

Early Childhood Council Meeting
May 12, 2008; 9:00-11:30am
Harmony Library Community Room
4616 S. Shields St., Fort Collins

Introductions and Announcements

- Sunshine House (which owns University Children's Center, McKee, and NCMC Child Care Center) just bought out Kid's Harbor as well.
- Riversong Waldorf School is hosting a fair at City Park on Sunday May 18th.
- Larimer Center for Mental health sent in a letter of intent for the Kid's Connect grant; will also be starting the Incredible Years parenting class at a child care site soon.
- The summer reading program has their summer calendar available; pick up at libraries
- CSU Early Childhood Center had a front page article in the Colorado about their work with Tobacco Free Larimer County and smoking boundaries on campus. Congrats!
- CAEYC has scholarships available to pay for memberships; contact Albertha for more information.
- The Center for Couple and Family Therapy at CSU is open to all community members and has a sliding scale available.

Approval of April Minutes- Lorna Green moves to approve the minutes, Ellen Coker seconds the motion, and all approve.

Touchpoints Activity- *"Value Expertise"*

"What do you bring to the Early Childhood Council?"- write down and keep reflecting on your own expertise and that of everyone at the table; sharing activity

New Executive Director- Board Member TeDi Jansen at meeting today to answer any question the Council may have. The Board and Bev Thurber (new E.D.) are committed to working with Linda to create a position that utilizes her talents and skills to their utmost ability. Linda's hope is that the work of the Council and Staff will continue without too much interruption.

- Bev brings with her a big picture view including fund development and building teamwork in hopes of moving the team forward. She does not have a strong background in early childhood education so that is where she seeks growth.
- The Council would like to invite other people who don't normally come to Council meetings to the June meeting so that they can meet Bev and so that she can see all the expertise at the table.
 - Move the CSU R&D results to August meeting to allow more time for networking in June.
- Structure for future meetings-
 - Timeline for meetings and committees; develop a calendar
 - More misc. business at the end of the meeting (after networking break) and more structured/serious topics at the beginning of the meeting so people can leave at the networking break if needed.
 - Monday mornings really are proving to be very hard for providers and school district staff; survey out to the Council to see what a better time for meetings is.
 - Would like to see more coordination from the Council on Week of the Young Child activities.

Smart Start North Carolina Conference-

- Great presentation called “No More Warm Fuzzies” at the conference about the economic impact of child care and ECE on a community; possibly get the speaker to CO in the future.
 - What is the role of the Council in shifting the views of ECE and child care in our community?
 - Where is money being invested in mental health services? Is it too late (junior high, high school) after major development ages?
 - Video on YouTube called “Shift Happens”
- Conference attendees are willing to do a panel at a future council meeting about things they learned at the conference.

Task Force for CC Center closures- TGYS approved a shift in money (excess from Springfield Court Center closing) to hire a researcher to look at models across the state and nation; contractor hired is Meg Franko and will address things like policy change. The Council should be responsible for getting influential people to a forum for her to present her findings and make a plan around child care goals from the Pathways Past Poverty campaign.

Kid’s Connect grant update- Larimer Center for Mental Health and ECC relationship for this grant application. The TTA team at our office will work with Martha Ratliff at the Larimer Center and we will hopefully be able to provide a desk at our office for Martha to use part-time. 2 centers and 1 home provider will be chosen in only one community in the state for the first year of this grant.

Program Updates- It is suggested that maybe program updates could be given in writing (with the minutes and agenda) to shorten the length of council meetings and keep it relative to the audience.

- 1) *ECCAT-* broken into 3 deep thinking groups, Lisa Poppaw sits on the Technical Assistance group. ECCLA Technical Assistance days are sometimes more applicable for emerging or capacity building models, so what are our needs as a model community? Email Lisa Poppaw (lisapoppaw@comcast.net) with any ideas.
 - Economic impact of ECE coming from the Lt. Governor’s office
 - Evaluation group working on self assessments and community assessments for councils
 - ECCLA is a place for councils to share successes, problems, what’s working and what’s not.
 - Smart Start toolkit is a good resource for Councils.
- 2) *Budget/Funding-*The budget to the State is due May 15th, the Board will hopefully approve the budget this week. Some revisions may be needed after the submission because of Executive Director transition. There is also a narrative needed for the increased award from CDE.
 - Bookkeeping has been slow and not as we need it to be for monthly financials and the yearly audit. Some of the work is pro-bono but maybe it’s not worth it. Bev may look at bringing a bookkeeper in house after she begins work.
- 3) *Annual Report-* Have received quotes from 2 printers and still waiting on a third. At this point since it’s so late in the year already, it may be best to just have the 06-07 report available through email and on the website. We can begin work on the 07-08 report using the same format and have it ready for printing in August or September hopefully.
- 4) *Professional Development-* Professional development program received notification that THB has committed to refunding the program for the 08-09 year; \$80,000 total award and \$33,100 for scholarships.

- Lorna attended the THB retreat last month with all fundees from across the state; apparent that every program operates differently. Larimer County has one of the best records in number of scholarships provided, number of new people each semester, and number of home providers receiving scholarships.
 - THB Board retreat in Fort Collins last month as well. Local fundees (including all ECCLC staff) were invited to a reception in the evening with their Board of Directors.
 - New reporting format very similar to the one we currently use for tracking so the switch won't be too difficult. Will begin to collect leveraged funds from students for this report.
 - Congrats to Stephane Robinson (El Niditio Director) who was one of our first scholarship recipients at FRCC and is now graduation from CSU with a Bachelor's degree.
 - Erion Foundation funded ECE 101 offered in Loveland for TSD paraprofessionals plus a few other scholarships for college classes. Reapplied for next year; awaiting an answer.
 - Grant submitted to Bottel Foundation (science/math) to include more Professional development and TTA funding.
- 5) *Training & Technical Assistance*- The team is working hard with sites to spend down all the Quality Improvement Incentive grants, awarded \$8,000 this year. Matching funds from providers, in time and resources, already at \$16,000 this year.
- 6) *Child Care Referrals*- Excited to announce they hired Shon Hernandez as a new part-time (20 hrs/wk) referral specialist to help with referrals and provider updates. Codi will be taking over as the R&R Program Coordinator.