

Thank you for joining! We will begin shortly.

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

November 3, 2023

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

Anna Jo Haynes



Meeting Objectives

- Approve the September 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Approve the the final draft of the PQA Subcommittee charter to be reviewed by ECLC
- Learn about supports for employer-based childcare and how Subcommittee members can support these efforts
- Provide input on the strategies and branding of the Statewide Early Childhood Strategic Plan
- Consider the addition of a new Working Group as part of the PQA Subcommittee
- Hear comments from the Early Childhood Community



PQA Subcommittee Charter

10-Year Strategic Plan

Vision: All children are valued, healthy and thriving

Guiding Principles & Functions

From its unique position as the federally authorized state advisory council on early childhood....



Strategies


...the ECLC focuses its time, energy, and resources to influence systems and policy advancements.....


- Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
 - Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
 - Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
 - Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable, quality care
 - Monitor and provide feedback on state agency strategic plans and priorities to promote alignment, mutual reinforcement, and interagency partnerships
-
- Develop policy strategies for stronger recruitment and retention, increasing workforce diversity across all leadership levels
 - Champion strategies to enhance early childhood workforce compensation across public and private settings
 - Advocate for the public and private funding needed to fully implement Colorado's Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan
 - Regularly review workforce data to advise on new opportunities and any course corrections
-
- Advocate for and monitor progress on a multi-agency integrated early childhood data system
 - Inform and support the use of a data-driven evaluation and learning approach so state initiatives are designed with accountability measures and a plan to evaluate impact
 - Promote collaborative, interagency, multi-year fiscal planning for early childhood
 - Set the direction for fiscal policies and decisions that prioritize children and families across public and private systems

Results

...so that Colorado achieves its vision for early childhood.

- 

Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care, education, and supports so that *all families can easily identify, navigate and access services for their children.*
- 

Colorado recruits, retains, and equitably compensates a diverse and qualified early childhood workforce *that provides quality care, education, and supports to children and their families.*
- 

Colorado's early childhood system has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions and the funding resources to put best practices and plans into place, so *all communities have what is needed to best support children and families.*

Levers of Change: The ECLC aims to increase access to data, enhance financing, and inform policies by utilizing a variety of public and private resources, such as:

- Family, provider, and community voice
- Federal, state and local public investments
- State agency plans, goals and budgets
- National best practices
- State early childhood plans and roadmaps
- Private investments
- Service and program data
- Workforce data

ECLC Work Plan: 2023-2025 Activities and Milestones



Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care and education supports so that *all families can easily identify, navigate and access services for their children.*

Strategies (5-10 years)

- Center family experience, satisfaction, and need, ensuring responsive and accessible service delivery
- Create a public forum to examine challenges and barriers to an equitable, comprehensive early childhood system and identify creative solutions
- Request data needed from public and private partners to inform strategic policy recommendations
- Develop and promote innovative policy change to strengthen Colorado's statewide mixed delivery system, increasing access to affordable and quality care
- Monitor and provide feedback on state agency strategic plans and priorities to promote alignment, mutual reinforcement, and interagency partnerships

Activities and Milestones (2-3 years)

- Regularly connect with existing early childhood forums to gather family and provider experience, satisfaction, and need so policy recommendations are informed by on-the-ground experiences (e.g. FFN Advisory Council, CDEC Family Voice Council)
- By Spring 2024, identify existing family satisfaction and engagement surveys to bring that data forward to inform ECLC committees and work groups (e.g. PDG Family Survey, CO Child Health Survey)
- Annually review relevant early childhood plans and progress to identify policy and system change recommendations (e.g. UPK, ECCS, PDG)
 - Annually elevate innovative policy strategies that support statewide access to high quality early childhood services, including FFN
 - By spring 2024, provide guidance and recommendations to inform the universal preschool quality standards development
- Review and provide feedback on new state plans as they are being developed
- By January 2024, create a process to request and review state agency plans and goals related to children and families
 - Elevate recommendations for increased alignment across state agency plans and goals on a regular basis
- Each summer/fall, work with Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission to align early childhood policy agendas
- Annually review CDEC's legislatively required Transition Report and provide guidance and recommendations to ensure progress towards a comprehensive, equitable early childhood system of supports and services.

Outputs: Progress Measures

- Aligned state agency SMART/WIGs related to young children and families
- Annual policy recommendations generated
- Surveys and information, such as family satisfaction and engagement, collected through partner and state data efforts

See full 2-3 Year Activities and Milestones Document [Here](#).

Proposed Charter Outline

1. Charge
2. Statutory Language
3. ECLC Strategic Plan- Connection to Result of Strategic Plan
4. Goals/We will achieve this by...
 - Includes strategies from strategic plan
 - Additional strategies that the subcommittee will focus on
5. Membership sectors
6. Next Steps:
 - Review membership
 - Create an [annual work plan](#)

Revision Process

Today:

- Review the revised [final draft of the Charter](#)
- Vote to recommend the charter to the ECLC for approval

Next Steps:

- The ECLC Executive Subcommittee will meet November 30 to align the revisions
- The ECLC will vote to endorse Charters at December meeting
- In January, we will create our Annual Work Plan and discuss other next steps



Employer-Based Childcare Grant Update

Alyssa Pappas, CDEC



Employer Based Child Care Program Update



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OUR VISION

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



EBCC Grants



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Employer Based Child Care Facility Grants

“The purpose of the grant program is to provide eligible entities with money to **construct, remodel, renovate, or retrofit a child care center on the site or near to the site of the eligible entity’s property to provide licensed child care services to the eligible entity’s employees**, thus supporting the eligible entity’s workforce participation and providing safe, stable, and quality care for the eligible entity’s employees’ children.” (S.B. 21-236)

1. The EBCC program was extended through Senate Bill 22-213 with an additional \$10 million in federal funding (SLFRF).
2. An additional \$3 million was appropriated in State General Funds for SFY 2024 (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024)





EBCC Grant Requirements

1. Must be a non-child care employer, or co-op of employers
2. A financial match (based on type of organization: 50% for-profit and 25% non-profit/governmental)
3. A commitment to remain open and operating for up to 5 years
4. A commitment to serving families receiving CCCAP
5. A commitment to obtain at least a Level 2 rating in the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System



Grant Impact

- Four grant rounds
- 27 Awards
- 17 Counties
- \$15.5M awarded
- 2,314 estimate child care slots created



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MAP OF EBCC SITES

27 Awarded Grantees
17 Counties

Alamosa

Early Childhood Council of the San Luis Valley

Boulder

City of Longmont
YMCA of Northern Colorado

Clear Creek

Clear Creek School District

Custer

Custer County School District

Denver

Auraria Higher Education Center
Mile High United Way

Eagle

Eagle County School District
Vail Valley Foundation

Stotts Mill

Garfield

Garfield RE-2
Mountain Family Health Center

Huerfano

Huerfano County School District

Jefferson

Colorado School of the Mines
Hope House

Mesa

City of Grand Junction
Community Hospital

Confluence Center

Pueblo

Fuel & Iron Realty (Full Plate Management)

Health Solutions

Rio Grande

Monte Vista School District

Routt

Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp.

