SMART Act Hearing
Who We Are

• Colorado’s federally recognized STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL on Early Childhood

• Created in 2010; REAUTHORIZED by HB22-1295 until 2025
§ 26.5-1-302 EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION - MISSION

(1) There is created in the state department the early childhood leadership commission. The purpose of the commission is to ensure and advance a comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children from birth to eight years of age using data to improve decision-making, alignment, and coordination among federally funded and state-funded services and programs for pregnant women and young children and their families.

At a minimum, the comprehensive service delivery system for pregnant women and children must include services in the areas of prenatal health, child health, child mental health, early learning, and family support and parent education.
WHO WE ARE

21 Members including 6 STATE AGENCIES

PARENTS
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
COUNTY GOVERNMENTS
PROVIDERS
PUBLIC HEALTH
FOUNDATIONS
HEALTH
HEAD START
BUSINESS

ECLC
Early Childhood Leadership Commission
WHO WE ARE

• Statutory Duties Include:
  • Advise and make **RECOMMENDATIONS**
  • Assist public and private entities with **ALIGNMENT**
  • Monitor strategies to increase **ACCESS, QUALITY** and **EQUITY** of early childhood services and supports
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

ECLC (Early Childhood Leadership Commission)

Co-Chairs:
- Susan Steele
- Sue Renner
- Adeeb Khan

Executive Subcommittee
- ECLC + Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Program Quality and Alignment Subcommittee
- Anna Jo Haynes
- Jeanne McQueeney

Data Subcommittee
- Susan Steele
- Whitney LeBoeuf
- Carsten Baumann

Workforce Development Subcommittee
- Heather Craiglow
- Jennifer O’Brien
- Paula Smith
- Diana Schaack

Home Visiting Investment Strategy Working Group

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Working Group

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Council

Waiver Review Subcommittee
- Heather Craiglow
- Susan Steele
- Jeanne McQueeney
Department of Early Childhood & Universal Preschool Recommendations - Approved by ECLC

Full Report
Executives Summaries in English, Spanish and Arabic

Full Report
Executives Summaries in English, Spanish and Arabic
The CDEC and UPK reports centered on the guiding principles adopted by the ECLC.
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.
# Revised Early Childhood Colorado Framework

## If We Believe
- **Equity Driven**
  - All Children Served
  - Child, Family, and Community Centered
  - Holistic Services Approach
  - Thriving, Effective Workforce
  - Mixed Delivery System
  - High Quality Standards
  - Innovation
  - Streamlined Efficiency
  - Data-Driven, Outcomes-Focused Decisions
  - Accountability

## Early Childhood System
- **Children and Families**
  - Comprehensive services to fully support the healthy bodies and minds of children and their families.
  - Resources and networks that support families as their child’s first caregiver and most important teacher.

## Workforce
- Early childhood professionals who are diverse, equitably compensated, and prepared to serve in the many settings involved in child health, development, and education.

## Leadership
- A strong underlying network of leaders to make timely and responsive decisions about programs and policies.

## Funding
- Abundant resources to fully meet the needs of children, families, and communities.

## Data & Research
- Information to better understand the early childhood system and plan future actions that lead to improved, sustainable, and more equitable outcomes.

## Collaboration
- All elements working together—in local communities to the state level—toward a shared vision for all of Colorado’s young children.

## And Build a Strong System
- **Whole Child Health and Well-Being**
  - Early care and education that nurtures children’s physical, social-emotional, and intellectual growth.

## Outcomes
- **Access**
  - All children and families have access to a range of early childhood services that are culturally relevant, meet their needs and preferences, and are equitably allocated and available.

## Vision
- **Quality**
  - Every young child and family experiences a high-quality environment that supports all areas of well-being, affirms all aspects of their identity, and leads to equitable opportunities.

## Impact
- **Alignment**
  - All the components of the early childhood system are aligned and coordinated so families are able to easily identify, navigate, and receive services.

## The Future of Colorado
- **All Children are Valued, Healthy, and Thriving**
LOOKING FORWARD

1. Support development of Colorado’s Statewide Early Childhood Strategic Plan
2. Endorse and Implement Colorado’s Comprehensive Early Childhood Workforce Plan
3. Advise on the statutorily required Evaluation of CDEC
4. Continue to support implementation of CDEC and Universal Preschool
5. Champion the new Early Childhood Colorado Framework
THANK YOU!

For more information:
www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org

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