Meeting Objectives:

- Approve Meeting Minutes from April 23, 2020
- Discuss Opportunities and Challenges in Early Childhood & the ECLC’s Role
- Hear Updates from the Governor’s Office
- Learn about the Outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative
- Vote on the changes to the ECLC Subcommittee Charges
- Hear from the Early Childhood Community during Public Comment

Attendees:
Mary Anne Snyder, Susan Steele, Tom Massey, Jehan Benton-Clark, Amanda Culbertson, Pamela Harris, Sue Renner, Ida Rhodes, Jai Scott, Ryan Beiser, Jeff Kuhr, Angie Paccione, Tracy Miller, Melissa Colsman, Jeff Kuhr, Heather Craiglow, Kristina Heyl, George Welsh, Elsa Holguín, Anne-Marie Braga, Letty Bass

Guests: Bill Jaeger, Brittany Lane, Erin Mewhinney, Matt Tessar, Rob McDaniels, Scott Groginsky

Welcome & Introductions
Elsa Holguín thanked everyone who joined the meeting. She called for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2020 meeting. George Welsh moved to approve the minutes as distributed, Pamela Harris seconded the motion; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

ECLC Statement & Action on Racial Justice
Elsa Holguín began the meeting by recognizing the unprecedented times not just due to the global pandemic but the unrest across the county and world in response to the unjust and unequitable treatment of people of color. The Commission shared a statement in the Our Voice Newsletter that discusses the Commission’s foundation in the Early Childhood Colorado Framework that drives the work of the Commission towards access, quality and equity. Elsa stated that it is critical that the Commission re-commit their work in a way that acknowledges the inequities in our systems that serve children and families and embrace the changes that are needed to fight for equity and justice for all children. The group discussed action items for the Commission to support equity. Some of the action items from the group were:

- Subcommittees reevaluate how their work is supporting equity and inclusion,
- Ask presenters to speak to equity during their presentation,
- Ensure that the Subcommittee and Commission membership is reflective of the diverse population in Colorado and,
- Ensure that the Commission and Subcommittee meetings are accessible for all who are interested in joining.

Opportunities & Challenges around COVID-19
Susan Steele shared that there is a lot of work happening and that needs to happen in the future to respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She stated that the Commission has to be thoughtful about how Colorado rebuilds the early childhood systems to be stronger, more efficient and effective then in the past to ensure children and families are served. Susan discussed a few major efforts happening that the Commission should monitor and when possible provide recommendation or help inform as the work moves forward such as the Emergency Child Care Collaborative, federal funding, child care supply and demand and data.
Commissioners then shared the major efforts they are involved with or are aware of during this time to help support children and families.

**Budget and Legislative Updates**
Tom Massey stated that it has been a tough few months at the Capitol with a shortened legislative session and within the state agencies. The state agencies have been asked to make budget cuts to programs and service. They are already looking to next year’s budget and legislative asks, which is a challenge given the economic forecasts and the reduction in general fund dollars that will be available to support programs. Tom explained that the state agency members have provided written updates for the meeting rather than going through each of them on the webinar, they are available on the [ECLC website](https://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org). Tom introduced Bill Jaeger from the Colorado Children’s Campaign to discuss the legislative session and some of the major impacts to programs that serve children and families.

**Legislative Session Outcomes** - Bill Jaeger from Colorado Children’s Campaign shared the [Early Childhood Legislative Update - 2020 General Assembly](https://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org) handout. He reviewed the handout with the Commission, discussed the legislation that passed this session and noted the legislation that failed. He reviewed the budget actions relevant to children and families. Lastly, he shared the ballot measures of relevance anticipated for November of 2020.

**Public Comment & Commissioner Updates**
Meg Franko shared that Early Milestones Colorado is conducting a research study to understand the impact of the pandemic on the early childhood sector in Colorado. They are launching three surveys to better understand how the shifting landscape has impacted families, child care providers and the early childhood educator workforce. They have developed website/social media content to communicate about the survey with each audience. Meg asked that the group share the information about the surveys to their networks.

**Updates from the Governor’s Office**
Scott Groginsky thanked Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and Elsa Holguín the three departing Commissioners for their leadership and dedication to the early childhood field. Scott announced the three new Commission appointments by the Governor; Rebecca Kantor, Allegra “Happy” Haynes and Adeeb Khan. He informed the Commission that Susan Steele has been reappointed to the Commission.

