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.

July 7, 2025 / 1:04 PM

CKLECC Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

In-Person: Julie Witt (Council Coordinator); Lora White (CKLECC Admin. Assistant); Haley Leonard (CKLECC Financial Manager); Candie Chamberlain (CKLECC FFN Program Coordinator); Terry Jaques (Lincoln County Commissioner); Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs); Wendy Gaspar (Baby Bear Hugs)

Zoom: Lisa Thomas (About F.A.C.E.); Katie Zipperer (Limon Memorial Library); Sharon Mauch (About F.A.C.E); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health); Amber Smelker (Parent/Treasurer); Carole Spady (CKLECC Quality Improvement Coach); TyAnn Connley (SafeCare)

Absent Board Members: Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College); Kailey Meardon (Valley Wide Health Systems); Autumn Lorenson (Board Vice Chair, Center Director LCDC); Rosalind Smith (The Cornerstone Resource Center); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS)

MEETING CALLED BY:

Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

June Meeting Minutes - Heather Randolph

- Lisa motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Amber seconded. The motion carried.

LCO/UPK Updates - Julie Witt

- Julie reports that the provider agreements are still in the works. There were some changes made to language in the agreement that needed to be redone by the state. Due to the changes programs who were not in agreement with the original document need to resubmit a provider interest form. Julie believes that all programs in the region have submitted their forms. Hopefully the new agreements are sent out this week but we do have a few programs that are having trouble getting their forms accepted.
- Cheyenne Wells Preschool will be offering 2 sessions this school year. Both will still just allow for part time hours.
- We have Caitlyn Russell back as our regional representative and will be meeting with her every other week.
- There is still no word on 3 year old funding for this school year.
- The provider resource bank is up and going.
- We are finalizing plans for summer events where we can distribute CKLECC and UPK swag and information.

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Julie shared that the Lincoln County mural is complete and is a hit. We are still looking for a location in Kiowa County for the final mural.
- We have several summer events planned and one under our belt. The sponsored movie at the Lincoln Theatre was a success with over 100 in attendance. We covered free admission, 1 small popcorn and 1 small soda for children 10 and under. We will host the movie in Eads at the Plains Theatre on the weekend of the 18th-20th and will give 1 small popcorn and 1 small water for children ages 10 and under, free concessions for Wednesday matinees at the Cheyenne Wells Theatre for the month of July, and will have on screen advertising of our offerings at all three theaters.
- We will host a pool event in Limon and Cheyenne Wells and hopefully have tables set up at some of the fairs to distribute information about UPK, FFN and some of our promotional items.
- We are working to update the website with the diaper bank on the main page, links to MCC's ECE page, images of the murals and much more.

- We had our Buell site visit last week and it went well. We will be returning to a 1 year grant cycle and will no longer have our grant application considered in a pool of just early childhood councils, we will now return to our application being considered amongst all the others. We should hear back at the end of August about our current application.
- The mentorship course that Julie and Lora are taking through MCC is going well. We are on week 5 and are learning about coaching, relationship building and productive conversation skills.
- Julie and Haley have online Quickbooks set up but are still working out all the kinks.
- Spenddown was completed. We purchased a lot of books and supplies for all the events we hold annually.

Coaches Report- Carole Spady

- Carole said that there isn't a lot going on with programs during the summer but that the QI spenddown is almost complete.
- Carole attended the annual ECCLA event in Palisade and had a great time. It was a nice meeting with lots of information on the new insurance options for providers and possibly even ECC employees. There was also a celebration for the retirement of Karen Enboden from CDEC.

FFN Report- Candie Chamberlain and Julie Witt

- The program is serving 7 participants over the summer.
- Candie shared she would like to try making extra bags and asking current providers to share with anyone they know that might like to participate.
- Candie finished her spenddown on new supplies for the Fun Totes.
- The babysitter classes were successful. There were 4 children in Eads, 8 in Cheyenne Wells, and 10 in Limon. There were multiple boys in attendance and each site had a visit from a local EMT or nurse to help answer basic first aid questions. We have sent a donation to each organization for their time and support.