Sedgwick

Sedgwick County

Summit

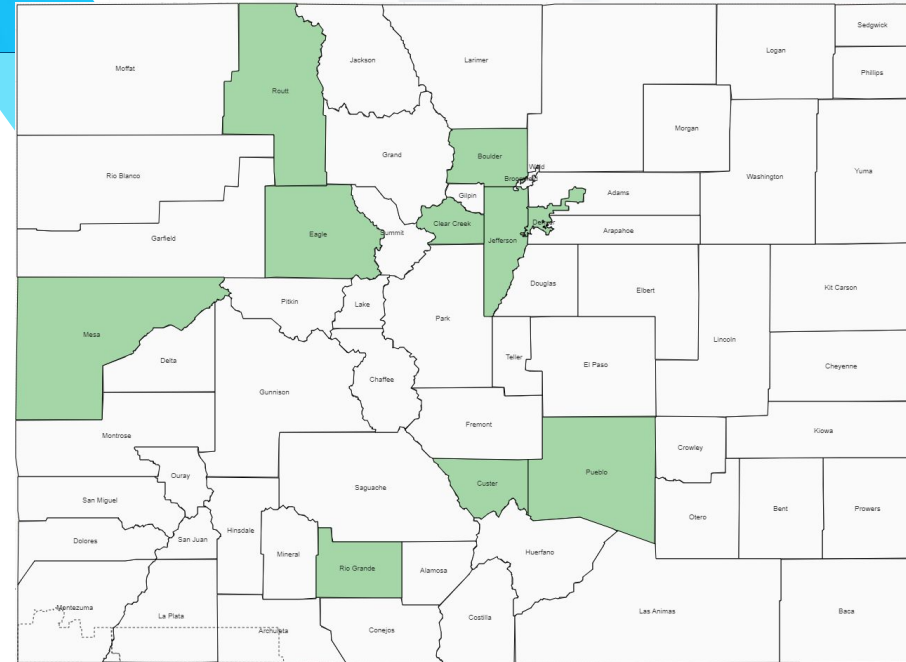
Copper Mountain Resort Association

Teller

Community of Caring

Weld

Weld Family Cares





Design Lab



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INVEST IN CHILDREN



Design Lab Vision and Goals

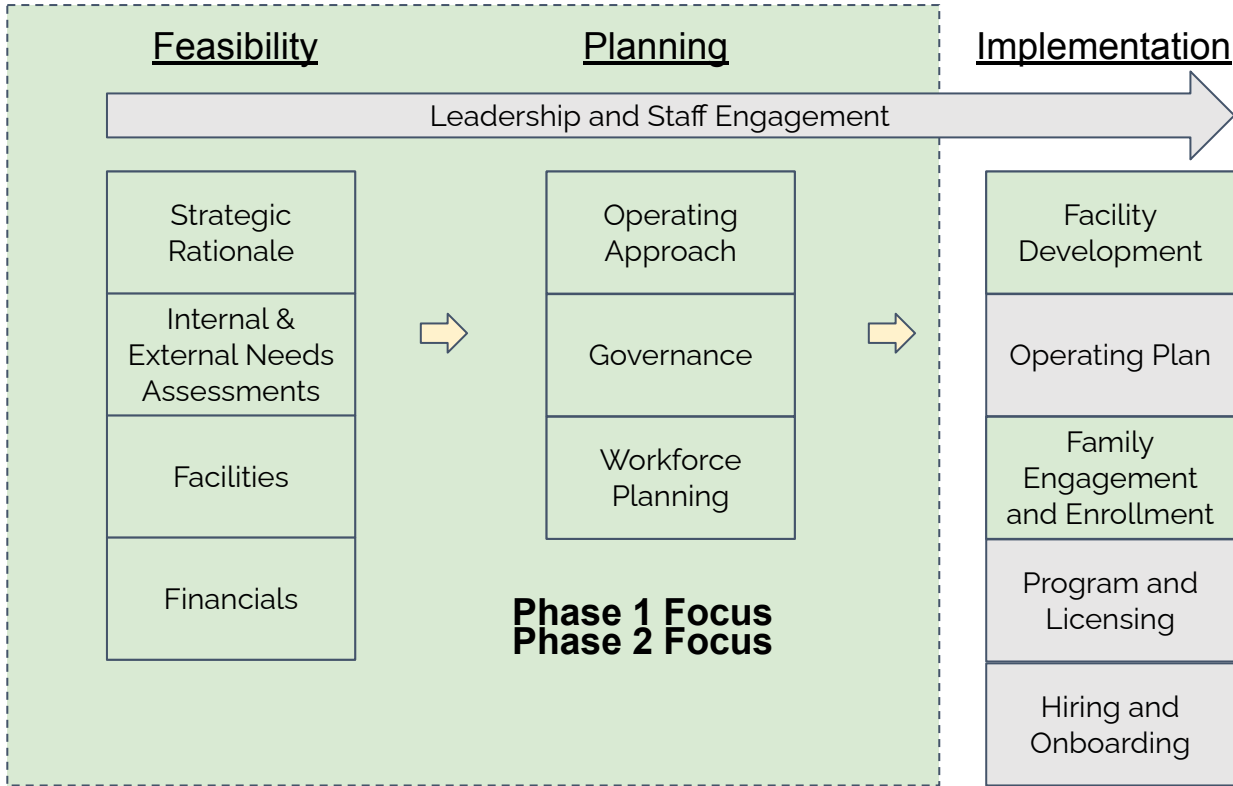
Vision

The Design Lab will equip employers throughout the state with the knowledge to create sustainable, quality, and affordable employer-based child care models responsive to the needs of their workers and the tools they need to apply for the Employer-Based Child Care Facility Grant Program authorized by SB22-213.

