

Meeting Objectives:

- Determine if any changes are needed on the Data Subcommittee Charter
- Discuss Data Subcommittee goals for 2025
- Provide input on draft ECIDS Talking Points
- Learn about the findings and recommendations from the Colorado Child Care Facility Needs Assessment
- Learn about the Adams County Universal Preschool Equity Analysis and consider how the project could be scaled for other communities or early childhood programs
- Advance the goals of the [ECLC Strategic Plan](#) and [Subcommittee Work Plan](#)

Attendees: Aaron Leavy, Dominick Dirksen, Kelly Altizer, Rick Winter, Laura Freeman Cenegy, Perrine Monnet, Jessica Francis, Ana Maria Bustamante, Alyssa Pappas, Ryad Hussien, Laticia Hobley, Sarah Blackwell, Maya Gould, Keller Anne Ruble, Kelly Stainback-Tracy, Jason Young, Lilly Wu, Sam Cucchese, Megan Lokteff, Carsten Baumann, Susan Steele, Cristal Cisneros, Sarah Sena

Welcome, Introductions & Approve Minutes

Susan Steele called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm, welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Susan asked for a motion to approve the [November 20, 2024 meeting minutes](#). Rick Winter suggested adding more notes to the minutes about the group's discussion regarding the Baby and You Survey Findings. Shannon added the additional language to the minutes and posted a link in the chat for review. Rick then moved to approve the minutes with the addition. Dominick Dirksen seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Data Subcommittee Charter and 2025 Goals

Subcommittee co-chairs suggested updates to the [Charter and Charge](#) to further clarify and emphasize the purpose of the Subcommittee, including adding language on serving as a hub of information about data efforts, providing data support to partners, and advocating for strategic investments in data collection, analysis, and reporting. The group discussed the edits and provided feedback. Susan asked for a motion to approve the charter as edited. Rick Winter moved and Carsten Baumann seconded. Susan asked members to indicate their vote in the chat. The updated charter was approved unanimously and will be sent to the full Commission for approval.

Next, Susan shared suggestions for 2025 Subcommittee priorities. These include creating a forum for sharing data efforts responsive to the needs of the early childhood system, assessing existing data sets and making recommendations on action needed to address gaps, and developing mechanisms to improve collaboration between partners in order to support access to data. The group discussed considerations around how integrating data systems could potentially create vulnerabilities for undocumented persons in our state. Carsten suggested using the next meeting to dive deeper into the topic. The group also discussed hosting conversations around data privacy, data stewardship, and building trust with communities while ensuring truly representative data. Members also discussed if this group could facilitate conversations with the state as to what data

must be shared with, or belongs to, the federal government, and what does not. The Subcommittee's priorities will also be shared with the full Commission.

Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) Talking Points

Susan shared a document, developed using input from prior subcommittee discussions, that includes an ECIDS "elevator pitch" as well as [talking points](#) to help subcommittee members, ECLC commissioners, and other early childhood leaders advocate for the development of the system. Susan asked the group to review the document. The content should describe a general vision of what an ideal ECIDS would do and how it could be used to improve the understanding of the early childhood landscape and how families engage in early childhood services and supports throughout the state. It is not a reflection of the current state of Colorado's ECIDS development, progress, or goals. Shannon will share the link to the document in a follow up email after the meeting for members to provide feedback.

Colorado Child Care Facility Needs Assessment Findings & Recommendations

Alyssa Pappas, CDEC Employer-Based Child Care Grant Program Manager, led the work for the [Colorado Child Care Facility Needs Assessment](#), and [Supplemental Appendices](#), which was completed in 2024. The project was paid for with American Rescue Plan funds with the goals of providing data on the current condition of child care facilities as well as identifying barriers and opportunities for communities in their attempts to expand child care. CDEC worked with Community Development Institute in partnership with Chapin Hall to complete the needs assessment and final report.

Community Development Institute (CDI) developed online surveys, in English and Spanish, for current licensed and FFN child care providers and interviews for potential providers. From the data, it was determined that a typical child care facility in Colorado consists of a community-based center or family child care home, operated by a sole proprietor or nonprofit, that was built more than 21 years ago, and is in a building that was not designated as a child care center but was retrofit (74%). Some of the facilities are not ADA accessible and have not had environmental testing or abatement. Twenty-five percent of providers indicated they needed HVAC maintenance, which is one of the highest maintenance costs. Other costs include outdoor play space, flooring, windows, parking and sidewalks, roofing, security, plumbing, classroom space, and electrical. In addition, providers were asked if they had completed environmental testing for factors such as lead paint, lead in water, radon, and asbestos. Most had tested for lead in water and radon in the past five years, but fewer, and specifically few family child care homes, had tested for lead paint and asbestos. Family child care homes are also least likely to meet ADA standards for accessibility. Many providers defer maintenance as almost 60% do not know where to go to find funding for facility improvements, and most do not have money set aside for necessary building improvements or urgent issues.

