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 6th, 2025 / 1:07 PM

CKLECC Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

In-Person: Terry Jaques (Lincoln County Commissioner); Lora White (CKLECC Admin. Assistant); Haley Leonard (CKLECC Financial Manager); Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs); Autumn Lorenson (Board Vice Chair, Center Director LCDC); Candie Chamberlain (CKLECC FFN Program Coordinator)

Zoom: Julie Witt (Council Coordinator); Lisa Thomas (About F.A.C.E.); Carole Spady (CKLECC Quality Improvement Coach); Rosalind Smith (The Cornerstone Resource Center); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS); Katie Zipperer (Limon Memorial Library); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health); Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Kailey Meardon (About F.A.C.E.); Jane Tallman (Cheyenne County DHS); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College); Sharon Mauch (About F.A.C.E); Kandi Seymour (Service Coordinator/Case Manager at ECSDD)

Absent Board Members and Staff: Amber Smelker (Parent/Treasurer);

MEETING CALLED BY:

Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

Baby Bear Hugs Home Visitation Program- Heather Randolph

- Heather shared that Baby Bear Hugs' programming is meant for families with children ages 0-5.
- The programming is completely voluntary and is universal for all children in families within the age range.
- Their mission is enhancing family strengths
- Heather's region serves 9 counties, the only county that overlaps with CKLECC is Lincoln County
- BBH's Universal program has many features:
    - 2 scheduled visits per month
    - Visits can be held in home or at alternate locations or via telehealth
    - Visits are personalized to meet the goals of each family

    - BBH also offers the Nurturing Parenting Program which is geared more towards children ages 3-5 for families needing extra support
- BBH's Parenting Essentials 101
    - This program offering is a mini-series covering topics such as purple period crying, cavity free kids, MEB (mental health kit)
- BBH is now offering pop up events with all of their programs
- BBH has 19 staff in 9 counties, 15 of which are part time
- BBH is a non-profit organization and is always looking for advisory committee members
- A referral form is available for families on the website (www.babybearhugs.org)

September Meeting Minutes - Heather Randolph

- Robbin motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Autumn seconded. The motion carried.

LCO/UPK Updates - Julie Witt

- Julie reports that there has been a payment issue for many providers that were late signing their provider agreements, after their program start date. It does not appear that any of our programs were affected, but CDEC is working to resolve the issue.
- CDEC has permitted LCDC to add a staff member to be able to manage 3 year old enrollment for Limon School District since that funding has to flow through a school district first.
- Supplemental hour eligibility will now be based on actual, confirmed funds instead of financial projections to ensure accuracy. Families will be expected to verify income.
- Local programs are having issues getting enrolled with a glitch in the system around students with September birthdays and school cut off dates. We are working with programs to correct the issue.
- The timeline for the 26/27 school year is going to be released this month.
- The 3 year old payments will now be based on enrollment reporting rather than historical allowance.
- We have returned to statewide monthly LCO meetings and no longer have scheduled meetings with our regional representative.
- Julie will host the first update call of the school year on Tuesday, October 14th at noon.

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that Carole set up a table at the Kiowa County Fair.
- Our Buell Grant report was submitted last month.
- We have put together our supply caddies and began gifting them to our providers. They are full of "consumable" items that providers are not able to purchase with Quality Improvement Funds.
- Lora attended the Health Advisory Committee meeting for Limon Child Development Center last month.