- The ECHO grant for FFN providers that participated in our spring training was finally approved a few weeks ago and most providers have been able to order their items.
- Julie reports that we have an FFN provider asking for financial assistance in purchasing a shade structure. We purchased the poles and the shade canopy but plan to donate it with the FFN provider agreeing to sign a grant application that stipulates that they will attend a required number of trainings during this year.
- Lisa suggested that we set the guidelines on the grant based on what she has already done- more of a reward for already participating and providing quality care, not what we want her to do in the future.

Child Care Updates- Julie Witt and Lora White

- Lora reported that the diaper bank is still going well. Wee-Cycle sent us 50 diapers per child with the last order so we are planning to distribute 50 per child in August to both Lincoln county and Cheyenne county. There are 41 families in Lincoln county and 15 in Cheyenne county.
- We have been in contact with a new community member that is experienced in Early Childhood Education and is looking at options to start a child care center in the Hugo area. She currently lives outside of town so in home care is not an option.
- Kayla Buchanan is nearly ready to open her center in Kit Carson and has a few small things to complete before her final licensing visit.
- Julie and Lora have been meeting with the Lincoln county housing committee to set up a meeting with Rural Homes to come visit a few sites in the Limon and Hugo areas for possible housing and childcare solutions. This meeting will hopefully happen before mid-August.

Council Updates

- TyAnn shared that SafeCare is finally fully staffed and can accept new families again.

- Lisa shared that there will be family resource nights in Kit Carson and Cheyenne Wells before school starts. Kit Carson will be on Monday, August 11th and Cheyenne Wells Tuesday, August 12th.

Board Member Election- Heather Randolph

- Lisa motioned to approve Terry Jaques' election to the CKLECC board after receiving his letter of interest and Shannon seconded.

June Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for June. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, EFTPS, Colorado State Treasurer, Colorado FAMLI, Imagination Library, 4 Imprint for event supplies, Payroll and mileage for staff, Leigha Henry for catering, Pronghorn Ace for lift rental for mural painting, First book, Morgan community college for Julie's scholarship, Some Girls and a Mural, Lakeshore Learning, Office Works, Discount School Supply, Beckers, ECCLA for our membership fee, Century Link, Limon Ambulance Service (donation), Keefe Memorial Hospital (donation), Weisbrod Memorial County Hospital (donation), Quill.com, Baby Bear Hugs, Pat White (Board Appreciation gifts), Crow's Stop and Shop, Katie's Korner, Kit Carson Mini Mart, Osborne's Supermarket, Cheyenne Wells Grocery, and Stop 'n' Shop Supermarket for the food program, Studio42 Web Development (website updates), Genoa-Hugo Preschool (QI reimbursement), 4AllPromos, Crow Luther Cultural Events (movie event in Eads), Kayla Buzzard (QI spend down), Your Community Foundation (Movie event in Limon), Community Growth Alliance (Movie event in Cheyenne Wells), School Specialty, Stop & Shop for rent and utilities, Cheyenne Wells School for diaper bank room rental, First National Bank of Omaha (multiple times due to spend down).
- Monthly expenditures by funding source were as follows: BUELL $1,236.27, CCRR $294.63, CSQI $13,416.02, FHCN $5,221.55, GAE CO Shines $0, LCO/UPK $11,478.56, LCDHS $0, SB $10,678.49, totaling $42,325.52.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 1 deposit: GAE and CO Shines- $3,058.21
- The Balance Sheet showed $78,282.30 for June and $125.141.86 for May.

- The Expenditure Spreadsheet showing funding left by source showed ECSB $1,052.32, CSQI $1,280.424, CCR&R $29.16, FCCH Nav. $2,614.53, Buell $16,676.37, LCDHS $18,773.00, LCO $0.01, Child Care Task Force Funding $23,527.04, ECB $4,614 for a total funding left of $60,917.79.

Terry motioned to approve the financials as presented by Haley and Lisa seconded. The motion carried.

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

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CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date