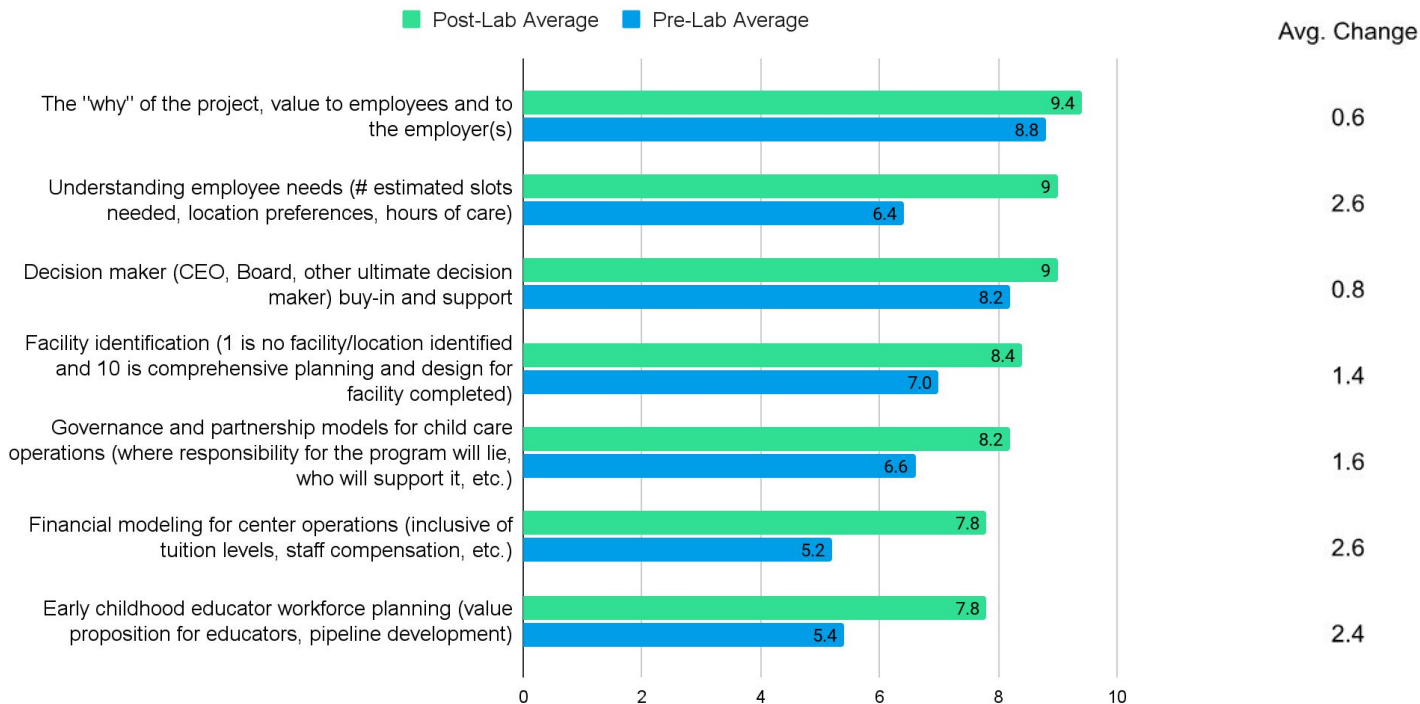
Goals

- Participants will understand the opportunities and challenges associated with employer-sponsored child care programs
- Participants will have the tools to support design, decision-making, and launch of an employer-sponsored child care program so they can complete the Lab with a business plan that enables them to apply for funding through the Employer-Based Child Care Facility Grant Program authorized by SB-213.
- Participants will have a cohort of peers to share their child care planning wins and challenges with for thought partnership and support
- CDEC will have a better understanding of the interest level of employers in launching employer-based child care programs and the roadblocks associated with such endeavors

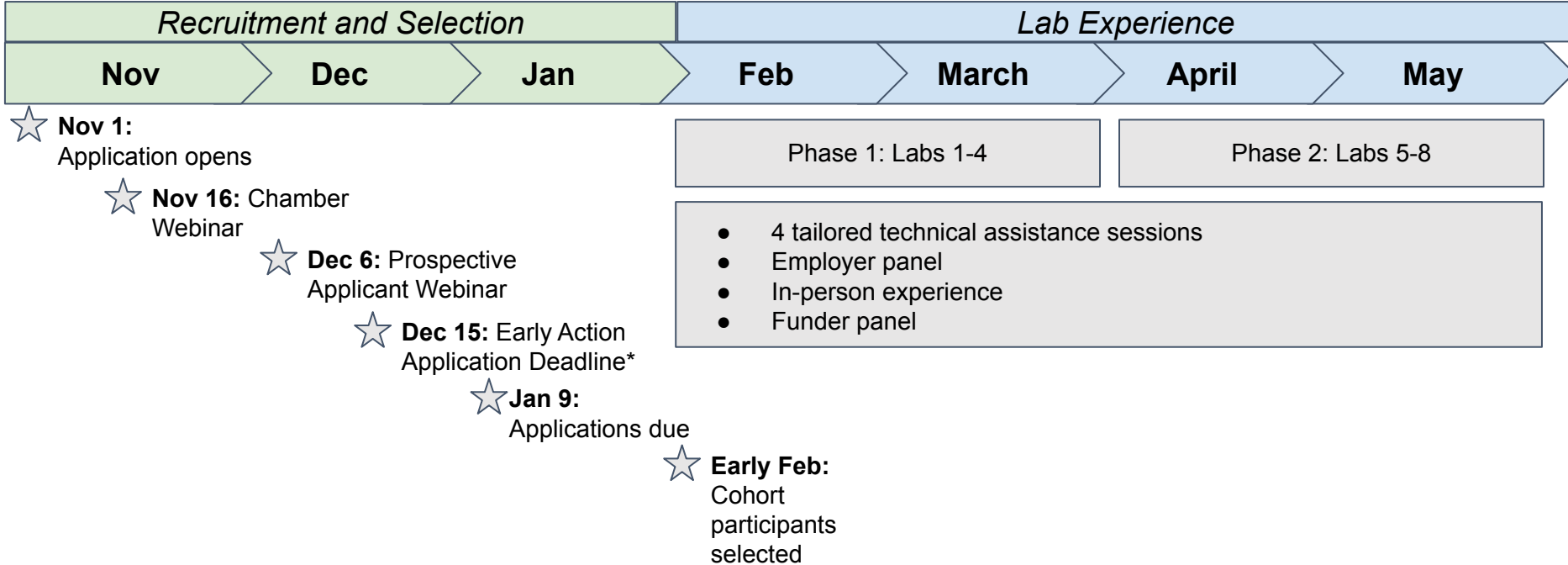
Key topics covered in Design Lab



Design Lab 2.0 participants rated their knowledge across content areas as increasing



Design Lab 3.0 Timeline



*By applying early, qualified applicants will have priority access to scheduling of interview slots in January



THANK YOU!

EBCC Grant Questions?
alyssa.papas@state.co.us

Design Lab Questions?
employerchildcareta@coloradoepic.org



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Employer-Based Child Care Feasibility & Assessment Guide

Alethea Gomez and Steph Itelman, EPIC

Employer-Based Child Care Feasibility & Assessment Guide

ECLC Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee Meeting - November 3, 2023



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Introductions



Alethea Gomez, Director of Programs & Initiatives, EPIC



Steph Itelman, Principal Consultant, 5280 Impact Partners

- Introductions
 - EPIC Team and partnership with state team
- Connection to Child Care Business Guides
 - complementary and additional resource to serve additional audience to operators
- Funding for the Employer-Based Child Care Feasibility & Assessment Guide:
 - Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five Initiative

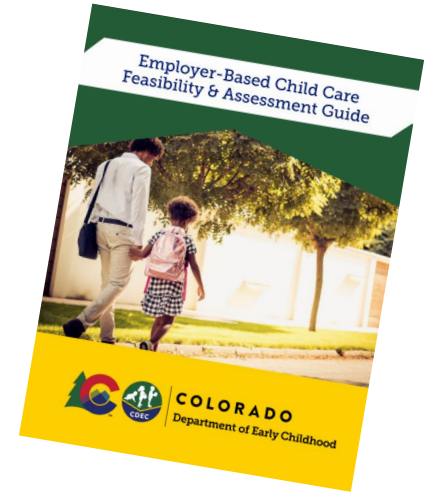


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Purpose of the Guide

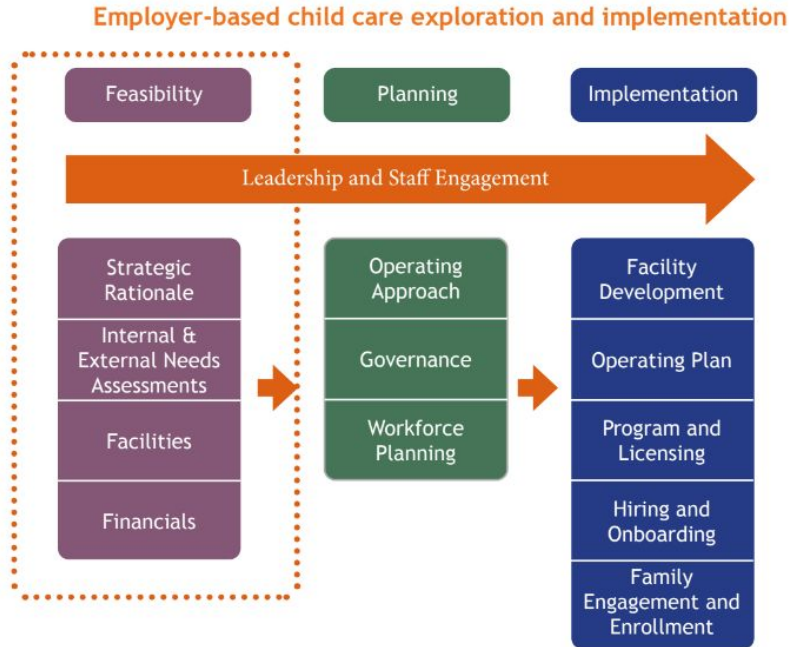
- Purpose
 - Serve as an exploratory resource for employer organizations considering feasibility of on or near site child care
- Outcomes
 - Provide tools and resources for feasibility and assessment to move into planning and implementation phases
- Target users
 - Working parents in search of valuable resources to present to their organizational leadership on employer-based child care.
 - Individuals who have been tasked by their organization's leadership to explore the concept of employer-based child care.



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What is covered in the guide?



- Main components of feasibility stage of on or near site child care explorations
 - Strategic rationale
 - Needs assessment
 - Facilities
 - Financials



Format of the Sections

- Background
 - Employer advocacy and action in child care supply building
- Prose on considerations/approach
 - Digital, interactive resource
- Worksheets
 - Anchors document
 - Space calculator
 - Cost of care/revenue



Worksheet 1: Strategic Rationale and Anchors

The problem we are trying to solve through this process is _____

To keep our "why" at the core of this process and our designs, I will keep in mind (a per. experience) _____

If this center is established, the things that will be different for our organization include:

- _____
- _____
- _____

If our wildest dreams were to come true, this would also be true:

- _____
- _____
- _____

In order to bring our vision to life, the most significant hurdles that we'll work to overcome include: (Note: you can also think of the biggest risks to the project coming to fruition and list those here)

- _____
- _____
- _____



Approach to Distribution

- State Efforts
 - October State TA Day
 - Q4 SBDC/OEDIT/CDEC Meeting
 - Future placeholder on the CDEC website
- EPIC Efforts
 - Employer and business leadership networks
 - Economic development and workforce development partners
 - Employer toolkit and employer project support



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Link to the Employer-Based Child Care Feasibility and Assessment Guide

- [Google Drive link](#)
- Please use the link above to ensure you have the most updated version of the guide available when sharing with your networks



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Questions & Answers

- What questions do you have about the information that was shared today?
- What reflections do you have on the content, approach and function of the Employer Based Child Care Feasibility & Assessment Guide?
- What other supports come to mind that would be helpful in current or future efforts by state and local leadership as well as community stakeholders?



THANK YOU!

