

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

**Introductions and Announcements**

- The Council needs a new facilitator for monthly meetings; would prefer a non staff member. Anyone interested can speak with Bev.
- HCC annual Summit Day for Families and Children is September 13<sup>th</sup>; tons of resources available.
- CAEYC membership scholarships are available, see Albertha Moorlag for more information.
- Fort Collins Partners in Child Care (FCPIC) is hosting an Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) workshop on August 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - There will be more Every Child Ready to Read trainings coming up on September for multiple ages
  - ECRR trainings now meet licensing standard for continuing education credits.
- Family Development Credential training available in September
- The September 8<sup>th</sup> ECC Council meeting will be in Estes Park.

**Approval of June Minutes-** Lorna Greene moves to approve the minutes, Ellen Coker seconds the motion, and all approve.

**Goals and Outcomes from Lt. Governor's Office**

Early Childhood Colorado brochure outlines the basic principles to building our work outcomes and goals. The different outcome categories are access, quality, and equity. Activity for the Council is to highlight the areas where we are already doing work and think about where/what might need more focus. Areas of work are Early Learning, Family and Parent Education, Social/Emotional and Mental Health, and Health

The Colorado Trust grant application will be available in September and will highly rely on this framework with a focus on health and mental health outcomes. The Mental Health and Health Care committees of the Council will do more work on pulling this all together for a grant application.

*Highlights of this conversation/activity are included at the end of the minutes in a table. Discussion will also be continued at a later time. The topics for the October discussion are also listed at the end of the table.*

**Health Department Services-**

- The general population doesn't know what a Health Department does or if they even have one.
  - It's not a "clinic for poor people" in most places
- Assessment
  - Access to info about community health
  - 80% of change in the average life span is due to public health
  - Board of Health-overview and management; Board of County Commissioners- financial management and allocation
- Divisions in Larimer County
  - Environmental Health

- Vital Statistics/Administration
- Maternal/Child Health (Community Health)
- Communicable disease prevention- hand washing
- Maternal/Child Health
  - Family Planning- ensuring all pregnancies are wanted; STD prevention
  - Maternal Services- for Medicaid recipients; post partum home visits
    - Nurturing Program
    - Nurse Family Partnership- first time moms
    - Prenatal Plus
  - Nurturing One- for high risk teen pregnancies; court ordered program (capacity of 20 girls)
  - Nurturing Two- high risk young adults (capacity of 40 women)
  - WIC/Nutrition- pregnant women and children food assistance
  - Immunizations- completed audits in child care centers to ensure proper record keeping
- Emergency Preparedness Program
- ECC Health Committee is working on developing fliers for providers to include resources for health and mental health services available to them

### **Pathways Past Poverty**

- From all the goals of all the sub-committees, the child care access goal that Linda Fellion and others worked on rose to the top of the list for United Way and its priorities
- The Council hired consultant Meg Franko to research strategies that other communities have used to address the issue of access to affordable and quality child care
  - Her findings highlighted the economic impact of child care on a community and the need to involve more local City Councils and legislators.

### **Touchpoints Activity & Conference Highlights**

In May, Touchpoints held their annual Forum in Boston and Judy, Lisa, and Linda from staff were able to attend.

- Highlighted the value of the parent/child relationship as key in the child's development, regardless of the perceived effectiveness of the parent.
- The parent is the expert on his/her own child
- Every Child Matters
  - Geography Matters- where you are born can determine your success as a child
  - Build relationships with people who can help you advocate for the cause

**Program Updates-** See attachments sent with August meeting agenda.

- New Spanish for Professionals class being offered at FRCC for educators.

SEE NEXT TWO PAGES FOR SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD COLORADO FRAMEWORK. The Outcomes are listed in the left column, and the discussion about existing services and concerns are captured in the other two columns. The discussion will be continued at the October Council meeting.

