



## **Huerfano-Las Animas (HuLA) Counties Early Childhood Advisory Council**

### ***Memorandum of Understanding***

The Huerfano-Las Animas (HuLA) Counties Early Childhood Advisory Council does hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with \_\_\_\_\_, a partnering/collaborating organization.

The Huerfano-Las Animas (HuLA) Counties Early Childhood Advisory Council, is a membership of early childhood professionals within the bi-county region dedicated to providing quality services to children and families. Together we build a comprehensive early childhood system that connects to child and their families with resources within their community. The HuLA Early Childhood Council shall improve and sustain the availability, capacity and quality of early childhood services for children and families throughout the state. The HuLA Early Childhood Council shall work as a seamless system of early childhood services representing collaboration amongst various public and private stakeholders for the effective delivery of early childhood services in the areas of early care, education, family support, mental health and health. These services shall support children eight (8) years of age or younger and their families in a manner that is responsive to local needs and conditions per *Section 7.717* of the Early Childhood Council rule.

**Vision Statement:** A Guiding Force of solidarity with service to all.

**Mission:** We support children and families in Huerfano and Las Animas Counties through partnerships, which promote healthy kids, families and communities through self-sufficiency.

As an organizational member of the Council, we agree to work collaboratively with all members of the Council to:

1. Create a comprehensive early childhood system that encompasses health, mental health, early care and learning, and family support and parent education, and successfully addresses eight proven system goals (quality and standards; program availability; parent and family engagement, professional and workplace development, public engagement; funding and finance; accountability; and systems oversight/governance).
2. Use a comprehensive assessment to identify and prioritize county school readiness gaps and the proven programs and capacity building needed to prevent, mitigate, and eliminate these gaps.
3. Establish a system to develop and share the data, information, and resources needed to accomplish strategic priorities, HULA work plans, and early childhood system building.
4. Support Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) priorities and performance standards to increase and sustain the quality, accessibility, capacity, and affordability of early childhood services for children and their parents.



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- 5. As defined by the OEC in rulemaking #16-10-27-1, Section 7.717.4, 7.717.5 fulfill the duties and functions of an early childhood council, and complete the OEC required deliverables.
- 6. Develop and implement a cross-sector strategic plan based upon community needs and evidence-based practices to promote school readiness and to prevent and mitigate prioritized local school readiness gaps that meets OEC rules and requirements as defined in Early Childhood Council Rule-making #16-10-27-1 (attached), including establishing a local system of accountability with data tools and tracking methods to measure local progress, and to conduct and submit annually to OEC a comprehensive evaluation and report of strategic plan progress
- 7. Ensure that HuLA members, additional community partners and service providers, and early childhood stakeholders receive the training and capacity building needed to create a high quality early childhood system and to accomplish Council strategic priorities and work plans.
- 8. Ensure the HuLA is a productive collaboration that is known, respected, and valued by the community at large.

In addition, as a collaborating organizational member of the Council we agree to:

- 1. Abide by the Council’s by-laws, guiding principles, and meeting norms.
- 2. Designate one representative with voting powers as indicated in HuLA by-laws who regularly attends the Council’s monthly meetings, and additional council members from our organization as appropriate.
- 3. Respect and value the diverse opinions of HuLA members.
- 4. Work to ensure that HuLA meetings and activities are both productive and enjoyable.
- 5. Contribute reasonable staff time as needed to support the HuLA Early Childhood Advisory Council system.

By signing below, both parties agree to execute this Agreement,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization’s Authorizing Signature and Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Organization Address, Phone number and Representative Email(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date