

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Program Quality, Alignment & Access Subcommittee

May 10, 2024

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 ●



Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Meeting Objectives

- Agree to the output goals for PQAA in 2024
- Recruit additional members for the PQAA Subcommittee to support the 2024 Work Plan
- Advance efforts to accomplish the PQAA Output Goals
- Support the development of strategies to be included in the Preschool Development B-5 Implementation Grant Application
- Learn about the ECCS Grant Equity Action Plan and consider ways that the PQAA can support
- Advance the goals of the PQAA Charter and ECLC Strategic Plan



Approval of Minutes



PQAA Membership and Annual Work Plan

Outputs for Subcommittee

- **List of early childhood plans + timeline and structure for reviewing and creating recommendations** for increased quality, access, and alignment. This work will be guided by the Statewide Strategic Plan and Early Childhood Colorado Framework (P1, P3, P5)
- **Family and Provider Forums and Survey Results Hub** created in coordination with the ECLC Data Subcommittee. Identify any gaps in needed information and create recommendations for how to address them. (P2)
- **Definition of access + guiding questions** for considering access in policy and program decisions. This will be created in alignment with the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* (P4, P5)

Membership


- [Current Membership List](#)
- Does anyone have recommendations for:
 - Family Resource Centers
 - Family economic security such as housing or food security
 - Health or Behavioral Health subject matter experts
 - Institutes of Higher Education



PQAA Output Project Work Groups

Breakout Groups

- **Early childhood plans**
 - Look at [list of plans](#) from Statewide Strategic Plan
 - Discuss how to build on that list
 - Determine next steps
- **Family and Provider Forums and Survey Results Hub**
 - Generate list of questions that you want to learn from looking at the results of efforts to gather family and provider
 - Determine next steps
- **Definition of access + guiding questions**
 - Continue work to refine definitions of Access from Early Childhood Colorado Framework
 - Heather Craiglow can answer question about the Framework
 - Determine next steps



**Preschool Development B-5 Implementation Grant
Application Input
Kristen Lang and PDG Strategy Leads**

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Application Input



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Colorado's Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five Initiative

GOAL: Families with children birth to five access quality early childhood services and supports resulting in children who are healthy, thriving and ready to enter kindergarten.

OUTCOMES:

- All families have equitable access to quality and affordable early childhood services and supports to meet the individualized needs of children at home, in care, and in the community.
- Colorado has a diverse, supported, qualified, and well-compensated early childhood workforce to provide education and support to all children and families.
- Colorado's B-5 early childhood system is coordinated and aligned to promote children's, families', and early learning professionals' overall development, learning, and well-being.
- Families and communities are meaningfully and equitably informed, engaged, supported, and empowered in the early childhood system.



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New PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Application

Expected 3 year funding opportunity (2024-2027) for \$8M per year

PDG B-5 Renewal Grant Strategy Determination Process

Done:

- *Identified strategies in the updated [Elevating Early Childhood Statewide Strategic Plan](#) that best align with the updated [Needs Assessment](#) and the four key outcomes in CO's PDG B-5 Theory of Change:*
 - *Access and Affordability, Workforce, Systems Alignment, Family Engagement*
- *Sorted strategies for effort and impact*
- *Developed high level activities for the resulting strategies that represent the most impactful activities for the state to act on in context of PDG*
- *CDEC leadership prioritized those high level activities for full strategy development*

Now:

- **Develop more complete strategy ideas with partners that *might* be included in the application**

Next:

- **CDEC leadership determine the right mix of strategies for inclusion based on the funding announcement**



Strategies for Review

Group 1:

Universal Screening in Child Care (Heather Craiglow)

Thrive by Three Pilot (Lenita Hartman)

Group 2:

Infant-Toddler Training Incentive (Eva Jankovsky)

Infant/Toddler Subsidy (Meghan Leclerc)

Group 3:

Resource Outreach to New Parents (Kristen Lang)

Strengthen Family Advocacy during Transitions (Marika Padilla)

Group 4: Main Room

Strategic Plan and Collective Impact (Nami Bhasin & Shannon Wilson)



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THANK YOU!

Questions?

Kristen Lang - SSBI Unit Manager
(kristen.lang@state.co.us)

*Nami Bhasin - Preschool Development Grant
B-5 Administrator*
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Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant Equity Action Plan Update

Tanya Weinberg and Kristen Lang



Colorado Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Project (CO-ECCS)



CO-ECCS PROJECT EQUITY PLANNING GOAL

Advance health equity by creating an **Early Childhood Equity Action Plan** focused from the **prenatal** period through the **first three years** of a child's life.



EQUITY ACTION PLAN SWOT PROCESS

This structured approach aims to foster inclusive decision-making and prioritize actions that have the most significant impact on achieving equity goals.



1 - Formation of Equity Planning Workgroup

Establish a diverse workgroup comprising representatives from key stakeholders and those with lived exp

2 - Workgoup Equity Training

Train committee members in equity principles, review key documents, and establish grounding principles for their work.

3 - Engagement Strategy

Develop focus group questions and identify organizations to engage with centering those with lived experience and marginalized communities.

