

Early Childhood Council of La Plata County

Meeting Minutes July 14, 2011

Attendance: Elizabeth VonTauffkirchen, Lindsay Sherman, Jessica Keitz, Tamara Volz, Angela Atkinson, Charlotte Pirnat, Martha Johnson, Barbara Dodds, Jennifer Dallmann, Lauri Kloepper, Laura Melot, Patrick Callahan, Valerie Mangrum, Kellie Rhoades, and Char Schank

Meeting Outcomes:

- Partners share information on EC Council Projects & Activities
- Participants gain an awareness of the future work of the EC Council in relation to building and supporting local early childhood system infrastructures
- Participants gain a deeper understanding of statewide early childhood systems building and the implications of the local council work.

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Actions/Follow-up
<p style="color: red;">Introductions, Partner Agency Updates & Announcements</p>	<p><u>Welcomes/Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamara Volz led a welcoming activity. Seven volunteers participated in a visual demonstration of what happens to children when early childhood partnering agency's budgets are cut. • Tamara Volz welcomed Lauri Kloepper to the council. Lauri is the new Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction for School District 9-R. She is replacing Libby Culver's representation for School District 9-R on the Early Childhood Council. We will all miss Libby Culver and appreciate everything she has done for the council. • Elizabeth VonTauffkirchen reports that the Summer Reading Program was a huge success with a total of 370 kids that participated. • Jessica Keitz reports that there is a public hearing on Tuesday, July 19th at 2:00 pm regarding the possibility of a liquor store going in directly above the Family Center. • Barbara Dodds reports that there will be a SW District CAEYC workshop on October 22, 2011 at the Mercy Conference Center. There will be a key-note speaker discussing relationships. More details soon to come. • Char Schank reports that Southern Ute Montessori Head Start will be switching over to Teaching Strategies Gold. 	
<p style="color: red;">Updates on Projects, Programs and Activities</p>	<p><u>Lt Governor Listening Tour:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durango, CO on August 2nd, 4-6:30 pm at the Community Recreation Center. • Topic Discussion: Early Learning Challenge Fund and Early Childhood Governance. <p><u>Revised Early Childhood Contact Information:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated EC Council Contact Information was distributed and per the council's request will be e-mailed to council members as well. <p><u>Health Integration Grant CARES Project:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Atkinson reported on the new CARES project which officially launched as of June 1, 2011. There are 40 participants and the program is going good so far. The participant goal is 200. More providers have recently signed up as well. For more 	

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	<p>information on the CARES project click the following link: http://www.ecclaplata.org/la_plata_cares.htm.</p>	<p>Contact Angela Atkinson at aatkinson@centurytel.net to get CARES brochures and flyers for your program.</p>
<p>Local Systems Assessment and Grant Planning Process</p>	<p><u>La Plata County Data Points: Child Maltreatment Rates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martha Johnson followed-up on the LPC Maltreatment Rates that were reported in the June council meeting. Martha attempted to contact some individuals at state level but has yet to get a call back. We can only speculate as to why LPC's maltreatment rates were higher than expected. The group assumes that perhaps since our County is smaller there may higher standards and thus more maltreatment reports. <p><u>Deep Listening and Five Why's Process:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group split into two groups, each group had a strategic planning goal to use the five why's process. • Angela Atkinson and Lindsay Sherman facilitated the local systems assessment and strategic planning process on the following goal: <u>Social Emotional Development of Young Children</u>. A major point the group came to was around the idea of what social emotional health looks like. The group agreed that there is not a common understanding of what social emotional health for young children is/means. The group generally agreed teachers and families need training to improve social emotional outcomes for children. Teachers in particular frequently request training in the area of dealing with challenging behaviors. The group agreed that culturally there is a tendency to "look the other way" when children and families appear to be in crisis. The "why's" for this cultural norm are varied, but frequently come back to fear and lack of understanding. • Tamara Volz and Charlotte Pirnat facilitated the local systems assessment and strategic planning process on the following goal: <u>Quality Early Learning Programs</u>. The group identified the problem as how to impact/measure/increase quality with multiple standards & measures. The following reasons may explain why more providers don't participate in assessments: money incentives not adequate, different agencies implementing different quality standards,, definition of quality is broad in nature, multiple standards for multiply funding sources. The group identified some strategies to address the goal: offer inexpensive but quality training to increase quality in classroom/programs, resource development for funding, support for college credit, customized incentives relevant to specific programs, parent/provider engagement, determine assessment tool for country-wide measurements. 	<p>Contact Tamara at tamarav@ecclaplata.org for more information about the local systems building assessment and EC Council strategic planning</p>
<p>Other Items Identified</p>	<p>Next Early Childhood Council meeting <u>August 11, 2011 3:00 – 5:00pm</u></p>	