

Early Childhood Council Meeting
March 9, 2009
Thompson School District Board Room, 800 South Taft, Loveland, CO

Introductions and Announcements

Vicky from PRPLE-Opening Council Tree Library on 3/28. Also, Every Child Ready to Read during Week of the Young Child.

Linda Fellion- A new report evaluating the Colorado Preschool Project has been published. One page of the report was distributed. Graphs on this page show that children who participated in CPP performed better than the district average on CSAP tests.

Senate bill 038 passed in last June/July that created a 12 Department of Education Regional Service Areas. Thompson, Poudre and Park school districts are in RSA 2, along with several other districts. The focus is to create services that no individual districts could provide on their own.

The Family Center has officially opened their new infant room. It was full upon opening.

Albertha- DAP forum this Thursday evening.

Approve meeting minutes from 2/09

Lorna Greene moves to approve. Bev Hall seconds.

Touchpoints Principle:

Look for Opportunities to Support Parental Mastery

Thompson School District Programs- Theresa Clements

Early Childhood Program-

*Over 400 children in the program.

*The vision of the program is:

- Children Growing
- Families Empowered
- Diversity Embraced

*Three components of the program:

- Head Start: 139 children enrolled
- CPP: 120 children enrolled
- Special Education: 200+ children enrolled

Family Leadership Training Institute- Jane Everett

*Based off of Parent Leadership Training Institute, from Connecticut. There are 4 communities in the state that is a pilot program. Larimer County is one, and has changed the name to Family Leadership Training Institute.

*Intensive course- 20 free classes, and come with a child care stipend. The first 10 courses cover Leadership training (public speaking, etc.) The second 10 courses are more involved with Policy development.

*Classes begin 10/03/2009 and run through 3/30/2010.

*Ideal candidates for this program would be parents who have shown interest in family leadership and advocacy for family-centered policies.

*Hoping for 20-25 participants

Pathways Child Care Access Initiative- Mims Harris

- Pathways Past Poverty was developed in the Fall of 2007
- PPP steering committee selected 12 goals
 - Accessible quality early child care.
- PPP Goal #1- Ensure families in Larimer County have access to quality child care for their children that they can afford, that supports their children's development, and supports their ability to be present and productive at work (including when children are sick).
- Principles to remember:
 - Child care is a key component to the economic health and stability of our community
 - Research has shown that quality early care and education programs help break the cycle of poverty:
 - Increase school success
 - Improve graduation rates
 - Reduce involvement in crime
 - Increase earning potential
 - Making child care cheaper is NOT the solution.
 - Policies should support an array of early care and education options and choices that fit best with each family.

Discussion and input on PPP Strategies

- For each of these strategies, how do they help meet the goals:
 - Build Capacity for Infants and Toddlers
 - Improve CCAP process
 - Provide off-hour or more Weekend Services
 - Help with more sick/special needs care
 - Location of Centers
 - Help with CLIFF effect
 - Provide support to Providers
 - Strengthens Provider Business Model
 - Increase Affordability to families

Colorado Department of Education Grant Application (submitted by ECCLC):
Component of the Grant-School Readiness: 7 schools in Larimer County are eligible for School Readiness services. Programs representing 30 classrooms have agreed to participate in the School Readiness project.

Presenter Contact Information

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