Cheyenne, Kiowa, Lincoln County Early Childhood Council
Council and Board of Directors Meeting Minutes



cklecc.org
719-775-8622
Supporting children, families, and early childhood programs in Cheyenne, Kiowa, and Lincoln Counties.

September 9, 2024 / 1:05 PM

CKLECC Council and Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

In-Person: Dennis Pearson (Board Chair/Director Kiowa County DHS); Julie Witt (Council Coordinator); Lora White (CKLECC Admin. Assistant); Haley Leonard (CKLECC Financial Manager); Candie Chamberlain (CKLECC FFN Coordinator)

Zoom: Carole Spady (Quality Improvement Coach); Lisa Thomas (About F.A.C.E.); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health); Kailey Meardon (Valley Wide Health Group); Tyann Conley (Safe Care Colorado); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS); Amber Ellis (Parent/Treasurer)

Absent Board Members: Cindy Ferree (Director LCDC); Heather Randolph (Baby Bear Hugs); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College); Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Sharon Mauch (Family Advocate Kiowa County Collaborative Management)

MEETING CALLED BY:

Dennis Pearson (Board Chair/ Director Kiowa County DHS)

COUNCIL MEMBER AGENDA

College Invest Grant Programs for ages 0-8- Ben Samuels

- Ben shared that College Invest is a non-profit program within CDEC that manages Colorado's 529 college savings plans. These plans are tax free and tax deductible savings accounts for higher education.
- College Invest has two programs aimed at younger children

- First Step is for children born or adopted in CO by January of 2020 (Children up to 5 years old)
    - To participate parents need to open a 529 account and present their child's birth certificate
    - College Invest then contributes $100 to the account
- Matching Grant is for children 8 years or younger for children claimed on your taxes that reside in CO.
    - Families that have a First Step account are auto enrolled in the Matching Grant Program. College Invest will match your investment in your 529 up to $500 each year for 5 years.
    - Families must reapply each year to receive their matching amounts for the 5 years they are eligible for up until the child is 18 years old.
    - The Matching Grant Program is open from Oct.-Dec. each year
- CKLECC will share the information about College Invest at Diaper Banks and with our programs.

August Meeting Minutes- Dennis Pearson

- Kailey motioned to approve and Shannon seconded. The motion carried.

LCO/UPK Updates- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that UPK is in the direct enrollment phase only now.
- We have 76 - 4 year olds total. We are unable to see how many 3 year olds are enrolled at this time.
- Programs were sent info on self reporting that is due on Sept. 16th. Julie is checking to see if the self reports are required by the state.
- There has been a change in the system so that we can see the number of IEP seats available in each program.
- Payment schedules are still tricky. Aug. 1st enrollments were sent a payment on August 15th as a prepayment. Any reconciliations will be done in May for enrolled children after August 15th.

- Our LCO funding has been updated. We will be receiving $6,000 more than we were initially told. We do expect funding cuts across all streams over the next few years.
- We held our first regional UPK call last week for the 24-25 school year. We did not get great attendance but that has been typical. We do send out the recording so that providers that don't attend can still access the information

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Project Include Kits- Just a reminder that these kits are still available for programs use.
- Annual Staff Meeting
    - Child Care Network (revamp of FFN)
        - We decided we will work on rewording our program recruitment
        - We will offer incentives such as a welcome wagon for achieving different tiers in our Child Care Network such as various trainings or becoming a CCCAP provider.
            - We did find that the CCCAP reimbursement for Licensed Exempt providers is only $12.50/day. Dennis felt that there could be a parental fee charged in addition to the CCCAP payment rate but wasn't sure. We will check into this further.
        - We hope to coordinate with local libraries during story hours to do PDIS training with providers while the children do activities.
    - New Providers
        - We do have quite a few new names we are reaching out to for participation in the Child Care Network.
        - There is 1 new licensed home provider in Hugo.
        - There is 1 new potential licensed home provider in Cheyenne County that is working on the pre-licensing training.
    - The first provider training will take place this month on September 25th. We will ask the providers again if they would like for training to be offered

in person in Kiowa or Cheyenne County but that hasn't been successful in the past.

