

Early Childhood Council of La Plata County Meeting Minutes June 9, 2011

Attendance: Elizabeth VonTauffkirchen, Lindsay Sherman, Jessica Keitz, Edythe Eberhart, Tamara Volz, Angela Atkinson, Charlotte Pirnat, Martha Johnson, Heather Taylor, and Jennifer Dallmann

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"> • Lindsay Sherman led the welcome activity which included a “Touchpoints Moment”. Participants were asked to share both a professional and personal space goal for the summer. 	
<p style="color: red;">Updates on Projects, Programs and Activities</p>	<p><u>Child Care Quality Initiatives Grants and Funding Update & Statewide Systems Building and CCR&R Budget Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamara Volz reported that last March, over \$23,000 was cut from this years current budget. • In addition to that cut, and for the next fiscal year, Qualistar funds were cut by over 20% and the Quality Initiatives funds have been eliminated by the La Plata County Department of Human Services. The cumulative effect is a total 31% decrease in funding for the FY that begins July 1, 2011. • These cuts directly affect the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ a reduction in Quality Initiatives Coordinator (Diane’s) hours from 40 to 20 hours per week, ➤ Eliminating Quality Initiatives activities, such as Quality ratings, Environmental Rating Scale Assessments, and Incentives for quality improvement. ➤ a reduction in Child Care Resource & Referral Coordinator (Jen’s) hours of 5 hours/week ➤ Reduction in the Child Care Resource & Referral services in the five county service delivery area: reducing # of local trainings, reducing distribution of the newsletter to quarterly, reducing technical assistance to recruit/retain programs, reducing sharing and distribution of data and information to the 	<p>For more information on the budget cuts contact Tamara Volz at tamrav@ecclapla.org.</p>

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Actions/Follow-up
	<p>community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group discussed plans to implement the Resource Development Committee. <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. Angela passed out recruitment brochures and flyers for the group to post and distribute at their programs. For more information on the CARES project click the following link: http://www.ecclaplata.org/la_plata_cares.htm. <p><u>CCR&R and SW Connect clarification communication:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tamara Volz and Jennifer Dallmann clarified the difference between the Southwest Office of Childcare Resource & Referral and SW Connect. A letter was distributed to all child care providers in five counties discussing the difference. 	<p>Contact Angela Atkinson at aatkinson@centurytel.net to get CARES brochures and flyers for your program.</p>
<p>Strategic Planning</p>	<p><u>Strategic Planning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela Atkinson facilitated the local systems assessment and strategic planning process. The group reviewed some possible strategic planning goals in relation to the early childhood indicators. The group focused on the “Increase child care capacity” goal and reviewed it using the “Five Why’s” process. After much discussion and asking “why” we concluded that Infant Toddler Care is an unsustainable business model. Martha Johnson agreed to research the information about child maltreatment rates and bring to the next meeting to use with the Five Why’s Process. 	<p>Continuing the <i>Five Whys</i> Process next month</p>
<p>Other Items Identified</p>	<p>Next Early Childhood Council meeting July 14, 2011 3:00 – 5:00pm</p>	