4 - Focus Group Completion

Standardize focus group process and complete meetings with consistent feedback loop, ensure community members are compensated for participation

5 - Data Compilation and Analysis

Compile feedback and insight into a SWOT framework, prioritize findings based on effort-impact scales

EQUITY PLANNING WEAKNESSES

Characteristics of a system that is harmful to achieving its stated goals

Lack of Coordinated Services and Continuity of Care

- Fragmented care delivery and suboptimal patient outcomes result from limited coordination among healthcare professionals and systems of care
- Lack of established postpartum care protocols and oversight of accessibility for individuals with physical or mental health limitations
- Difficulty providing alternative medication options for pregnant individuals with mental health concerns or ADHD,

Rural Community Challenges

- Rural communities struggle to access culturally responsive care, often needing to travel long distances for adequate healthcare
- Rural hidden communities have trouble accessing consistent care due to their transient nature
- Rural communities, especially those of color and non-English speakers, experience disproportionate health inequities

Discrimination and Bias

- Personal bias in screening, testing, and treatment leads to care inequities and disparate outcomes
- Inequities of care contribute to maternal mortality among Black and Indigenous populations
- Concerns raised by parents of color about child or prenatal care are often dismissed, rooted in bias and racism

Lack of Access to Care

- Limited resources during pregnancy and for child health visits, especially for specialist care
- Parents face long wait times for well-child visits, often needing appointments at multiple places
- Difficulty reaching providers for questions unless families are physically present
- Mental health appointments are scarce, with long wait times for referrals and direct requests

EQUITY PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES

Capacity to improve system's ability to achieve goals and overall effectiveness

Expand Community Centered Programs With A Focus on Cultural Responsiveness

- Utilize grants/funding programs and engage schools, care programs, and community spaces to enhance well-being for children under three where they live and play
- Implement sustainable mental health protocols for pregnant and postpartum individuals
- Expand tele-appointment options for increased accessibility to healthcare
- Utilize alternative providers like midwives, doulas, and peer support specialists to promote health equity

Leverage New Policy and Funding

- Utilize President Biden's Maternal Health Blueprint resources for behavioral health and substance abuse
- Track and leverage policy changes from legislative or gubernatorial directives to support maternal and child health
- Engage the Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing in maternal health and early childhood decision-making
- Simplify Medicaid billing for providers to improve accessibility and sustainability, for struggling families

Improve Integrated Care Systems

- Provide access to a health navigator to guide families through pregnancy, delivery, and early childhood
- Establish 12 months of comprehensive care for pregnant individuals and their families, including necessary income support.
- Implement a universal application system for families simplifying eligibility determinations for programs.
- Improve data system interoperability to foster communication and collaboration across system

EQUITY PLANNING WORKGROUP TIMELINE

1

**February- March
2023**

Development of Equity
Planning Workgroup

2

**April-October
2023**

Facilitated focus groups
and developed
prioritized SWOT

3

**November 2023-
January 2024**

Conducted root cause
analysis to identify
systemic challenges

4

**February-May
2024**

Created equity-centered
actionable strategy filter
for goal development

5

**June-August
2024**

Establishing goals
committee to define
action plan objectives
supported by feedback
from Equity Planning
Workgroup

6

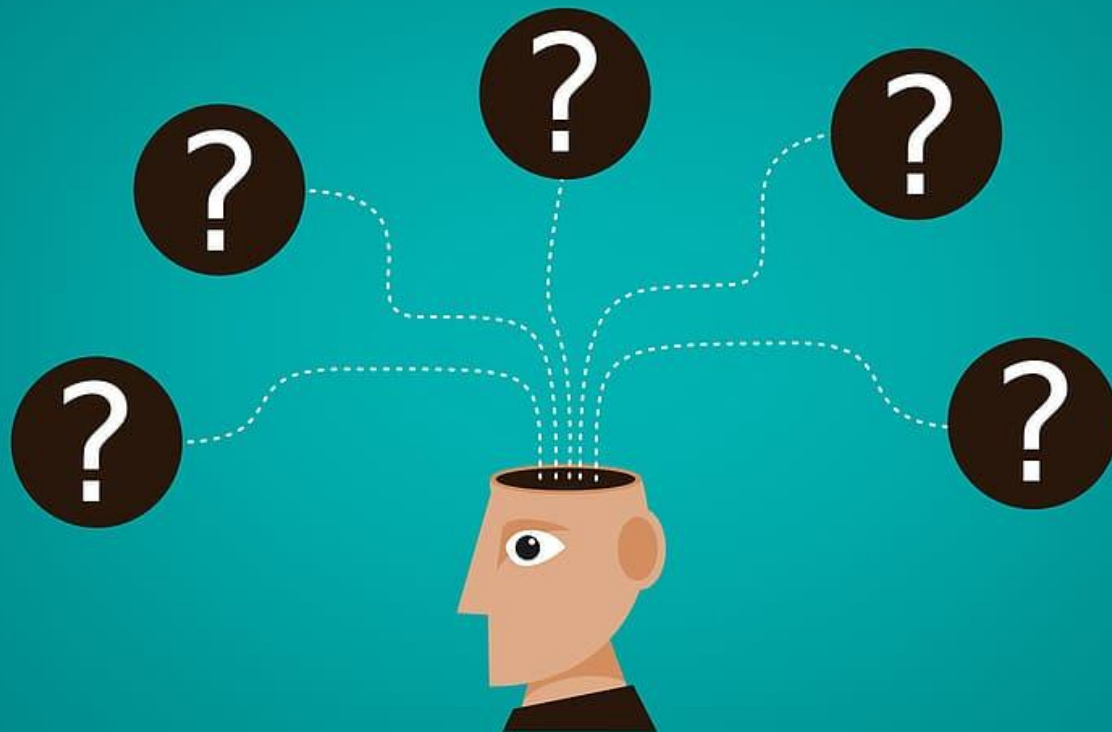
September 2024

Begin work on Equity
Action Plan

DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Any feedback on the work that has taken place thus far?
- Are there any additional opportunities for the equity planning work?
- Are there any potential connections, collaborations or information that can support the existing or future work?

Questions?



Want more on ECCS?

Check out the ECCS Working
Group Page

Check out the CO-ECCS Page

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Member Updates and Public Comment

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Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Next Meeting

July 12, 2024

9:00 - 11:00 am



Thank you!