Alethea Gomez - EPIC

Alethea@coloradoepic.org

Steph Itelman - 5280 Impact
Partners

steph.itelman@gmail.com

Marika Padilla - CDEC

marika.padilla@state.co.us





Statewide Strategic Plan Input

Tamilah Richardson and Rebecca Klein, Start Early



Consulting

11/3/23

Colorado Early Childhood System Strategic Plan

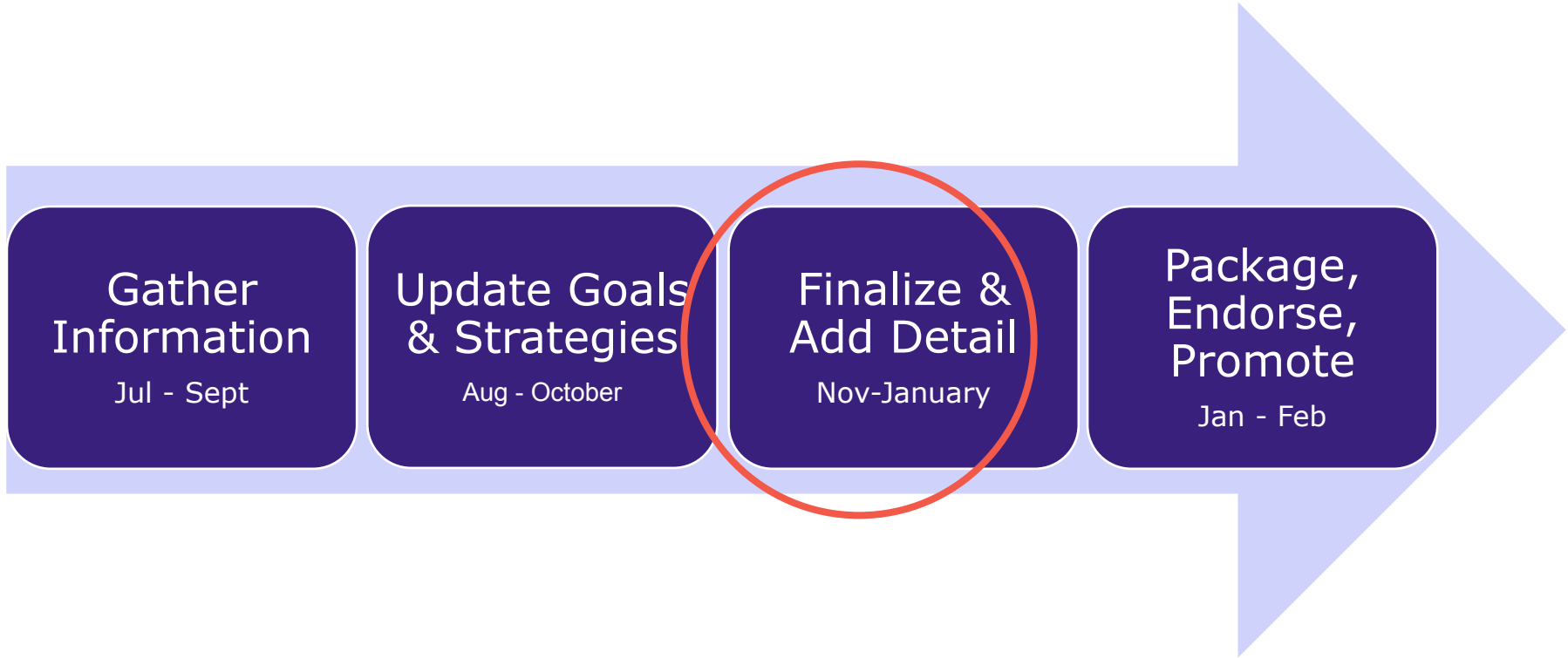
PQA Subcommittee Meeting



Agenda

- Brief update on Strategic Planning progress
- Strategy survey - outreach support
- Strategy development - discussion about level of specificity
- Rebranding of the strategic plan
- Next Steps

Process: New, Comprehensive Early Childhood Strategic Plan



Overview of Data Gathering and Synthesis

- **14 Community conversations (12 groups)**
 - e.g., ECLC subcommittees, Family Voice Council, ECCLA, FRCA
- **11 Focus groups (78 participants)**
 - 4 with families, 6 with EC professionals, 1 combo
 - 8 English and 3 Spanish
- **17 Key informant interviews**
- **3 Strategic planning working group meetings**
- **CO Shines Brighter strategy updates**
- **20 Plans reviewed**
 - e.g., CDEC Strategic Plan; CDEC Transition Plan; Child Care and Development Fund Plan; Maternal Child Health Priorities & State Strategies, Behavioral Health Administration Strategic Plan, etc.
- **Additional information gathered from other partners** (e.g., EC CO Framework survey)

DATA SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT

Organized by topics related to the [Needs Assessment Findings](#) and/or [Early Childhood Colorado Framework Domains](#)

Strategic Planning Retreat Outcome

Many new strategies and updates to existing ones (~100), including (but not limited to):

- 7+ potential new strategies to improve perinatal health and child health, for example:
 - **Perinatal Health Models.** Explore local exemplars (e.g., FamiliesForward Resource Center) and national models (e.g., Centering Pregnancies) that support positive perinatal outcomes, decrease maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, and eliminate racial disparities. Expand these models, lift up key effective factors and determine how to spread these through the state.
- 10+ potential new strategies on cultural relevance/responsiveness; language access/linguistic responsiveness, for example:
 - **Culturally Relevant Programming.** Expand programming options that are culturally relevant for families through increased investments / support for diverse curriculum (e.g., American Indian/tribal early childhood options; language supports).
- 8 potential new strategies on economic mobility, for example:
 - **State Enrollment Initiative.** Enroll pregnant people and families with young children in all state and federal benefits programs (e.g., Medicaid, SNAP/food assistance, rental/housing assistance, energy assistance) they are eligible for, including tax credits. Streamline eligibility and enrollment so families found eligible for one program can be automatically enrolled in others. Monitor progress, identify disparities and reasons for under-enrollment, and continue to improve access.

Survey

- **Purpose** to share back the ideas gathered to date to make sure we have identified strategies that families, EC professionals, and system leaders think are important and to get their feedback on changes or additions.
- **Languages**- Available in English, Spanish, and Arabic
- **Survey window**- November 1 - November 15 (2 weeks)
- **Dissemination**- Targeted strategies to specific people and through range of partners and local organizations, rather than public flyers and social media blasts. Also, providing stipends to family voice council members and others to do outreach in their communities.

- You are welcome to take the survey and please share it in your networks!

http://bit.ly/CO_EarlyChildhood_StrategicPlan

Strategy Development Considerations

- **Audience** - clear and meaningful to all, especially at the level of goals and objectives
 - Families and early childhood professionals - see themselves in it and how strategy could make a difference in their lives
 - Community leaders, political leaders - see the changes they need to champion and address
 - Systems leaders at the state and local levels - primary audience as implementers of the strategies, clear to them at strategy level
- **Specificity Aim** - happy medium
 - Not too high level or vague where how something will be accomplished is unclear
 - Not too detailed that it becomes too long to read or so detailed as short term activities that you lose the forest for the trees
- **Who/Implementers of the strategy**
 - Consideration of agencies or entities that would be responsible for implementing a strategy and who would need to partner or collaborate.
 - Strategies for the development of interagency agreements or cross sector group to work on a problem to be solved encouraged.

Strategy Development Considerations

- **Feasibility**
 - Push against limits based on thoughts that a good strategy might not be possible due to funding or political will or just the way things have always been done.
 - A strategy could become “Advocate for...,” “Identify funding to...,” or “Pilot...” to test something, gather evidence, and then seek to scale later
- **Lived experience and research/evidence based**
 - Keep family and providers’ comments and quotes top of mind, acknowledging the evidence base about what works for families and professionals of diverse backgrounds is often limited. Listen to group members who are parent representatives, closest to families, and have direct experience with the topics or issues.

