

Early Childhood Council of La Plata County Meeting Minutes January 12, 2012

Attendance: Tamara Volz, Lindsay Sherman, Charlotte Pirnat, Barbara Dodds, Sara Campano, Angela Atkinson, Martha Johnson, Jessica Keitz, Tanya Campbell, Erika Grant, Elizabeth Von Tauffkirchen, Tara Kiene, Edythe Eberhart, Patrick Callahan, Laura Melot, Jackie Morlan, Lauri Kloepper

Meeting Outcomes:

- Partners share information on EC Council Projects & Activities
- Participants gain an awareness of the work of the EC Council in relation to building and supporting local early childhood system infrastructures
- Participants gain a deeper understanding of the local systems assessment process & how the EC Council goals incorporate early childhood systems building to positively impact young children & families.

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Actions/Follow-up
<p style="color: red;">Introductions, Partner Agency Updates & Announcements</p>	<p><u>Partnership Updates & Introductions:</u> Martha Johnson reported on the Department of Human Services representation at the CCAP meetings. Debbie Barry has been attending but they have made the decision to send Cindy Brush in her place.</p> <p>Charlotte Pirnat reported that they received word that the Head Start funding is going to continue for the Cortez center and the funding for an additional 12 slots in our County.</p> <p>She announced that she has been nominated as “Citizen of the Year” by Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Jackie Morlan – who was formally the Executive Director for Community Connections joined us for the meeting and shared that after a year of being on sabbatical she is returning to the workforce and is getting recertified as early childhood special educator – which is where her passion is and she is very excited to be getting back in to what she loves.</p> <p>Elizabeth Von Tauffkirchen – reported that they have gotten a great response to their call for volunteers to help continue their Science program at the Lavenia McCoy Public Library in Bayfield. If you are interested their first meeting for volunteers will be on Feb 4th</p> <p><u>Welcome Activity</u> – (Charlotte) presented us with an activity where we were to identify an object related to early childhood – explain how we might use it in our domain of work in Early Childhood, and then identify how someone in another domain (education, health, mental health, and family support).may use the same tool.</p>	<p>Please contact Elizabeth Von Tauffkirchen with questions or interest in participating: elizabeth@impl.org 970-884-2222 ext. 17</p>

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<p>Updates on Statewide Systems</p>	<p>Collaboration Profile Survey results - Tamara Shared the results of the Collaboration Survey presented to each Council in the State. We looked at the individual results for our Council and the results at the State level with all Councils combined. We had a good participation in the survey with mostly council members and staff responding.</p> <p>Tamara addressed the questions where our Council did not improve/had a decrease in score from last survey that was taken.</p> <p>Authenticity of Council; (pg. 4) Often decisions are made in advance and simply confirmed by the process. Tamara said that this may be largely in part due to the huge budget cuts in March. She was forced to make some decisions without input in order to address the financial issues.</p> <p>Martha Johnson commented that with the Council's development of more sub-committees who work really hard outside of this group on specific issues and come to large group for validation should be taken into consideration as a more effective way of getting things done.</p> <p>Collaboration of Members: (pg. 5) Members are willing to devote whatever effort is necessary to achieve the goals Discussion was generated around the purpose/advantage of this survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide development of a shared vision for young children • Opportunity to see what could be improved – reducing duplication between agencies • Positive relationships and opportunities to partner at state level • Trying to find a way to measure effective ways of building a system • As data grows more valuable at State level to get a picture of the different Councils in State <p>Tamara gave a special thanks to all who participated.</p> <p>Tanya Campbell commented on the strong collaboration of our local Council</p> <p><u>EC Council Scheduled for April 12th</u> Question over whether Council should meet in April because 9-R will be off that week - majority said they would be able to attend.</p> <p>Strategic Planning Committee – Workplan Draft - Tamara Tamara shared a draft of the workplan for the next three year for the systems building grant. The Request for Proposals will be released January 13th. The ECCLPC has</p>	<p>A copy of this was sent as an attachment with the Agenda for this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Tamara: tamarav@ecclaplata.org</p>

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<p>Updates on Statewide Systems</p>	<p>submitted the Local Systems Assessment process (LSA) .The LSA process is going to be the heart and soul of systems building grant. This workplan was sent out in advance and there were no questions. The Strategic Planning Committee will work to finalize the draft of the workplan for this year and the next two years that follow.</p>	<p>Workplan Also sent as an attachment with Meeting Agenda</p>
<p>Updates on Projects, Programs and Activities</p>	<p>Upcoming Trainings & Events – Tamara Busy trying to get the next 3-6 month upcoming training and events calendar solidified – they can all be found on our website under News & Events. All of the Upcoming trainings (offered through the Council) will be accessible through our calendar of events and include dates/times/location– along with a link to register directly from the website www.ecclaplata.org</p> <p>Thanks to Lauri Kloepfer in her positive efforts for collaboration she suggested we add the 9-R professional development trainings for the 2011-12 school year to our calendar. The information about the 9-R training dates/time/location have been added to the Council’s Training calendar but keep in mind that because these are actually offered through 9-R you will have to contact Lauri directly to sign up for these particular classes.</p> <p>Incredible Years - Lindsay Sherman Another Incredible Years parenting class is scheduled to start the 2nd week of February at Needham Elementary – if you have families to refer please have them contact Lindsay. This training provides both dinner and childcare free of charge – the perfect target is for parents of children who are 3-8 years of age but willing to stretch to ages 2-10. Once all of the details of this training are confirmed – it too will be accessible for sign-up through the ECC website.</p> <p>Lindsay also announced that there will be Regional Refresher for the EQ Infant Toddler instructors at the Early Childhood Training Center on March 12th – followed up by a ½ day of training through the Colorado Coaching Consortium on Tues March 13th – this will be a great class for Directors or anyone in coaching/ mentoring position– presented by a model of coaching in this field Sonja Ranum.</p>	<p>If interested in attending any of these 9-R trainings, contact: Lauri Kloepfer lkloepfer@durango.k12.co.us</p> <p>Please contact: Lindsay Sherman lindsays@ecclaplata.org</p>
<p>Committee Updates</p>	<p>Health Integration Participatory Stakeholder exercise – Angela We are in year 3 of the Health Integration grant funded by Colorado Trust – and the trust is asking for input from participatory stakeholders. The ECCLPC is currently initiating programs that will address the social –emotional development of young children.</p>	<p>If you have any suggestions/questions, please contact Angela: aatkinson@centurytel.net</p>
<p>Committee Updates</p>	<p>Question: How do we bridge the gap (and collect crucial social –emotional data) between early childhood efforts for social and emotional development/intervention and the entrance</p>	

