

Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Colorado Defense Mission Coalition Meeting
Meeting Summary
Thursday, December 8, 2011; 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Attendees:

- Marv Adams, Colorado Springs School District 11
- Steve Alcock, TriWest
- Jody Alyn, Jody Alyn Consulting
- Mary Barber, Fort Carson
- Michelle Bruce, Project Sanctuary
- Wes Clark, Military Affairs Council
- Lisa Cochrun, Fountain Economic Development Commission
- JD Dallager, Pikes Peak United Way
- Kristi Glasper, Alliance for Kids
- Terence Jackson, Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- Anju Joshi, Colorado Community Clinic
- Representative Janak Joshi, Colorado House District 14
- Kristen Kea, Fort Carson
- Capt. Guy Mahoney, Fort Carson Behavioral Health
- Catherine Mayberry, AspenPointe
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership for Childhood Development
- Annie Oatman-Gardner, Office of Senator Michael Bennet
- Dean Quaranta, Fort Carson
- Laura Russman, Apartment Association
- Carl Schueler, City of Colorado Springs
- Joseph Sorenson
- Joanne Vergunst, Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8
- Ida Wade, El Paso County Public Health
- Lori Waters, Fort Carson Public Affairs Office

PPACG Staff: Joe Hanke, Kate Hatten, Robert MacDonald, and Sarah White

Growth Plan Update

Sarah White led the discussion and provided some brief background information about the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan and the Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC).

With funding from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), PPACG has been working through the CDMC, partnership groups, and other stakeholders to gather, analyze and share data regarding Fort Carson growth and military impacts throughout the region. The purpose is to provide timely and useful information to the region and ensure coordination between Fort Carson (and other military installations) and community-based entities and providers.

PPACG continues to provide demographic analysis and work with stakeholders across key issues areas, focusing on the implementation of Growth Plan recommendations. PPACG is seeking an extension of time using current OEA funds through March 2012 to continue ongoing efforts to support the region. These efforts and other current Growth Plan projects are discussed below.

Network of Care (<http://pikespeak.networkofcare.org/>)

Based on Growth Plan recommendations, PPACG developed the Network of Care (NoC) website, a comprehensive web portal to connect service members, veterans, and their

families to information and assistance and to connect providers to other resources. PPACG has partnered with Pikes Peak United Way to include 2-1-1 data for El Paso and Teller counties in the NoC service directory; other features include links to national, state and local resources, such as the Warrior Family Community Partnership, Army OneSource, and Military OneSource; the site also has customized local features, such as a link to the Independence Center's Accessibility Store (with a "try before you buy" service) from the national database of assistive devices. The Network of Care also provides information on medications, pertinent legislation, and opportunities for social networking and care coordination through a HIPAA-compliant, secure site for storing electronic medical, service, and other records. The "hits" to the site have been steadily increasing as more information about the site is disseminated by community partners. Participants are encouraged to review the website and suggest additional services and resources, as well as post events on the community calendar.

Peak Military Care Network

Kate Hatten introduced Jody Alyn with Jody Alyn Consulting, who provided a brief update about the military system of care strategic planning process to develop a collaborative care system to assist service members, veterans, and their families. This effort, now called the Peak Military Care Network (PMCN), is guided by a steering team comprised of 17 entities, including military, business, community and local government representatives. The strategic planning effort included twelve focus groups with 105 participants and a survey to obtain broad-based input. The strategic draft plan is anticipated to be completed in December 2011. Additional information will be provided, as well as opportunities for additional feedback and participation in the first quarter of 2012.

Improvements Study to Facilitate Access to Fort Carson Gate 19

The recent assignment of the combat aviation brigade and the on-post improvements to Butts Airfield and brigade facilities on Wilderness Road have necessitated the analyses of opening Gate 19 to accommodate the increased traffic to the installation. PPACG has contracted with Felsburg, Holt and Ullevig (FHU) to conduct an improvements study for Charter Oak Ranch Road and Santa Fe Avenue in order to facilitate access to Fort Carson's Gate 19 (near exit 128 off of Interstate 25). It is anticipated that the draft study will be completed by December 16th with a brief public comment period. A final document is anticipated to be completed at the end of the year.

PPACG, FHU and a stakeholder group (including CDOT, FHWA, El Paso County, Fort Carson, and the City of Fountain) worked to identify issues and potential design improvements for the access to Gate 19. The study identified structural issues with Charter Oak Ranch Road including pavement conditions and width. The study proposes design improvements, all unanimously approved by the stakeholder group, including a proposed roundabout at Santa Fe Avenue and Charter Oak Ranch Road. The study will enable additional analysis and design work in order to identify funding, including potential Defense Access Road (DAR) funding to complete the roadway improvements to support the opening of Gate 19. It is anticipated that DAR funds will not be sufficient for all of the improvements, so additional funding sources will need to be identified. It was

noted that the roads are in within the Central Front Range metropolitan planning organization (MPO) boundary, not PPACG's MPO boundary.

In addition, the off-post road improvements will need to align with the much needed road improvements on-post. Gate 19 temporarily opened in September to accommodate construction traffic, but very few people drove on the roads because of the rough road conditions.

