

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Child Development Partnership Group Meeting
September 14, 2010
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Amber Coté, Pikes Peak United Way
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Colleen Head, The Resource Exchange
- Steve Hanchett, Fort Carson
- Deana Hunt, Child Care Connections
- Kris Ingram, Alliance for Kids
- Diane Price, Early Connections Learning Centers
- Shirley Swope, PEAK Parent Center
- JoAnn Trujillo, Children First

Growth Plan Phase 3

Following introductions, Kate Hatten indicated that the Phase 2 Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan is complete and is available on PPACG's website (<http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/project-materials/growth-plan-documents>).

PPACG has received funding from OEA for Phase 3, through June 2011. The focus of this third phase is to continue regional communication across the issue areas addressed in the Growth Plan and between the community and Fort Carson, as well as to implement the Phase 2 recommendations. As part of Phase 3, PPACG will conduct an additional survey of Fort Carson Soldiers and families in order to obtain updated information regarding Soldier and family demographics, deployment behaviors, housing preferences, and other factors, including information about services needed for children. The group was asked for input on the information they would like from the survey. Key information includes the number and ages of children, where (at least by school district) they live, if any children have special needs, child care needs/preferences, needs for respite care for families who have children with special needs, and spouse work skills/employment (i.e., do they have skills that will benefit early care and education providers). PPACG will work with BBC Research & Consulting, who will be developing and implementing the survey, to incorporate these issues into the survey.

One task of the Phase 3 Growth Plan that implements Phase 2 recommendations is the development of a web portal to provide a single point of entry for information on behavioral health and social services to assist active duty service members, veterans and family members. PPACG is currently finalizing an RFP to assist with the development of the website, and more information will be forthcoming as this task progresses.

Other Business

Upcoming trainings were discussed, including the following:

- Taking off the Pack Training sponsored by Community Partnership for Child Development (September 20th);
- Duty to Care training at Fort Carson (October 20-21) (<http://main.zerotothree.org/site/Calendar/339469058?view=Detail&id=101321>);
- Specialized Training of Military Parents sponsored by PEAK Parent Center (October 25-26) (<http://www.peakparent.org/workshopsTrainings.asp>)

The Army Childcare in Your Neighborhood is still in the transition process. Child Care Connections and Children First will continue to be involved as Fort Carson seeks to hire staff for the program.

Continuing opportunities to promote the economic impacts of early care and education were discussed. The fact sheet prepared under Phase 3 (available on [PPACG's website](#)) may be helpful to Pikes Peak United Way's school readiness initiative. Future opportunities to coordinate with the efforts of the Colorado Children's Campaign, EPIC (Executives Partnering to Invest in Children), and the Early Childhood Leadership Commission were also discussed.

Future Community Provider Trainings, such as the training conducted by Mr. Douglas Lehman, LCSW, with the Department of Behavioral Health at Evans Army Community Hospital (click [here](#) for more information and a copy of Mr. Lehman's presentation) were also discussed. It was suggested that the next Alliance for Kids conference scheduled for 2 April 2011 would be a good opportunity for this type of training. PPACG will contact Fort Carson to see if a session for the conference can be arranged.

PPACG has developed a draft map of child care facilities near Fort Carson. The group discussed how to make mapping of child care facilities beneficial to the region and military families. Factors included differentiating between family child care homes and centers; by facility size and capacity for types of care (e.g. infant/toddler care), population and school information, etc. Providing information on facilities that take military subsidies would also be beneficial. Information is currently collected by the Colorado Department of Human Services and resource and referral agencies. PPACG will follow-up with Child Care Connections regarding possible data to include in a map format to assist the region.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- The next CDMC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 20 October at 3:00pm.
- The next Child Development Partnership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 9 November 10:30am

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.