

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan  
Colorado Defense Mission Coalition Meeting  
Wednesday, March 17, 2010; 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Meeting Summary**

Meeting attendees:

- Mary Barber, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Brian Binn, Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Terry Brubaker, Fort Carson Education Center
- Lisa Cochrun, City of Fountain
- Ford Frick, BBC
- Lt. Thomas Harris, Colorado Springs Police Department
- Kate Hatten, PPACG
- Christopher Juniper, Fort Carson Sustainability
- Megan Lane, GBSM
- Rob MacDonald, PPACG
- Bill Moore, Pueblo Area Council of Governments
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership of Child Development
- Rick Orphan, Fort Carson Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Marian Percy, El Paso County Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Diane Price, Child Nursery Centers
- Dean Quaranta, Fort Carson Housing
- Xavior W. Robinson, Senator Michael Bennet's Office
- Laura Russmann, Apartment Association of Southern Colorado
- George Sugars, Fremont County
- Joanne Vergunst, Fountain/Fort Carson School District 8
- Thomas Wiersma, Fort Carson DPW
- Sarah White, PPACG
- Jason Wilkinson, PPACG

**Growth Plan Phase 2 Status**

Ms. Sarah White led the discussion and started introductions. Ms. Kate Hatten gave a presentation about the findings and recommendations from the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan. A PDF version of the presentation can be found on PPACG's website <http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/meetings/585-colorado-defense-mission-coalition>.

Noteworthy comments/questions made during the presentation include the following:

- It was suggested that a hand out or spreadsheet be provided to local governments indicating critical areas and how the local governments can support Fort Carson. There will be an executive summary of the final report that can be used to show local governments the key recommendations and policy issues in the final report.
- Although the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) cannot fund implementation projects, hopefully the Growth Plan will bring attention to key issues in the region and bring much needed federal funding to the projects identified in the project needs assessment (PNA) compiled last year with input from community partners. The PNA list indicates a \$100 million gap in funding for key transportation, infrastructure, and education projects in the region.
- PPACG is pursuing another round of OEA funding to continue monitoring Fort Carson growth and deployment impacts and to continue regional communication and coordination.

## **Partnership Group Reports:**

### Adult Education/Workforce:

Distance learning is the largest area of interest with over 7,000 projected Soldier enrollments. It was noted that this trend may be financially affecting local higher education institutions. It was also stated that there is not enough information about enrollment of spouses, although approximately \$1.4 million (through the pilot CAA program) has been made available in the region for continued education assistance for military spouses. Anecdotal evidence suggests more spouses are utilizing child care at local universities and community colleges. However, there is little information about how many spouses are going to back to school as most schools do not track spouse enrollment.

The partnership group met last week and reviewed the draft report. The group will review the revised report and make suggestions, changes and recommendations for the final draft report.

### Child Care:

The partnership group has reviewed the draft report and offered recommendations for the final report at the last partnership group meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Economic Impact Analysis:

The economic impact partnership group has not met since the last CDMC meeting. A draft report will be sent to the group for review and revisions.

### Education (K-12):

The partnership group met last month and reviewed the draft report and made recommendations to be included in the final draft report. Recommendations made in the draft report include pursuing reinstatement of second count day funding, continuing military counselors to assist schools in working with families during military stresses, working to remedy federal funding lags and pursuing more federal capital needs assistance.

### Health & Behavioral Health/Social Services:

PPACG hosted a community partnership training for off-post mental health providers in February. The training offered the providers more specific information about military culture and military related stresses and issues. In May, PPACG will host another community partnership training regarding military family issues. It was suggested that PPACG involve child development providers in that training.

The partnership group will meet on March 19<sup>th</sup> to review the draft report and make recommendations. Coordination, communication and lack of resources are major challenges for social services and health and behavioral health providers. PPACG is still trying to obtain Army Community Services (ACS) survey data of Soldier utilization rates for on-post services.

### Housing:

Approximately 22% of Soldiers and their families live in on-post housing. However, this number does not include the Soldiers living in the barracks. Fort Carson will be building an additional 308 units on-post, the majority of which will be for junior enlisted Soldiers and their

families who face more affordability issues off-post. Fort Carson will also conduct another housing analysis in 2010. It was recommended that PPACG continue to monitor and report the on and off-post housing demand, deployment cycles and numbers of Soldiers and their families on the wait list for on-post housing, as well as the number of Soldiers living in the barracks.

The partnership group reviewed the draft report and offered recommendations to be included in the final draft report.

#### Public Safety:

Mr. Jason Wilkinson provided a brief recap of the partnership group meeting held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed the demographic model and its ability to show aggregate regarding Soldiers and families, as well as GIS capabilities to assist public safety agencies.

Mr. Wilkinson also discussed HB 10-1104 allowing all judicial districts in Colorado to establish Veteran's Treatment Courts. He also announced that Fountain Police Department and other law enforcement agencies are pursuing the hiring of a consultant to analyze Fort Carson growth impacts to the area law enforcement services in the region.

#### Public Utilities & Infrastructure:

Ms. White discussed the partnership group meeting held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Impacts to this sector have not been analyzed in this phase of the Growth Plan, but PPACG continues to meet with the group and discuss issues related to Fort Carson growth. Key issues facing utilities are decreased tap fees because of declining development, under-funded maintenance and project needs and sustainability/renewable energy initiatives.

#### Sustainability/Economic Development:

The partnership group reviewed the draft report at last week's meeting. GBSM is incorporating the group's comments and recommendations for the final draft report.

#### Transportation:

The partnership group reviewed the draft report last week and offered recommendations. Additional components regarding non-motorized and public transportation are also being reviewed by the partnership group members. FHU and PPACG will compile the group's comments and recommendations and incorporate them into the final draft report.

#### **Other Business:**

Additional Phase 2 tasks not included in BBC's scope include (1) pilot training for child care providers regarding behavior challenges for military children; (2) a Fort Carson-specific component to the Front Range Travel Counts Survey; (3) an assessment of Fort Carson impacts on El Paso County Department of Human Services programs; and (4) planning for safety and capacity improvements on SH 115.

#### **Community Reports:**

Ms. Marian Percy announced that the El Paso County Department of Human Services (DHS) has realized a significant increase services related to Fort Carson and is working on a separate assessment of Fort Carson impacts to DHS services for the Growth Plan. DHS is working more closely with Fort Carson and has hired additional caseworkers to focus on Fort Carson related cases.

**Next Steps:**

- All sections will be finalized and assembled in the final draft report mid-April.
- The final draft report will be delivered to the PPACG Board on April 14<sup>th</sup> for public review and comment.
- The Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall will be on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the Double Tree Hotel Colorado Springs – World Arena.
- The next CDMC meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2010 at 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.