Touchpoints Training

PPACG has contracted with Joint Initiatives/Alliance for Kids to conduct additional Touchpoints Trainings for early care and education staff and administrators serving military children. Kristi Glasper with Alliance for Kids provided an update about the two Touchpoints trainings that occurred in October and November. The first training focused on professionals who work with directly with military children and had 17 attendees representing a wide variety of organizations and who work with approximately 1,427 children who could be affected by the training. The second training focused on childcare center professionals who serve around 200 children who could benefit from the training. Both trainings received positive feedback and enthusiasm from the participants.

Demographic/Economic analysis update

PPACG is working with BBC Research and Consulting (BBC) to update the Fort Carson Demographic Model (FCDM) originally developed during Phase 2 of the Growth Plan. The FCDM update will include new (and better) data, including information regarding the stationing of the combat aviation brigade and updated deployment cycles, as well as more recent economic impact data. This report will be finalized by the end of December. PPACG will continue to provide stakeholders with updated information based on the FCDM and economic analysis as new information becomes available.

Regional Sustainability Update

PPACG, with community stakeholders, elected officials, Fort Carson representatives and individuals, developed a draft Pikes Peak Regional Sustainability Plan (the Sustainability Plan) with 20-year goals and strategies for El Paso and Teller counties. The purpose of the Sustainability Plan is to help leverage other sustainability efforts in the region, including those at Fort Carson and other military installations. The draft Sustainability Plan is available for public comment until December 23rd on PPACG's website at www.ppacg.org. The final Plan is anticipated to be completed by January – February 2012. Members are encouraged to review the draft Sustainability Plan and provide comments.

Discussion and Community Updates

CDMC members discussed current conditions, trends and upcoming events. Below are some notable discussion points:

Demographic analysis

- The FCDM provides fairly accurate projections on deployments, but PPACG will need to continue to work with Fort Carson to receive updated information about the changing deployment cycles.
- The FCDM numbers do not include projections regarding any reductions in force or other scenario planning related to DoD cuts, since any specific cuts to troops is undetermined at this time.

Early Care and Education

- As with other partnership groups, PPACG has transitioned early care and education issues related to military children to the Alliance for Kids. PPACG continues to assist Alliance for Kids by collecting/mapping child care and demographic data.

Housing

- PPACG hosted a housing forum in September to discuss barriers to constructing multi-family units and issues in the rental market.
- Vacancy in the rental market appears to still favor the renter with a 6.5% vacancy rate across the region. Rents are pushing a little bit, but are only back to 2002 levels. Multi-family property owners have to push the rents as they've not realized any rent increases for a long time.
- Multi-family property in Fountain recently broke ground, and additional units are planned near Powers and Main and in the Rockrimmon area. About 1200 units should be available by the summer. Developers are wary of overbuilding because of the uncertainty of the anticipated federal spending cuts.
- Apartment Association of Southern Colorado is working with the city of Colorado Springs on a proposed multi-family water rate that should reduce costs for multi-family units.
- The Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) is anticipated to increase slightly, but the announcement has been delayed and there are no certainties that the BAH will increase. The Defense budget is currently in conference committee and should take effect January 1.

Economic development

- Although the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan focuses on Fort Carson related impacts, the information, data and lessons learned from the Growth Plan could be integrated into other regional efforts and used by the other military installations or other entities impacted by military growth.
- OEA funding will be ratcheting down and OEA is encouraging growth communities and installations to explore collaborative efforts to protect from future BRAC rounds, including exploring joint land use studies.
- The region should diversify the economy locally. There are number of existing economic development plans and efforts, including the Colorado Blueprint which PPACG participated in the military strategy discussions. The Operation 60ThirtyFive report included a recommendation of utilizing the skills of Soldiers and fit those into other economic development opportunities. The City of Colorado Springs recently reorganized and Steve Cox will be heading up an economic vitality. The Colorado

Springs Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corporation are combining.

Other business

- Joanne Vergunst has been compiling data on military enrollments for local school districts and will provide school data to PPACG shortly.
- There are a number of changes of command at the Evans Army Community Hospital (EACH). COL Jimmie Keenan has been recommended for promotion to Major General and will head the Army Nurse Corps; Thomas Rogers will be acting hospital director. MAJ Ivany, behavioral health chief will also be leaving for a new assignment.
- MG Joe Anderson is the new Commanding General at Fort Carson, and the Garrison Commander will be changing in a few months. It will be essential for the community to have continuity of leadership to ensure communication and information-sharing and facilitate community collaboration, particularly as federal budget cuts go into effect.
- Fort Carson will be hosting another educational summit in April focusing on special needs education, bullying, funding, etc. The education task group met recently to plan for the upcoming summit.
- Fort Carson recently started child and family services at the Premier Clinic including behavioral health treatment.
- The Pikes Peak Workforce Center moved into the Garden of the Gods facility and will have changes in workforce investment board in January.
- A Military and Veterans Employment Expo will be held 29 February-2 March to connect veterans directly to employers. On December 7th the USO and Chamber of Commerce hosted another quarterly Wounded Warrior Career Opportunity Day at the Double Tree Hotel that successfully resulted in five “on-the-spot-hires”.
- Community Partnership for Child Development will open a new Headstart center on Fort Carson by Gate 20.
- State legislation for 2012 will look similar to last year and will address ongoing budget cuts.

Next Steps:

- PPACG expects to move forward with tasks in the next three months and will continue transitioning information and implementation to community partners, where appropriate.
- PPACG is working with Fort Carson to plan the next Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall tentatively scheduled for March; additional details will be provided when available.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.