Discussion- Right Level of Specificity for New Plan

- Current CO Shine Brighter Plan is sometimes quite specific and sometimes higher level, e.g.,:
 - o **3.1.1 School Readiness Handbook.** Disseminate The PLAYbook to families and informal child care providers to inform best practices and resources to support children's learning and development. Translate The PLAYbook into multiple languages.
 - o **4.2.2 Universal Preschool.** Implement and evaluate Colorado's high-quality mixed-delivery Universal Preschool program with specific attention to equity and inclusiveness of the program and to mitigate unintended consequences. Use evaluation results and feedback to continue to expand and enhance Universal Preschool implementation.

Discussion- Right Level of Specificity for New Plan

- Considerations for managing the level of detail/specificity in the new plan:
 - It will be more comprehensive, including all domains of the EC CO framework, so more strategies and potentially a much longer plan
 - Many potential new strategies are not (yet) funded
 - Higher level strategies would:
 - Provide an overarching plan and pathway to meet the goal and objective
 - Allow flexibility to identify and change tactics over time
 - Allow people to see themselves and ways they could implement or contribute to that strategy
 - Foster understanding of the strategies by a wider audience
 - More specificity would:
 - Support the implementers with action steps
 - Communicate clearly about what is changing
- What is the right balance?

Discussion- Right Level of Specificity for New Plan

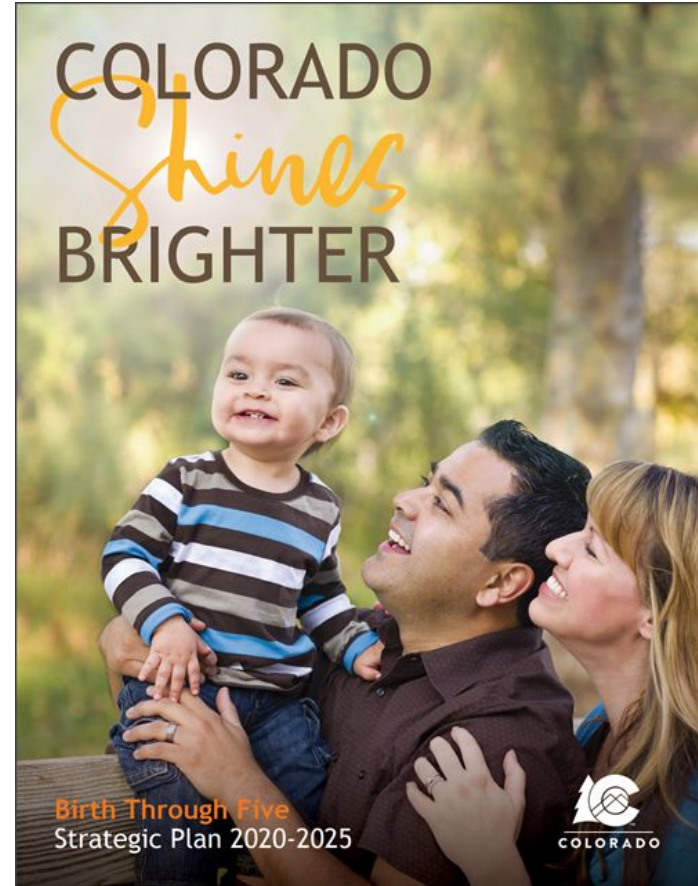
- Examples from the new potential strategies:
 - **Universal Preschool (UPK) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE).** Increase parent choice and equitable access for children with disabilities and developmental delays to community-based early care and education programs by increasing understanding of special education law and collaboration at state and local levels, increasing ECSE funding and the UPK rate for children with Individual Education Programs (IEPs), establishing and supporting state and community inclusion teams, expanding successful models to provide ECSE services in community-based settings, offering training and supports.
 - **2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings.** To provide financial support for nutritious meals, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC), Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE), Department of Education, and other state and local partners will coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program. DPHE and CDEC will work with sponsors and other organizations to provide outreach and technical support to eligible but not enrolled centers, home, and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) providers to maximize participation in CACFP. Explore policy changes to increase participation in CACFP in the FFN network.

Discussion- Right Level of Specificity for New Plan

- Examples from the new potential strategies:
 - **Universal Preschool (UPK) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE).** Increase parent choice and equitable access for children with disabilities and developmental delays to community-based early care and education programs *by increasing understanding of special education law and collaboration at state and local levels, increasing funding and supports, and expanding successful models to provide ECSE services in community-based settings.*
 - cut down detail on how the strategy would/could be done
 - **2.2.1 Quality Nutrition in ECE Settings.** Coordinate to reduce barriers and increase early care and education provider participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), National School Lunch Program, and School Breakfast Program. Provide outreach and technical support to eligible but not enrolled centers, home, and family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) providers. Explore policy changes to increase participation in CACFP in the FFN network.
 - cut out the implementing agencies
- What are your thoughts or ideas on the right level of specificity and detail?

Brand Refresh

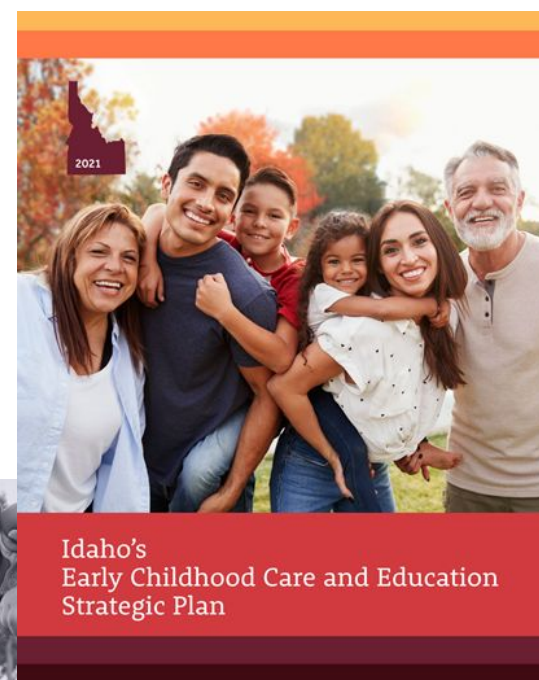
- **Our task:**
 - Create and recommend a refreshed **title, tagline,** and **graphic design** for the **Strategic Plan At-A-Glance and the Strategic Plan Report.**
- **The title** is the name of the plan, summing up what the plan is about. **The tagline** develops the title into a more descriptive phrase that says more about its purpose, content, and/or benefits.
 - must be clear, distinct, positive, memorable
 - may embody certain values
 - ideally make an emotional connection, spark interest, inspire, motivate
- **Why are we rebranding the plan?**
 - to communicate the plan is for the comprehensive, cross-sector early childhood system per the definition and EC CO framework



