Meeting Objectives:

- Discuss COVID 19 Early Childhood Updates
- Plan ECLC Next Steps
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

Attendees:
Elsa Holguín, Mary Anne Snyder, Susan Steele, Tom Massey, Jehan Benton-Clark, Amanda Pelletier, Kate Reinemund, Pamela Harris, Jeanne McQueeney, Sue Renner, Heather Craiglow, Ida Rhodes, Ryan Beiser, Letty Bass, Jeff Kuhr, George Welsh, Gerri Gomez-Howard, Anne-Marie Braga, Tracy Miller, Melissa Colsman, Heather Craiglow, Mary Alice Cohen, Erin Mewhinney, Bill Jaeger, Scott Groginsky, Grace Glover, Jai Scott, Kristina Heyl

Welcome & Introductions
Elsa Holguín called the meeting to order at 10:02am. She welcomed the group and reviewed the objective of the meeting: to connect and share resources regarding the COVID 19 response. Elsa explained that the ECLC is unique in that the members are broad and make up many sectors important to early childhood.

COVID-19 Response - Early Childhood Updates, Opportunities and Discussion
The ECLC shared considerations, concerns and resources around COVID-19 and discussed the role the ECLC could play in helping with the response.

The Commission co-chairs invited Bill Jaeger from Colorado Children’s Campaign and Scott Groginsky from the Governor’s Office to share updates.

Bill Jaeger shared that the Children’s Campaign has been convening a group of early childhood stakeholder’s to provide a space to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the early care and education sector, providers, and the children and families they serve. The group discussed strategies they might deploy at the policy, regulatory, budgetary, and advocacy levels to ensure the negative impact to the early care and education sector is minimized to the extent practicable. Bill discussed the importance of the ECLC leveraging their leadership position to advocate at the federal level for the state’s childcare needs.

Scott Groginsky discussed the Governor’s Executive Order, stating that Governor Polis recognizes the importance of early childhood. As part of the Executive Order the Governor focused on many aspects of the early care and education system. Scott shared that Congress is looking at the next phase of stimulus and that advocacy around child care could be an important role for the ECLC and to coordinate with the Governor’s Office. Scott also shared the Governor’s Office is tracking how other states are responding.

Mary Anne Snyder and Erin Mewhinney discussed the resources and updates from the Office of Early Childhood. The Office is participating in the Emergency Child Care Collaborative; this collective is working to provide childcare for essential employees. The Office gave guidance to counties around flexibility with CCCAP funding and other funding streams. The Office is also working closely with early childhood councils to collect and respond to local provider needs.
ECLC Action Steps
The group decided on the following next steps for the Commission:

- Partner with the Children’s Campaign and the Office of Early Childhood in the administration of emergency childcare response- make sure supply of providers is there for demand, contact providers and to help collect and distill information, questions and concerns
- Advocate at federal level for the state’s childcare needs and consider recommendations from NAEYC
- Align and streamline communication for providers and advocate for supports for providers
- Share information and resources weekly via call or other communication

Public Comment
No public comment

Co-Chairs’ Final Thoughts and Adjourn
Elsa Holguín thanked all for joining the call and urged everyone to continue the conversation and share resources around COVID-19.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 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.

For information about future meeting dates, times and locations, visit www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org.