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<p>Committee Updates</p>	<p>into the elementary school? There was a lot of discussion generated around this topic. Below are some of the key points discussed amongst the attendees at this Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a different SE language being used in preschool vs. elementary school environment and even across schools • Evident that we need a more seamless communication system in this arena • if intent is to look at kids who have gone through programs to benefit social/emotional well being such as Incredible Years (for parents) and Pyramid Training (for centers) – can we collect data based on classrooms with higher percentage of kids who had exposure to these programs and their success in school • Data on form for entry into Kindergarten – link to the child’s SASID # – did they attend preschool and/or have exposure to Incredible Years, Pyramid Training – could pull this data • Problems with fidelity: high turnover amongst preschool teachers and their ability to consistently offer SE training in classrooms – by the time teachers are fully trained and competent to deliver to kids they are often replaced by a new teacher • Lauri suggested school district collaborate with someone from Pyramid Training to serve on their Character Attributes committee – Tanya Campbell volunteered to sit on this committee • Connection over different models as kids grow – idea/concept same <p>Next question pertaining to Health Integration grant: CARES program – health coverage for those who don’t make enough for private insurance –can qualify by participating in an income screen– if they qualify they are presented with a CARES card and a list of providers who will accept a sliding scale fee.</p> <p>What can we do to increase the diversity of providers we have and ensure the sustainability of this program in this community? Ask current providers to share whether it is affecting their bottom line? Have there been any benefits? more referrals spread of the enrollees, etc.</p> <p>Currently of those participating in CARES only 20% are kids and 80% are adults. Since this has shifted to benefiting more adults, the next question is:</p> <p>Should the early childhood council continue to sustain this program and if not how do we sustain it? Barbara Dodds raised a question whether there was any way to measure whether the Publicity for CARES – got more kids in door at San Juan Basin Health to qualify for CHP+ Angela collected surveys from the group and will compile the answers to these questions.</p> <p>Quality Initiatives – Lindsay ECCLPC now accepting applications for Environmental Ratings assessments (ERS) and/or</p>	<p>If you have any suggestions/questions, please contact Angela: aatkinson@centurytel.net</p>

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	<p>Qualistar Ratings in La Plata County. Laura Melot will be certified by March in order to provide the ERS assessments. Thanks to the Temple Hoyne Buell grant we will be able to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Ratings assessments for 12 individual classrooms or homes • Qualistar ratings for 5 classrooms in community <p>Applications are due by February 6th Please note that mini-grants will be awarded to those who receive assessments to use toward implementing improvements – amount of mini-grants will be determined by whether a center has received an assessment in the past. A higher rate of funding will be rewarded those who have not been assessed in the past.</p> <p>Professional Development Committee - Lindsay Is looking forward to getting the results back from the Professional Development survey that requested input from the early childhood Directors on a variety of topics related to training, to see what the preferences/needs are for training in our community: times, type of training/topics, coursework, etc. The results of this survey will help steer the Professional Development Committee in planning to meet the needs in our community. The next Professional Development Committee meeting will be January 24th in Lindsay’s office – please see Early Childhood Council calendar for details.</p> <p>Social Emotional Development Team – Angela & Lindsay Four people will be attending the Pyramid Training tomorrow in Cortez– a new curriculum we hope to be offering to our local community, along with the Incredible Years. More details to follow. Directors are invited to find out more on January 26th.</p> <p>It’s About Kids Doll Campaign – Sara Is a statewide advocacy activity aimed at educating our lawmakers about the importance of investing in and supporting public programs that benefit children. 2012 Doll Day will coincide with the release of KIDS COUNT in Colorado! The Colorado Children’s Campaign is asking that each <i>It’s About Kids</i> Committee submit their dolls by the end of February. We are recruiting people to share a story that actually represents a kid in our community, and/or apply their artistic abilities to help decorate a doll. If you would prefer to work in a group we will have a Doll decorating session starting at 1:30 on Thursday February 9th – before our next Council meeting.</p> <p>Week of the Young Child (WOYC)- Barbara reported that the WOYC planning team will be having their first planning meeting January 23rd at 4:30 in the ECTC</p>	<p>Contact Lindsay Sherman for details: linsays@ecclaplata.org 97-247-5960 x 20</p> <p>If you are interested in helping with Doll Day project, please contact Sara Campano, sarac@ecclaplata.org</p> <p>Contact Heather Hentz if you are interested in serving on WOYC planning committee heatherhentz@centura.org 970.764.1375 (phone)</p>
<p>Other Items Identified</p>	<p>Next Early Childhood Council meeting <u>February 9, 2012 3:00 – 5:00pm</u></p>	