

**Final**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND SCHOOL READINESS

Date: 06/22/2015

ATTENDANCE

Time: **01:07 PM to 03:01 PM**

Marble \*

Merrifield E

Place: SCR 356

Singer \*

Wilson X

This Meeting was called to order by  
Senator Martinez Humenik

Pettersen X

Martinez Humenik X

This Report was prepared by  
Rachel Kurtz-Phelan

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Welcome, introduction and presentations	Committee Discussion Only
Discussion of changes to existing statutes and public comment	Committee Discussion Only
Discussion of future meeting dates	Committee Discussion Only

**01:08 PM -- Welcome, introductions by commission members, and presentations**

Senator Martinez Humenik, chair, welcomed the members of the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC) and audience to the meeting and explained the commission's purpose and mission. Copies of the commission charge memo were distributed to the members (Attachment A). The members of the commission took turns introducing themselves. Senator Martinez Humenik welcomed Mary Anne Snyder, Director, Colorado Office of Early Childhood (OEC), and Sheryl Shushan, Manager, Early Childhood Leadership Commission, to the table to begin their presentation. Copies of their power point slides were distributed to the commission members (Attachment B). Ms. Snyder provided an overview of the history and purpose of the OEC, and explained that the three key outcomes the office seeks to achieve are: school readiness; safe, stable and nurturing environments for children; and resilience in early childhood. She stated that the needs of early childhood require strong public private partnerships, and explained that her office is responsible for inspecting, licensing, and monitoring child care facilities across the state. Ms. Snyder talked about a new program providing micro loans and micro grants to facilities in order to increase slots for infants and toddlers, with a focus on rural communities and other areas with a high need for infant and toddler slots.

**01:19 PM**

Ms. Snyder discussed the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), and explained that CCCAP serves approximately 11,000 families per day. She talked about the changes made to CCCAP by House Bill 14-1317 and Senate Bill 14-003, including making the requirements for small businesses easier, providing easier access for families, and establishing opportunities for a parent to access childcare for his or her kids while her or she is in school. She spoke in detail about the Cliff Effect Pilot Program implemented by SB 14-003, and answered questions from Representative Pettersen about how many counties are participating in the pilot program. She told the commission about the infusion of dollars from the Early Learning Challenge Grant of \$44.8 million dollars over a 5-year period, and discussed the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program which provides funding for early childhood facilities that feed into low performing elementary schools. She talked about the Colorado Shines program, which is a quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs with 4,858 licensed child care programs currently participating. She said that her office is working on rules revisions for child care centers, and improving flexibility for certain requirements.

**01:33 PM**

Ms. Snyder continued talking about child care quality initiatives, including the distribution of \$6.8 million in FY 2014-15 to child care providers to invest in facility improvements and professional development opportunities for teachers. She told the commission that an additional \$8 million in Race to the Top funding will be invested in FY 2015-16. Ms. Snyder talked about Division of Community and Family support within the Office of Early Childhood, and about the collaboration between her office and Head Start, which is viewed as the gold standard for high-quality early education. She stated that her office is working on increasing the availability of mental health services for children ages 0-5, including services for development screening, developmental assessment and evaluation, consultation, parent services, and kindergarten readiness. She talked about the early intervention services provided by the state for children ages 0-2 who have developmental delays or disabilities, as well as the child maltreatment prevention unit which offers support to families at risk of entering the child welfare system. She spoke about SelfCare Colorado, which is a voluntary, in-home parent education programs providing direct skills training in an effort to prevent entry or re-entry into the child welfare system, and about the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program which seeks to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families. She discussed the funding for Home Visiting Program, which includes the Nurse Home Visitor Program and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

**01:49 PM**

Ms. Shushan provided an overview of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) which is the state's early childhood advisory council that was re-authorized by House Bill 13-1117. She spoke about the different subcommittees of the ECLC, and about the types of projects and issues on which the subcommittees are working. Ms. Shushan answered questions regarding the role of the ECLC in relation to the ECSRLC. She stated that she hopes the ECSRLC will seek counsel from the ECLC when working on bills to send to Legislative Council. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Shushan answered questions from the commission about funding for the ECLC.

