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.

October 7, 2024 / 1:06 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); Heather Randolph (Baby Bear Hugs)

Zoom: Cindy Ferree (Director LCDC); Carole Spady (Quality Improvement Coach); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health); Kailey Meardon (Valley Wide Health Group); Tyann Conley (Safe Care Colorado); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS); Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Rosie Gomez (The Cornerstone Resource Center)

Absent Board Members: Lisa Thomas (About F.A.C.E.); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College); Amber Ellis (Parent/Treasurer)

MEETING CALLED BY:

Dennis Pearson (Board Chair/ Director Kiowa County DHS)

COUNCIL MEMBER AGENDA

September Meeting Minutes- Dennis Pearson

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

LCO/UPK Updates- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that we will possibly be assigned a new regional specialist due to turnover within the group of specialists. We are temporarily being put in the Southeast region with Jessica Bernett as our new specialist for the time being.
- Julie is still holding a provider update meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month via Zoom
- There is already a lot of talk about year 3 planning and the requirement from the state is to have the providers all set up sooner. This year provider set-up forms and seat counts are possibly due by October 15th.
- Pre-registration will start 12/17 through 2/5, then matches will be made on 2/10.
- It is likely that direct enrollment will begin in April and that most of our programs will just do direct enrollment after that date.
- The UPK Quality Standards are broken into five key areas of early childhood education:

1. Basic Eligibility
2. Teacher Quality and Workforce
3. Instructional Practice
4. Healthy Development
5. Family and Community Engagement

- The provider resource bank is planned to launch in January. It will include all of the handbooks, forms, curriculum samples and more.
- There have not been a lot of questions coming through besides about IEP placements and some regarding the first payments that came through in August.

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that we have been working to revamp the FFN program and to create a Child Care Network with new ways of advertising and to offer some incentives for providers to join
- We are still working on collecting provider updates and input on training topics we can offer. Most of the providers have returned their surveys and we will be working to input the annual updates into the system soon.
- Our annual calendar will have a different theme this year, focused on recognizing each of our programs with a different one featured each month. Lora will be

sending out a questionnaire to each program to gather information and pictures to include in the calendar.

- We held a training for licensed home providers to update them on new rules and also held a pre-licensing training for one new home provider in the process of becoming licensed.
- Julie and Lora met with a group of ladies from CDEC: Rebecca Vlasin (Director of EC Workforce Dept.), Carin Rosa (Director of Early Learning and Licensing), Dawn ODean (Director of UPK Program), Karen Enboden (Quality Rating and Improvement System Manager), Dr. Lisa Roy (Executive Director CDEC) to share information about the closing of CLLC and other recent local child care issues. The conversation was great and the group requested to come to our next child care task force meeting. We are working on setting a date during the last week of October with them.
- Julie and Lora also met with Kevin Stansbury and Joe Miklosi (Founder of Bridge Consulting with experience lobbying for rural nonprofits in Colorado). We will be holding a follow up meeting with their group at the end of October as well to see what options might be there.
- Lora provided an update on the diaper bank stating that there are quite a few new registrations in Cheyenne County for a total of 22 children there and 66 children in Lincoln County. Last month we handed out books and reading tips. This month we will hand out resources on safe sleep and have baby clothes out for giveaway.
- Julie reported that we recently gave away our first welcome wagon to Alisa Carson for being one of our first newly licensed home providers. It was filled with a variety of items for child care.

Quality Improvement- Carole Spady

- Carole reported that she has completed 1 pre-licensing training in Cheyenne county and the first monthly provider training in September with 5 providers attending. The training was given by Shannon.

- She has also been working on getting the final MOUs signed to begin coaching. Most of the districts have theirs in. There are 6 programs planning on signing MOUs this year.
- Kayla Buchanan recently applied to bump her rating from a level 2 to a level 3,4,or 5. She will have a surprise observation in November, will need to turn in more paperwork and then should hear the results of her new rating level.
- Julie also shared that the training offered last week by Dennise, our licensing specialist, on the new home provider rules went well and all but one licensed home provider were in attendance.