## EARLY LEARNING OUTCOMES

<b>ACCESS OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>EXISTING SERVICES</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS</b>
Increased availability of formal education and professional development opportunities for early childhood professionals related to early learning standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Development Program</li> <li>Every Child Ready to Read</li> <li>CAEYC</li> <li>Family Associations and mini-conference</li> <li>Family Development Credential</li> <li>Family Support</li> <li>Work with families under stress</li> <li>Touchpoints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broaden topics (more specialized topics for those who have been through basic courses)</li> <li>Demand for more in-depth medical and health info</li> <li>More resources?</li> <li>Expanding outreach to get people engaged in workshops?</li> <li>Opportunity for follow-up coaching—for all training and for college credit</li> <li>Because of shortfall of infant teachers, may need to focus on this more.</li> </ul>
Increased access to high quality early learning, birth through kindergarten.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Scholarships (Women Give)</li> <li>EVICS (Estes Park) gives local scholarships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why does this focus on birth through K, when the overall goals address through age 8? (suggestion: access after kindergarten is guaranteed by school system?)</li> </ul>
<b>QUALITY OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>EXISTING SERVICES</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS</b>
Increased knowledge and understanding of what children need to be ready to succeed in school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Headstart and Early Headstart</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that this is defined primarily on cognitive standards, not social and emotional</li> <li>Need to look at what is right for each level of development</li> <li>Concern that low income moms are pressured to go back to work more than middle and upper income moms</li> <li>Gaps in helping Hispanic children</li> </ul>
Increased number of programs that are accredited and/or quality rated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More Qualistar rated programs</li> <li>Increased use of Environmental rating scales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge to define “quality”</li> </ul>
Increased availability of community resources and support networks for early childhood practitioners, professionals and programs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to engage business and government to support early childhood</li> </ul>
Increased number of children meeting developmental milestones to promote school readiness.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to address home environment as well, including preparing parents regarding school readiness</li> <li>Success is not all about letters and numbers</li> </ul>
Increased number of children with special needs who receive consistent early learning services and supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ABCD/Part C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Course on helping providers talk with parents about concerns (might add to first bullet point under Access Outcomes)</li> </ul>
Decreased gaps in school readiness and academic achievement between		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong concern about gap between Anglo and Hispanic populations</li> <li>Staff need more cultural competency training</li> <li>Better recognition of diversity (both cultural and economic)</li> </ul>

populations of children.		
<b>FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION OUTCOMES</b>		
<b>ACCESS OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>EXISTING SERVICES</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS</b>
Increased availability and family use of high quality parenting/child development information, services and supports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent Education Network (PEN) is making info available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community needs a variety of types of resources to address mental health needs for young children and families</li> <li>Cultural competency is key to reaching families</li> <li>How to reach very high risk families (Health Dept services 260 in their programs, which doesn't meet the need)</li> <li>Need to begin at pre-natal stage to create a more solid foundation</li> </ul>
Increased availability of financial supports to promote family self-sufficiency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>QUALITY OUTCOMES:</b>		
Increased number of children who live in safe, stable and supportive families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Improved family and community knowledge and skills to support children's health and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Increased parent engagement and leadership at program, community, and policy levels.		
Increased family ability to identify and select high quality early childhood services and supports.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>EQUITY OUTCOMES:</b>		
Increased family literacy services and supports that reflect the cultural diversity of families.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
Increased coordination of services and supports for families and children who are at-risk or have special needs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

## SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

<b>ACCESS OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>EXISTING SERVICES</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS</b>
Increased availability and use of high quality social, emotional and mental health training and support.		
Increased number of supportive and nurturing environments that promote children's health social and emotional development.	•	•
<b>QUALITY OUTCOMES</b>		
Increased number of early learning settings with mental health consultation.	•	•
Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors among families and early childhood professionals.	•	•
<b>EQUITY OUTCOMES</b>		
Increased number of mental health services for children with persistent, serious challenging behaviors.		•
Decreased number of out-of-home placements of children.		•

## HEALTH OUTCOMES

<b>ACCESS OUTCOMES:</b>	<b>EXISTING SERVICES</b>	<b>SUGGESTIONS/CONCERNS</b>
Increased number of children who have access to preventive oral and medical health care.		
Increased number of children covered by consistent health insurance.	•	•
<b>QUALITY OUTCOMES</b>		
Increased number of children who receive a Medical Home approach.	•	•
Increased number of children who are fully immunized.	•	•
Increased knowledge of the importance of health and wellness (including nutrition, physical activity, medical, oral, and mental health).		
<b>EQUITY OUTCOMES</b>		
Increased percentage of primary care physicians and dentists who accept Medicaid and CHP+.		•
Increased percentage of women giving birth with timely, appropriate prenatal care.		•
Decreased number of underinsured children.		