**02:00 PM**

Ms. Snyder concluded her presentation by talking about the office's goals going forward and the need to look at program efficiencies. She discussed the need for a two-generation approach to program and service delivery, and answered questions from the commission about grant funding and early childhood program curriculum.

**02:13 PM**

Senator Martinez Humenik invited Bill Jaeger, Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives, Colorado Children's Campaign, to come to the table to begin his presentation. Copies of his presentation were distributed to the commission (Attachment C). Mr. Jaeger provided an overview of the legislation that previous ECSRLC commissions considered. He explained that between 2009 and 2014, 14 pieces of legislation were moved forward by the commission: six of which became law, and eight of which were postponed indefinitely. He explained that two of the six bills that passed were never implemented because they were contingent upon gifts, grants, and donations that were never received. He stated that another bill was folded into a larger bill that made changes to CCCAP. Mr. Jaeger went into further detail about the 2009, 2013, and 2014 interim bills that passed out of the General Assembly, as well as those that failed. Mr. Jaeger answered questions from the committee about his recommendations for how to ensure the legislation passed by the commission this year has the best chance of moving forward through the entire process.

**02:27 PM -- Discussion of changes to existing statutes and public comment**

Senator Martinez Humenik opened the floor for public comment.

**02:29 PM --** Former state senator Evie Hudak, representing herself, came to the table to talk about previous legislation and provide additional information about the history of ECSRLC and ECLC. She talked about prior bills relating to scholarships for early childhood educators, specifically House Bill 10-1030 and House Bill 15-1001. She stated that the intention of HB 10-1030 was to increase funding for the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) scholarship program, which is authorized at the federal level and run through Qualistar, but that the money allocated to the program was through the Early Learning Challenge Grant and the state was not awarded the grant funds. She told the commission that House Bill 15-1001 was supposed to fix the issues with HB 10-1030, but it was postponed indefinitely. She recommended that the commission clean up the issues that arose from these two bills. Senator Hudak answered questions from the commission about funding for early childhood programs. She stated that there are very specific quality requirements for child care centers, including small teacher to student ratios; minimum teacher education standards; and environmental health, safety, and developmental standards. She told the commission members that early childhood councils around the state are charged with the implementation of quality standards and initiatives.

**02:50 PM -- Discussion of Future Meeting Dates and Topics for Discussion at Future Meetings**

The committee discussed and finalized the dates for future meetings, which will be posted to the commission's web page, as well as ideas for future discussion and presentation topics.

**03:00 PM**

The committee adjourned.



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

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**MEMORANDUM**

June 22, 2015

**TO:** Members of the Early Childhood and School Readiness  
Legislative Commission

**FROM:** Rachel Kurtz-Phelan, Research Analyst, 303-866-3028  
Lisa Gezelter, Research Analyst, 303-866-3264  
Lauren Schreier, Fiscal Analyst, 303-866-3523

**SUBJECT:** Commission Overview and Charge

This memorandum provides the following information regarding the Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission (ECSRLC):

- background and membership of the commission;
- the commission's statutory charge; and
- ECSRLC proposed legislation from 2009 to 2014.

**Background and Commission Membership**

The Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission was created through the passage of House Bill 09-1343 and operated during the 2009 and 2011 interim sessions. During this time, the commission included ten legislative members and was required to meet at least six times per year to study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness. The commission repealed on July 1, 2012.

During the 2013 legislative session, the commission was re-created and the word "Legislative" was added to its name. The commission's membership was reduced to six legislative members with three members from each chamber representing the Education and the Health and Human Services committees of the General Assembly. The commission does not have non-legislative members.

The ECSRLC is chaired by a House member in even-numbered years and by a Senate member in odd-numbered years. For the 2015 interim session, the commission's membership includes: Senator Beth Martinez Humenik, Chair; Representative Brittany Pettersen, Vice-chair; Senator Vicki Marble; Senator Michael Merrifield; Representative Jonathan Singer; and Representative James Wilson. Staff support to the commission for the 2015 interim session is provided by Legislative Council Staff.

## **Statutory Charge**

Pursuant to state law, the ECSRLC must meet at least four times per year to study issues concerning early childhood and school readiness. Topics to be studied include: health care, mental health, parental involvement, family support, child care, and early learning. The commission is required to solicit input from the public, especially from those who have expertise in early childhood and school readiness issues. The commission is also required to meet with the Early Childhood Leadership Commission, which is a group focused on improving outcomes for young children ages birth to eight, to discuss policy concerning early childhood and school readiness.

