

Annual Report

2022

In 2017, Pueblo Communities that Care (CTC) analyzed local-level data to prioritize risk and protective factors (Academic Failure in Late Elementary School, risk factor, and Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement in the Community, protective factor), to prevent youth substance use. In 2018, CTC chose evidence-based strategies to address these risk and protective factors. To mitigate academic failure, CTC is working to increase quality childcare (strategy); to increase prosocial opportunities, CTC is working to make community spaces safe and healthier for young people (strategy).

In 2022, strategy implementation continued for the fourth year. Our coalition grew to 62 coalition members who put in the hard work to move our efforts forward. This year, the coalition participated in several skill-building and personal **growth** opportunities. For example, the Youth Action Board (YAB) participated in a six-week training about interpersonal effective communication (i.e., how to have difficult conversations) that was facilitated by a local psychologist, pictured right. Adult coalition members participated in a similar training where we learned communication and self-regulation tactics when talking about race, culture, and equity. This equity training is the first in a series of workshops facilitated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment around building the coalition's capacity in talking about, assessing, and improving our equity lens.

While we grew skills and strengths as a coalition, we remained **rooted** in being a highly effective and motivated group. This year, there was a total of 49 CTC meetings with an average of 9 coalition members attending each workgroup meeting which speaks to the high commitment of coalition members. There was an average of a 4.8/5 Likert scale rating for all meetings, indicating members are satisfied.

This annual report highlights the efforts and accomplishments of all CTC workgroups in 2022.



Note From the Facilitators

As you read through all the amazing accomplishments made by your fellow CTC members, it is evident that 2022 was a year of tremendous **growth**. We excelled through this recovery year- shifting gears and adapting to the changing landscape that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through hybrid meetings, maintaining a healthy mental wellbeing, and supporting our community's young people through this difficult time, we have blossomed and made enormous strides!

As we conclude our seventh year of CTC in Pueblo, we look forward to the possibilities in 2023 and supporting all of you in the work you are passionate about. Thank you for your continued dedication to the CTC process and to Pueblo County's young people.

Our most sincere thanks and appreciation,

Sarah & Akemi



Executive Committee, the chairs of all the workgroups and teams:

✿ Executive committee members reviewed the coalition health survey, administered by CU Anschutz, and prioritized three areas for improvement: 1) build advocacy among members, 2) improve communication in and out of the coalition, and 3) decrease silos.

✿ Helped to create a spend-down plan for this fiscal year,

ensuring monies are meaningfully spent across workgroups.

✿ We are in the process of revamping the structure of our workgroups so that chairs and team leads take more of an active role, including helping to plan and lead meetings, and help to write all grant reports – more to come in 2023.

Quality Childcare Strategy Team:

✿ Helped to implement Pueblo's mobile childcare classrooms that visits behavioral health centers, so parents receive support they need to strengthen their families.

✿ Successfully advocated for free zoning of any childcare facility in City, removing the financial barrier for providers.

✿ Worked to build capacity related to writing and evaluating

grants for childcare providers and team members—this toolkit has information on grant language, funding sources, and how to evaluate efforts.

✿ Working on a County ballot measure to establish sustainable revenue (via tax increase) for local early childhood systems – stay tuned!



SoCoYoGo:

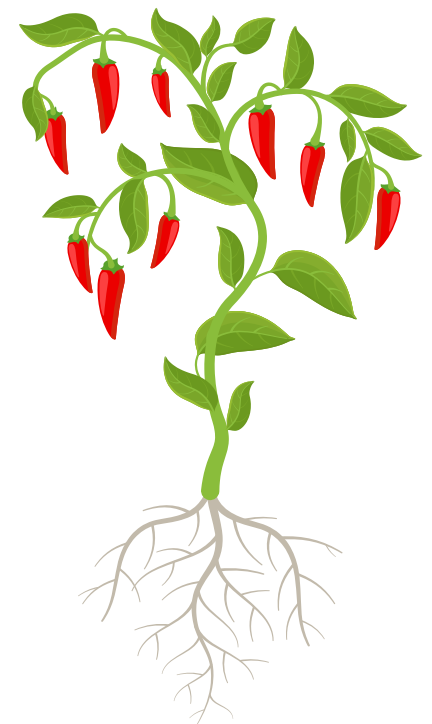
✿ Launched the platform in April with a fun-filled kickoff event at the El Pueblo Museum.

✿ We currently have over 100 users. Since launch, top visited locations include the many Pueblo City-County library locations, several Boys & Girls Clubhouses, parks, and District 60 schools.

✿ Onboarded two student interns to help with targeted marketing via further social media promotion and school outreach.

✿ With our youth advisers, we created a SoCoYoGo commercial! Available at socooyo.com.

✿ Team created their 1-, 5-, and 10- year goals. Next year, the committee will work on securing sustainable funding, expanding the platform's reach through a marketing plan, and solidifying dedicated staff time for implementation and outreach.



Community Spaces Strategy Team:



✿ Completed youth focus groups with over 60 young people asking them where they hang out in Pueblo, and where they want to go more often. Major accessibility barriers included transportation and a lack of time. The team is planning on reducing their barriers to engage in prosocial opportunities next year.

✿ Continued to educate the community about free student riders on public transportation. We regularly collected youth ridership data from Pueblo Transit—there has been a 31% increase in student riders in the last year. Because of this impact, we've secured free transportation through December 2024



Outreach/Youth Involvement Workgroup:



Onboarded five new youth advisors to the team.

Began recording their Tough Talk series – interviews with local experts on tough subjects to discuss with peers or adults. Initial episodes include interviews with NAACP, mental health experts, and political leaders.

Next year, the team is bringing back our Chalk Walk and helping to plan the next SoCoYoGo Day event in April – get excited!



Party Planning Committee:



In 2021, Outstanding CTC members were Eva Cosyleon and Nick Hinrichsen, Best Promoter of CTC was Kelsey Moore, Resiliency Champion was Tanya Simental, and the Community Builder was Eileen Dennis. Winners were recognized via the annual CTC Jingle Bell Rock.

Started to plan our first ever CTC summit where we'll have the

opportunity to showcase CTC efforts to the community and attempt to break down silos.



Youth Action Board:

Each youth adviser has identified a topic they are passionate about working on. Passion projects for this year included advocating for a teen-only hang out spot, providing youth voice around vaccines, and creating a kindness-a-day campaign.



Data Workgroup:

Working with a data analyst to look at interactions between questions on the 2021 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey, including looking at youth who identify as LGBTQ+ with several health outcomes. Just on initial look, we've seen an 8% decrease in youth regularly using marijuana for Pueblo County from 2019 to 2021!

Working to create a fluid CTC data dashboard to display meeting evaluations and feedback, budget spenddown, website analytics, represented community sectors in the coalition, as well as workgroup and strategy team data metrics.

