

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Colorado Defense Mission Coalition Meeting
Wednesday, October 20, 2010; 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Meeting Summary**

Meeting attendees:

- Mary Barber, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Terry Brubaker, Fort Carson Education Center
- Lisa Cochrun, City of Fountain
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Terence Jackson, Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- Kristen Kea, Fort Carson Warrior Family Community Partnership
- Rob MacDonald, PPACG
- Tom Miller, PPACG
- Bill Moore, Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership for Child Development
- Rick Orphan, Fort Carson Department of Public Works
- Dana Rocha, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs
- Dave Roudebush, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8
- Sarah White, PPACG

Growth Plan Update

Sarah White started introductions and led the discussion. On July 14th, the PPACG Board of Directors approved the final Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan (Growth Plan), which is available on PPACG's website (<http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/project-materials/growth-plan-documents>).

The Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) approved funding for Phase 3 of the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan, for the continuation of information-sharing and communication, including the ongoing impacts of deployments, and implementation of the recommendations from Phases 1 and 2 of the Growth Plan. The timeframe for Phase 3 is July 2010-June 2011.

PPACG hosted the Fort Carson Community Partnership Forum on August 26th. Approximately 250 attendees were at the event to listen to Commanding General David Perkins and Garrison Commander COL Robert McLaughlin along with PPACG staff and community leaders discuss upcoming deployments and the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan. Presentations from the event are available on PPACG's website at <http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/meetings/town-halls>.

Phase 3 implementation efforts include the development of a comprehensive website/portal to facilitate coordination and information-sharing to assist active-duty service members, veterans, and their families with behavioral health and social services needs in the Pikes Peak region. PPACG issued a Request for Proposals which were due on October 18th. PPACG staff will work to have a contract in place for the development of the site soon. PPACG is working with Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1, Army OneSource, and Fort Carson's Warrior Family Community Partnership and members of the Growth Plan's Medical, Behavioral Health & Social Services Partnership Group to help coordinate information for the website.

PPACG will be conducting a new survey of Soldiers and family members to update demographic information and modeling developed in Phase 2 and track any changing trends related to

deployments, housing, etc. Pending the Fort Carson approval, the survey will be circulated on the post electronically. It is anticipated that the survey will be conducted by the end of the year.

Phase 3 also consists of the development of a regional sustainability plan which will link the sustainability efforts of Fort Carson with other regional efforts. Stakeholder representatives are helping PPACG to develop draft stretch goals for transportation, economic development, energy and water, built and natural environment, health and materials management. The goals will be presented at the Southern Colorado Sustainability Conference on November 18-19 to the public. After a public comment period the goals will be finalized by the end of the year. Strategies, benchmarks and indicators will be determined in the Phase 2 of the sustainability project starting in January 2011. The sustainability planning is funded in part by OEA and other PPACG programs. PPACG is looking into other funding sources to assist in implementation.

Partnership Group Reports

Adult Education

Dana Rocha briefly provided updates about the Colorado Advisory Council on Military Education (CO-ACME). CO-ACME had a conference in May and raised \$15,000, which was dispersed as 5 scholarships going to one spouse, one active duty and three family members. CO-ACME is working on becoming a 501(c)(3) organization and on forming a new scholarship committee. The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) will start to incorporate and host all the states' ACMEs on its website.

Terry Brubaker announced that the education center on Fort Carson had to reduce its employees to five and had to cut back on services. He is hopeful that the center will receive some new funding. The center also has a contract for a new elevator, which was a recommendation from Phase 1 of the Growth Plan.

There has been recent media coverage regarding the large amount of military tuition assistance going to for-profit schools. Fort Carson is trying to be proactive about promoting quality education programs for Soldiers and working with schools that are Service Opportunity Colleges (SOC) which accept military experience for credit.

Terence Jackson noted that the Pikes Peak Workforce Center's Career Advancement Account (CAA) program will continue through June 2011. The PPWFC supports the largest veteran population in the state and is working on additional opportunities/trainings for veterans.

Child Development

PPACG continues to monitor the child development capacity issues and the need for more quality child care to serve military families off-post. Alliance for Kids is working on the professional development for child care providers. The group discussed a recent mission readiness study issued by the DoD called "Ready, Willing and Unable to Serve" that states 75% of kids are unable to join the armed forces because of a variety of factors including inadequate education and obesity. Therefore, school readiness is an issue of concern for the military, as well as local early care and education providers.

Economic Development/Workforce Development

Kate stated that OEA contracted the Voorhees Center out of the University of Illinois to analyze housing and economic conditions in all of the military growth communities. PPACG met with Voorhees representatives in August. PPACG will continue to work with the Voorhees Center to assist the region in tracking economic, workforce and housing data for the Fort Carson region.

Housing

The Housing Partnership Group met in October and the group continues to monitor growth and deployment effects on the housing industry, including apartment vacancy rates. PPACG will host a housing forum with industry experts around the beginning of the year. PPACG will continue to track regional housing data, as well as information compiled by the Voorhees center.

K-12 Education

The partnership group continues to work with Fort Carson and school districts to track troop changes and deployments and impacts to school enrollments, including students with special needs. Dave Roudebush announced that Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 opened a new elementary school on-post serving more than 600 students; the district has seen an increase of 280 students on-post, requiring additional staff.

Medical/Behavioral Health & Social Services

During Phase 3, PPACG will continue to host community provider trainings to help educate off-community health and service providers about military culture and issues. PPACG is working with Evans Army Community Hospital to conduct the trainings on a regular basis.

PPACG will meet with off-post and on-post service providers to develop the comprehensive website/portal discussed above to help active duty service members, veterans and family members. Off-post providers are also continuing to meet to coordinate care and identify funding opportunities to serve military families.

Transportation

PPACG is continuing to compile and analyze data, including DEERS data, housing, and land use information to develop mapping to assist regional planning efforts.

Rick Orphan reported that construction is beginning on the trail between Pikes Peak Community College to Gate 4. Mary Barber announced that Fort Carson continues to work on car pooling and van pooling efforts and is looking into starting a program for people to rent cars by the hour, similar to Colorado College's car rental program with Hertz. The Garrison Commander is interested in the possibility of having an on-post shuttle, although details remain to be determined.

Fort Carson had conversations with a developer regarding a potential off-post site near Gate 20 that could have multi-family transit oriented development units. The group discussed possible trail and park-n-ride projects off-post that could help Fort Carson reduce its vehicular traffic.

PPACG will reconvene the Public Safety and Public Utilities and Infrastructure partnership groups in the near future.

Other Business

Kristen Kea discussed the Warrior Family Community Partnership (WFCP), the aim of which is to streamline information for Soldiers and families. The website is up, but with a current emphasis on on-post services. The WFCP is working to incorporate other off-post services on its website. Kristen will also present information at the November Southern Colorado Sustainability Conference. The conference will have sessions dedicated to Soldier and Family resiliency.

Next Meetings:

- **Southern Colorado Sustainability Conference** on November 18-19 at Antler's Hilton Hotel in downtown Colorado Springs
- Next CDMC meeting: 19 January 2011