

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Child Development Partnership Group Meeting
October 21, 2009
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Kris Ingram, Alliance for Kids
- Diane L. Price (Chair), Child Nursery Centers (CNC)
- Shirley Swope, PEAK Parent Center
- JoAnn Trujillo, Children First – Pueblo
- Kristyn Ulrich, BBC Research and Consulting (BBC) (by telephone)
- Jennifer West, Family Connections/KPC Kids' Place
- Sarah White, PPACG

MEETING DISCUSSION:

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Diane Price opened the meeting by welcoming the members and going through individual introductions.

Parent Survey Update

Ms. Ulrich stated that PPACG and BBC have been working on provider and parent surveys through off-post child development centers and on-post through family readiness groups. The surveys are designed for non-military families as well as Fort Carson families. Despite efforts to distribute the surveys electronically or by providers distributing paper surveys to families, the response rate was very low. In fact, BBC received only two surveys via the FRGs, despite the help of Connie Roy. It was noted that Fort Carson families are currently facing a lot, from recent deaths and deployment announcements. The low response rate may be the result from families feeling over surveyed and feeling that this effort is not a priority.

BBC does have enough data from the Fort Hood Mountain Post Welcome (MPW) surveys to for the child care analysis, but the analysis will not be as robust as originally anticipated without the parent survey information. In terms of economic impacts, parent surveys are important to determine the “but for” effect (i.e., spouses would return to the workforce, but for the lack of child care, etc...). The direct impact to the economy from the child care industry is not huge. The bigger impacts are from the parents being able to return to the workforce. The parent surveys would help determine how many parents would return to the workforce.

The group discussed possible options for obtaining greater response rates. Ms. Sarah White suggested looking into other agencies or groups (e.g. Fort Carson neighborhood mayor's meetings) to help bolster more support or awareness of the surveys. BBC may utilize information from previous studies from different jurisdictions similar in

demographics or size to the Pikes Peak region for this project, as well as other nation-wide statistics that may be available from other sources, such as a recent RAND-National Military Family Alliance collaborative study. Ms. Price indicated that she would also try to assist in getting additional Fort Carson parent responses. It was agreed that BBC would wait until the end of the month as a cut-off date for survey responses. BBC would then move forward with whatever data they are able to obtain.

Focus Group Updates

Ms. Heidi Aggeler with BBC scheduled two focus group meetings on October 22nd and 23rd. She only received four RSVPs and will have to consolidate groups to meet the morning of October 22nd. Like the low response rates of the parent surveys, the low response rate for the focus groups is likely because of families' uncertainty and grief because of the recent soldier casualties in Afghanistan. Ms. Hatten provided Ms. Aggeler's email with the script that will help start conversations at the focus group.

Ms. Kate Hatten will follow up with the Fort Carson Chief of Staff to get better ideas of how to get better survey responses. Perhaps the surveys can be distributed through the CYS distribution list.

Phase 2 Status Update/Demographics

Ms. Hatten distributed the most recent Fort Carson growth projections. The first graph depicts troop projections of soldiers assigned to Fort Carson, soldiers physically located at Fort Carson and Fort Carson soldier population (present + deployed). It was noted that, based on current deployment cycles, one to two brigades will be deployed at any given time.

The other graph illustrates the projected population summary of soldiers, spouses and children physically present in the region. PPACG and BBC are working on a break down of the ages of children.

These data are still preliminary. The assumptions from these data are that, generally, the families will continue to be young with young children, since brigades are composed mainly of young soldiers. Because of the nature of military transitions and fluctuations, the Fort Carson growth model assumes that family demographics for most active soldiers is not likely to change and will not age children as most models typically do. However, the model is designed to change as conditions change and new information is obtained.

Next Steps:

- **OEA conference in Orlando, FL on November 2nd – 4th.** Ms. Hatten and Ms. Price will attend the conference. Ms. Price will present about child care and Ms. Hatten will be presenting about the Phase 2 plan and demographic model.
- The next Child Care Partnership Group Meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 10th. BBC expects to provide a draft needs assessment section at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.