## **Statutory Authority**

The commission is authorized to recommend legislation deemed necessary by the ECSRLC. Legislation recommended by the ECSRLC is treated as interim committee legislation for the purposes of legislative deadlines imposed by the General Assembly rules. The commission is authorized to recommend up to five bills for Legislative Council approval. The commission must report its recommendations to the Legislative Council by November 15, 2015.

In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Council must review interim committee recommendations by November 15. Requests for bills to be drafted must be completed by October 2, 2015, and the commission must vote by November 2, 2015, to determine which bill drafts will be forwarded to the Legislative Council for approval.

Commission bills that are approved by the Legislative Council do not count against a member's five-bill limit for the regular legislative session. Bills recommended by the commission that are not approved by the Legislative Council may be introduced in the regular session, but such bills will count against a member's five-bill limit. Interim committee bills must have prime sponsors prior to consideration by the Legislative Council.

## **ECSRLC Proposed Legislation - 2009 to 2014**

From the 2009 interim to the 2014 interim, the ECSRLC proposed 12 bills that were approved by the Legislative Council. Of the 12 bills, 6 became law. Table 1 provides the ECSRLC legislation approved by the Legislative Council by year, a brief summary of each bill, and each bill's disposition.

**Table 1  
Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission  
Bills Approved by the Legislative Council by Year – Interim Sessions 2009 through 2014**

Bill Number	Bill Title	Brief Description of Bill	Became Law
SB 15-012	Colorado Works Pass-through child Support Payment	This bill allows the state and counties to disregard child support income a recipient of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) may be able to receive and pass-through such income to the TANF recipient. Under the bill, any child support income a TANF recipient receives will not be considered income when calculating the basic cash assistance grant an individual may receive. Such payments, with applicable disregards, will be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility. The bill makes certain changes to the way the General Assembly appropriates moneys for this purpose and establishes reporting requirements for the Department of Human Services. The bill was signed into law on June 5, 2015.	Yes
HB 15-1024	Increasing Number of Colorado Preschool Program students	This bill would have increased the number of Colorado Preschool Program slots by 3,000 from 28,360 to 31,360 beginning with FY 2015-16. The bill was postponed indefinitely on April 2, 2015.	No
<b>Bills Approved During 2013 Interim Session</b>			
HB 14-1022	Child Care Assistance Authorization Period	The bill clarifies that, if a child is enrolled in the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), the duration of the child care authorization notice, which authorizes payment of child care costs, is the same as the period for which the child's family is eligible for child care assistance. The bill authorizes the State Board of Human Services, by rule, to identify specific circumstances in which the authorization notice term may be less than the full period of eligibility. A county may reduce the number of families served by the CCAP if necessary to avoid overspending its child care block grant allocation for a fiscal year. The bill was signed into law on March 14, 2015.	Yes
HB 14-1039	Linking Student Data Preschool to Kindergarten	The bill would have required the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), and the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to work together to establish and implement procedures to link student data collected by publicly funded early childhood education programs with the student data collected by school districts and public schools in the state. The bill was postponed indefinitely on March 31, 2014.	No
HB 14-1076	Early Childhood Quality Incentive Program	The bill would have created the Early Childhood Quality Incentive grant program in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) at the CDE. The bill would have required the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules for the grant program. School districts with a CPP-authorized preschool program would have been eligible to participate in the program. The bill would have provided money for quality improvement and incentive funding for high-quality CPP classrooms. The bill was postponed indefinitely on April 11, 2014.	No
SB 14-006	Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarship	The bill would have expanded the Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarship Program within the CDE. The bill would have required the SBE to award stipends to assist persons employed in early childhood education in offsetting the costs associated with obtaining a postsecondary degree or certificate in early childhood education, or a related field. The bill also provided additional stipend award criterion. The bill was postponed indefinitely on February 12, 2014.	No
<b>Bills Approved During 2012 Interim Session – The commission sunset July 1, 2012, pursuant to SB 09-1343</b>			

**Table 1 (Cont.)  
Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission  
Bills Approved by the Legislative Council by Year – Interim Sessions 2009 through 2014**

