FIRST STEP ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 19, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/6403942999
Meeting ID: 640 394 2999

Attendees:

Angela Baier, CEO, CollegeInvest
Mike Blake, CMO, CollegeInvest
Mike Keglovits, ABLE & Special Programs Manager, CollegeInvest
Kirk Mielenz, CEO, RevGen Partners & Board Vice Chair, CollegeInvest
Christine Heitz, Board Member, CollegeInvest
Dr. David Gross, Board Member, CollegeInvest
Sarah Chapin, Media Director, Explore Communications
David Kennedy, CEO, Corona Insights
Austin Earp, Financial Education Program Coordinator, Department of Treasury
Joseph Homlar, OCYF Director of the Division of Child Welfare, Department of Human Services
Dr. Lisa Roy, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Angela Baier at 11:01 am.

Minutes:

Angela Baier asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20th meeting. David Kennedy moved and David Gross seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Quarterly Enrollment Numbers (CollegeInvest):

Mike Blake stated that we are now at 30,161 total awards with $3,394,563 paid out in kickstarter contributions. The balance of the Master Account, which are the Assets Under Management, is $21,080,974. Baier noted that recently passed legislation (HB26-1405) reduced that amount by $9.2 million. The bill transfers that amount from the kickstarter Master Account to the state's General Fund to assist with the state's budget shortfall. Those remaining funds are all federal dollars, so the program still has sufficient funding and will continue to thrive. CollegeInvest is very committed to the program regardless of legislation or funding.

Mike Keglovits reported on an initiative with Gary Community Ventures. Christine Heitz introduced us to this organization. They reached back and said they were interested in including First Step on their platform MyFriendBen. It's a resource program for lower income families. They fill out a profile with family size and ages. They serve over 55,000 families that are all Latino, lower income, families here in Colorado. They add about 12,000 families per year and they can do targeted text messaging to promote First Step. Heitz asked if there were any identifiers to see who was brought to the First Step program through that app versus elsewhere. Keglovits said we could talk to our agency.

Lisa Roy suggested www.mylantern.org as a similar tactic. She worked with them at Denver Public Schools and said we could use her name when we contact them.

Joe Homlar that National Adoption Month is coming up. He mentioned that Keglovits has presented at their child welfare policy subgroup meeting. He invited him to come back and share First Step to policy and child welfare leaders in Colorado. Homlar and Keglovits also created a short video on Facebook which they shared with the Advisory Committee.

New Business/Action Items for Future Meetings

November Meeting: Financial Literacy (Department of Treasury)
Quarterly Enrollment Report (CollegeInvest)

Adjournment:

Baier adjourned the meeting at 11:17 am.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. and will be held via the web conference application, Zoom. Meeting details will be posted on the CollegeInvest website www.collegeinvest.org.