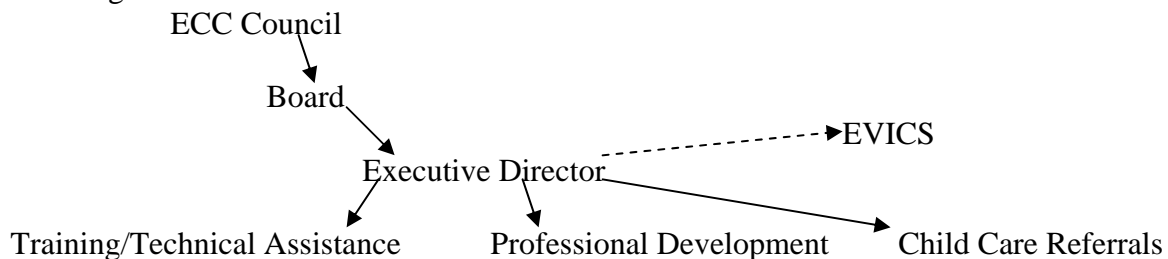


**Early Childhood Council Meeting
September 8, 2008; 9:00-11:30am
Park-R3 Board Room
1605 Brodie Ave, Estes Park**

Approval of August Minutes- Cathie McCallum motions to approve the minutes, Ellen Coker seconds the motion, and all approve.

Overview of ECC Services

- History
 - Began in 1997 as one of 12 Consolidated Child Care Pilots in the state
 - 2003- received 501c3 exempt status; has a governing Board
 - 2006- passage of HB1062 that supports Councils across the state
- Relationships outside of the County
 - State level- Departments of Education, Human Services, and Public Health & Environment
 - Lt. Governor's Office
 - Qualistar
 - 30 other Councils in the state
 - Foundations- i.e. Temple Hoyne Buell
- ECCLC is mandated to address the entire early childhood system:
 - Child and family is at the core
 - The four system areas that impact the core are:
 - Early care and education
 - Family support and parent education
 - Mental health
 - Health care and medical home
- Council members come from a variety of agencies and organizations in the County
- Role of Council is to provide input to ECCLC staff and Board
- Organizational Structure



- Role of Board- legal and fiscal responsibility
- Role of staff- to implement programs in collaboration with community partners
- Pathways Past Poverty- #1 goal from all their work is “access to quality and affordable child care”

Early Care & Education in Estes Park- *a child's success is dependent on the investment from the community in which it lives*

- Services
 - Trainings locally for providers

- Parent education, child care referrals
- Scholarships for child care
- 85% of brain development happens before age 5, yet 95% of public investment in education is after age 5.
- Child care has an economic impact on the community because parents can find and keep jobs if they have affordable, quality, and consistent child care
- Loss of young families in Estes Park is evident by the declining school enrollment
- Current availability of child care
 - 1 center offers child care which includes 4 infant spots, and 10 toddler spots
 - 5 homes here, but only 3 offer infant care (6 spots total)
- Child care assistance
 - CCCAP for eligible
 - EVICS- limited funds, short term for parents
- Parent identified needs and wants
 - Warmth and care of the provider; quality
 - Cost/availability of care
- Challenges for providers
 - Cost of delivering care, paying staff
 - Adequate facility availability

Strengths of EVICS

Challenges

Idea/Action Steps

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long term centers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in Spanish speaking families (20% of Salud clients) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waiver to help fill CPP slots (physical, structural limitations) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased awareness of early childhood issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to quality in infant/toddler care
*RMNP- 30 kids of employees needing care; many unhappy with current child care situation; issue for employers
*Need for adequate facilities for infants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide support for unlicensed family members doing care in their home; many Spanish families |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scholarships for families allow for parent choice for child care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empty school district rooms don't meet the needs for licensing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect data on impact for employers (i.e. RMNP) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relationship/support between local providers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recreation community center proposed to include a child care site; town vote this fall | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other non profits in the community connect well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Long term commitment from the Town for EVICS funding | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● YMCA serves 150 SA kids during the summer (1/3 of those are scholarship) | | |

Mental Health & Health Care Programs in Estes Park

- Early Childhood Colorado Framework from Lt. Governor's office
 - Foundations at the bottom
 - Address the 4 domains of early childhood services (early care and education; families; social, emotional and mental health; health care)
 - Outcomes for the 4 domains address access, quality, equity
 - Goals at the top
- CO Trust Grant- RFP to come out mid September; to address mental health and health needs in Council communities; \$5 million over 5 years

Social Emotional Mental Health

Existing Services

- Children are being supported by the community
- Child protection groups; meets 2x a month
- Foothills Gateway will do on-site screenings of children for 0-3 in a home or child care setting

Gaps/Concerns

- Inconsistency for MH consultations; need more regular, not just as needed
- Parent ed programs for kids age 0-3
- Spanish speaking counseling
- In center based screening for kids
 - Better communication between child care sites from school district about child find screening for 3+
- Better communication between Larimer and Boulder county since Park School District families are mixed
- Training for child care providers around mental health issues
- Training for nurse health consultants around mental health issues

Health Care

Existing Services

- New dental clinic in town; also does dental screenings at schools
- Lyons Club does eye screenings at Preschools
- Immunization coordinator at Salud
- Strong relationships with local Pediatrician

Gaps/Concerns

- Undocumented kids having access to health care (Salud is preventative based, not treatment)
- Access to pediatric care for more serious conditions (to Loveland, Denver)
- Identifying families who need health care and referring to Salud

Touchpoints Activity

- Outline and overview of Touchpoints and it's establishment
- Involves a paradigm shift
 - Deficit model → Positive model
 - Linear development → Multi-dimensional development
 - Prescriptive → Collaborative
 - Objective involvement → Empathetic involvement

- Strict discipline → Flexible discipline
- Guiding principles (i.e. “Value passion where you find it” and “value disorganization & vulnerability”)
- Parent and Provider Assumptions
- Would like to look for more funding to offer more Touchpoints trainings throughout the County and specifically in Estes Park

Program Updates- see written report

- ECCAT highlights
 - Committed to finding and keeping continued funding for Councils
 - Continue the waiver process for Councils