

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOV. RITTER NAMES 29 TO EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Gov. Bill Ritter today announced the 29 people who will serve on the recently-created Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) to help the state improve early childhood services and ensure that all young Coloradans are school ready.

Last month, Gov. Ritter signed an executive order that created the ECLC and makes available \$1.3 million in federal funds to support the work.

The intent of the commission is to improve outcomes for young children and their families by increasing the access to and quality of early childhood supports and services. The commission will help align policies and funding of services for health, mental health, early learning and family support for children birth through age eight.

Pat Hamill of Denver, CEO of Oakwood Homes, Anna Jo Haynes of Denver, President Emeritus of Mile High Montessori and Elizabeth Groginsky of Black Hawk, Director of Head Start State Collaboration will co-chair the commission. Other appointees to the ECLC are:

- Gregory Anderson of Centennial, Morgridge College of Education
- Greg Anton of Littleton, Anton Collins Mitchell
- Tom Boasberg of Boulder, Denver Public Schools
- Charlotte Brantley of Genessee, Clayton Early Learning
- Brad Busse of Denver, RBC Daniels & Associates
- Micheline Casey of Denver, Governor's Office of Information Technology
- Jeannette Cornier of Denver, Colorado Department of Education
- Larry Curry of Parker, The Curry Center
- Charlie Forster of Salida, Collegiate Peaks Bank
- Suzanne Helburn of Boulder, University of Colorado Denver
- Elsa Holguin of Denver, Rose Community Foundation
- Gretchen Holland of Ft. Collins, parent
- Joel Jones of Durango, Durango Chamber of Commerce
- George Kennedy of Castle Rock, Colorado Department of Human Services
- Cynthia Lindquist of Littleton, Metro State College
- Fernando Martinez of Costilla, San Luis Valley Community Health Center
- Jose Mondragon of Pueblo, Pueblo County Department of Social Services
- Fernando Pineda-Reyes of Denver, parent
- Kim Poast of Denver, Colorado Department of Higher Education

- Diane Price of Colorado Springs, Child Nursery Centers
- Sherry Price of Grand Junction, Mesa Developmental Services
- Gina Robinson of Arvada, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing
- Steve Romero of Ft. Morgan, Morgan County Department of Human Services
- Karen Trierweiler of Englewood, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Chris Watney of Denver, Colorado Children's Campaign
- Larry Wolk of Englewood, Rocky Mountain Youth Clinic

The 29-member commission will advise on creating better data systems that will: inform policy, funding and accountability; improve the quality of and access to early childhood support services; and promote public-private and federal-state-local coordination to improve outcomes for children and their families.

The first ECLC meeting is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 30 at the Lowry Conference Center, 1061 Akron Way (11th & Yosemite Street), Denver.

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