

## Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance - Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 21-22, 2011

**Time:** 9-4 & 8:30-3:30

**Location:** Red Rocks Community College

**Attendance:** Cindy Bernal, Pat Bolton, Lucinda Burns, Emily Bustos, Ashanté Butcher, Danielle Butler, Gretchen Davidson, Anne Fitzpatrick, Meg Franko, Mary Garcia, Jildi Gentry-Chacon, Kristi Glasper, Sandy Gregory, Jodi Hardin, Holly Jacobson, Cathy James, Joyce Johnson, Jessica Jones, Jo Koehn, Stephanie Martin, Vangi McCoy, Sudy Opsahl, Janine Pryor, Sondra Ranum, Scott Raun, Cathryn Reiber, Kathy Reinhardt, Kris Robledo, Angela Rothermel, Judy Rusher, Sheryl Shushan, Tracy Sperry, Claudia Strait, Marilyn Sturek, Bev Thurber, Shanna Torkelson, Sharon Triolo-Moloney, Heather Tritten, Tamara Volz, Margaret Wacker, Pam Walker, Barbara West

**Guests:** Scott Downes-Colorado Trust

**Absent:** Sherri Valdez, Nicole Houghland/Bill MacDonald

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Conclusions/ Recommendations	Actions/ Follow-up
CO Trust Public Will Building Initiative Presentation	<p>To think about during the presentation-what role might this have in your work down the road? The CO Trust wants to connect this work to other coalitions that are working on these types of issues.</p> <p>Q &amp; A Should we as a group in early childhood develop a value added message? Or should we all do our own? That is a decision for your group but it is better to have consistent themes than to be all over the place. It can be tough to come to common ground but the best way to do it is to pilot messages in different areas.</p> <p>4 outcomes how they go about determining if they were successful in reaching those outcomes. Traditional evaluation methods don't work. Each partner has developed their own indicators. Cluster level or whole strategy</p> <p>I like the idea of simple messaging and have been thinking about how this can work with other areas. There is no over promising. Tell us what you want and we will get that message to leaders.</p>		<p>(get presentation &amp; handouts where possible)</p> <p>If you have follow up questions contact Scott Downes. <a href="mailto:scott@coloradotrust.org">scott@coloradotrust.org</a> 303/539-3104</p>

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Open Space	<p>The topics that were discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More discussion on the information presented by the CO Trust, and how that framework can be used in the early childhood arena. Question arose as to whether or not the ECCLA communication sub-committee wants to become active again with this as one focus of their work.</li> <li>• CCAP issues and Child Care Rules and Regulations: discussion focused on the changes being made in rules &amp; regulations, and how those changes may affect quality. Concern expressed that some centers will have to close and parents will have to pick up the tab.</li> <li>• Connecting with your local ECLC members: discussed ways to connect with local ECLC members. recommendations and acknowledge the coordinators who have active role with members and it is important to be a resource and the possibilities of the role they can play. Contact anyone at the table to get ideas. ELC-important to see that councils get operating funds from this and how do we quickly begin to look in that direction.</li> <li>• Audit group-need for a lot of documentation and explaining why; challenges with braided funding; many don't do time reporting-examples would be appreciated; -we are still working on where the documentation is going to be housed whether that will stay at the local level or if we will collect it at the state level.</li> </ul>	<p>Sign up for the ECLC groupsite to receive emails and blogs to stay informed about the work of the different committees. Recommendation from this table is that at least one coordinator join each of the sub-committees. Use time at ECCLA to develop common messages and goals for feedback.</p> <p>Please do some TA around proper auditing and cost allocation</p>	<p>Sheryl will send out an email with information about the group site for the ECLC. Sheryl will check to see if phoning in is an option, as that technology has not always worked smoothly in the past.</p>

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<p>Early Learning Challenge Fund</p>	<p>Jodi Hardin from the Lt. Governor’s office presented a PowerPoint presentation on the current status of the Early Learning Challenge Fund. Anticipate receiving final grant guidance in mid-August, with RFA due in mid-October (approximately). Colorado did submit an Intent to Apply letter, along with 36 other states. States weren’t required to submit a letter, so other states may still apply. Governor Hickenlooper also received a letter from the Build Initiative and First Five, which may provide some additional TA to Colorado to complete its application.</p> <p>In terms of Colorado’s process, the Lt. Governor’s office (Jodi Hardin) is the lead for Phase I (pre-planning phase). There is also an Advisory Group- Stephanie is the ECCLA contact on this group. A Steering Committee is also being developed, and will include Administration reps., state dept staff; content experts and members of the ECLC. A project manager has been hired to coordinate the work of applying for these funds. Phase 2 is likely to be 6-8 weeks long and focuses on the actual putting together of the application.</p> <p>Heather Tritten discussed the upcoming Listening Tour (7/29 – 8/5). The intention is for the Lt. Governor’s office to hear directly from everyone around the state on ideas for the grant, The Steering Committee will ultimately decide what gets included in the grant.</p> <p>In addition to the Early Learning Challenge Fund opportunity, LG’s office staff also discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The upcoming ECLC meeting on 7/26, which will focus on governance recommendations. A report regarding that will be out tomorrow.</li> <li>• There is also an Infant/Toddler Policy Assessment Survey: this would be the first step to creating an Infant/Toddler policy agenda. Please complete the survey and also pass it along to your networks.</li> <li>• Colorado has been selected as a learning lab on school readiness with Maryland. CO will be doing a presentation to Maryland, and in November a team from Maryland will come to CO to discuss and focus on school readiness.</li> </ul>		

