ECLC Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge:

The Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee (PQA) of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission is charged with identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children and to enhance the alignment and provision of services and supports for young children.

§ 26-6.2-104 Legislative Duties associated with Subcommittee:

In addition to any other duties specified in law, the commission has the following duties:

(a) To identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the alignment of standards, rules, policies, and procedures across programs and agencies that support young children;

(b) To advise and make recommendations to the state departments and to other relevant early childhood entities concerning implementation of the early childhood Colorado framework;

(c) To assist public and private agencies in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and children and their families, including securing funding and additional investments for services, programs, and access to these services and programs for children and their families;

(e) To monitor the ongoing development, promotion, and implementation of:

(I) A quality, cohesive professional development and career advancement system;

(II) High-quality, comprehensive early learning standards; and

(f) To develop strategies and monitor efforts concerning:

(I) Increasing children's school readiness;

(II) Increasing participation in and access to child care and early education programs; and

(III) Promoting family and community engagement in children's early education and development.

ECLC Areas of Opportunity:

After engaging with stakeholders to understand the history and progress of early childhood in Colorado as well as the wide array of policy strategies and opportunities that exist to ensure the state continues to move forward, the Commission has identified three Areas of Opportunity that are most critical to continue the advancement of work in early childhood across the state.

Area 1: Improve Access to High Quality Early Care & Education For All Families
Area 2: Elevate the Early Childhood Workforce to Ensure Coordinated Career Pathways and Appropriate Compensation

Area 3: Support Improved Family Health & Economic Security Through a Two-Generation Approach

The PQA Subcommittee will achieve this Vision by:

- Creating an environment for early childhood stakeholders to share their work and collaborate across systems;
- Monitoring early childhood systems and making recommendations for changes that would better align services and supports for families;
- Aligning state and local efforts to the Early Childhood Colorado Framework;
- Review and analyze EC systems alignment through an audit that measures baseline alignment of EC programs and services to be guided by the committee and relevant state agencies (subject to adequate fundraising); and
- Developing Working Groups to explore specific early childhood topic areas and develop strategies and solutions for better coordination.

Membership:

- ECLC Members
- Parents/Caregivers
- Early Childhood Councils
- Statewide Early Childhood Organizations
- Foundations/Philanthropic partners interested in early childhood alignment efforts
- Representatives from State Agencies who interact with early childhood systems, including CDPHE, CDE, HCPF and CDHS
- Health or Behavioral Health subject matter experts
- Organization focused on Family and Community Engagement
- Representative from Early Care & Learning organizations
- Representative from P-12 Education System
- Policy advocacy organization
- Representative from each of the Working Groups established by ECLC/PQA

PQA Subcommittee Next Steps:

- Identify opportunities for alignment across early childhood systems and leverage existing work, such as:
  - Coordination / Communication / Trust / Relationship Building across state agencies and partners
  - Framework Website + Inclusion of Policy Strategies and Vision
  - Support the implementation of the EC Workforce 2020 Plan
  - Advocate for Infant and Toddler strategies that connect with other early childhood systems
  - Support Prenatal - 3rd grade Strategies and alignment across school and early childhood systems
  - Manage the implementation of the Colorado Shines Brighter Statewide Strategic Plan
Duration: