



**TRANSITION
ADVISORY
GROUP**

**Kick-Off Meeting
July 14, 2021**

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Discuss logistics
- Review legislation
- Consider mission, vision, and guiding principles for new early childhood department
- Public comment, closing and next steps

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Welcome

ECLC Co-Chairs

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ECLC
Early Childhood Leadership Commission

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Introductions

Transition Advisory Group

Parents, Workforce, and Program Providers:

- 11 parents
- 7 school-based early childhood program provider
- 13 community-based program provider
- 7 Head Start program providers
- 2 family child care home providers
- 2 community-based early childhood teacher/educator
- 1 school-based early childhood teacher/educator
- 4 health and mental health program providers

Additional Information:

- 19 BIPOC members (37%)
- 16 members from rural communities (31%)
- 17 individuals have family members with a disability (33%)

Introductions

Amber Bilby
Angela Fedler
Anji Gallanos
Anna Jo Haynes
Ashley Henshaw
Ayelet Talmi
Betty Dalton
Brandon LaChance
Carsten Baumann
Debra Locke
Deidre Johnson
Diane Price
Dustin Elliott
Elisabeth Lawrence
Elsa Holguin
Floyd Cobb
Gerie Grimes
Gina Robinson
Jade Woodard

Jamie Ulrich
Kallie Leyba
Kate Brunner
Khatira Amn
Ki'i Powell
Kirsten Yang
Kristie Kauertz
Laurie Noblitt
Leigh Pytlinski
Lisa A. Hill
Lorena Garcia
Maegan Lokteff
Maria Tarajano Rodman
Mary Alice Cohen
Mat Aubuchon
Megan Burch
Melissa Buchholz
Melissa Mares
Michelle Shiffman

Moira Hawks
Penny Harris
Robert A. DeHerrera
Robert McDaniel
Scott Bright
Sherri Valdez
Sherri Wright
Sondra Ranum
Tara Manthey
Tom Brinegar
Tracey Lucero
Ty Johnson
Whitney LeBoeuf

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Logistics

Meeting Norms

- Come prepared.
- Mute yourself when not speaking.
- Stay engaged (e.g., actively participate and use the chat function).
- Be mindful of how much “air time” each member receives.
- Always assume good intent.
- All ideas are valued.

Expectations

Every meeting you should expect the following:

- **Via e-mail:**
 - Agenda for meeting
 - Suggested pre-reading

- **In meeting:**
 - Subgroup updates
 - Background information
 - Focused discussion around a specific part of the transition plan
 - Closing/next steps

TAG Meeting Schedule

Meetings will take place on Wednesdays from 3-5pm MST

Meeting Dates*	Key Focus Areas
July 14	-Kick-off meeting : Introductions and mission/vision discussion
August 4	-Movement of programs to new department -Department structure & timeline of move
August 25	-Local governance structures -Maximization of funds
September 15	-Unified enrollment -Data and technology needed for ideal state
October 20	-Review transition plan draft -Universal, voluntary preschool implementation

*November and December meetings will be scheduled. Notice will be given as soon as possible.

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Review Legislation

Background

HB21-1304 was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in June 2021. The law requires:

1. The creation of a new unified Colorado Department of Early Childhood on July 1, 2022.

To create the new department, the bill requires a transition plan, written by the Transition Working Group (TWG), be submitted by November 1, 2021.

The ECLC is to approve the transition plan within 14 days after receiving the plan from the Office of the Governor.

2. A planning process for Colorado's new universal, voluntary preschool program, which will be overseen by the new unified Department of Early Childhood. This new Colorado Department of Early Childhood will also be charged with the implementation of this program, beginning July 2023.

Background (cont'd)

HB21-1304 calls for the ECLC Co-Chairs to convene an advisory group to advise the Transition Working Group (TWG) in the development of the transition plan and recommendations for the new statewide, universal, voluntary preschool program.

