**El Paso County Local Coordinating Organization Community Plan**

**Draft Plan Feedback Questions**

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| **Group 1: Estimated Number of Children and Slots + Mixed Delivery****Josie Watters, Laurie Noblitt, Colleen Head Batchelor****Kelly Hurtado****Estimated Number of Children**1. New El Paso County data was shared with JI by CDEC.  Kelly will review this data with the group. Does this change how we want to estimate the number of 4-year-olds that will access UPK?
* This data was reviewed by the group, and the group decided that the original 6,500 estimate from the State is close to where we want to start or local estimates. There was fear that estimating less may have negative impacts on local funding and access.
1. **Do we need a data collection committee as suggested, or is that work that should be rolled into AFK Council meetings?**
* The data that comes from this UPK/LCO work will be very important to share broadly and inform the work of the Council and partners. The group felt it would make sense for Council to be involved in this as well as a few extra named partners brought into this work.
1. **What are your thoughts on the unduplicated count strategy? Would you add or take away anything?**
* The unique child identification number is a wonderful idea and would be helpful on many fronts, including early intervention.

**Estimated Number of Slots**1. **Do you think there will be barriers to BridgeCare participation?**

No barriers other than this being something new- it will take time to get providers to onboard but sounds helpful and streamlined.1. **A common child assessment tool would allow for the best picture of community-wide child outcomes. What tools would programs most likely be willing to adopt?**
* ASQ and ASQ-SE came up as possibilities and the thought is that this will likely be determined by the State.
1. **Are there recommendations that we want to make to the state regarding child outcomes data?**
* The group was not able to get to this question.

**Mixed Delivery**1. **Is the suggested staffing structure sufficient to meet the needs of providers in our community?**
* At least 2 specialized coaches are necessary for the successful implementation of UPK in our community and having a staff person focused on understanding the needs of school districts and coordinating to ensure these needs are understood and well represented in our community.
1. **When looking at how to increase our community capacity to provide UPK, provider feedback centralized around making the program as easy as possible to participate in. What additional supports and/or strategies would you suggest be added to the plan to meet this provider desire?**
* None in addition to what was written in the initial roll out. The group was very glad to see the business supports called out in this area.
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| **Group 2: Assisting Families****Andrew Bunn, Diane Price, Shelley Ettleman****Shay Almonte****Assisting Families- JI Tactics**1. **Many of the partners listed as desired for a community outreach committee are on the Alliance for Kids Council. Do we need a committee, or should this work be folded into Council work? Why or why not?**

Critical in the first year that do a little more than we might do once we are up and running. Too many unknowns and it is moving quickly at the state level, but until we see more rules, it may be a good idea to continue small group work It is critical, in this first year, to think about how to get additional input. There so much change and it is ever evolving. Keep people connected to the governance structure for AFK; Current council structure was designed before UPK. Small committees can feed into the larger council group. Representation at each committee of local orgs, districts, families, partners, etc.**Placement of a child in program best suited**1. **What are your thoughts about the strategy suggested for placement of a child in the program best suited? Would you add or strike anything?**

There is still a lot of confusion about the process, is the application going to include all the qualifying factors? Hard to determine what is in the application or how to move forward without it. Group suggests that someone from AFK council engages in the state level Application Workgroup. 1. **The plan suggests all providers in our community utilize an agreed upon developmental screening tool and process. What screening tool would you recommend?**

BOCES plays a big part in the rural districts and should be involved in this conversation. MOU signed between CDEC and CDE. Note that CDEC is removed from any input on SN and SN moneys. Local community may need to sit down and hammer down how to best support SN. We need to be thinking about early identification. What happens if a FCCH or center based does identification. Process to start sooner early identification prior to them entering Pre-K. Utilizing BOCES and community partners. Identifying younger at 3-year-old needs. SN funds do not transfer from CPP funds after Oct count day. Will there be a count day? More guidance on count days, flow of dollars and when and how they flow. Ages and Stages – common across the board tool and used by pediatricians. Also, ASQ-SEs if there are any additional concerns. **Selection Criteria/Family Options**1. **Should this criterion be developed by a working group, or by the Alliance for Kids Council?**

Thinking about transportation services, Eligibility Factors – may need to create a committee around selection, we are and will be going through an Ebb and Flow with growth. The more opportunity we give for community engagement, the more we limit the amount of criticism. Keep engagement open in the beginning, review after the first year. Will some of this be vetted out through the rule-making process?**Family First** 1. **Are there other efforts that should be added to ensure Family First alignment in our community?**

Council should request feedback from DHS for this question.**Steps to ensure that providers and families have access to information and resource to meet the comprehensive needs of children and families**1. **Which four of the activities listed would you prioritize in this section of the plan?**

Most important is meeting individuals where they are at and making sure that our partners, teachers, community providers*,* etc., are educated in UPK. Add “staff” to language as there are more staff around centers and schools whose positions may see less transition.Engage with individuals that are meeting with families already. DHS will also help and get the word out to families. Working with School districts, centers, and other community partners to create events in the community to make families aware. **Additional Thoughts:**Rethink use of printed materials and think about a more innovative way to get this information out. Materials should be printed for folks sharing with families and not for families specifically, because more than often they won’t read what is handed to them. It’s primarily word of mouth and this is why we need to make sure that those who are providing resources to families are well versed and educated in UPK.  |
| **Group 3: Increasing Capacity in the Early Childhood Sector + Managing and Allocating Resources****Sarah Carlson, Liz Denson, Noreen Landis-Tyson****SherryLynn Boyles****Increasing Capacity in the Early Childhood Sector****JI Recruitment Efforts**1. **This plan generated many ideas about what could be done to address workforce recruitment. The strategies that JI is already engaged in are in green. Please discuss and prioritize the remaining strategies (those not in green).**
* Continue the development and maintenance of Earn + Learn models of qualification that allow new professionals to become qualified during the traditional working day, free from cost.
* Partner with entities such as Pikes Peak United Way and Early Childhood Service Corps to create a volunteer program that specifically recruits and places volunteers with UPK providers. Follow up with those volunteers to encourage them to gain credentials to become paid professionals.
* Provide training for providers on how to effectively use volunteers, interns, and apprentices.

**Retention Efforts**1. **Again, many strategies were recommended and those already started through JI work are in green text. Please discuss and prioritize the remaining strategies (those not in green).**
* Provide workshops for providers on recruitment and retention strategies as well as creating a positive workplace environment and meeting the needs of today’s workforce.
* Providing conflict resolution training for providers on all levels.
* Create a repository of provider wellness activities and opportunities; offer funding for providers to access these resources for use in their own ECE setting.
* Consider creating a sub pool that would allow for providers to participate in professional development opportunities during work hours.

**Living Wage Efforts**1. **Again, the strategies in this area need to be prioritized. