

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 (12:00 to 2:00 p.m.)

Location: Online via Zoom

Attendance

Members: *Dr. Lydia Prado (Chair), Ms. Erin Brown (Vice-Chair), Ms. Anne Rowe (Secretary), Mr. Michael Baker, Ms. Jennifer Rodriguez-Luke, Ms. Janice Sinden and Ms. Susan Steele*

Members not in attendance: *Mr. Chris Daues (Treasurer), Mr. Zach Hochstadt, Ms. Amber Münck and Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval*

Staff: *Ms. Nayely Avila, Ms. Irene Bonham, Ms. Ellen Braun, Dr. Cristal Cisneros, Ms. Elsa Holguín, Mr. Chris Miller, Ms. Carley Noerr and Ms. Rebekah Ray*

Guests (Zoom): *Ms. Andrea Albo, Mr. Nathaniel Cradle, Mr. Rhett Gutierrez, Ms. Priscilla Hopkins, Ms. Keshia Allen Horner and Ms. Kat Jarvis*

Agenda Topic	Discussion	Action/Follow-Up/Decision
Call to Order and Welcome	<u>Call to Order and Welcome</u>	
Consent Agenda <i>(For Approval)</i>	<u>Consent Agenda</u> <i>(For Approval)</i> Dr. Prado presented the Consent Agenda for approval, highlighting the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 16, 2023 Board of Directors Minutes • April 2023, Financial Statements 	Ms. Rowe motioned to approve the consent agenda; Ms. Brown seconded. All in favor; motion approved.
2023-2024 Cost of Care Policy	<u>2023-2024 Cost of Care Policy</u> Mr. Miller presented the 2023-2024 Cost of Care Policy, highlighting the following: DPP Scholarship Students For Students awarded a DPP Scholarship, the total amount a Provider receives on behalf of a Denver Preschool Program (DPP) Student from DPP, combining DPP Tuition Credits and DPP Scholarship support, shall not exceed DPP’s monthly cost of care rate applicable to such child (\$1,520 per month for the 2023-2024 school year) or the Provider’s published tuition rate applicable to such child (up to DPP’s Monthly Maximum Published Rate (\$1,810 per month for the 2023-2024 school year)), whichever is higher. While DPP Scholarship Students can also qualify for Colorado’s Universal Preschool Program (UPK), Providers confirm that DPP Scholarship Students do not receive any non-UPK public funding and that families have \$0 in monthly out-of-pocket tuition expenses. DPP Students not receiving the DPP Scholarship	

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	<p>For DPP Students who are not receiving the DPP Scholarship, the total funding amount a Provider receives on behalf of a DPP Student from all funding sources each month, including DPP Tuition Credits, tuition paid by families or other private contributions, and/or other public funding sources and parent fees, shall not exceed the monthly cost of care rate applicable to such child (\$1,520 per month for the 2023-2024 school year) or the Provider’s published tuition rate applicable to such child, whichever is higher.</p> <p>In the event the total amount would otherwise exceed such rate, the Provider shall promptly notify DPP, and shall advise DPP as to which funding has been reduced to bring the total amount received into compliance with this current requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning in 2023-2024, if the Provider’s published tuition rate exceeds DPP’s Monthly Maximum Published Rate of \$1,810, DPP will require the Provider to participate in a cost of care review pilot by submitting additional budget and expense documentation prior to potentially being approved to layer funding for the higher published rate. DPP’s goal of potentially approving a higher published rate would be that the provider is working to increase staff wages/benefits, though DPP recognizes higher published rates could also be caused by increased cost of facilities or other business expenses. Provider acknowledges DPP reserves the right to approve or deny potential layering of funds beyond DPP’s Monthly Maximum Published Rate on a case-by-case basis. <p>The publication of the Monthly Cost of Care and Monthly Maximum Published Rates will coincide with the release of the Provider Agreement. DPP has the right to update the Monthly Cost of Care or Monthly Maximum Published Rates at any time.</p> <p>2023-2024 DPP’s Monthly Cost of Care and Maximum Published Rates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>\$1,520 – DPP’s Monthly Cost of Care Rate</u> As defined by the Center for American Progress, cost of care specific to Colorado, inclusive of a 6.5% increase from the 2022-2023 cost of care rate. <u>\$1,810 – DPP’s Monthly Maximum Published Rate</u> As defined by the Bell Policy Center Cost of Care Model created by Andrew Brodsky, cost of care specific to Denver and averaging all ages, inclusive of a 6.5% increase from the 2022-2023 maximum published rate. While \$1,810 is the maximum possible monthly amount DPP will pay for DPP Scholarship Students, DPP will conduct a pilot review during 2023-2024 for schools to potentially layer DPP tuition credits with non-DPP funding beyond this amount as described above. 	
<p>2023-2024 DPP Scholarship (For Approval)</p>	<p>2023-2024 DPP Scholarship (For Approval) Dr. Cisneros presented the 2023-2024 DPP Scholarship, for approval, highlighting the following:</p> <p>History of the Scholarship Program</p>	

