

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Colleen Head, The Resource Exchange
- Steve Hanchett, Fort Carson CYSS
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG)
- Deana Hunt, Child Care Connections
- Kris Ingram, Alliance for Kids
- Charlotte Nal, Community Partnership for Child Development
- Diane Price, Child Nursery Centers
- Rachel Thompson, BBC Research & Consulting
- JoAnn Trujillo, Children First
- Jennifer West, Family Connections
- Sarah White, PPACG

Phase 2 Status/Update

The draft Child Development section was reviewed briefly. It has not changed significantly since the last draft. It was noted that some revisions are still necessary, including updated numbers for CPCD and Family Connections. It was also suggested that a cut-off date for new data be established, with the understanding that information will change, but that the report must be finalized for the Phase 2 Growth Plan. PPACG intends to continue to provide updates on Fort Carson growth and deployments as new information becomes available.

The group reviewed the recommendations drafted based on discussion at the February meeting. Several revisions were discussed, including the following:

- emphasis on recruitment and retention, as well as training, of qualified staff/providers, not just for those serving children with special needs or behavioral issues
- professional development support for providers, particularly as the state develops its P-3 professional development plan
- adequate resources (developmentally appropriate educational materials and equipment)
- parent education/training/engagement in early childhood development
- goals for the percentage of accredited (NAFCC and NAEYC) providers in the region
- outreach efforts to educate parents on early childhood education and the business community on the economic impacts of child care and benefits of quality care, as well as the need to partner with entities like United Way's school readiness program for outreach and 2-1-1 so that available child development resources are better known and accessible

- partnerships with school districts, developers, others to rehabilitate closed schools or incorporate child development centers in new construction (housing, community centers, etc.)
- support for military families based on the stresses they face, including deployments, trauma, and stresses of separations/transitions

Other Business

The group discussed ways to promote the economic impacts of child care in the region, particularly to the business community. Rachel Thompson provided a sample of *Economic Impacts in San Miguel County* as a potential marketing document that could be developed for the Pikes Peak region, based on the findings of the Phase 2 report. The group stressed the need to focus on economic impacts/benefits of child care, including workforce benefits. Opportunities to present this type of information were also discussed, including an Alliance for Kids/Colorado Children's Campaign event in May and other possible events to bring in speakers to discuss the issues with the business community. BBC and PPACG will draft a document for the group's review and discussion at the next meeting. It is anticipated that the document will be ready for the May event.

Based on discussion at the meeting, the draft report and recommendations will be updated and revised for the group's review via e-mail as soon as possible. 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 CDMC is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 March at 3:00pm.
- The Fort Carson Community Partnership Town Hall is scheduled for Friday, 16 April 3:00-6:00pm.
- The next Child Development Partnership Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 20 April at 10:30am. (Please note this is a week later than the regularly schedule meeting date.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.