- The TWG is responsible for creating the transition plan and recommendations for the new preschool program that will be submitted to the ECLC and then the legislature. The TWG is composed of the co-chairs of the ECLC, state leaders at CDHS, the CDE and other existing agencies, and staff from the governor's office.
- This advisory group, known as the Transition Advisory Group (TAG), is composed of a diverse array of stakeholders including parents, providers, human services leaders, members of the early childhood workforce, and others.
- The TAG will help advise the TWG in developing recommendations to inform (1) the development of a transition plan for the new state department and (2) the voluntary universal preschool program.

Transition Planning Timeline

June 2021

HB21 - 1304 passed

July-Dec. 2021

TAG: Multiple meetings, with more frequent subgroup meetings
TWG: Weekly meetings
ECLC: Multiple meetings

Nov. 1-Nov. 15, 2021

By Nov. 15, **TWG** submits the approved plan to other legislative committees.

Jan. 1-Jan. 15, 2022

By Jan. 1, **TWG** submits new preschool program recommendations to **ECLC** for approval by Jan. 15, then to the legislature. **Jan 2: Gov's office** submits any budget amendments.

By Nov. 1, 2022

Gov's office submits its FY2024 budget request.

By Nov. 1, 2021

Gov's office submits the transition plan, developed by **TWG** with the advice of **TAG**, as part of its 2023 budget request to the legislature. **Gov's office** also submits the plan to **ECLC** for approval.

By Dec. 1, 2021

TWG presents approved transition plan to the early childhood and school readiness legislative commission.

2022 & 2023 Leg. Sessions

Legislature considers laws necessary based on submitted plans.

By July 2023

Launch new universal voluntary preschool program.

