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 8th, 2025 / 1:02 PM

CKLECC Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

In-Person: Julie Witt (Council Coordinator); Lora White (CKLECC Admin. Assistant); Haley Leonard (CKLECC Financial Manager); Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs);

Zoom: Lisa Thomas (About F.A.C.E.); Sharon Mauch (About F.A.C.E); Carole Spady (CKLECC Quality Improvement Coach); TyAnn Connley (SafeCare); Rosalind Smith (The Cornerstone Resource Center); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS); Katie Zipperer (Limon Memorial Library); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health);Amber Smelker (Parent/Treasurer); Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Kailey Meardon (About F.A.C.E.); Jane Tallman (Cheyenne County DHS); Jamie Hochanadel (Morgan Community College)

Absent Board Members and Staff: Autumn Lorenson (Board Vice Chair, Center Director LCDC); Candie Chamberlain (CKLECC FFN Program Coordinator); Terry Jaques (Lincoln County Commissioner); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College)

MEETING CALLED BY:

Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

Morgan Community College Early Childhood Programs- Jamie Hochanadel

- Jamie is the lead ECE faculty for MCC.
- There are many new offerings in the ECE program at MCC

    - EQUIT training credit is available when students complete ECE111 and an additional portfolio submission
    - Pyramid Plus Training credit for ECE 1031
    - Associates of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education
    - Apprenticeship Program
    - Pending Bachelors of Applied Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis in ECE
    - Pending Bachelors of Applied Science in Technology Education (ages 7-12 years)
- MCC offers degrees and certifications in ECE such as assistant, EC teacher, Infant and Toddler Teacher, Director certificate, AAS and AA in ECE
- The BAS to be offered next fall costs less than 1 year of a 4 year degree from a 4 year school
- Skills Guide grant that will pay for 15 ECE credits
- Teach Colorado Grant that will pay $150/student
- Apprenticeship scholarships

Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist Services from Centennial Mental Health- Shannon Harrell

- No cost service supporting adults that care for young children
- Any adult caring for young children is eligible
- ECMHC goals and supports include: social emotional milestones, adult education, strong relationships, improving challenging behavior, school to home connection
- ECMHC serves every county in Colorado
- ECMHC is meant to be collaborative with all adults involved in caring for children

August 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 there have been a few technical difficulties to work though with the UPK system.
- We are seeing lower numbers in enrollment than the last 2 years. We currently have 52 UPK enrollments: 32 in Lincoln county, 11 in Cheyenne county and 13 in Kiowa County.
- 3 year old payments are different than expected this year. All but 2 of our districts were eligible for historical allowance previously but now all programs must report 3 year old enrollment monthly. Districts that weren't eligible for historical allowance may or may not receive 3 year old payments at the end of the year.
- All providers must submit a calendar by September 15th.
- Bi-weekly calls will be happening with the state rep. for our region
- Julie has polled our providers to find a time for our regional update calls and it looks like the popular vote was the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:00. Julie will begin those calls in October at the new time.
- ZenDesk is the new help ticket program we will be using. It will be different but we should be able to follow along with the help desk process as help tickets are processed.

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Julie reported that we were approved for our $20,000 Buell grant.
- The final report for the previous Buell funding is due by the end of September.
- Spend down on Buell funds is completed. Funds were spent on:
    - Assistance to Country Living Learning Center on new staff background checks and curriculum purchase
    - Consumable items not allowed with QI funds for each program. To create a supply caddy that Carole will deliver
    - A laptop for providers to use here at the office for professional development
- Kayla Buchanan plans to transition to her new center in the next few weeks
- Shannon Hill will be having her final licensing visit September 12th

- The first provider training of the year will be September 24th with Shannon Harrell.
- CKLECC staff will have a meeting in September
- CSQI packets will be sent out. The included letter will encourage providers to apply for their level 2 rating if they haven't already.
- Genoa-Hugo Preschool will rate for level 3 in October.
- We are working to set guidelines for providers that apply for CSQI funds but have never applied to raise their rating.
- We had previously partnered with Project Include to offer boxes for providers to support students with special needs. The only requirement to check out a box is to complete a PDIS course. The project has since changed to Project Impact but still has the same guidelines

Coaches Report- Julie Witt for Carole Spady

- Julie shared that Carole will set up a table at Kiowa County Fair and will attend the ECCLA meeting in Winter Park next weekend. Coaching will resume in September.

FFN Report- Julie Witt for Candie Chamberlain

- Candie has 9 FFN Providers and 1 new one she will be meeting with soon

Child Care Updates- Lora White

- Lora reported that the diaper bank is still consistent with numbers. She will be sharing information from Lincoln County Public Health about their carseat safety check and carseat giveaway on Sept. 24th.
- Lora met with Rural Homes and members of the Lincoln County Housing Committee to tour possible locations in Hugo and Limon for affordable housing backed child care solutions.
- After completing the mentor courses this summer with Julie, Lora was eligible for her Coaching Credential so she has applied for that and will be working as a skills guide with MCC ECE students.

Council Updates

- Tyann asked for any community events where she can share SafeCare resources. It was mentioned that the diaper bank pick ups in Cheyenne Wells and the table Carole is setting up at the Kiowa County Fair would be a great place to share information.
- Lisa mentioned that they provide hygiene baskets to Kiowa and Cheyenne county. She will share a flyer with Haley.

August Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for August. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, EFTPS, Imagination Library, Payroll and Mileage for Staff, Tim Anderson for advertising, Quill.com, Country Living Learning Center, Custom Ink for advertising, 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: BUELL $15,582.47, CCRR $330.08, CSQI $2,563.17, FHCN $866.79, GAE CO Shines $0, LCO/UPK $1,962.70, LCDHS $0, SB $2,486.71, totaling $23,791.92.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 3 deposits: Julie Witt- $65.70, State (FCCHN, Systems Building, CCR&R, COShines)- $6,112.33 and Haley Leonard- $533.74
- The Balance Sheet showed $114,648.18 for August and $131,452.64 for July.
- 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.

Rosalind motioned to approve the financials as presented by Haley and Katie seconded. The motion carried.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6th @ 1:00 p.m.

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CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date