

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan  
Child Development Partnership Group Meeting  
December 8, 2009  
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Colleen Head, The Resource Exchange
- Kristyn Ulrich, BBC Research and Consulting (BBC) (by telephone)

**Welcome and Introductions**

Because of weather conditions, the meeting had very limited attendance. However, Kristyn Ulrich did provide a draft of the Child Development section of the Growth Plan and reviewed the document for those in attendance. It was noted that the documents would be provided electronically for group members to review prior to the next partnership group meeting.

**Phase 2 Status Update/Demographics**

Ms. Ulrich reviewed the draft Child Development report (attached), noting that it is not complete and very preliminary. The three components of the report include a needs assessment (projected demand versus capacity); an economic impact of child care in the Fort Carson region; and an assessment of child advocacy and parent support services. Ms. Ulrich noted that child advocacy/parent support component was originally part of the social services section, but, because the issues/providers generally fit better in the child development section, it is included here. She also noted that there is still some overlap between social services and child development and that providers/services not covered in the child development section will be addressed in the social services section.

The needs assessment component, although not complete, provides an overview of overall demographics in the Fort Carson region and details the methodology for determining projected needs and capacity of child care providers. The report then begins to assess gaps in key areas.

The economic impact analysis covers both direct and indirect impacts of child care, as well as the “but for” component of economic impact. The analysis details the model developed for this study and the preliminary results, with additional details forthcoming. Preliminary results indicate that the economic impact of child care in the Fort Carson region is approximately \$394 million. However, additional details and data will be revised and refined in future drafts.

The child advocacy and parent support services component identifies key entities (both on Fort Carson and off-post) and the services they provide. While additional information on utilization of Fort Carson services is still needed, the overall assessment is that Fort Carson growth will have moderate impacts on these services, particularly because of the

fact that most providers are currently at or near capacity; Army populations tend to utilize services in greater proportion than the general population; and some organizations, notably The Resource Exchange, currently serve larger numbers than for which there is available funding.

Key findings include certain gaps in supply and demand; provider training needs for special needs children and behavioral health issues; the need for improved communication and coordination between the post and off-post providers; potential workforce opportunities of military spouses to fill needs for service providers (such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, etc.); the need for expanded crisis/respice care; and lack of funding to meet needs. Ms. Ulrich indicated that she would like additional feedback from the partnership group members on the data and assumptions, as well as reactions to key findings in the report and recommendations/steps forward.

### **Other Business**

Kate Hatten provided a brief recap of the OEA Defense Community Conference held in November. The conference was an opportunity for military growth communities to meet and discuss key issues, lessons learned, and best practices for addressing growth-related needs. Diane Price participated on a child care panel, presenting information on the Fort Carson region's efforts to meet child care needs related to Fort Carson growth.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

The CDMC will meet on Wednesday, 16 December at 3:00pm. The next Child Development Partnership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12 January at 10:30am. The materials presented at today's meeting will be distributed electronically so that members can provide feedback to Ms. Ulrich prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.