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.

November 3rd, 2025 / 1:02 PM

CKLECC Board Meeting

ATTENDEES:

In-Person: Terry Jaques (Lincoln County Commissioner); 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.); Rosalind Smith (The Cornerstone Resource Center); Kathleen Bither (Kiowa County DSS); Shannon Harrell (Centennial Mental Health); Autumn Pelton (Cheyenne County Communities that Care); Kailey Meardon (About F.A.C.E.); Robbin Schincke (Morgan Community College); Sharon Mauch (About F.A.C.E); Amber Smelker (Parent/Treasurer); TyAnn Connley (SafeCare); Carole Spady - arrived late, (Quality Improvement Coach)

Absent Board Members and Staff: Autumn Lorenson (Board Vice Chair, Center Director LCDC); Candie Chamberlain (CKLECC FFN Program Coordinator); ; Katie Zipperer (Limon Memorial Library);

MEETING CALLED BY:

Heather Randolph (Board Chair, Baby Bear Hugs)

BOARD MEETING AGENDA.

Cheyenne County Communities that Care- Autumn Pelton

- Autumn shared that the core work of Cheyenne County Communities that Care is prevention science, community owned, collective impact system.
- The program works in 5 phases
    - Get started
    - Get organized
    - Develop a community profile
    - Create a plan
    - Implement and Evaluate

- The program has numerous community partnerships: KC Rural Development, Community Growth Alliance, Extension Office (4-H), Local Schools

October Meeting Minutes - Heather Randolph

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

LCO/UPK Updates - Julie Witt

- Julie reports that all 26-27 Programs need to submit their set up forms by Wednesday for the state to enter all forms together. After this Wednesday the LCO will have to submit a request for each form for each program which will be much more difficult.
- A new provider handbook was sent out. Providers need to pay special attention to new reporting requirements.
- Julie attended the LCO retreat in Colorado Springs on October 23rd. There were only LCO's in attendance. No representation from CDEC. There was a strong focus on non-profits connecting with local and state governments to advocate for Early Childhood Education.
- Julie reports that the LCO budget will likely see a big cut next year.
- We have had some issues locally with providers not being able to enroll students in their UPK portal due to a glitch in the system with cut-off dates.
- Lastly, Julie reports that she expects we should have a budget update at the December meeting.

Coordinator Report- Julie Witt

- Julie reported CKLECC has attended many events. Haley attended the Cheyenne Wells Trick or Treat Street, Candie attended the Eads Trick or Treat Street, Lora and Julie attended the Limon Trick or Treat Street to hand out books and also the Trunk or Treat in Limon. Candy was handed out as well as a flyer with CKLECC's programs and offerings as well as a request for a mural location in Kiowa county.
- Julie attended a Health and Safety Fair at Limon High School put on by the CSU Extension Office.
- Professional Development Night was last Wednesday. The training was run by two ladies from CDEC and covered the ins and outs of PDIS. How to earn credentials, applying for tax credits, and uploading previous education or external training certificates.There were 10 providers in attendance including a mixture of FFN, home providers, teachers and 1 provider from Elbert county. Information about the two tax credits available to FFN and licensed providers was also shared at the training.
- Julie reported that Early Milestones is promoting their new Rural Care Network for FFN providers. They are looking for participants in an input committee to help steer the direction of the project. Providers who join will be able to attend 6 of 12 offered training sessions and will be eligible for a $950 grant upon completion. CKLECC will offer the use of our office for any local providers that participate.

- November's Provider Training will be an appreciation event as we have previously done. We plan to host a paint and sip event Thursday, Nov. 20th at the Limon School House with a catered meal, refreshments and a guided holiday painting.
- Shannon Hill in Cheyenne county has submitted all of her documents and is waiting for final licensing approval.
- Provider update surveys have all been returned besides 1 so they will be entered into the Salesforce program soon.
- It has been decided that the CKLECC 2026 Calendar will highlight a few of our long-term providers as well as CKLECC's program offerings.
- The state is pushing for as many programs as possible to reach a Level 2 Colorado Shines Rating. All of our district preschools, with the exception of Cheyenne Wells, have applied for their Level 2 or maintained their Level 2 rating.
- Next month's board meeting will begin with a presentation by Katie Richardson with the Lantern Program.
- We have had a family reach out with a possible mural location in Kiowa County. They received our flyer from Candie at the trunk or treat and would love to have our mural on their farm building by Sheridan Lake. She sent over video and pictures for Julie to share with the board. A mural that wraps around the corner of the building would be a great fit for the two highways passing by. The owners are very excited about the idea of having our mural on their property. The mural is in the budget for this spring at $5,000. Another location suggestion was the grocery store in Eads but no contact has been made with the building owner. The board agreed that they would like more information about the cost of a mural on that size of building and if Some Girls and a Mural would be able to provide the lift, we also need to finalize if there is extra money in the budget that can go towards this project. A final decision will need to be made at the December meeting on the location.