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	<p>The DPP Scholarship Pilot (formerly called Gap Scholarship) was approved in March 2019 to address affordability of preschool and better support Denver’s lowest-income families attending DPP community sites. Scholarships are designed for families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty line • Attending 25 hours per week, or more, at scholarship approved community preschool • Not receiving other public funding sources (Head Start, CPP, CCCAP, ECARE, or Mill Levy) <p>The DPP Scholarship Pilot was approved for 3 years, allowing for iterations and updates along the way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DPP Scholarship became available to every community provider. • Provided full scholarships to cover preschool tuition so that scholarship families did not have to pay anything to attend the preschool of their choice. • Tested a cost of care model instead of relying solely on published tuition rates to calculate scholarships. • Increased the enrollment cap and approved an additional allocation of \$1.567 million to the last year of the Scholarship Pilot to support the identified need within the 2021-2022 preschool cohort. • Allowed access to scholarships for Preschool for 3s and Bonus Preschool Year participants. • Overall, the DPP Scholarship pilot was a success in that it deeply impacted a small population of Denver families. The Scholarship pilot also allowed DPP to begin the pilot process and use this opportunity to implement policies and practice in new and innovative ways. <p>For the 2022-2023 program year DPP transitioned the DPP Scholarship from a Pilot to Annual Reauthorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained the primary eligibility as defined in Year 3 of the Pilot • Increased the enrollment cap to serve 345 students. • 2022-2023 budget proposed the utilization of the \$2.8M in excess reserves to fully fund the program. • Proposed a nomination process, not to exceed 10% of total enrollment, to serve children who may not fit eligibility as defined. <p>Implementation of Universal Preschool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning in the fall 2023, Colorado’s UPK program will offer families across the state up to 15 hours of funded preschool each week for the school year between August 2023 – May 2024. • As the Local Coordinating Organization (LCO), DPP is awaiting the state policy regarding layering of funding. Both UPK and Denver Preschool Program’s proven tuition credit will complement each other. <p>2022-2023 DPP Scholarship Program</p>	

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	<p>Dr. Cisneros shared a chart with budget and forecast data from the 2022-2023 DPP Scholarship Program.</p> <p>2023-2024 DPP Scholarship Program DPP staff is proposing the following DPP Scholarship guidelines and budget for the 2023-2024 program year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarship Program Capacity – 345 students • Primary Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Attending a DPP community site ○ Living at or below 270 percent of the federal poverty line to align with approved 2023-2024 tuition credit scale ○ Attending 25 or more hours a week at a DPP participating preschool ○ Not receiving other public funding sources (CCCAP, Head Start, CPP, ECARE, or Mill Levy), with the exception of UPK • Fully cover tuition for all approved scholarship recipients based on the 2023-2024 cost of care policy (maximum of \$1,810) • Priority will be given to children in their upcoming year who are currently approved for one of our younger funding models as long as they remain eligible. • DPP will adopt the 2023-2024 Cost of Care Policy. • DPP would like to pilot a summer scholarship process to serve children who continue preschool in the summer and lose UPK funding if additional funding is available from the 2023-2023 in year revenue budget. The summer scholarship process will be released at a later date. <p>2023-2024 Tuition Credit System Funding Dr. Cisneros shared charts with budget and carryforward data for the 2023-2024 Tuition Credit System Funding.</p> <p>Request for Approval <u>Cost of Care</u> DPP staff is requesting approval from the Board of Directors to approve the 2022-2023 cost of care policy as outlined.</p> <p><u>2022-2023 Carry Forward</u> DPP staff is requesting a second approval from the Board of Directors to approve the remaining funds from the 2022-2023 DPP Scholarship Program be carried forward to fund the 2023-2024 program year. The forecasted amount remaining in the reserves designation is \$1,296,637 as of August 31, 2023.</p> <p><u>2023-2024 DPP Scholarship</u> DPP staff is requesting a third approval from the Board of Directors to approve the 2023-2024 DPP Scholarship guidelines and budget as outlined above. The total budget allocation for the program year is \$2,355,088.</p>	<p>Mr. Baker motioned to approve the 2022-2023 cost of care policy, as outlined, Ms. Sinden seconded; All in favor, motion approved.</p> <p>Mr. Baker motioned to approve the remaining funds from the 2022-2023 DPP Scholarship Program be carried forward to fund the 2023-2024 program year, Ms. Sinden seconded; All in favor, motion approved.</p> <p>Mr. Baker motioned to approve the 2023-2024 DPP Scholarship guidelines and budget as outlined, with a total budget allocation for the program year of \$2,355,088, Ms. Sinden seconded; All in favor, motion approved.</p>
President's Update	President's Update Ms. Holguín presented the President's Update, highlighting the following:	

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	<p>2023 State Contract for LCO Board Executive Summary On May 10, 2023 the DPP Finance and Governance Committee recently approved to amend and extend the contract with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood for the purposes of being Denver’s Local Coordinating Organization and administering the state’s Universal Preschool Program to Denver. The contract term will conclude June 30, 2024.</p> <p>Year 1 work includes implementing a unified plan with community partners for the successful rollout of UPK with longer-term birth to five goals. This will be accomplished by strengthening the local early childhood system by supporting providers, growing capacity, and increasing access. DPP will work to support a mixed-delivery UPK system by engaging stakeholders in the process to ensure equitable distribution of UPK funds.</p> <p>The Department of Early Childhood has provided a not-to-exceed budget for Year 1 of \$363,276 for the contract term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.</p>	
Community Updates	<p><u>Community Updates</u> Dr. Prado opened the floor for updates from community members.</p> <p>Denver Public Schools (DPS) Ms. Hopkins shared an update from Denver Public Schools.</p> <p>Office of Children’s Affairs (OCA) Mr. Gutierrez shared an update on the Office of Children’s Affairs.</p>	
Adjourn	<u>Adjourn</u>	Mr. Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Steele seconded; All in favor, motion approved.

I certify that the above minutes are correct and approved by the Board of Directors.

Anne Rowe, Secretary