



**Pueblo Early
Childhood Council**

MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 27, 2021 VIRTUALLY VIA WEBEX

Mission Statement

Pueblo Early Childhood Council is a diverse, active network that collaborates and advocates to enrich and strengthen the lives of children, families, and the community.

Attendance:

Angie Shehorn-PECC/Children First
Anna Neal-Safe Baby Court
Lindsey Dunbar-PDPHE
Tracey Thatcher-Colorado Bluesky
Ida Rhodes-Catholic Charities
Rayn Rose- Lil Misfit
Renee Muniz-
Rebecca Bellavia-PCDHS
Maria Subia-ESCCC
Ashley Lawless-ECE/PCC
Katrina Appel-Colorado Bluesky
Cindy Keasling-District 70
Teresa Mathews-PECC/Children First

Paula Arellano- PECC/Children First
Molly Milusnic-PECC/Children First
Josette Rusk-SSCC
Sarah Martinez-PDPHE
Veronica Ibarra-Early Learning Ventures
Anna Segura-SSCC2
Dana Richardson-Life Center Academy
Vanessa Richardson-Life Center Academy
Melissa Pino-Safe Baby Court
Mari Palma-ECEMS
Dwanette Martinez-District 70/MEP
Chanelle Stewart-Health Solutions
Brenda Rodriguez-PECC/Children First

I. Introductions: Meeting called to order by Angie at 11:10 am.

II. Additions to the Agenda: Early Minds Matter

Angie asked about merging the Early Minds Matter website with the new Health Department Pueblo County Childhood Resources website. A discussion ensued. Everyone agreed merging the websites would be the most effective way to access all resources.

III. Approval of Minutes: Angie called for the approval of August 2021 minutes as submitted. The minutes are approved.

IV. Agency Highlight-Little Mis-Fit Revolution

Rayn Rose- www.littlemisfit.store nerdyrosepress@outlook.com 409-939-4749

Rayn presented her Little Mis-Fit Revolution. She stated she was an adult therapist dealing with adults with childhood, emotional dysfunction and trauma. She asked why this is happening in adults is and how we can change. She stated it began with children and who their role models are and their care givers. Rayn stated this is how she created Little Mis-Fit Revolution. She wrote a book "The Krolian Giant". She stated the entire purpose of her work is self-discovery through emotional regulation for children, teens and adults to explore their own sense of work and belonging. Rayn asked for campaign support.

Stage 1. Creative content for children and adults-Books and emotional healing tool kits-Whuguides

Stage 2. Build a community of healers

Stage 3. Build relationships with organizations (anyone working with children)

Stage 4. Build an online resource platform with free access

Stage 5. Plant fruit trees to overcome hunger, poverty, unemployment etc.

V. Agency Highlight Follow-up-Experience Engaged (formerly Boomers Leading Change)

-Lisa Armao

Angie stated Lisa is recruiting individuals 50 and older interested in working as substitutes or perhaps starting a new career in early childhood. She reported the training will be free for those individuals who apply to be a part of this initiative. EE will manage the sub-pool. Angie stated Lisa is currently recruiting in Pueblo and Denver metro area. If you are interested, please contact larmao@experienceengaged.org

VI. New Business:

A. Pueblo Community Perspective

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated she sent out the slide deck and recording from the state's town hall meeting about the state and federal stimulus funding that will be available. She emphasized specific points in the slide deck. She mentioned different target areas.

Access Strategies

Activity 1: Child Care Stabilization Grants-payments to providers for operational expenses

Level of quality will determine the amount of money received

Activity 2: Employer-based Child Care Facilities

Activity 3: Circle Grants-Opportunities for communities to have innovative strategies to Address childcare challenges facing Colorado

Activity 4: Quality Improvements Incentives

Activity 5: Licensing Incentives

Activity 6: Availability and Outreach of Child Care, Especially for Infants and Toddlers

Activity 7: Family Child Care Home Navigator Program

Activity 8: Access for Inclusive Care

Activity 9: Emerging and Expanding Grant-cap bumped up to \$200,000

Activity 10: CCCAP Rates & Payments-Increases

Workforce Strategies

Activity 1: sustainability Grants for Workforce Retention-Level does play a factor on the amount of money allowed.

Activity 3: CCCAP Teacher Salary Increases

Activity 4: Free 101 and 103 Coursework-individuals interested in taking classes can for the next 2 years.

1. Improving the Early Childhood Landscape

a. Where do we focus our efforts?

b. What players are NOT at the table?

c. What concerns keep you up at night?

- PCC Faculty lined up and polishing curriculum
- Address compensation/benefits
- Need more providers-Universal Preschool, child care
- School District staff
- Update Professional Development Plan
- Retention
- Expand capacity
- Mental Health Consultation
- Home Visitation

Angie stated she will send out the state slide deck. [Recording of Town Hall](#) [Slide Deck](#)

B. Healthy Halloween

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated the event will take place October 26, 2021, between 9am-12pm, at Praise Assembly, 2000 Troy Avenue, Pueblo, Co. She stated if you would like to be a vendor at the event reach out to Paula at Children First.

