

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan  
Child Development Partnership Group Meeting  
February 9, 2010  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Heidi Aggeler, BBC Research & Consulting
- Michelle Bender, Pikes Peak Community College
- Jackie Harriman, DoD State Liaison Office
- Colleen Head, The Research Exchange
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Deana Hunt, Child Care Connections
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership for Child Development
- Diane Price, Child Nursery Centers
- Cathy Wallace, Child Care Connections
- Sarah White, PPACG

**Phase 2 Status/Update**

Heidi Aggeler distributed a revised draft report for review (attached). This revision includes updated information from Fort Carson on the timing and number of child care slots for new child development centers (CDCs) on post. In general, since the biggest increase in Fort Carson troops has already arrived, the need for child care is now, particularly for infant/toddler care. The new CDCs will not be available in time to meet this demand but will be able to accommodate demand in future years. Concerns were raised that the child care industry cannot increase capacity very quickly, so the need for quality, affordable child care is critical. Efforts are in place to increase capacity through family child care homes (i.e., Child Nursery Center's program). The group stressed the need for increased quality, affordable child care to support military families. Discussion also addressed varying levels of accreditation. It was noted, for example, that Fort Carson CDCs may not meet certain standards because of the way the facilities are built and that other standards (Qualistar) are very expensive. Therefore, standardization would be difficult to obtain. However, key quality standards and licensing should be met in order to ensure quality, affordable care.

The group discussed recommendations and next steps, including a review of the Phase 1 recommendations. It was noted that increased capacity should focus on accreditation to meet military standards so that military subsidies can be obtained. Family stresses, behavioral health, and special needs children were also raised as key concerns for child care providers. Attendees also stressed the need for coaching/mentoring for child care providers to help improve quality and the need for increased attention to early learning in addition to social/emotional needs.

The group also stressed the need for continuing and enhancing partnerships/coordination with Fort Carson, such as including Fort Carson representatives on early childhood

councils, as well as marketing the economic impacts of child care to elected officials and business leaders.

**Next Steps**

Based on discussion at the meeting, recommendations and next steps will be updated and revised for the group's review. The CDMC will then review findings and recommendations for all issue areas. In April it is expected that the draft plan will be made available for public review.

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

The next Child Development Partnership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 March at 10:30am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.