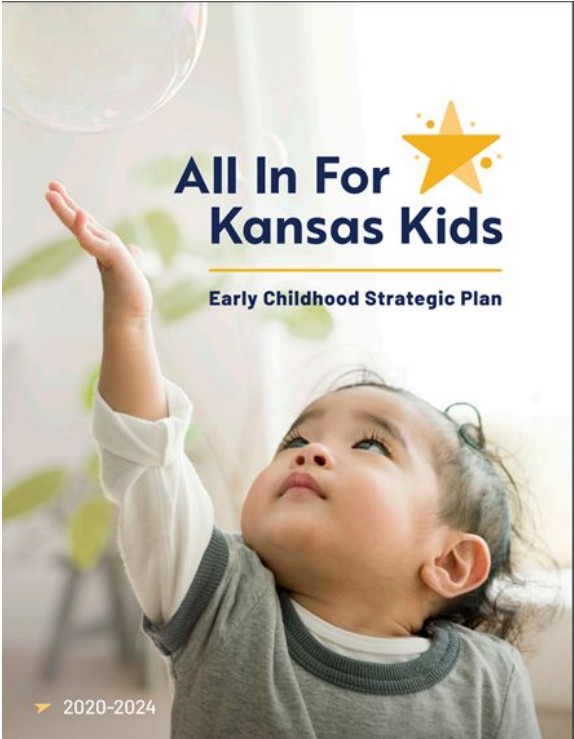
Examples



THE NEW MEXICO
**EARLY CHILDHOOD
STRATEGIC PLAN**
2021-2024



Examples



Examples



GEAUX FAR LOUISIANA STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2028 OVERVIEW

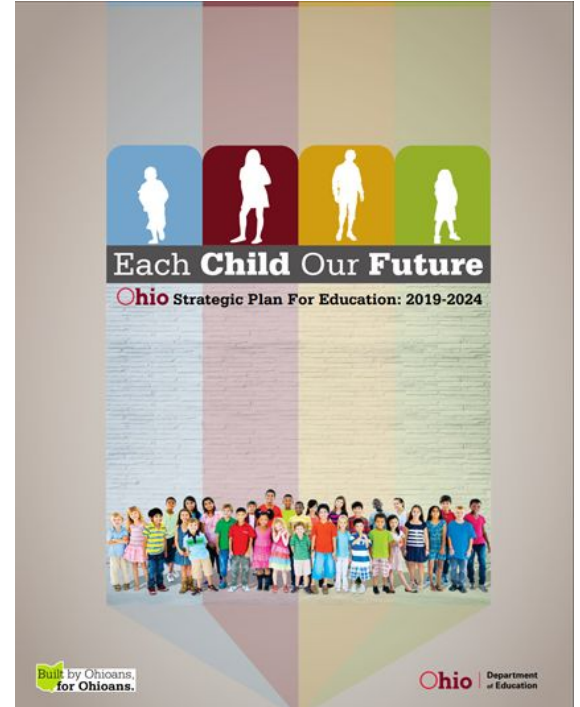
**IF YOU WANT TO GEAUX FAST
GEAUX ALONE IF YOU WANT TO
GEAUX FAR GEAUX TOGETHER!**

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION
We believe in an equitable, unified early childhood system centering racial equity and ensuring families access to seamless, high-quality early child development, health, and educational services.

<p>A Family & Provider Driven System Families and providers are engaged and prioritized in leadership and decision-making throughout the state's early childhood system.</p>	<p>A Net That Works All families have access to an inclusive, caring, well-coordinated network that helps them meet their basic needs and support child development.</p>	<p>A Healthy Start All families receive family-centered, comprehensive, whole-person physical and mental health care (home programs) through the early childhood years, and beyond.</p>	<p>Child Care for Everyone, Everywhere All families have equitable access to affordable, high-quality early care and education that is well-funded and responsive to the needs of families, children, and the educators and providers who make it possible.</p>	<p>Family-Friendly Workplaces All employers have equitable access in Louisiana have family-friendly policies that support employees with prioritizing the well-being of their children.</p>
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Built by Ohioans, for Ohioans. | **Ohio Department of Education**

SUPPORT LOUISIANA'S CHILDREN AT GEAUXFAR.LA



What Makes a Brand Good and Memorable?

- **CLEAR MISSION:** A brand's mission is derived from its core values. It's the heart and soul of an organization, company, campaign - or strategic plan!
- **UNIQUENESS:** Good brands are easy to distinguish and separate from others/ the competition.
- **COMMUNITY:** Good brands are able to build a community that is passionate and supportive of the brand
- **TRUST AND CREDIBILITY:** People become loyal to brands when they know the brand is trustworthy and credible

Branding Discussion

- **Take a moment to reflect on the following questions. Add your thoughts to the [Padlet](#) and we will also make time for whole-group discussion.**
 - What values, standout traits, unique positioning, or differentiating factors should it embody or convey? What makes this Strategic Plan different from other plans in Colorado?
 - What words, phrases, emotions, ideas could describe this plan/brand?
 - Any terms, imagery, or sentiments to avoid?

Next Opportunities for Engagement

- **Survey window open until November 15th**
 - Please take the survey and help disseminate
- **Continue to add rebranding ideas to the Padlet**
 - Until November 31, 2023
- **ECLC meeting December 21st**
 - Review full draft of the strategic plan and provide feedback



Proposal for new PQA Working Group: Early Childhood Mental
Health Advisory Council
Lisa Schlueter



IECMH Advisory Council: Presentation for the PQA Subcommittee of the ECLC

November 3, 2023

Objectives

- Introduce ourselves
- Share our purpose, structure and resourcing
- Present our proposal
- Answer questions