Bill Number	Bill Title	Brief Description of Bill	Became Law
<b>Bills Approved During 2011 Interim Session</b>			
SB 12-130	Governance of Child Development Programs	The bill would have created the Office of Early Childhood within the CDHS and would have transferred several programs from within the CDHS and other agencies into the newly created office. It would have also created the Division of Youth and Community Development within the CDHS and would have transferred the Tony Grampsas Youth Services Program and related initiatives from the Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) to the new division. The Office of Early Childhood would have been required to coordinate with various state and local agencies providing early childhood services, review funding for early childhood programs, develop performance measures, and develop a state plan for the provision of services to pregnant women and children aged 0 to 8 years. The bill was postponed indefinitely on April 25, 2012.	No
<b>Bills Approved During 2010 Interim Session – All interim committee activity was suspended during the 2010 interim session, pursuant to SB 10-213</b>			
<b>Bills Approved During 2009 Interim Session</b>			
HB 10-1026	Quality Child Care Grant Incentive Program	The bill created the Colorado Quality in Child Care Incentive Grant Program within the CDHS to increase the quality of early child care and education providers. County governments, in collaboration with an early childhood council, are eligible to apply for grants from the program and awards are made based on criteria established by the State Board of Human Services. The bill was signed into law on April 15, 2010.	Yes
HB 10-1028	Early Childhood Universal Application	The bill created a 12-member subcommittee of the Government Data Advisory Board, called the Early Childhood Universal Application Subcommittee, to make recommendations to the state's chief information officer on how to create and implement a universal application for early childhood care and education services. The subcommittee was required to make its first recommendations by December 1, 2010, and sunset on July 1, 2013. The bill was signed into law on April 5, 2010.	Yes
HB 10-1030	Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships	The bill created the Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarship Program within the CDE to assist persons employed in early childhood education in obtaining an associate of arts degree. The CDE was required to establish rules, application procedures, and award amounts for the scholarship program. The bill was signed into law on April 15, 2010.	Yes
HB 10-1035	Eligibility Child Care Assistance Program	The bill made changes to the eligibility determination process for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program within the CDHS. Specifically, it extended the eligibility redetermination period from 6 months to 12 months; removed the requirement that a parent report income and activity changes during the 12-month eligibility period, unless the change raised the family's income above 85 percent of median state income; and aligned the eligibility redetermination period for children who are enrolled in Head Start so that child care assistance and Head Start eligibility are redetermined at the same time. The bill also prohibited counties from determining a parent ineligible for child care assistance as a result of taking maternity leave or being a separated spouse or parent where the other spouse or parent had disqualifying financial resources. The bill was signed into law on June 3, 2010.	Yes
SB 10-005	Continuity of Services in Kindergarten	The bill would have created a grant program within the CDE to distribute moneys to local education providers to maintain continuity of services to kindergarten students who were enrolled the previous year either in the CPP or in a federal Head Start program. School districts receiving the grant moneys would have been permitted to use the funds in any manner designed to serve the needs of the kindergarten students. The SBE would have been required to establish rules for the implementation and administration of the program. The bill was postponed indefinitely on April 16, 2010.	No

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# *Colorado Office of Early Childhood*



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services

## *History, Purpose, and Structure*

## *History*

Established in 2012 by Governor Hickenlooper. In 2013, HB-1117 further aligned programs.

- Colorado Department of Human Services
  - Child Care Licensing
  - Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
  - Child Care Quality Initiatives
  - Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation
  - Early Intervention Colorado
  - Promoting Safe and Stable Families
  - Early Childhood Councils
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
  - Nurse Home Visitor Program
  - Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
  - Colorado Children's Trust Fund
  - Family Resource Center Program
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
  - Early Childhood Leadership Commission (reauthorized in 2013)
  - Head Start State Collaboration Office