- We finished Buell spending by purchasing items for the Child Care Network and FFN Revamp as well as giving out two scholarships for teachers taking ECE classes.
- Dr. Roy with CDEC has requested to meet with us to discuss the lack of care in our area. We hope she will be willing to join one of our Child Care Task Force meetings as well.
- Lora submitted an application for the Eastern Colorado Bank Giving Back grant requesting funds to support the efforts of the Child Care Network.
- All providers were sent a Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Packet for the 24/25 fiscal year.

Quality Improvement- Carole Spady

- Carole shared that she is getting back into preparing for coaching with programs after the summer break. She will be reaching out to all programs to see if they plan to apply for Quality Improvement Grants. She is in the process of making plans for what training will be offered on September 25th.

FFN- Candie Chamberlain

- Candie reported that she had seven providers participating in the FFN program this month. This includes three new families. One is a true FFN provider who has provided her contact information to provide for families.

Child Care Updates- Julie Witt

- Julie shared that the August Child Care Taskforce Meeting had a great turnout. Ten providers joined the group to answer questions and provide feedback on the challenges and barriers they are experiencing in the early childhood field. The next meeting date is pending as Julie and Lora work to schedule a time that Dr. Roy with the Department of Early Childhood can possibly join.

Council Member Updates

- Kailey Meardon shared that Valley Wide would have their Mind Matters Coffee and Conversation as a public forum on Sept. 17th to discuss services they provide. It is open to not only Kiowa County, but surrounding areas. It is in-person only and will continue to be held quarterly.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

Board Vice Chair Position- Julie Witt

- Cindy contacted Julie earlier in the month to let her know she and Lisa had discussed the Vice Chair position. Cindy had spoken to Lisa about recommending her for Vice Chair, but Lisa would feel more comfortable with the role of Secretary. Lisa recommended she take Cindy's role as secretary and Cindy would agree to accept the position of Vice Chair if the board was in agreement. Julie requested a vote from the board; however, Cindy was absent so the group decided to table the decision until the October meeting.

Board Member Recruitment- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that both potential board members who had expressed interest did not submit a letter of interest before today's meeting. Julie will follow up with both Colleen Walsh and Alex Erwin to see if they are still interested. If not, some brainstorming will be needed. CKLECC is still meeting state requirements by maintaining a board of 10 members.

Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for August. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, EFTPS, CenturyLink, Staff Payroll and Mileage, Stop & Shop for Utilities and Rent, Office Works, Bohall Neubauer & Co. for 990 filing, Limon Leader, Evergreen Systems & Technology for computer repair for an old invoice, Colorado State University for scholarships, Cheyenne Wells Grocery,

Crow's Stop and Shop, Katie's Korner, Kit Carson Mini Mart, Osborne's Supermarket, Stop & Shop, Tim Anderson, and First National Bank of Omaha.

- Monthly expenditures by funding source were as follows: AOC $0, BUELL $6,864.68, CCRR $82.87, CSQI $3,174.10, E&E $225.67, FHCN $403.12, GAE CO Shines $0, LCO/UPK $2,018.35, LCDHS $0, SB $2,865.14, totaling $15,633.93.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 3 deposits: (LCO- $6,384.31, FCCH- $59.13, GAE COShines- $1,422.71) for a total deposit from the State of $7,866.15, (AOC- $266.06, CCR&R- $41.61, SB- $1,949.02) for a total deposit from the State of $2,256.72 and finally LCDHS $582.04
- The Balance Sheet showed $65,518.90 for August and $470,658.42 for July.
- The Expenditure Spreadsheet showing funding left by source showed ECSB $ 49,002.46, CSQI $ 55,678.19, CCR&R $ 3,486.49, AOC $ 851.94, FCCH Nav. $ 1,772.75, Buell $ 0.20, LCDHS $0, E&E $ 24,277.52, LCO $ 34,625.49 for a total funding left of $ 169,695.04

Amber motioned to approve the financials as presented by Haley and Kathleen seconded, the motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 7th @ 1:00 p.m.

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CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date