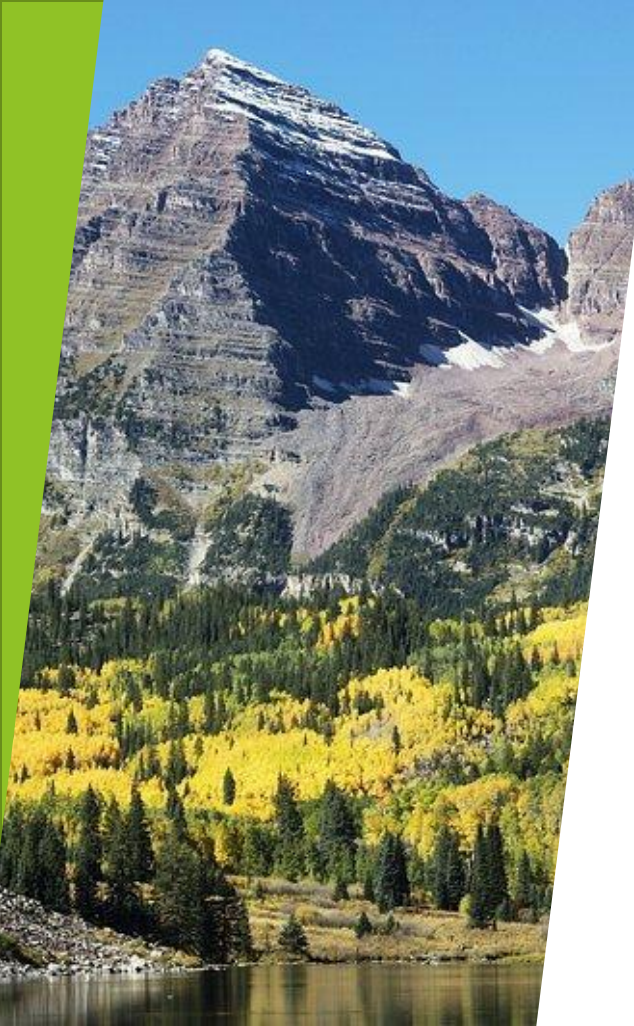
Introductions



Lisa Schlueter, PhD - Early Childhood Mental Health Unit Manager, Colorado Department of Early Childhood and CDEC staff resource for the IECMH Advisory Council



Greg Bellomo - Managing Partner, Government Performance Solutions, Inc. and IECMH Advisory Council facilitation and structural support



IECMH Advisory Council's Purpose Statement

The IECMH Advisory Council is a collaborative of partners leveraging their expertise and experience to guide the ongoing development and implementation of a robust, equitable, accessible continuum of mental health services and supports in Colorado, from promotion and prevention to intervention and treatment for expecting and pregnant persons, infants and young children through age 5 and their families and communities.

The Council will make recommendations to improve the perinatal, infant, and early childhood system of care and continuum of care, including policy, workforce, capacity, strategy, and sustainable funding approaches.

Meetings

The **Advisory Council** meets monthly for one hour on the 4th Thursday from 2-3pm.

The **Steering Committee** meets monthly for one hour on the 1st Wednesday from 4-5pm.



Membership

The Advisory Council consists of 45-55 persons with specific representation from varying organizations and communities, including:

- ❖ Parents, families, or caregivers of children who have lived experience with early childhood mental health.
- ❖ Members of the IECMH workforce including clinical providers.
- ❖ Members of historically underserved and under-resourced communities.
- ❖ Members from regions throughout the state including urban, suburban, and rural.
- ❖ Members from diverse backgrounds with regard to race, ethnicity, immigration status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, and language.
- ❖ Families and Community Members
- ❖ Philanthropic Entities
- ❖ Service Providers
- ❖ State Intermediaries
- ❖ State Agencies, including:
 - Behavioral Health Administration
 - Colorado Department of Early Childhood
 - Colorado Department of Education
 - Colorado Department of Higher Education
 - Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
 - Colorado Department of Human Services
 - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Advisory Council Structure

Role

Core Function(s)

Advisory Council Members

Provide perspective on issues and ideas to address them, gain from lived experience and/or the research

Steering Committee

Guide the group by helping to plan meetings, assisting with barrier busting and helping with recruitment

CDEC

Provide admin support to the Council and Steering Committee and assist with securing resources

GPS (Vendor)

Design and facilitate council and steering committee meetings; manage materials and follow-up

Proposed Working Group Structure

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Executive
Subcommittee

Program Quality and
Alignment
Subcommittee

Data
Subcommittee

Early Childhood
Workforce
Development
Subcommittee

PQA Working Groups

Infant and Early
Childhood Mental
Health Advisory
Council

A Mutually Beneficial Partnership: PQA Alignment

- ❖ **Alignment:** The IECMH Advisory Council is in the early stages of launching its collaborative work which represents an integral component in Colorado's larger investment in early childhood. The opportunity to align strategy and activities on behalf of pregnant women and children and their families is important. Aligning efforts and initiatives across the early childhood system promotes shared awareness, reveals opportunities to maximize the use of resources, and amplifies or accelerates impact for the individuals and communities who are intended beneficiaries.
- ❖ **Workforce:** The IECMH workforce and the ECE workforce provide mutually supportive services to families and young children and the coordination of strategies around workforce will benefit individuals, families, and communities. Further, strategies focusing on professional development, recruitment, and retention will benefit the broader early childhood system, including the IECMH professionals
- ❖ **Healthy Children and Caregivers:** Fostering the developing social, emotional and mental health of children and their caregivers is critical to ensuring all young children can thrive. Robust infant and early childhood mental health supports and services across the continuum of care promotes health and wellbeing, including participation in early care and education, increasing school readiness, and promoting caregiver engagement in child development.

A Mutually Beneficial Partnership: ECLC Work Plan

- ❖ **ECLC Workplan Result 1: Colorado is successful in administering a system of comprehensive early childhood care, education, and supports so that all families can easily identify, navigate and access services for their children.**
 - The IECMH Advisory Council is focused on improving the comprehensive system of care to ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of children and their caregivers is elevated.
- ❖ **ECLC Workplan Result 2: Colorado recruits, retains, and equitably compensates a diverse and qualified early childhood workforce that provides quality care, education, and support to children and their families.**
 - Colorado's Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan includes ECMH consultants and other roles that support the adults in the early childhood system and the IECMH Advisory Council is considering workforce needs, including development, sustainability, and wellbeing.
- ❖ **ECLC Workplan Result 3: Colorado's early childhood system has the data needed to make evidence-based decisions and the funding resources to put best practices and plans into place, so all communities have what is needed to best support young children and families.**
 - Understanding the social and emotional needs of young children, families, educators, and communities is a priority of the IECMH Advisory Council and the Council is committed to making evidence-based recommendations to address gaps and promote wellbeing.

What the Collaboration Would Look Like

If added to the ECLC structure, ECLC would provide the following:

- ❑ ECLC staff person would attend meetings to ensure alignment with other ECLC and PQA efforts
- ❑ ECLC would support inclusivity and transparency by posting meeting materials, etc. on ECLC website
- ❑ PQA co-chairs and Advisory Council leaders would collaborate on presentations from the Advisory Council to the Subcommittee (at least annually)
- ❑ Products created by the Advisory Council will be presented to the PQA Subcommittee; the Subcommittee will then recommend the products to the ECLC for endorsement

Questions and Discussion



- ❖ What questions can we answer?

- ❖ Please contact Lisa Schlueter at lisa.schlueter@state.co.us with any questions

Thank you!



Public Comment

Proposed Meeting Dates for 204

Bi-Monthly on the 2nd Friday

- January 12
- March 8
- May 10
- July 12
- September 13
- November 8

Time: 9:00-11:00 am

ECLC

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

Program Quality & Alignment Subcommittee

Next Meeting
January 12, 2024
9:00 - 11:00 am



Thank you!