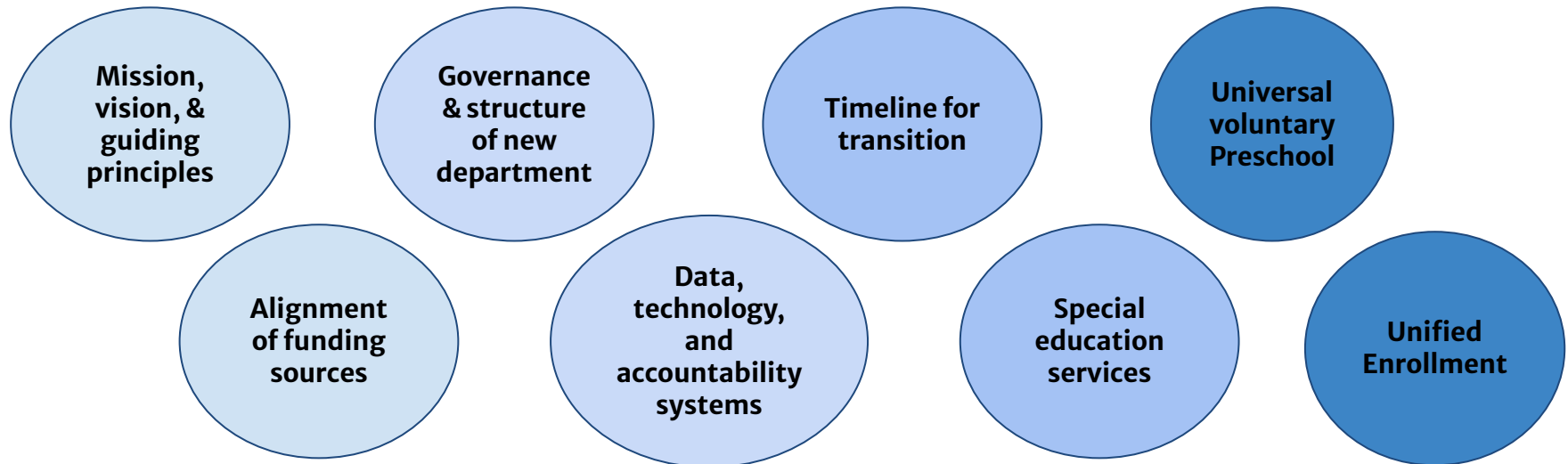
RASCI CHART

	Items	<u>Responsible</u> Accountable for outcome	<u>Accountable</u> Final approval	<u>Support</u> Staff the responsible party in order to do the work	<u>Consulted</u> Advise the responsible party	<u>Informed</u> Kept in the loop re: decisions
Phase 1	Department transition plan (per legislation)	Transition Working Group (TWG) & Governor	ECLC	Watershed Advisors, guided by the Gov's Office Transition Lead, will draft all materials and facilitate process with TWG and ECLC	Advocates Department staff Gov staff Subgroups TAG	Advocacy Orgs; Counties; Community Colleges; ECCs; Educator Preparation Institutes of Higher Education; Legislature; Media; Providers; School systems
	Voluntary, Universal Preschool plan (per legislation)	Transition Working Group (TWG) & Governor	ECLC	Watershed Advisors, guided by the Gov's Office Transition Lead, will draft all materials and facilitate process with TWG and ECLC	Advocates Department staff Gov staff Subgroups TAG	
Phase 2	Department transition (per plan and legislative direction) e.g., operations, budget, legislation, etc.	Governor's Office Transition Lead	Governor	Watershed Advisors Transition leads from CDHS, CDE, OIT, CDPHE (designated by agencies)	Counties ECLC, as needed Gov staff Providers School systems TWG members, individually and together	Advocates Counties ECLC Gov staff Providers School systems
	Launching UPK (per plan and legislative direction)	New department lead, as designated by department head	New department head	Watershed Advisors Current CPP team and current OEC staff	Advocates Counties ECLC Gov staff Providers School systems	

TAG Charge

Over the coming months, TAG will convene to discuss ideas and recommendations for the transition plan to offer to the TWG, taking into consideration the work done in the topic subgroups, focus groups, town halls, and all other stakeholder engagement structures.

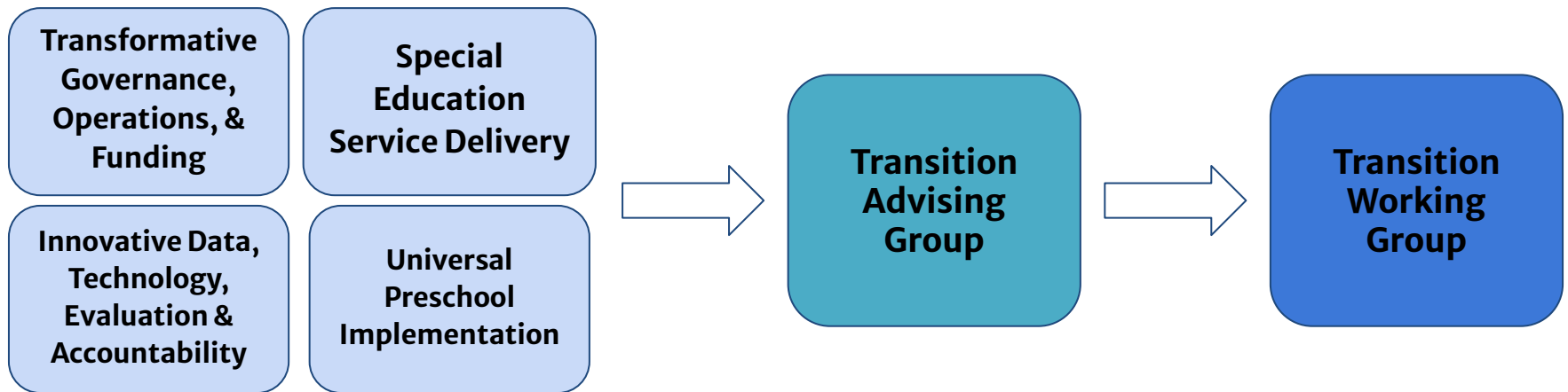
Themes to be considered:



This will help render a plan for the new department and implementation of the new statewide, universal, voluntary preschool program that is robust, comprehensive, and centered on the children and families of Colorado.

