

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Child Development Partnership Group Meeting
9 June 2009
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Brandy Lockhart, KPC Kids Place – Pikes Peak
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership for Child Development (CPCD)
- Diane L. Price (Chair), Child Nursery Centers (CNC)
- Susan Silva, Child Youth Services (CYS) – Fort Carson
- Shirley Swope, PEAK Parent Center
- JoAnn Trujillo, Children First – Pueblo
- Kristyn Ulrich, BBC Research and Consulting (BBC)
- Sarah White, PPACG

MEETING DISCUSSION

1) Welcome and Introductions

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

2) Phase 2 Update/Provider Survey Update

Kristyn Ulrich gave an update on the provider surveys received and preliminary statistics calculated based on the information from the completed surveys. Ms. Ulrich provided material to the attendees with the summary statistics from the provider surveys and maps of Pueblo and Colorado Springs listing the locations of centers and family child care (FCC) homes.

Although the provider surveys were well distributed, response rates are very low, especially from centers. Of the 34 centers that completed the surveys, only 8 provided financial data. The financial data are very important for BBC in evaluating financial impacts. Therefore, BBC will try to do targeted phone calls to centers, especially around Fort Carson.

Ms. Ulrich reviewed the preliminary statistics provided to the attendees and noted that some data were suspect. BBC is still working to verify the data and will follow-up with centers to clarify responses and get more accurate data.

Charlotte Nal indicated that she did not receive a survey. Information from CPCD will be very valuable, because of the high number of Fort Carson children that go through CPCD and economic impact that the organization creates. This brought up the question of who is in the Child Care Connections database and making sure important centers are

receiving surveys. BBC will provide CPCD with a survey and contact Child Care Connections to make sure BBC is reaching the correct service providers.

The group discussed the possible reasons for the low response rates and the process of obtaining more accurate data from centers. Kate Hatten mentioned that some providers had difficulty filling out the online survey. Ms. Ulrich stated that the online survey tool had problems that caused frustration and might have deterred providers from completing surveys. BBC fixed the problem and called to report the correction to the agencies that attempted to fill out the surveys but were unable to complete them. Some of these agencies probably did not go back to the online survey even after BBC called them.

Ms. Price stated that many providers may not have a good grasp on their budgets, because some may not have very sophisticated budgets and others may not have access to corporate budgets for detailed information on certain items, such as insurance costs.

Ms. Ulrich stated that BBC will do gap analyses similar to what is being done in the social services partnership group. It will be important to account for after school programs serving Fort Carson children, such as the Boys & Girls Club, as these programs may have an economic impacts, too. Some agencies could be addressed under both social services and child development, but programs with limited hours should not be included in the economic impact analysis of child care.

3) Updated Fort Hood Information

BBC is still finalizing the results of the Fort Hood survey. In addition to the survey, PPACG and BBC are working to collect more detailed data on soldiers and family members already located at Fort Carson to obtain a better understanding of soldier and family demographics. Data sources include DEERS data, but PPACG is still working to scrub and validate the data obtained.

Once PPACG determines more accurate numbers of Fort Carson soldiers and family members, a GIS cluster model will be created to determine where soldiers and their families are currently living and project where new soldiers and their families are anticipated to reside. This will help estimate what school districts will be impacted by new military families, as well as anticipated demand for other services, including child care.

PPACG and BBC will also conduct focus groups and an additional voluntary survey of Fort Carson soldiers and families to obtain additional quantitative and qualitative information regarding preferences for housing, child care, and other services. PPACG and BBC are working with the Garrison Commander (and hope to work with the new Garrison Commander, who takes over at the end of June) to facilitate the focus group and survey efforts.

4) Review of Phase I Recommendations

Attendees were asked to review a spreadsheet of Phase 1 recommendations that was distributed in order to update the status of those recommendations and actions and determine whether they were still relevant, if the identified parties were still responsible for the implementation of the recommendation, and if the issues still need to be addressed. It was noted that several recommendations are either in progress or are being implemented as part of the Phase 2 planning effort, such as the economic impact study of childcare, referral services through Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood, and early intervention and respite services.

Ms. Price suggested that CYS should provide periodic updates at the Early Childhood Council and Alliance for Kids meetings to inform child care providers of Fort Carson-related issues. She noted that the Alliance for Kids meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 pm.

PPACG will update the status of the Phase 1 recommendations and continue to track them, as well as incorporate revised Phase 1 recommendations and any new recommendations resulting from the Phase 2 analysis. These recommendations and actions for implementation will continued to be reviewed by the partnership group.

5) Next Steps

BBC is compiling a draft report addressing all of the Phase 2 tasks by the end of June/early July.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11 August 2009 at 10:30am. PPACG will send a cancellation notice for the July meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am