- We hosted our first Provider Training Night on Sept. 24th with Shannon Harrell as the trainer. It went great and we will host our next training on Wednesday, October 29th. We are looking at training on PDIS and its features.
- Providers have been requesting another Paint and Sip Event in November.
- We are happy to report that Kayla Buchanan has opened her center in Kit Carson, County Living Learning Center on September 15th.
- Shannon Hill in Cheyenne Wells has had her final home inspection and it went well. She needs to complete some final paperwork items and then should be able to officially receive her license.
- We mailed out CSQI packets to all licensed providers and have started to receive some responses back.
- We do still have Project Impact Kits available for providers to check out from us.
- We are making plans to attend many local Trunk or Treat events in Eads, Limon and Cheyenne Wells.
- We will be providing our usual Christmas books to all the programs and homes again this year.
- Our annual staff meeting was held on Wednesday, October 1st. We covered multiple things:
    - One new idea is to begin using a weekly reporting form for all staff to quickly report what they have been doing for the week including provider contacts made and resources distributed.
    - Other plans were made for FFN providers such as a mini-grant opportunity and encouraging PDIS training for the tax credit.
- The CKLECC calendar theme this year will be to recognize long time home providers and some of our CKLECC programs.

Coaches Report- Carole Spady

- Carole shared that it is her 10 year anniversary with CKLECC.
- She attended the ECCLA conference in Winter Park and there was a lot of conversation around job succession and how to start planning for that. The next ECCLA conference will be held in Fort Morgan.
- Our QI goal is to increase Colorado Shines ratings in our programs.
    - The rating scale is 1-5
    - Carole's goal this year is to rate more of our participating programs as a 2.
    - The Genoa-Hugo Preschool has applied to rate and will have their rating visit during the month of October.
    - Carole will also be attending a documentation training every Wednesday this month.
    - She enjoyed distributing the supply totes with consumables from Buell spenddown and setting up the Kiowa County fair booth.

FFN Report- Candie Chamberlain

- Candie distributed 7 FFN bags on the topic of Happy, Healthy Nutrition
- Openings reported for this month are:
    - Centers: LCDC- 4 Head Start, CLLC- 4 infants and 3 preschool
    - Homes: 1 provider with 1 opening for 2 years or older

    - FFN: 1 provider with 3 openings, 1 with a waiting list
- The Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Cheyenne County is going well with 40 kids enrolled and 23 graduated.

Child Care Updates- Lora White

- Lora reported that the diaper bank is at 59 children in Lincoln county and 16 in Cheyenne county. She will share the Baby Bear Hugs sign up form at the next diaper bank and is happy to share any information others might have if needed.
- Lora also shared that she attended a Child Care Listening Session at Genoa-Hugo school on Sept. 24th. There were not many in attendance and there was some focus on if a second gym or expanded child care was more important for the community but the agenda of the meeting included discussing current gaps and the impact on families and the community, sustainability and what it takes to get started on a center.

Council Updates

- Terry shared that there will be a ballot measure on Lincoln county's November ballot that is asking approval to increase the county's lodging tax from 2%-6%. The tax will be applied to travelers and tourists that are booking a room or camping spot in Lincoln county. The tax funds will be directed towards tourism, new housing and child care. This money is hoped to be a great help with community match dollars for grant applications. The tourism board will be the ones making the decisions on how the money is allocated.

September Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for August. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, Imagination Library, Payroll and Mileage for Staff, Lakeshore Learning, Century Link, 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, School Specialty, Stop & Shop for rent and utilities, Cheyenne Wells School for diaper bank room rental, First National Bank of Omaha
- Monthly expenditures by funding source were as follows: CCRR $212.16, CSQI $4,581.81, FHCN $1,349.23, GAE CO Shines $4,581.81, LCO/UPK $3,037.60, LCDHS $0, SB $4,086.62, totaling $13,267.42.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 3 deposits: State (FCCHN, COShines)- $3,762.96, State (CCR&R, Systems Building)- $3,088.49 and LCO- $2,148.97
- The Balance Sheet showed $109,378.50 for September and $114,648.18 for August
- The Expenditure Spreadsheet showing funding left by source showed ECSB $45,013.89, CSQI $48,677.88, CCR&R $2,908.04, FCCH Nav. $19,146.60, Buell $20,000, LCDHS $19,000, LCO $36,419.17, Child Care Task Force Funding $23,527.04, ECB $4,521.03 for a total funding left of $176,686.61.

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

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 3rd @ 1:00 p.m.

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CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date