## *Purpose*

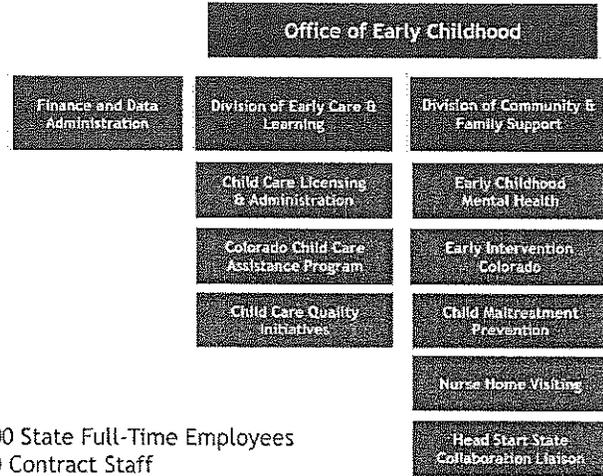
The Office of Early Childhood provides collaborative leadership to align resources for children, families, and early childhood professionals to best prepare Coloradoans for future success, through access to coordinated and quality early childhood programs and family supports.

Three Key Outcomes:

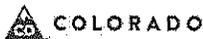
- School Readiness
- Safe, Stable and Nurturing
- Resilience in Early Childhood



## Structure



## Division of Early Care and Learning



## *Child Care Licensing & Administration*

- Responsible for inspecting, licensing and monitoring child care facilities statewide. Licensing specialists review staffing ratios, health and safety risks, background check compliance, qualifications, and children's files.
- Approximately 5,600 non-24 hour licensed facilities in Colorado.
- Licensing staff is a mix of State Full Time Employees and Contractors.



## *Child Care Licensing & Administration*

### Unit Highlights:

- In 2014, the State Legislature approved funding for 17 new contract licensing specialists and 3 new licensing supervisors to reduce caseloads and increase visit frequency.
- In 2015, the State Legislature approved funding for Micro Loans and Micro Grants to increase access and quality in "child care deserts."
- Care Development Block Grant Reauthorization requires annual licensing visits effective November 2016.



## *Colorado Child Care Assistance Program*

- In 2012-13, 204,029 children under the age of 12 were living at 125% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Child Care Development Fund Block Grant funds (funding source for CCCAP) must be provided, subject to available appropriations, to children under the age of 13 at 130% of FPL or less.
- On any given day, CCCAP serves between 10,000 to 11,000 children.



## *Colorado Child Care Assistance Program*

### Program Highlights:

- HB 14-1317 Resulted in Historic Changes
  - Increased affordability of child care for low-income families
  - Eased burdens for working families
  - Cut red tape and provided new supports for child care providers
- SB 14-003 Cliff Effect Pilot Program
  - Ensures families impacted by the cliff effect continue to receive the child care they need while retaining employment.
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Reauthorization of 2014



## Child Care Quality Initiatives

- *Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Grant*  
\$44.8 million awarded in 2013 to accelerate the State's plan to improve quality early learning programs and school readiness for all children, particularly those children with high needs.
- *School Readiness Quality Improvement Program (SRQIP)*  
Improves the school readiness of children, ages 0-5, cared for at early care and education facilities in neighborhoods with low performing elementary schools.
- *Infant and Toddler Quality and Access Grant (ITQA)*  
Provides tiered reimbursement to high-quality early childhood programs, increases the number of low-income infants and toddlers served, and promotes parental involvement.



### Child Care Quality Initiatives

## Colorado Shines



### Quality Rating & Improvement System

- <10% of licensed Early Care and Education programs were participating in Quality Ratings and Quality Improvement Activities.
- Implemented in 2014, Colorado Shines assigns a quality rating to licensed early care and education programs, and continues to assess, improve and communicate the quality level of programs.
- 4,858 licensed child care programs participate.
- [www.ColoradoShines.com](http://www.ColoradoShines.com)



*Child Care Quality Initiatives*  
**Colorado Shines**



Professional Development Information System

- Launched statewide in April 2015. 3,200 professionals are registered in the system.
- One stop for all training and education information, from required annual training to professional advancement at all levels.
- Ability to track trends over time to evaluate early childhood workforce development and its role in impacting outcomes for children birth to 8.



*Child Care Quality Initiatives*

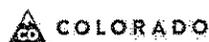
Unit Highlights:

- During SFY 14-15, \$6.8 million was distributed to child care providers to invest in quality. An additional \$8 million in Race to the Top funding will be invested in SFY 15-16.
- Achieved the Goal: Increase the number of children in CCCAP, under the age of five, in top tier quality rated facilities from 26.3% to 31%.