Coaches Report- Carole Spady

- Carole shared that the professional development night was great.
- Genoa-Hugo Preschool has completed their observation and submission of all paperwork for their Level 3-5 Colorado Shines Rating.She doesn't have a timeframe for when she will hear back but she felt like the rating observation went well.
- Carole has been taking training on documentation this last month and it has been good.
- We have had 4 QI applications come through and are hopeful that one more will apply.

FFN Report- Julie Witt for Candie Chamberlain

- Candie has been out caring for her husband after his recent surgery so for November there will be packets with information about PDIS sent via mail to all providers.
- December's bags will be similar to the supply caddies we sent to all licensed providers at the beginning of the school year.

- Candie reported to Julie that Shannon Hill has 2 openings, Amanda has 1 opening, Aimee has 1 opening and CLLC has 4 infant openings and 3 Preschool openings.

Child Care Updates- Lora White

- Lora reported that the diaper bank is at 80 children, 64 in Lincoln County and 16 in Cheyenne County.
- Lora attended a virtual meeting, while Julie was at the LCO retreat, with Joe Miklosi. He is a liaison/lobbyist we were connected with through Lincoln Health. He created this meeting with us, his partner Mark Waller, and multiple representatives from the State. There were liaisons and policy specialists from DOLA, Division of Housing, and CDEC. They asked a lot of questions about the challenges facing child care in rural areas and took notes to take back to their departments. There were a few ideas in regards to low income housing and child care solutions and how to fund them. Lora hopes to gather more information and share that with the Lincoln County Housing Committee.
- Lora and Julie also had a conversation with Terry about getting local government support and involvement.

Council Updates

- TyAnn asked if anyone knew where a food bank was in Cheyenne county. Autumn Pelton shared that it is at the Catholic Church and that she will share the flyer.

October Financials- Haley Leonard

- Haley provided the Check Detail Report for August. Checks included – QuickBooks Payroll Service, Payroll and Mileage for Staff, 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 $142.90, CCRR $161.13, CSQI $4,312.93, FHCN $1,455.14, LCO/UPK $2,883.14, LCDHS $206.40, SB $3,851.14, totaling $13,012.78.
- The Deposit Detail Report showed 3 deposits: State (Systems Building)- $4,485.28, State (CCR&R)- $233.38 and LCO- $3,331.36
- The Balance Sheet showed $108,206.47 for October and $119,655.02 for September
- The Expenditure Spreadsheet showing funding left by source showed ECSB $41,162.75, CSQI $44,364.95, CCR&R $2,746.91, FCCH Nav. $17,691.46, Buell $19,857.10, LCDHS $18,793.60, LCO $33,536.03, Child Care Task Force Funding $23,472.60, ECB $4,521.03 for a total funding left of $163,673.83.
- Julie shared that the spend down for the Eastern Colorado Bank grant is due by the end of December but we have some ideas in the works.

- Lisa asked if Haley felt that we are on track for the funding to be spent by the end of the fiscal year. Haley confirmed she feels comfortable with where we are at.
- Julie mentioned an idea of purchasing our own vision and hearing equipment for health screenings, hosting local lunch and learn events in each community with local partners and decision makers.
- Julie also mentioned that a local provider that has been licensed for many years has a family needing 12 hours of care for a school age child. The family has been denied CCCAP due to the age of the child. Julie is wondering if we could offer some tuition assistance to support both the family and our long term provider. The board agreed if the provider and/or family can provide us with a letter of denial from CCCAP.

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

True North Insurance Options- Julie Witt

- Julie shared that True North is offering a benefit option for council employees. The cost is $27.50 per month per employee which comes out to about $330 per year per employee. We are scheduled to get more information about the coverage options and if all employees would need to sign up or not.
- Heather requested that we get more information about the coverage but the overall consensus from the board was supportive.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1st @ 1:00 p.m.

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CKLECC Board Secretary Signature

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Date