

IECMH Council of Colorado Meeting Actions and Notes

March 27, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

[Meeting Slides](#) and [Recording](#)

Resources

[IECMH Council Overview](#)

[IECMH Council Guidebook](#)

[Early Childhood Leadership Commission IECMH Council Charter](#) and [Website](#)

Elevating and Strengthening Colorado's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Ecosystem 2025: [Strategic Plan Executive Summary](#), [Strategic Plan Infographics](#), and [Full Strategic Plan](#) ^{**new**}

Next Steps and Action Items

1. **ACTION:** Please provide your feedback and ideas for this and future IECMH Council meetings, using [this evaluation form](#). Thank you for your suggestions!
2. **ACTION:** Please make sure you have calendar invites for the meeting dates in the table on the next page. Please reach out to Erin and/or Lisa with any challenges. erin@governmentperformance.us and lisa.schlueter@state.co.us
3. **ACTION:** SAVE THE DATE! The May 22, 2025 Council meeting will be in-person, utilizing our existing meeting time (2:00–3:30pm), with additional time for networking before and after the meeting. The meeting will be held at the CDEC offices at 710 S. Ash St., Denver, CO 80246. Calendar invite coming soon!
4. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** The Behavioral Health Administration is hosting virtual forums to inform a statewide needs assessment. If you're interested in participating, [please visit this link for more information and to register](#) for the session THIS Tuesday April 9 from 2:00pm–3:30pm.
5. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** If you missed this year's [Speak up for Kids Day 2025 on April 5, 2025](#), mark your calendar for next April! Sponsored by: Colorado Children's Campaign and Clayton Early Learning.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Members interested in becoming DC:0–5 certified trainers or nominating someone for the upcoming training in August should contact [Noelle Hause](#) for eligibility details.

Upcoming Meetings

Steering Committee – 1st Wednesday, 1–2pm	IECMH Council – 4th Thursday, 2–3:30pm
Wednesday, January 8, 2025	Thursday, January 23, 2025
Wednesday, March 5, 2025	Thursday, March 27, 2025
Wednesday, May 7, 2025	Thursday, May 22, 2025 (<i>in-person</i>)
Wednesday, July 2, 2025	Thursday, July 24, 2025
Wednesday, September 3, 2025	Thursday, September 25, 2025
Wednesday, November 5, 2025	Thursday, November 20, 2025

Meeting Notes

Council Vote: Consent Agenda and Member Updates

1. Consent Agenda: approve [January 2025 meeting notes](#)
 - Motion to approve consent agenda made by Noelle Hause, seconded by Shannon Bekman.
 - Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Public Updates

1. Tricia Pai-Bonman, Director of Strategic Initiatives at [Early Milestones Colorado](#):
 - a. Tricia Bonman announced the release of a new report developed by Early Milestones Colorado, that examines changes in the [Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health \(IECMH\) landscape in Colorado over the past decade](#). The report includes a legislative timeline highlighting key laws and policy developments that have shaped the IECMH system in the state.

Strategic Plan, 2025 Actions, and Related Projects

0. [Strategic plan is now on the IECMH Website.](#)
1. Infographics available, including one-page references and resources designed to be easy to share and flexible to meet different needs.
2. Five goals included in the Strategic Plan:
 - **Goal 1:** Clear and consistent shared understanding of IECMH
 - **Goal 2:** Diverse, highly skilled, interdisciplinary, and well-supported workforce
 - **Goal 3:** Sustainable, diverse public and private funding options
 - **Goal 4:** Intentional collaboration and coordination
 - **Goal 5:** Data systems and policy development
 - i. Zero to Three, Financing Policy Project (ZTT FPP) Update:
 1. The team Zero to Three Financing Policy Project (ZTT FPP), highlighted key insights from a recent in-person convening held March 17–19, 2025, in Minneapolis.
 2. [CCBHC Planning Grant:](#) Colorado received a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) planning grant. This is a pivotal time to engage in the needs assessment process to ensure IECMH is prioritized. The specific entity conducting the assessment is currently unknown; Shannon is following up.
 3. **Safe Babies Approach:** A breakout session focused on the Safe Babies model, which integrates mental health principles into dependency and neglect proceedings. States are exploring enhanced reimbursement rates for child welfare-involved cases, as well as opportunities to use opioid settlement funds to expand Safe Babies programming.
3. See slides 9–12 in the meeting materials for details around the **Five Goals**

Legislative Updates

1. Erica Gannett, BHA

- a. **State Budget:** Colorado faces a \$1.2B deficit. The BHA worked to protect core services and shift away from smaller, admin-heavy programs by promoting more flexible, efficient approaches.
- b. **Agenda Bill:** The BHA's sole bill is a [technical cleanup of universal behavioral health contracting](#), reducing 16 original requirements down to 4 core provisions.
- c. For more information contact: erica.gannett@state.co.us
2. Shannon Schell, CDEC
 - a. **Budget Focus:** CDEC prioritized navigating a tough budget year, using existing cash and federal funds to offset general fund reductions.
 - b. **Key Investments:** Despite cuts, the state made investments in early intervention, CCAP, and the universal preschool program.
 - c. **No Department Bills:** CDEC introduced no legislative items, focusing instead on protecting existing programs and preparing for potential policy proposals.
 - d. For more information contact: shannon.schell@state.co.us
3. Christina Walker, [Healthier Colorado](#)
 - a. Christina [shared this presentation](#).
 - b. **HB25-1002:** Fair Standards in Mental Health Care: Signed into law last week. Aligns insurance practices with generally accepted medical standards by defining "medical necessity" in statute. Aims to reduce denial of mental health services across all ages, including infants and young children.
 - c. **SB25-017:** Codifies and strengthens Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) and Healthy Steps Programs.
 - d. **Advocacy & Testimony Guidance:** Provided a testimony outline and tips: be clear, brief (2–3 minutes), and state if you're a constituent or council member. Shared advocacy tools, including 5calls.org.
 - e. For more information contact cwalker@healthiercolorado.org
4. Melissa Buchholz, ABCD
 - a. Suggested the Council focus not only on "big P" policy (legislation, budget) but also "little p" policy—the planning, implementation, and coordination work that happens between legislative sessions.

- b. The strategic plan is a key tool for guiding this ongoing, behind-the-scenes work.
- c. Encouraged the Council to think ahead about which policies to pursue and how to implement them effectively.

Community Spotlight: Council Member Evelin Gomez, The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect

Trauma-Responsive Implementation and Practice (TRIP) Program

1. Evelin [shared this presentation](#).
2. Key Initiatives:
 - **Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT):** Partnering with CISU on data infrastructure. Findings from 42 provider interviews show a need for better integration of trauma-informed care (TIC) and DEI principles into PCIT practice.
 - **Trauma-Responsive Practice in Schools:** Early outcomes at Range View and Sky View schools show: Increased trauma-responsiveness, greater leadership support, and growth in cultural competence and staff confidence in supporting students' social-emotional needs.
 - **Preschool Engagement:** 5 preschools participating; early results show: 100% of teachers increased trauma-responsive practices and 75% improved in using developmentally appropriate trauma responses.
 - **Statewide Expansion & Strategy:** Preparing to expand to Weld District 8 (2025–2026). TRIP work aligns with [HB24-1406](#), a strategic initiative of the CO BHA. Current focus includes mapping existing supports, collaborating with CDE, and holding listening sessions (April–May) to inform future implementation.
3. For more information, please reach out to Evelin Gomez:
Evelin.Gomez@childrenscolorado.org

Reminder: Always capitalize ZERO TO THREE to emphasize the importance of this age range.