The Office currently reports 32.5% of children who receive CCCAP are enrolled in high quality rated programs. This number is anticipated to expand to over 40% within the next year as Colorado Shines grows.



## *Division of Community and Family Support*



### *Head Start State Collaboration Liaison*

- Head Start services promote school readiness, ensure families are ready to support their children's learning, and partner with schools and communities to support early education.
- Head Start serves 11,638 Colorado children and their families.
- In February 2015, Colorado was awarded four Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership grants. The grants provide \$6,121,537 per year for five years, totaling \$30,607,685, to serve 420 infants and toddlers.



## *Early Childhood Mental Health*

- The Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist (ECMHS) program increases the availability of mental health services to young children aged 0-5. Program services include:
  - Developmental Screening
  - Developmental Assessment/Evaluation
  - Consultation
  - Parent Services
  - Kindergarten Readiness
- There is one Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist based out of each of the 17 Community Mental Health Centers across Colorado.



## *Early Intervention Colorado*

- Provides supports and services to children ages 0-2 who have developmental delays or disabilities and their families.
- EI Colorado contracts with 20 Community Centered Boards (CCBs) to provide early intervention services and service coordination.
- Services are provided at no cost to families and are funded through a Coordinated System of Payment that includes: private health insurance, Medicaid, local funds, State General Fund and Federal Part C of IDEA.



## *Child Maltreatment Prevention*

- *Colorado Community Response*  
Offers supports to families at risk of entering the child welfare system.
- *SafeCare Colorado*  
A voluntary, in-home parent education program that provides direct skills training in an effort to prevent entry or re-entry to the child welfare system.
- *Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)*  
Prevents the unnecessary separation of children from their families and ensures permanency by reuniting children with their parents through adoption or another permanent living arrangement.
- *Children's Trust Fund*



## *Home Visiting*

- *Nurse Home Visitor Program*  
Transforms lives through improved pregnancy outcomes, promotion of child health and development, and the encouragement of economic self-sufficiency for families.
- *Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)*  
Builds upon scientific research which shows that home visits by a nurse, social worker or early childhood educator during pregnancy and in the first years of life improves child and family outcomes.



## *Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

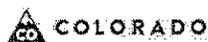


### *Early Childhood Leadership Commission*

- Reauthorized by H.B. 13-1117 to:
  - Identify opportunities, barriers and gaps in services and programs that support young children.
  - Develop strategies and monitor efforts related to: quality early learning, professional development, school readiness, and access to child care.
  - Assist public and private entities in coordinating efforts on behalf of pregnant women and young children.



# *Looking Ahead*



## *Quality Investments*

- In 2015, the Office engaged stakeholders to review current quality investments and discuss opportunities for future investment of the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).
- In Summer 2015, the Office will host meetings across the state to test "themes" and discuss how they translate into real investments.
- Goal is to ensure the Office is able make CCDF quality investments in a prudent and meaningful way, maximizing our impact on children and families statewide.

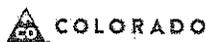


## *Two Generation Strategies*

- The Office of Early Childhood will continue to collaborate with other agencies to promote a two-generation approach to program and service delivery.
- Three priorities shape Colorado's two-generation approach
  - Families achieve self-sufficiency through work
  - Wealth is achieved through financial literacy
  - Children achieve through early learning



*Questions?*



## Contact Us

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**Brian Conly, Deputy Director and Interim**

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COLORADO  
Department of Human Services

[www.ColoradoOfficeOfEarlyChildhood.com](http://www.ColoradoOfficeOfEarlyChildhood.com)



## History of Legislation Advanced by the Early Childhood School Readiness Commission

*Updated June 22, 2015*

Contact: Bill Jaeger, Colorado Children's Campaign  
[bill@coloradokids.org](mailto:bill@coloradokids.org), 720-552-0002