Scott discussed legislative updates including the Preschool referendum HB 20-1427: Tobacco & Nicotine Tax for Education, Housing & ECE which places an increase tobacco tax and new nicotine/vaping tax on the ballot. If passed it would provide funding for universal preschool for all four year olds. The implementation process will be announced soon, Scott stated there will be role for ECLC in the process. He shared updates on child care legislation that passed, stating that Governor Polis plans to sign HB 20-1053: Supports for the Early Childhood Workforce, which presents significant opportunities for the early childhood workforce, SB20-126: Allow Home Child Care In Homeowners’ Association Community and HB20-1347: Licensure Exemption For Family Child Care Homes. These bills will provide greater opportunities for increases in family child care capacity.

He stated that the COVID crisis caused an economic recession and that they do expect a tough budget year. They are already preparing for the next legislative cycle, looking at options from fiscal year 2022 budget, looking at top priorities and want stakeholder input. The Policy Office and OSPB have been reaching out to stakeholders to hear their recommendations on the budget. Scott encouraged the Commission to consider budget and policy ideas they have and provide recommendations to the Governor’s Office.

Scott shared that the Governor’s Office is in the final stage of approval for spending the Federal CARES ACT funding they are looking at a variety of strategies to support child care. They are in the process of collaborating with philanthropic, nonprofit and business leaders to have a coordinated effort to distribute
funds to the field. Some of the strategies for the funds are to provide sustainability grants to child care programs, continue support for CCCAP funded programs struggling with child attendance, provide coverage for more affordable copayments and look at the critical issue of early childhood mental health professionals.

Scott reminded the group that the Colorado State Board of Education voted 6:1 to accept the recommendation of the Commission to allow the reporting system for state level Kindergarten Readiness data be revised to allow for analysis of children's school readiness by each of the six domains, rather than the current reporting only of number of domains in which students demonstrate readiness. This policy will take effect in 2022.

Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative Data
Erin Mewhinney & Jacob Barney from the Office of Early Childhood and Rob McDaniel & Matt Tessar from Metrix IQ discussed data and outcomes from the Emergency Child Care Collaborative (ECCC). Erin shared that the Collaborative, which provided a full tuition credit for child care to the families of essential workers, concluded on May 24, 2020. Erin stated the goal of the collaborative was to provide care to essential workers and to support operational and financial stability of childcare. Jake shared here were about 5,200 children that were cared for which is about a 2.5% uptake in the program.

Matt and Rob discussed the program outputs for providers, children and families. There were 524 Emergency Child Care Providers, covering 45 counties. The total net payments to providers was $10,603,974 (avg. $20,236.59 per provider). 5,235 children received care; the median length of care was 8 weeks of 9 possible weeks. They noted that significantly more school age care was provided than is typical during this time frame. The program served 3,598 families in 50 counties. On average, about 1.5 children served per family. The self-reported median household income for families who utilized the program was $80,500. Erin discussed next steps for evaluating the data and garnering feedback from families and providers to develop and build on lessons learned.

Review & Vote on the Subcommittee Charges
Kristian Heyl explained that the Subcommittee charges are up for review and the need for the Commission to officially approve each of them. She stated that these were first shared with the Commission back in February, and at that time there some additional questions about whether ECPD would become a subcommittee or not, which was voted to approve at the last meeting. Also there was some discussion about a policy or legislative focused subcommittee. More clarification is needed from CDHS leadership and Governor’s office on how the ECLC acts in regards to endorsing agendas, supporting bills, and developing / encouraging regulations or policies before moving on the policy/ legislative Subcommittee. Kristina stated that the suggested updates to each charge is tracked in each one; these updates came from the co-chairs of the subcommittees and from the members to make sure it was in line with what they were hoping to achieve over the next year. Kristina reviewed the changes to the Subcommittee charges. After review she asked for questions or edits to each, with none she asked for a motion to approve all four Subcommittee charges. Heather Craiglow moved to approve the charges as distributed, Pamela Harris seconded the motion; the Subcommittee charges were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Kristina Heyl stated that the next steps will be to find new co-chairs for some of these groups. Unfortunately some of the leaders of these subcommittees are departing the Commission as their terms are up. Kristina asked all of the Commission members to engage in a committee, and if any Commissioner engaged would like to consider being a co-chair, please reach out. Kristina reminded the group that at the last meeting the Commission voted to allow for non-ECLC members to be co-chairs.

Co-Chairs’ Final Thoughts and Adjourn
The co-chaired thanked the three departing members; Gerri Gomez Howard, Letty Bass and Elsa Holguin for their work and dedication on the Commission, improving the lives of children and families in Colorado and
continued passion for equity, access, and quality early childhood systems.

The co-chairs thanked all that joined the meeting for their continued support of the early childhood community during this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm. The next ECLC meeting will be held on August 27, 2020 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at Health Care Policy & Financing 303 East 17th Avenue, Denver, 11th Floor Conference Room or by webinar.

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.