorado, and how does this vary across select family contexts?
- What are barriers to early childhood care and education program availability and options to address them?

Quality:

- What is the general quality of early childhood care and education programs in Colorado, and how does this vary across select family contexts?
- What are barriers to early childhood care and education program quality the options to address them?

Sustainability:

- How can early childhood care and education programs remain sustainable, both in general and in light of the impact of COVID-19?

Family Engagement:

- What are the most effective methods for engaging families in the early childhood care and education system, and how does this vary across select family contexts?

Workforce:

- What barriers and opportunities are there for better recruitment and retention of the early childhood care and education workforce?

Discussion



Research Questions

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Workforce:

- What barriers and opportunities are there for better recruitment and retention of the early childhood care and education workforce?

Quality

- What are some of the unique challenges the following populations experience when it comes to quality of childhood care and education?
 - Families of different cultural backgrounds
 - Families experiencing homelessness
 - Families and children whose primary language is not English
 - Immigrant families
 - Children with special health needs
 - Children with behavioral or social-emotional needs
 - Families in rural areas
 - Families with infants and toddlers
 - Families in high poverty areas
 - Underserved family and child populations

Quality

- What are the greatest barriers to improving quality of childhood care and education?
 - What is the PQA and its members doing to address these barriers?

Sustainability

- What are the biggest threats to the sustainability of early childhood care and education programs?
 - Describe some of the work the PQA and its members are doing to address these issues?
- If you could wave a magic wand, what would you do to ensure the sustainability of these programs?

Next Steps



How else can you inform the Needs Assessment?

- Attend a [Zoom focus group](#) for workforce (& invite others to join!):
 - Wednesday, May 24, 6:00 - 7:00pm
 - Thursday, June 1, 4:30 – 5:30pm
 - Tuesday, June 6, 8:00 – 9:00am

How else can you inform the Needs Assessment?

- Help us get the word out about our [Virtual Parent & Family Focus Groups](#) on June 7
 - Lunchtime and evening session
 - Compensation for time and childcare cost
 - Spanish interpretation available
 - Recruitment flyer available
- In-person focus group in Denver TBD

DRAFT DO NOT DISTRIBUTE

Join us for an opportunity to strengthen Colorado's early childhood system.

Share your voice to ensure your family has access to the programs and supports you need to give your child a strong start.

Who: Parents and caregivers of children birth to 5 years old. We want to hear from Coloradans from all corners of the state.

When: Two options to join us online
Wednesday, June 7
12-1 p.m. or 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Your computer, over Zoom

RSVP: Scan the QR code or go to: coloradohealth.org

- Parents and caregivers receive a \$30 gift card.
- Stipends for child care provided upon request.
- Spanish interpretation provided. Please contact us if you have other accessibility needs.

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood has contacted with the Colorado Health Institute to conduct focus groups with Coloradans. Your feedback is important and will inform Colorado's future. For more information contact **Sunam Mathur** at FocusGroups@coloradohealthinstitute.org

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How else can you inform the Needs Assessment?

- Upcoming ECLC discussions:
 - Data subcommittee
 - Home Visiting Task Force
 - Workforce Development (TBD)



Suman Mathur

Program Manager (she/her)

mathurs@coloradohealthinstitute.org 720.382.7092



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Early Childhood Math: Current Research Projects

Doug Clements & Shannon Stark Guss, Marsico Institute







Connect4Learning (C4L)

For Schools

- C4L kit
 - \$4,000/teacher
- Professional Development
 - \$5,000/day
- Coaching
 - \$6,000/teacher

For Research

- Random assignment
- Family permission
- Classroom observations
- Student assessments
- Time for coaching and PD

1. Math

2. Science

3. Literacy

4. Social Emotional

Understanding Learning Trajectories in Math: Advancing Teacher Education (ULTIMATE)

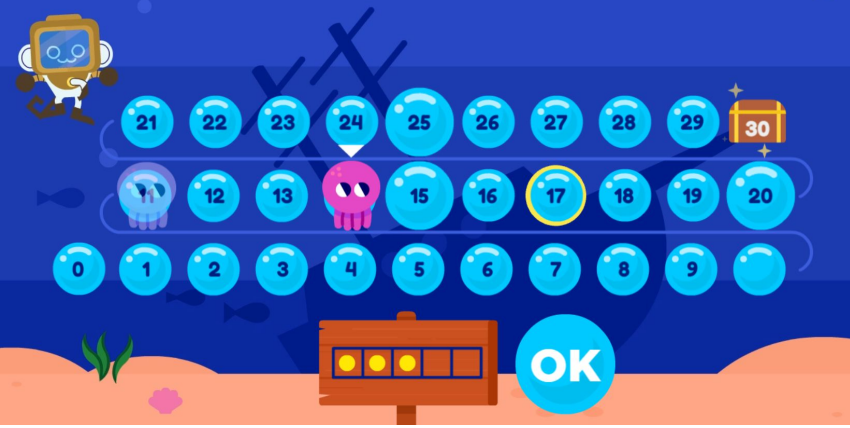


For Districts

- Implementation
 - \$40,000/year
- Professional Development
 - \$5,000/day
- Coaching
 - \$6,000/teacher

For Research

- Random assignment
- Family permission
- Classroom observations
- Student assessments
- Time for coaching and PD



Bajillions

Scan our interest form!



- Digital games, in-person recommendations
- Try it out – tell us what you think!
 - Surveys & Focus Groups
 - Adult & Child Interviews
 - Child Assessments & Game Play!





Member Updates and Public Comment



Next Steps, Final Thoughts and Adjourn

ECLC 10-Year Strategic Plan

- The Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) is Colorado's federally-authorized state advisory council for early childhood.
- The role of the ECLC is to be a statewide leader, subject matter expert and champion of best and promising practices throughout the state.
- The ECLC recently created a new 10-year strategic plan to guide our work going forward
- The plan includes the guiding principles, strategies, levers for change, and desired outcomes that the Commission will use to support the state to achieve its shared vision that **all children are valued, healthy, and thriving**

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 and education 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 and education 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 investments
- State agency plans, goals and budgets
- National best practices
- State early childhood plans and roadmaps
- Private investments
- Service and program data
- Workforce data

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Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Next Meeting:

July 14, 2023

9:00 - 11:00 am



Thank you!