### General Overview

- Between 2009 and 2014, the Early Childhood School Readiness Commission moved a **total of 14 bills** out of the interim committee. There were no interim commissions in the summer of 2010 so no bills were advanced in the 2011 session and the original version of the commission was repealed in July 2012 so there were no commission bills in the 2013 session (the commission was re-created during the 2013 session).
- **8 of those bills were killed** either by Legislative Council or by the General Assembly during the regular session
- **6 of those bills became law**: 4 bills passed during the 2010 session, but only two bills in last three meetings of the ECSR have become law.
- **Of the six bills that became law** as a result of the ECSR's work:
  - 2 were never implemented since we did not receive any federal funds or gifts, grants, and donations for the purpose of the bills and the changes were contingent on this funding (HB 10-1026, HB 10-1030)
  - 1 was partially implemented, requiring updated legislation in 2014 (HB 10-1035)
  - 1 was folded into another bill (HB 14-1317) making more comprehensive changes to the Child Care Assistance Program (HB 14-1022)
  - 1 established another task force to make recommendations on an issue (HB 10-1028)
  - 1 was significantly amended in the 2015 session, will not be implemented until 2017, and only if additional state general funds are appropriated by a future legislature (SB 15-012)

Bills That Passed	Bills That Failed
<b>2010 Bills</b>	
<p><i>HB 10-1026 (Quality Child Care Grant Incentive Program): Created a grants program at CDHS to increase quality of early child care and education</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Reps. Solano &amp; Benefield, Sens. Hodge &amp; Hudak</li> <li>• \$0 state General Fund impact</li> <li>• Passed House Education 10-1, 2 excused</li> <li>• Passed Senate Education 5-3</li> <li>• Passed the House 44-19</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 22-12, 1 excused</li> <li>• The state never received any federal money, gifts/grants/donations for this purpose so the bill was never implemented</li> </ul>	<p><i>SB 10-005 (Continuity of Services in Kindergarten): Would have created a grant program in CDE to maintain continuity of services in kindergarten for CPP and Head Start students</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Sen. Hudak, Rep. Benefield</li> <li>• No state appropriations required (contingent on receipt of federal funds/private donations, may be required to appropriate some funds for expenses)</li> <li>• Passed Senate Education 6-2</li> <li>• Senate Appropriations PI'd 9-0, 1 excused</li> </ul>
<p><i>HB 10-1028 (Early Childhood Universal Application Task Force): Created a subcommittee to make recommendations regarding a universal application for early childhood care and education services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Rep. Benefield, Sen. Hodge</li> <li>• \$0 state General Fund impact</li> <li>• Passed House Education 13-0</li> <li>• Passed Senate Education 5-2, 1 excused</li> <li>• Passed the House 64-0, 1 excused</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 24-11</li> <li>• Subcommittee made recommendations; Colorado is still working on implementing a universal application for child services</li> </ul>	
<p><i>HB 10-1030 (Early Childhood Teacher Scholarships): Created a scholarship fund in CDE for early childhood educators to attain associate's degrees</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Rep. Peniston, Sen. Steadman</li> <li>• \$0 state General Fund impact</li> <li>• Passed House Education 12-1</li> <li>• Passed Senate Education 5-3</li> <li>• Passed the House 47-17, 1 excused</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 23-12</li> <li>• Fund was created; no money appropriated to fund</li> </ul>	
<p><i>HB 10-1035 (Eligibility Child Care Assistance Program): Made changes to the CCCAP eligibility determination process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Reps. Massey &amp; Solano, Sen. Steadman</li> <li>• \$0 state General Fund impact (small appropriation from federal funds for technology changes)</li> <li>• Passed House Education 13-0</li> <li>• Passed Senate Education 5-3</li> <li>• Passed the House 64-1</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 22-11, 2 excused</li> <li>• Some components implemented; needed policy update in 2014 by HB 14-1317</li> </ul>	

