

## Early Childhood Council of La Plata County

### Meeting Minutes May 12, 2011

**Attendance:** Elizabeth VonTauffkirchen, Lindsay Sherman, Patrick Callahan, Jessica Keitz, Mary Gilden, Joel Jones, Carol Cochran, Kris Greer, Laura Melot, Edythe Eberhart, Barbara Dodds, Tamara Volz, Angela Atkinson, Diane Zimmerer, Charlotte Pirnat, and Valerie Mangrum

**Guest:** Kellie Rhodes –*Limbic Legacy*

### 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 &amp; Announcements</p>	<p><b><u>Welcomes/Updates:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the welcome activity participants selected a picture that reminds us of our work. Since the bulk of the meeting was to be spent on Strategic Planning, this was a way for us to connect our work to young children and to each other.</li> <li>• We welcomed Valerie Mangrum, Executive Director of the Durango Pregnancy Center as the newest member of the EC Council</li> </ul>	
<p style="color: red;">Strategic Planning</p>	<p><b><u>Strategic Planning:</u></b> Angela Atkinson distributed the revised Early Childhood Indicators for La Plata County, this is a compilation of <i>Council by the Numbers</i> and <i>the Common Data Points</i>. We then broke up into two groups to have a rich discussion about local issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group one focused on the <u>Early Learning domain</u> and discussed many issues related to funding, workforce development, special education mandates, capacity &amp; affordability of infant /toddler care, livable wages, and licensing regulations.</li> <li>• Group two focused on the <u>Health, Mental Health and Family Support Domains</u> and discussed Latino outreach, on -site ongoing therapy for children &amp; families, undocumented pregnant women &amp; children, Medicaid, high turnover of staff &amp; providers, and the gap between the state &amp; federal decision makers and the local providers of services for young children and families.</li> <li>• Our task at this meeting was not to problem solve or find solutions but to identify the most pressing issues at the local level within the early childhood system.</li> <li>• At our next meeting we hope to look deeper at some of these issues to discover the root causes and what is the role of the Council to impact these issues.</li> <li>• Angela also asked participants to look closely at the data as it pertains to your specific domain and offer any additional data or information as applicable.</li> </ul>	<p>If you would like to submit data from your domain, please contact Angela at <a href="mailto:aatkinson@centurytel.net">aatkinson@centurytel.net</a>.</p>

Topic	Discussion/Findings	Actions/Follow-up
<p>Updates on Projects, Programs and Activities</p>	<p><b><u>Health Integration Steering Committee:</u></b>  <b>Angela</b> reported on the reconvening of the HI Steering Committee which provides the vision and leadership for the projects under the Health Integration Grant.</p> <p><b><u>Child Care Resource &amp; Referral Advisory Team:</u></b>  The EC Council of La Plata County has acted as the CCR&amp;R Advisory Board since 2004. Many of our partners represent agencies that serve the five county area of southwest Colorado. <b>Tamara</b> reported that Jen is currently convening a new advisory team with broader membership from childcare representatives from 3 counties. Laura Melot will represent La Plata county, Vangi McCoy will represent Montezuma &amp; Dolores counties and Lynne Bridges will represent Archuleta county. Their first meeting will be in June.</p> <p><b><u>Quality &amp; Availability</u></b>  <b>Diane</b> announced that \$15,800 in mini-grants were awarded to 7 centers /23 classrooms to improve the quality of child care in La Plata county. Five Family Home providers have applied for a FCCERS assessment and opportunity to receive mini grants.</p> <p><b>Lindsay</b> gave an update on the recent EQ Initiatives Statewide meetings held in Denver. The EQ Initiative includes the Infant Toddler Training, Touchpoints Individual Level Training and Cradling Literacy Training. Most of our Community Training Teams were able to participate in this statewide event. Teachers Rachel Cameron, Carol Cochran, Lindsay Sherman, Bill Volz, Tamara Volz and Diane Zimmerer participated.</p> <p><b>Tamara</b> distributed copies of the ECCLPC Committee membership.</p> <p><b><u>Reminder</u></b> there is a meeting with Colorado Department of Human Services staff to discuss revisions to the Center Rules &amp; Regulations on Friday, June 24, 6:30-9:30 pm at the Early Childhood Training Center.</p>	<p>For more information regarding Health Integration project contact <b>Angela Atkinson</b> at <a href="mailto:aatkinson@centurytel.net">aatkinson@centurytel.net</a>.</p> <p>For more information on Quality Initiatives Diane Zimmerer at <a href="mailto:dianez@ecclaplata.org">dianez@ecclaplata.org</a>.</p>
<p>Other Items Identified</p>	<p>Next Early Childhood Council meeting  <b><u>June 9, 2011 3:00 – 5:00pm</u></b></p>	