Subgroup Structure

The ECLC Transition Advisory Group is convening subgroups to offer insights that will guide the creation of a transition plan to the new unified department of early childhood. Each group will offer recommendations from their perspectives or in their areas of expertise.



Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding

The Transformative Governance, Operations, and Funding group will focus on the opportunities to align the governance, funding and operations of the new department.

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Movement of existing programs to the new department
- Governance of the new department
- Alignment of funding sources
- Restructuring enrollment process for families

Innovative Data, Technology, Evaluation, and Accountability

The Innovative Data, Technology, Evaluation and Accountability group will focus on the opportunities to enhance the data and technology needed to support a fully aligned early childhood system.

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Improving the family experience (technology, program quality, accessibility, affordability)
- Improving the provider experience (technology, enrollment, licensing, payment, quality supports)
- Use of data/evaluation to align with Kindergarten and beyond
- Additional data needed to meet families' needs

Universal Preschool Implementation

The Universal Preschool Implementation Subgroup will identify strategies and recommendations to align the state's preschool programs into a new statewide universal voluntary preschool program.

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Vision for a successful preschool program implementation
- Alignment of CPP and new preschool program
- Balancing universality of services & serving children with greatest need
- Mixed delivery of new preschool program services
- Blending and braiding new preschool program dollars with other funding sources

Special Education Service Delivery

The Special Education Service Delivery group will develop recommendations for the administration of preschool special education services within the new preschool programs.

This group will be tasked with discussing the following topics:

- Landscape of federal IDEA regulations and their interaction with state regulations and requirements
- Mixed delivery of special education services
- Alignment of preschool special education services with birth to 3 services
- Alignment of preschool special education services with the voluntary universal preschool program

Listening Sessions

In addition to the TAG and its subgroups, the ECLC is also convening the following interactive user-centered listening sessions to ensure that the new department will meet the needs of those who are involved in and/or experience Colorado's current early childhood system.

- **Children and Family Experience**
- **Provider Experience**
- **Workforce Experience**

These listening sessions will offer critical insight into the user experience of existing programs and systems. They will be working in tandem with the subgroups to offer insight to the TAG.

Other Ways to Engage

Stakeholder engagement is a critical component to this process. To offer updated information and gather feedback the ECLC will be managing the following resources for the public:

Updates

- Monthly Transition Plan [Newsletter](#)
- Monthly Town Halls (to be scheduled**)
- Transition [Website](#)

Opportunities to provide input

- Feedback [Form](#)
- Statewide Listening Tour (to be scheduled**)

Additionally, a human centered design project will be conducted with design sessions and prototype creations for what the future system should look like.

**For more information or to participate, please reach out to Rebecca Peterson, Gary Community Investments – rpeterson@garycommunity.org*

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**See ECLC meeting [calendar](#) for updates.

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**Review Guiding Principles and
Mission/Vision**

ECLC Guiding Principles

The ECLC is committed to the following guiding principles in the development of the transition plan and universal, voluntary preschool recommendations:



Colorado's Department of Early Childhood

Vision

All Colorado children, families and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy and thriving.

Mission

The Colorado Department of Early Childhood leads a comprehensive, community-informed, efficient and equitable early childhood system that supports the care, education and well-being of all Colorado's young children and their families.

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**Public Comment/
Closing/Next Steps**

Next Steps

- **In July**
 - Subgroups will meet the weeks of July 19 and July 26
- **August**
 - Two TAG meetings: August 4 & August 25
 - New department structure & local governance/funding
 - Subgroups will meet the weeks of August 9 and August 16
 - Next ECLC meeting: August 26, 2021
- **In September**
 - TAG Meeting: September 15
 - Subgroups will meet twice
 - ECLC meeting: September 23, 2021
 - Draft report

For any follow up questions please contact: Kristina Heyl,
kristina.hey@state.co.us