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<p>Transition Team Report &amp; Q &amp; A</p>	<p>Members of the Transition Team presented information about the work done to date by the team. Each of the work groups- 501c3, membership, and roles/functions discussed their work to date, and the team as a whole presented the three documents (the schematic, the vision/mission statements, and the draft organizational goals.</p> <p>ECCLA split into small groups to discuss issues related to the three documents that were presented, and to generate questions. Some of the feedback/questions that were presented were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Board: resource partners &amp; an Advisory Board- have all ECCLA members on the advisory board</li> <li>• Questions around what would change with state staff, how would the support ECCLA receives currently be different?</li> <li>• Shorter terms on board</li> <li>• State participation limited to membership; can the state be represented on a 501c3 non-profit?</li> <li>• What are we missing out of if we don't become a non-profit?</li> <li>• If a council elects not to be a member of the new organization, can they still be receiving funding as a council?</li> <li>• State staff role in our meetings?</li> <li>• Is it a conflict of interest for a council coordinator to be on the board of the new ECCLA?</li> <li>• Are we putting the cart before the horse; are there interim steps that can be explored?</li> <li>• Membership questions- is it limited to council coordinators or other leaders as well? Executive Board that's a few members, and an advisory group that has more members?</li> </ul>		<p>ECCLA Organizational goals approved to become public.</p> <p>ECCLA TT authorized to continue to investigate moving forward with a formalized structure.</p>
<p>State Level Data Systems Update</p>	<p>Sharon Triolo-Moloney presented information on the work being done via the SLDS-State Level Data Systems Grant. The OIT-Office of Information and Technology is the lead agency-an RFP will be out soon for a vendor to build a hub for the data.</p> <p>The ECLC's data committee has received a presentation from OIT on this process. To test what types of data requests the system might receive in the future, "use case scenarios" were developed. Two were specifically related to early childhood; they are:</p>	<p>A one-page synopsis of this would be very handy. Can that be developed, and would it contain information about who to contact at the local level?</p> <p>Yes, that is currently being developed.</p>	

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	<p>1. Tracking providers so we know where more about them and their credentials; and</p> <p>2. Tracking the types and quality of ECE settings children have been in prior to entering kindergarten.</p> <p>Q &amp; A and Comments:</p> <p>The data has to be statewide. It can't just be a few people doing it. With this system everyone keeps their data but when requests come in access happens as needed. Each agency is responsible for updating on their own.</p> <p>Is it just aggregate data or can you get a profile about an individual child?            People want it to be both, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions especially about protection/confidentiality. There are still a lot of questions about where this is going.</p> <p>The state is working on pulling data systems together-the questions are about who will be allowed access to it. There are many opportunities with the ECLC going on so even if the SLDS doesn't address the data needs in your community there are other opportunities to address those needs.</p> <p>What kind of data is being collected locally through shared services? How are we going to use this data and how are we going to paint a picture of the work being done?. There is a way through the shared services online work that will allow data for the adults working with children, but it is still in the very early stages. The entry point for tracking data will be the sites working with shared services. It is very dynamic and we think there is a lot of potential but it is still new. The platform is really about collecting the data in a very family centered way.</p>		

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Creating Rainbows with Personality IQ	Jo Koehn presented information on “True Colors” that helped group members know themselves and each other a little more deeply. Activity focuses on various elements of personality Small group conversations about applying this information to ECCLA.	Use information about strengths and needs of each personality type to help plan ECCLA meetings.	Steering Committee will discuss.
Business Meeting	<p><u>Legislative Update-Jennifer Landrum</u>  Rejoined the Colorado Children’s Campaign  Brought the Colorado Children’s Campaign 2011 Legislative Impacts handout  SB213 vetoed by Governor Hickenlooper-would impose monthly premiums for kids enrolled in CHP+  Starting to talk about rewriting the school finance formula-opportunity to deeply embed early childhood in that process so that it maintains the things we know are important for early childhood.  Rollie Heath’s ballot initiative that would increase spending for preK-12 education-to look for in November  Efforts in Colorado around early literacy-some opportunity to do things in policy around early literacy-start thinking about that now  Results of the ECLC work on governance-meeting next Tuesday at Community College of Aurora-work in the next legislative session will be around implementing this work and participating in that process  Is there anything this group may need to consider opposing? No, nothing is on the horizon quite yet. This is the time to be engaging and getting involved.  Early Childhood School Readiness Commission is being re-activated.  Coloradokids.org</p> <p><u>Steering Committee Report-Sandy, Stephanie</u></p> <p>Stephanie shared with everyone that she is the ECCLA representative on the Advisory Group that is helping with the development of the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge Fund proposal. Feedback to the Advisory Group should flow through Stephanie. Also, she reminded everyone that the steering committee consists of the two co-chairs, each sub-committee’s</p>		