In reference to child care expansion, zoning, permitting, and licensing is a large barrier for potential providers. The needs assessment found there are many parties interested in expanding child care across Colorado, but they may lack the space needed, the expertise in how to renovate or retrofit existing space, or the expertise in licensing and/or operations. The recommendation is to improve the supports necessary to facilitate collaboration among those with the expertise or space needed. The report recommends the state provide technical support for expansion, communication on available supports, grants and emergency fund support for maintenance and repairs, and additional grants for expansion. Local-level recommendations include streamlining

zoning processes and advocating for flexible zoning laws and creating a pipeline of providers by connecting potential child care providers with entities that have available space. CDI also recommends strengthening collaborations between state and local agencies, community organizations, and private sector entities and creating a “no wrong door” policy where providers can access support through a variety of options.

The report also includes some of the average costs for child care facility operations such as rent or mortgage payments, insurance, average cost per square foot, etc. The group discussed that while there is some work to improve expansion resources, there have been fewer conversations on how to support current provider facility maintenance needs.

Adams County Universal Preschool Equity Analysis

Daniela Lewy, Social Determinants of Health Consulting, LLC, introduced the team of collaborators who worked on the [Adams County Universal Preschool Equity Analysis](#). The purpose of the project was to understand UPK access and enrollment in Adams County to improve implementation, funding, and policy; to explicitly guide the county’s UPK community plan to expand and improve UPK access to low-income and BIPOC children through targeted, culturally responsive outreach; and to demonstrate the value of using geocoded data to drive equity in order to scale the practice to other communities across the state. The project was centered on equity and included qualitative and quantitative data. Data was used from multiple county, state, and federal sources.

Dr. Lisa Piscopo, Custom Computer Solutions, shared the interactive story map which displays data indicators by geographic location. She noted that the highest participation in UPK in Adams County does not correlate with the county’s communities of color or communities of low income.

Dr. Jasmin Pulce, Adams County Human Services DEI Executive Strategist, shared the sample variation in enrollment by race and income, which demonstrates that low income and BIPOC communities enrolled significantly fewer eligible 4 year olds than higher income, predominantly White communities. Mapping can assist LCOs in identifying what communities lack access to UPK.

Kelly Altizer, Adams County Connections Executive Director, discussed how Adams County will use the findings to conduct an annual equity analysis of UPK, drive strategic planning, and build partnerships with community based organizations to support culturally responsive outreach. Local Coordinating Organizations (LCOs), like Adams County Connections, can use the findings to collect funding to support staffing and outreach efforts, to advocate at the state level for additional funding, and to build new relationships with community based organizations to assist with outreach. Adams County is engaged in all these efforts. They would like to create a scalable model for equity driven early childhood education across the state.

Alicia Champlin, Adams County Human Services Early Childhood Administrator, discussed the meaning of access. The data shows families are not enrolling in multiple programs such as UPK, CCCAP, and Head Start. Additionally, it is unclear how UPK and CCCAP eligibility intersect as well as the program supply and demand by geographic location, meaning how many slots are available and the number of eligible children in need of services. Adams County hopes this project can serve as a model to help others understand what expertise, resources and steps are needed to obtain similar data, conduct comprehensive analysis, and facilitate data-driven actions and outcomes across the state.

Daniela noted that empowering local communities with geocoded program and demographic data will give them the ability to implement strategies to improve equitable access and outcomes based on their own unique needs, expertise, and conditions. She noted the opportunity during ECIDS and Dashboard development to integrate geocoding and a vision for equity, and she explained how mapping enrollment data can drive targeted outreach, efficient strategic planning, effective program implementation, and allow for measurement of equitable access across all communities.

The team requested that the ECLC and Data Subcommittee recommend CDEC support the development of geocoded ECE enrolment and demographic maps at the local level by sharing statewide enrollment data that can be mapped for LCOs to track progress and inform outreach. They have also presented to CDEC and to the state's ECIDS team and have interest from Gary Community Ventures for continued funding.

The group discussed whether the findings reflect the assumptions around who has access to UPK currently and how positively people are receiving the data to inform action. They also discussed the importance of advocating for this type of comprehensive UPK data at the state level.

Member Updates and Public Comment

Dawn Alexander shared the recent ECEA white paper, [“The Breaking of an Industry.”](#) She also asked people to save the date for the upcoming [CO Early Childhood Trade Show and Family Fun Fair](#) on August 9, 2025 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.

Next Steps, Final Thoughts, and Adjourn

Carsten reminded everyone of the next meeting date and thanked the group for their participation. The meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm.

Note: Any presentation requested by the ECLC does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the product, process, service, or organization by the ECLC.

ECLC Data Subcommittee Charge:

The Data Subcommittee of the ECLC advances the goal of ensuring that Colorado's early childhood system has the data needed to monitor progress and make evidence-based decisions. It does so by leveraging and connecting existing data efforts, supporting the continued collection of data, championing data practices that center equity, and encouraging effective data use in decision-making.