

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Education Partnership Group Meeting
November 4, 2010**

Meeting attendees:

- Susan Field, Academy School District 20
- Kate Hatten, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Kathlynn Jackson, Falcon School District 49
- Dave Roudebush, Fountain-Fort Carson, School District 8
- Mary Thurman, Colorado Springs School District 11

Fort Carson Demographic Model Updates

Kate Hatten distributed charts detailing the most recent data from Fort Carson regarding troop assignments and deployments and the anticipated numbers of family members projected to be in the region through 2013. (See attached charts). Ms. Hatten indicated that these numbers reflect the current information regarding Fort Carson growth (noting that most of the growth has already taken place, but a decision regarding the stationing of a combat aviation brigade at Fort Carson is still pending). The deployment numbers continue to be a work in progress, as deployment cycles are difficult to project. In general, Fort Carson has indicated that if a unit is listed as “available to deploy” in the future, it is very likely that the unit will deploy. Ms. Hatten stated that PPACG continues to work with Fort Carson to obtain ongoing updates and clarifications regarding the numbers, as well as work with other data sources, such as DEERS data.

As part of the Phase III Growth Plan, PPACG is developing survey to distribute to Fort Carson Soldiers and families to update the Fort Carson Demographic Model with more current information regarding demographics, family behaviors during deployments, housing preferences, etc. The draft survey is near completion. The next step will be Fort Carson review and then distribution. It is anticipated that the survey will be completed by the end of 2010.

School District Count Data

It was noted that, while October 1st is the official pupil count day, data compilation by the districts is still ongoing, and final numbers will not be available until January/February 2011. However, some districts have been able to provide preliminary information. Widefield School District 3, reports an increase of more than 350 military students, and Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 reports an increase of more than 140 total students (a majority are Fort Carson students); 55 are special education students. District 8 remains challenged by the large number of Fort Carson students that have special needs and require special education services; in fact, the district’s autism rate is now one in 40. However, funding to serve these students does not cover the district’s costs. Other districts have also indicated a significant increase in students with special needs.

The group discussed the ongoing challenges in serving military students with special needs without adequate funding. As noted in the Phase II Growth Plan report, autism rates, particularly for D-8, are significantly higher than the national average (which is one in 110). It was noted that, while military growth is generally good for the region’s economy, schools and others do

face challenges in serving military families. It was suggested that the districts should continue working with the Growth Plan Executive Committee, groups like the chamber, state officials, and the region's Congressional delegation to address these challenges, particularly the need for increased funding to serve students with special needs. Dave Roudebush agreed to collect information from the districts serving military students to quantify the impacts of special education students for the districts to address with legislative and regulatory officials. Dr. Roudebush will send a template to the districts for the data collection effort.

Other Business

- Based on Phase II Growth Plan recommendations, PPACG, with OEA funding, is pursuing the development of a web portal to assist active duty military members, veterans, and their families regarding behavioral health and social services needs. Bids were recently submitted in response to a request for proposals. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Patriot Elementary in District 8 is a finalist for Bing's "Our School Needs" contest.
- DODEA has announced a customer satisfaction survey; more information is available on DODEA's website: www.dodea.edu; click on the CSS link.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 19 January, 2011, 3:00pm | Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC) meeting |
| 10 February 2011, 3:30pm | Education Partnership Group meeting |

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.