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	<p>chair, and state staff. As we are transitioning leadership (Sandy's term as co-chair is ending) both Sandy and Sheryl will attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee. Sheryl's term begins in September. The Steering Committee is the place to bring agenda ideas or to ask for changes or things you would like to see.</p> <p><b>External Committee Involvement Reports:</b></p> <p><u>ABCD (Cathy James)</u>-report sent via email</p> <p><u>EC Summit (Lucinda, Stephanie, Kathy)</u>-retreat in August</p> <p><u>Help Me Grow (Cindy)</u>-report sent via email</p> <p><u>Framework in Action/State Partners (Janine &amp; Bev)</u>-meeting of the team on May 24 and council coordinators were invited- have been sending out the minutes. Next meeting is in September and all council coordinators will again be invited and a notice will go out.</p> <p><b>Coordinator/Local Council Announcements:</b></p> <p>Conference in Gunnison/Hinsdale in October</p> <p><b>Resource Partners Announcements:</b></p> <p><u>Meg:</u> Annual Collaboration Survey- it will soon be time for the survey to go out again (August). It would be great to get an 80% response rate from local council members.</p> <p>Darren Hicks analyzed the results for each council; the state has just received that information. It is aggregate now, but Meg will be breaking it up and sending it out to each council individually. Read it knowing that the information is now nearly a year old and that you may have already implemented some changes.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Who should be included in the survey, only active council members, or everyone? You will get better results the more people you include in the survey; people may not be active for a variety of</p>		

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	<p>reasons, and the survey could capture some of that information if it is sent out more broadly.</p> <p>Is there a limited time frame they need to be on the Council? We had people who said last year that they weren't on Council very long and thought they couldn't respond. There is leeway in that- use your best judgment, but please remember that this is not a test and you are not being graded on it. The survey is meant to be a tool that each council can use for its own growth and development. Make sure you let us know if you have new people and maybe that is why they are not responding.</p> <p>If you have additional questions about the survey, please e-mail Meg directly.</p> <p><u>Joyce</u>: Handed out the calendar for the year. This will be posted on the CDE website. All meetings posted for the whole year. Will be updated and posted throughout the year.</p> <p><u>Scott</u>: TA Coordinator Position update: CDHS has hired 2 new specialists in their HR, which will allow the job to be posted sooner than anticipated, should be mid to late August.</p> <p><u>Sharon</u>: School Readiness Pilots- Mandatory school readiness assessment system will be implemented. We have had several communities who will pilot. The system specifically Teaching Strategies Gold. 15 classrooms in 8-10 school districts. A team will be involved at each site which will include teachers and administrators and in preschool it will include teachers and directors. What kinds of supports do the adults need? What does it actually cost? Are there assessments going on currently in Kindergarten? In a few of these sites they are already thinking about this in a broader sense and what does a P-3 system look like and more looking at birth to 8 and this will help guide decisions coming down the road. A brief will be available in the next few weeks and that will be sent out to you. Many people have been eager to be involved. We haven't had to recruit people to get involved. Tool for 2013 implementation has not been selected yet. This process is a trial to see how this tool works.</p>		



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Subcommittees	<p><b>Policy</b> They talked about the upcoming listening tour. As a group they wanted to provide some TA for everyone. Will put that in an email and in writing so that you have talking points for the tour. Colorado's council system is unique and special because of its local control and innovation. There is an entity that represents the councils and it is called ECCLA. And there are 30 councils that also have a unique role. Part of the state system and should contact the ECCLA co-chairs for information. We want the message to be consistent and the email will be coming from Bev. The consistency part is going to be very important but we also took the liberty of giving the names for the co-chairs and want to make sure we have a way to provide input.</p> <p><b>Peer Mentoring &amp; Support</b> Discussions about the first Friday calls looking at November, December and January. Investigating the feasibility of a blog or forum on the toolkit. How do we share what we have and who would have the responsibility to answer questions on that blog.</p> <p><b>Evaluation</b> Focus on program evaluation and reporting we are currently doing. Looked at all of our CO Trust reports we turned in back in May.</p>	<p>A motion was made to make an hour available at next ECCLA meeting for working on Vision and Mission.</p> <p>A motion was made to talk about resurrecting the communications committee at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Steering Committee will consider that as part of its role in setting the agenda.</p>