FFN- Candie Chamberlain

- Candie shared that she has 8 participants in the FFN program but will be losing one that is becoming a licensed provider soon.
- Most of her FFN providers are serving 2 year olds so she is adjusting the curriculum to fit that age group as needed.
- Candie also did put up banners and put out information at the Eads and Kit Carson Fairs but they did not seem to generate much interest.
- Candie stated that she is looking for new ways to reach more providers.

Child Care Updates- Julie Witt and Lora White

- Lora reported that CLLC has officially finished up moving out of the Hugo United Methodist Church and at a meeting last week decided what to do with the remaining funds:
    - $23,500 will be donated to CKLECC to begin a stipend fund for the Child Care Network. The funds are to be used to aid new and existing child care providers of any kind in meeting licensing requirements or possibly health care options in the future.
    - The remaining balance will be transferred with the CLLC name to Kit Carson with Kayla Buchanan serving as the director. Her hope is to open a center in Kit Carson in the near future.
- Julie shared again about the meeting with CDEC staff and that they had shared some interesting ideas such as a COOP between local organizations, a project in Ouray where they have built new homes with incentives for child care providers

and a pilot program to offer benefits to early childhood educators. It was also mentioned that there will likely be some federal changes to CCCAP that should favor providers.

Council Member Updates

- Julie shared that we do still need to find a few more board members. We are sitting at 10 right now which is required by state rule but if we lose any others we will need to file a waiver. Julie has not had any success with the two leads she had received for potential board members. Julie would especially like to have another member from Cheyenne County as we do not have great representation from that county.
- Rosie Gomez from The Cornerstone Resource Center will be listening in on our meetings for the time being but is hopeful that when they find someone for their EI Coordinator Position and that person would be willing to serve on our board.
- Autumn Pelton mentioned that she will reach out to some stay at home moms that are active in the community as well.
- Cindy shared that LCDC was notified that they did not get the Early Head Start Grant they had applied for.
- Cindy also shared that LCDC just started a new program called 7 Mindsets that is meant to help teach positive character building. It is currently being used by Limon School as well.
- TyAnn shared that she has three active families in Kiowa County and one in Cheyenne County with numerous referrals coming in as well.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

Board Vice Chair Position- Dennis Pearson

- Heather made a motion that Cindy Ferree be moved to the position of Vice Chair and that Lisa Thomas be moved to Secretary, Kathleen seconded and the motion carried.

Board Member Recruitment- Julie Witt

- Julie reported on this earlier during the council member updates.

Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for September. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, Imagination Library, Century Link, Cowbell Insurance Agency (for Cyber Insurance), Payroll and Milage for staff, Quill, Cheyenne Wells Grocery, Crow's Stop and Shop, Katies Korner, Kit Carson Mini Mart, Osbornes Supermarket, and Stop 'n' Shop Supermarket for the food program, Stop & Shop for rent and utilities, First National Bank of Omaha (credit card)
- Monthly expenditures by funding source were as follows: AOC $365, BUELL $47.07, CCRR $912.65, CSQI $3,339.33, E&E $637.50, FHCN $1,291.72, LCO/UPK $2,993.44, LCDHS $0, SB $4,479.81, totaling $14.066.52.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 2 deposits: Systems Building for a total deposit from the State of $3.127.69, FCCH Navigator for a total deposit from the State of $443.43.
- The Balance Sheet showed $81,498.08 for September and $91,016.41 for August.
- The Expenditure Spreadsheet showing funding left by source showed ECSB $47,950.29, CSQI $54,290.78, CCR&R $3,478.20, AOC $851.94, FCCH Nav. $1,732.44, Buell $0.20, LCDHS $0, E&E $ 26,000.26, LCO $33,359.26 for a total funding left of $167,663.37

Cindy motioned to approve the financials as presented by Haley and Heather seconded, the motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for November 4th @ 1:00 p.m.

CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date