

**Early Childhood Council Meeting
December 8, 2008; 9:00-11:30am
Harmony Library Community Room
4616 S. Shields Street, Fort Collins**

Introductions and Announcements

PSD- Poudre Valley Mobile Home Park

- 2 modular's currently on site- 1 a bilingual preschool classroom, the other for Early Head Start and Head Start mentors
- Concerns for safety, vandalism, unsanitary conditions, cost, no shelter for tornados. The safety of the staff, facilities and children have been dramatically affected by the sheriff's satellite office leaving the park about 2 years ago
- To address these issues, PSD will be closing the PV Mobile Home Park site and moving programs to Irish Elementary; expected move will be at the end of this school year
 - Partnering with Irish Elementary and its principal which have been collaborating to make sure the programs/services are continued
 - Will bring the mentors to Irish as well
 - Establish some sort of family/community center for services
 - Buses will be available to Irish for children, transportation still a big issue for parents
 - Families have all been brought into this decision, support will continue to be available to them
 - Saving rental costs- approximately \$14,000 a year
- The Council would like continuous updates on this process and PSD agrees to come back in 90 days for updates

“Care for the Care Giver” brochure- many child care workers don't have health insurance or have poor health insurance coverage. The brochure was developed by the Health and Medical Home committee of the Council and lists services for health, mental health, dental, prenatal, and other support services.

Strategic Planning

- The 4 goals developed last month went to the Board for approval
 - Minor changes; added a goal around health and wellness (instead of including it in the medical home goal)
- Task is to set 3-5 objectives for each goal. Objectives should be global, not activity specific
- Ground rules
 - Thumbs up/thumbs down
 - Speak one at a time
- Small group breakouts and debriefing
- The Council appreciated the leg work the staff did in preparing the goals and objectives

Workgroup Outcomes- Below are the objectives and thoughts pulled from the 5 small workgroups, each focused around one goal. ECCLC staff will take these suggestions back, work on re-wording for consistency, comprehensiveness, etc. and bring revisions back to the Council in January for input.

Goal 1) Increase availability of qualified early care and education staff

- Increase the understanding and support of the general population about the value and impact of Early Care and Education.
- Saturate the parents (and perspective parents) with information about Early Care and Education starting before birth.
- Partner with higher education to enhance the degree programs for Early Care and Education.
- Provide assistance to programs to address changed in standards.
- Bring to light issues involved with new standards and the way it affects programs!

Goal 2) Increase access to and availability of quality early care and education, especially for low income families

- Strengthen partnerships among providers, families and CCCAP.
- Facilitate improved communication between providers and parents.
- Explore advocacy options for addressing cliff effect/sliding scale.
- Develop strategies in addressing cliff effect.
- Increase funding resources to increase resources for providers.
- Identify uneven gaps of supply in specific geographic locations within the county.

Goal 3) Increase support to early care and education providers and families in addressing mental health and behavioral issues

- Build relationships, involve parents (Pyramid training)
- Train directors who train staff related to parent relationships
- Training for providers on building relationships with children and families
- Share ongoing communication strategies with providers, including home associations
- Collaborate with school districts (ECCLC staff)
- Knowledge of who, what, when to ask for help (re: difficult behavior)
- Information related to disabilities and developmental delays
- Offer funds to providers to increase training opportunities for their staff (on site and/or off)
- Parents
 - Training
 - Direct coaching
 - Print materials
- Basic/baseline information- common assumptions re. working with parents

Goal 4) Increase the number of children who have a medical home (coordination of physical and mental health services, including preventative and sick care)

- To provide information to families about available services and how to access those services
- To coordinate and collaborate provision between health care providers to encourage and support families to find a medical home

- To collaborate with other organizations to address access to medical home services
- To identify medical home best practice including mental health

Goal 5) Increase knowledge of health and wellness (including typical development, nutrition, physical activity, medical, oral and dental health)

- Identify knowledge to disseminate
- Identify best way to make information accessible
- Provide access so families and providers can act on their knowledge
- Through all, honor the expertise of the parent and provider and the collaborative partnerships between professionals, families and providers.

Next Steps in the Process

- Unfinished conversations- how to continue them?
 - Specific speakers throughout the year on these topics
 - Broader system- how do goals come together? How to report on the system?
 - Committee work has been critical in continuing these conversations
 - Council member voted to use some of Council meeting time to convene work groups/committees in the future
- How would the Council like to stay informed about the Pathways Past Poverty Child Care Access Initiative?
 - Presentation to Council at February or March meeting
 - Pathways group doing so much work around our goals so we need to keep collaboration strong and open
- Will be taking the objectives back to the Board for approval on Thursday
- January meeting will be used to review draft objectives and activities
 - Do small groups again for feedback
 - Needs to be completed by the end of January since the CDE grant is due mid February. This will be our plan for the next 3 years.

Program Updates- updates in writing emailed and attached to agenda. Email questions or feedback to Bev.