

**Early Childhood Council Meeting**  
**April 14, 2008; 9:00-11:30am**  
**Community Foundation Room**  
**4745 Wheaton Drive, Fort Collins**

**Introductions and Announcements-**

- Library District
  - Library services is taking a focus on Early Literacy
  - Congratulations to Vicky Hays who is the new Children's Librarian with an emphasis on Early Literacy.
- Duck Race tickets still available to help support EVICS. Tickets are \$20 and \$19 of that goes directly to EVICS.
- Susan McColl will be resigning from Early Head Start but will continue to do health consultations for child care sites.

**March Minutes-**

- Correction to FC City council work session in I/T Care paragraph.
- Correction to Foothills Gateway information-no fee for all families, 92-95% of people referred are eligible for services.
- With these changes, Jane Everett moves to approve the minutes, Lisa Sadar seconds the motion, and all approve.

**Touchpoints Activity- "Value Disorganization"**

- Book "The Flower" used as a metaphor for feelings about I/T care and lost slots in the community
  - Wed March 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting at the ECC office with Mary Atchison of United Way to discuss I/T slots and other cc problems.
  - There might be money in the TGYS budget because of the closure of Springfield Ct. who was a DECA site, to facilitate a task force to address these issues.
  - Having non Early Childhood people attend NC Smart Start will hopefully help bring this issue to the community level.

**Discussion of Quarterly Report**

- 1) Most significant accomplishment
  - The continued forward movement of the council work through major transitions; attributed to teamwork and cohesion
  - Relationships established with Lisa Poppaw at FC City Council, Mayor Hutchison, Senators, and Commissioners
- 2) Biggest Challenge
  - Center closures
  - Losing infant/toddler slots
- 3) Key learning- getting real support for the work from the community and not just face time

### **Misc. Issues for Discussion**

- Pathways Past Poverty open house in Fort Collins on April 30<sup>th</sup>; 4:30-8pm at Northside Aztlan Center. We need community representation there because many ECC staff will be out of town that day.
- TA Budgeting day with the ECCLA group- Lauren Powers and Lisa Sadar will be attending with Linda.
- September council meeting to be held in Estes Park. Lauren will cancel the library for this month.
- Received notification from the State that we will be funded \$197,877 next year instead of the \$172,000 we thought but we will be responsible for budgeting our travel to state ECC meetings now. Some of the extra money can be used to support other programs (TTA, Touchpoints, EQ).
- CCCAP is able to help students in higher ed with child care costs now; \$500,000 from leftover TANF dollars. Application period is June 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, contact Laura Sartor for more information. It has yet to be determined how long families will qualify for; 225% FPL; single or double parent households. Parents will have to write a letter about their career choices and sustainability; there will be help from the CSU Career Center and LC Workforce for this.
- Interested in having DEC do a meth presentation at a council meeting; could we move June council meeting to 8:00am to accommodate them? The Council agrees that 8:30 is a good compromise and that if the CSU R&D is ready to present in June, we'll have the meth presentation another month.
  - Also suggested that we have at least one evening meeting a year to attract more center and home providers. Could we offer training hours for something like this too?
- CSU R&D can present findings from PSD to the Council if we are interested regarding fee based preschool and the affects on the community and child care industry. Also includes a piece on quality child care and parent involvement.
- Work on relationship building with DOTS group (Directors) to inform of council work and how we can help each other.
- Kid's Connect- looking for new community to implement EC mental health consultations. Letter of intent due May 6<sup>th</sup>. Larimer Center for Mental Health would be a partner in this; family/parent support built in as well. There will be a conference call on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm for anyone interested in learning more about it.
- FLTI (Family Leadership Training Institute)- application for facilitator training. The family engagement piece of our strategic plan needs some work; is this something they could look at to see if and how the application fits our work?

### **Follow-Up on Loss of Child Care Slots-**

- Supply and demand study from center closures on hold till we get some clarification on the closure of Spring Creek school
- 7 sites have closed from this time last year (2 of those might have been the previous year)
- One child care center has 24 people on a waiting list for the infant room; we need to partner with sites to determine where these kids are
- Mirage Foundation shared services
- Email suggestions to Linda for the meeting with UW and other community members

### **Program Updates-**

- 1) ECCAT- Linda will forward minutes from Lisa Poppaw from that meeting.

- 2) Budget/Funding-
  - 3 or 4 pending requests for funding
  - One funder denied request to expand DECA work at this time, but said to reapply in the Fall
  - No word on RGK grant to fund Touchpoints
  - Johnson Foundation will review the letter of intent in June
  - Possible end of the year funding from State ECC
- 3) Annual Report- got a printing quote from one printer, looking at a few others.
- 4) Professional Development
  - Lorna attended THB conference last week for fundees statewide to share about their programs and successes. THB is developing a template to be used for reporting; still want hard data on retention in the EC field.
  - Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the annual THB Board meeting in Fort Collins; staff and others invited to attend a reception that evening with the Board or Trustees
  - 15 people on the list for summer scholarships; Lorna has enough money for about \$300-400 per person
  - Funding next fall will hopefully include scholarships for school district employees
  - Home provider participation has increased; many new applicants each semester
- 5) Training & Technical Assistance
  - Applications for quality improvement grants will be out soon for funding next year
  - 2 FCCERS groups have met to discuss changes to the ERS tool and did some self assessment work
  - Qualistar provider appreciation dinner in Denver; 2 Larimer County providers attended along with Linda and Lisa from ECC.
  - Working to help providers to feel like professionals and empowering them
- 6) Child Care Referrals- applications received for new Referral Specialist; Codi promoted as the R&R program coordinator.
- 7) Resource Development- Board Committee to work on this more, hopefully after new Executive Director hired.