C. ARPA Application to the City

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie was happy to announce Children First was awarded funds at a Council Meeting. Recruit new child care programs and side by side mentorship through the licensing process.

D. SBDC Home Provider Business Trainings

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated Children First is working with Small Business Development Center around home provider training. She stated the free Fundamentals of the Childcare Business training will be on Thursday's October 7, 14, 21, 28 and November 4 6pm-8:30pm. Angie mentioned November 11 there will be a Grant Writing workshop regarding the writing and tracking process. She stated all participant will receive licensing hours (12.5 hrs.).

E. Early Childhood Department Planning Session

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie informed the council there is a new Early Childhood Department at the state level. She stated the department will be in Pueblo for a statewide listening tour to hear concerns and answer questions, Wednesday, October 13 from 2pm to 3:30pm on the third floor of the Health Department. Angie will send out the flyer.

F. Communities That Care Update

Sarah Martinez (Health Department)

Sarah recognized Angie for championing the new early childhood resource website through news interviews with KOAA and FOX. She stated the website has been getting lots of hits. Sarah mentioned specifically the interactive map containing information about licensed preschool programs, centers and home providers. Sarah mentioned it is over laid with census tract data. She addressed the Childcare home zoning in the County discussion with Commissioner Wiseman regarding the free zoning fees for homes. She stated she and Angie have used this visual when talking with policy makers and elected officials to communicate the demand versus the supply of child care in Pueblo. Sarah emphasized this visual will help when applying for grants.

G. Mobile Child Care for addiction treatment

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie announced Children First is in the process of working with Illuminate Colorado to bring to Pueblo a retro-fitted RV to assist families at addiction treatment centers with childcare. She stated three communities will benefit from this RV and Pueblo is one of the communities. She stated there is one in the San Luis Valley and Denver metro area and are working very well. She will update as soon as she has information.

H. Feedback is appreciated-Department of Early Childhood Transition Planning and Universal Preschool Recommendations

Angie Shehorn (Children First)

Angie stated feedback will be appreciated. She reported there a lot of questions regarding the Colorado Pre-school program and where that will end up as Universal Preschool rolls out due to Proposition EE passing. [HERE](#)

VI. Sub Groups: (subgroups); please read mission statement

A. Social Emotional – Lindsey Dunbar/Wendy Romero

Lindsey mentioned Wendy is trained in the ASQ training and in the coming months that training will be available. She stated the group is focusing on building relationships between the mental health childcare consultants and childcare providers. She mentioned they created a focus group with parents to look at the gaps and barriers around accessing childcare, a lot of behavior health concerns came up. Lindsey stated she is working with Rayn. She mentioned she will be teaching QPR-suicide prevention training- October 13, virtually. Lindsey provided a survey link for Pueblo county residents using or searching childcare. She posted the next meeting October 19, Tuesday from 2 to 3pm.

dunbar@pueblocounty.us / gwendolynr@health solutions

B. Early Care and Learning- Rita Samora and Mari Palma

Mari stated they have not set a date for future meetings due to lack of staff.

C. Family Connects –Emilee Alcon

Molly stated Emilee is still maternity leave. She stated last Tuesday with only four in attendance. She mentioned HIPPY and PAT are currently recruiting. She informed everyone the meetings are every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2 to 3 pm. Molly stated activities will be updated on the Early Minds Matter Calendar. She stated the Rawlings Library is going through renovations at this time and the children's area will be relocated.

D. Health and Wellness Advisory - Justin Gage

Paula reported they attended and supported the upcoming Health Halloween event. She mentioned the roll out of the new Childcare Resources website created by the Health Department. She stated they are working on the future of immunizations and dental, vision screenings in collaboration with the PCC nursing program once they transition to St. Mary Corwin. Paula stated they meet every third month on the second Wednesday, next meeting November 10, 2021 at 1pm via Zoom. She encouraged anyone interested in joining the sub group to contact Justin.

VII. Community Reports:

- **Safe Baby Court-** Ann informed the council the Rocky Mountain Children’s law center is having their caregiver over 50 clinic. She stated the event is virtual and if there are non-parent caregivers over 50 needing assistance understanding the requirements for kinship or custodial adoptions, how to get started in the court process, help them through the paperwork, getting educational access and medical care. She stated she will share the flyer with Angie.

VIII. Evaluation Process

Eileen Dennis

Angie stated Eileen Dennis from Triple Aim will be sending an evaluation (1-5 rating with feedback) email after every council meeting. Angie stated Eileen will compile and share those reports. She stated the information is received in aggregate and any information will help make this a beneficial meeting for all council members.

IX. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

X. Next Meeting: The next meeting is Monday, October 25, 2021 at 11:00 am. Location: Virtually via Webex.

Local Resources

Children First Child Care Connections – www.childrenfirstco.org

Early Minds Matter - <https://www.earlymindsmatter.org/>

Pueblo County Childhood Resources <https://county.pueblo.org/public-health/pueblo-county-childhood-resources>

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Arellano