

## Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan – Child Development Partnership Group Meeting

Date: 13 Feb 2009

Location: Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments

Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Diane L. Price (Chair)      Child Nursery Centers
- Cindy Bernal                Children First – Pueblo
- Kate Hatten                 PPACG
- Susan Hoover                The Resource Exchange
- Charlotte Nal                Community Partnership for Child Development
- Richard Normandie        PPACG
- Tom Pippin                  BBC Research & Consulting
- Mary Sullivan                Child Care Connections
- Kristyn Ulrich                BBC Research & Consulting
- Lisa Westerbeck             PPACG

### MEETING DISCUSSION

#### 1) **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Diane Price opened the meeting by discussing a meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> with Kandi Buckland of the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment (ECDHE) regarding the status of child care facility inspections. She stated that the meeting went over budget issues related to the situation and that the ECDHE was hoping for CCAP transfer dollars in order to reinstitute inspections but that there would still be a backlog of two months regardless. She stressed that this situation has an impact on center based capacity building and that a focus right now is on keeping existing centers open.

#### 2) **Phase 2 Update/Status**

Mr. Tom Pippin and Ms. Kristyn Ulrich of BBC Research & Consulting introduced themselves and explained the scope of work as it relates to child development issues. They detailed the approach they would be taking regarding the economic impact portion of the scope by explaining that they would be looking at both home based and center based childcare. Additionally, they stated that they would be conducting a telephone survey of Fort Carson childcare users in order to determine how many utilized off-post care and what the economic implications of were.

#### 3) **Fort Carson Town Hall Recap**

Ms. Price provided a quick recap of the Fort Carson Town Hall on February 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the main issues to come out of the town hall breakout session was a need for resources to address behavioral issues in the 0-3 age group. Ms. Price stated that there was a need for

capacity improvement around some of these issues. Ms. Charlotte Nal stated that social services are not available for that age group due to a lack of resources.

Ms. Cindy Bernal asked whether Catholic Charities were working that issue in El Paso County. Ms. Mary Sullivan responded that Catholic Charities was focused on homeless issues in El Paso County.

Ms. Price stated that there was a need to build capacity for training teams focusing on behavioral issues throughout the community – specifically a need for getting staff throughout the community trained. Additionally, she mentioned a need to find providers who will provide respite care and to build capacity for this type of care.

Ms. Nal mentioned that there are challenges regarding referrals to off-post providers for Fort Carson families needing respite care. Ms. Susan Hoover responded that there is a point system for how much of this care is available and that all the centers that provide it are all on post. Ms. Nal replied that her organization has referred kids for respite care; however, there is a waiting list even though many need it immediately.

Ms. Price asked how the community can make Fort Carson aware that off-post agencies want to help meet respite care needs and overcome any roadblocks in referrals to off-post providers.

#### **4) Project Needs Assessment**

Ms. Hatten explained the OEA Project Needs Assessment to the members. Last spring, OEA asked PPACG for a list of local projects that were needed but unfunded or only partially funded and in need of federal funding assistance. OEA refers to this request as their “Project Needs Assessment.” At the time, several entities involved in the Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan submitted various projects for consideration. The intent was to provide these projects to various federal agencies as they went through their budget process to make the projects priorities in the funding cycle. Of the submitted projects OEA determined 18 met their criteria (specifically related to military growth, validated cost estimates, critical to accommodate military growth, etc.). Other growth communities also submitted projects.

While the projects submitted have not yet been funded, OEA is still seeking to keep these projects high on federal funding priority lists (including and beyond any stimulus funding). OEA has asked PPACG to review the originally-accepted projects and revise them based on any funding changes, cost estimate revisions, etc. OEA is currently seeking just to update the currently-accepted list of projects and will then schedule follow-up visits to each community. There may also be an opportunity to add projects, based on changed conditions/information. The timing for adding new projects is not clear, but PPACG wants the partnership group members to be aware of that opportunity so that additional projects can be submitted to OEA when appropriate. This may be an opportunity to submit revised requests that were not originally accepted by OEA, as well

as new projects that have been or are being developed, based on new information and conditions.

Those entities with projects currently on OEA's list are being asked to review the projects and make any necessary revisions. PPACG will then forward the revisions to OEA. PPACG will inform entities regarding any follow-up or meetings, as needed.

**5) Next Steps**

The members agreed that the next meeting would be on 24 February 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27pm