Bills That Passed	Bills That Failed
<b>2012 Bills</b>	
No bills passed	<p><i>SB 12-130 (Governance of Child Development Programs): Would have created the Office of Early Childhood and the Division of Youth and Community Development in CDHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Sens. Newell &amp; Hodge, Reps. Massey &amp; Hamner</li> <li>• No significant increase in state expenditures</li> <li>• Passed Senate Health &amp; Human Services 7-2</li> <li>• Passed Senate Appropriations 6-3</li> <li>• Failed in House State, Veterans, &amp; Military Affairs 3-4</li> </ul>
Bills That Passed	Bills That Failed
<b>2014 Bills</b>	
<p><i>HB 14-1022 (Child Care Assistance Authorization Period): Clarifies that for CCCAP, the duration of the child care authorization notice is the same as the period for which a family is eligible for child care assistance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Rep. Landgraf, Sen. Newell</li> <li>• \$0 state General Fund impact</li> <li>• Passed House Public Health Care &amp; Human Services 13-0</li> <li>• Passed Senate Health &amp; Human Services 6-0</li> <li>• Passed the House 64-0, 1 excused</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 33-0, 2 excused</li> <li>• Folded into HB 14-1317; implemented Fall 2014</li> </ul>	<p><i>HB 14-1039 (Linking Student Data Preschool to Kindergarten): Would have required CDE, CDHS and OIT to implement procedures to link student data from EC programs to school district data</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Rep. Schafer, Sen. Newell</li> <li>• \$594,000 in state expenditures (\$578,000 State Education Fund appropriation)</li> <li>• House Education voted to P.I. 12-0</li> </ul>
	<p><i>HB 14-1076 (Early Childhood Quality Incentive Program): Would have created a grant program at CDE and CPP to cover costs of quality ratings for public preschools</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Reps. Peniston &amp; Duran, Sen. Zenzinger</li> <li>• \$12.47 million state expenditure (\$12.46 million State Education Fund appropriation)</li> <li>• Passed House Education 7-5, 1 excused</li> <li>• House Appropriations voted to P.I. 13-0</li> </ul> <p><i>SB 14-006 (Early Childhood Educator Development Scholarship): Would have expanded scholarship program at CDE for early childhood educators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Sen. Newell, Rep. Peniston</li> <li>• At least \$470,000 State Education Fund appropriation</li> <li>• Senate Education voted to P.I. 7-0</li> </ul>

Bills That Passed	Bills That Failed
<b>2015 Bills</b>	
<p><i>SB 15-012 (Child Support Pass-Through): Allows child support payments made by noncustodial parents to pass through to a recipient of assistance in the Colorado Works program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Sen. Kefalas, Rep. Pettersen</li> <li>• \$315,000 state General Fund appropriation (\$533,000 in federal funds)</li> <li>• Passed Senate Health &amp; Human Services 3-2</li> <li>• Passed House Public Health Care &amp; Human Services 11-2</li> <li>• Passed the House 43-21, 1 excused</li> <li>• Passed the Senate 27-8</li> <li>• Significantly amended</li> <li>• Earliest implementation in 2017; contingent upon state funding for child support enforcement</li> </ul>	<p><i>HB 15-1001 (Early Childhood Educator Scholarships): Would have created a fund for early childhood educator scholarships at CDHS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Reps. Pettersen &amp; Garnett, Sen. Todd</li> <li>• \$125,000 state General Fund appropriation</li> <li>• Passed House Education 6-5</li> <li>• Passed House Appropriations 7-6</li> <li>• Failed in Senate Education 4-5</li> </ul>
	<p><i>HB 15-1024 (Increase CPP Slots): Would have funded 3,000 additional preschool slots in CPP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-sponsors: Rep. Pettersen, Sens. Kefalas &amp; Todd</li> <li>• \$11.3 million state General Fund appropriation</li> <li>• Passed House Education 6-5</li> <li>• House Appropriations voted to P.I. 13-0</li> </ul> <p><i>Interim Commission Bill B</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would have created an early childhood educator tax credit to reward achieving higher credentials, working with vulnerable children subsidized with CCCAP, and was designed to address the low wage &amp; retention issues in the EC workforce</li> <li>• Co-sponsors: Sen. Todd, Rep. Pettersen</li> <li>• Died in Legislative Council in October 2014, 10-9</li> </ul>

**Considerations for the Early Childhood School Readiness Commission Based on Previous Bills**

1. Bills without bipartisan cosponsorship coming out of the ECSR Commission tend not to make it all the way to full implementation
2. The Commission should exercise caution about moving a bill forward if it is not close to finalized. Rushing a good concept can potentially jeopardize a good idea when it may just need more stakeholder input and work.
3. Interim commission timelines make stakeholder engagement difficult, so there are often significant amendments to bills that are introduced by the commission. (*Note: Interim commission bills must be finalized by sometime in October most years and cannot be amended until they are in their committee of reference during the full legislative session*).
4. Obtaining a preliminary fiscal impact analysis before moving something forward helps avoid fiscal note surprises during the legislative session and can allow for adjustments prior to finalizing a bill.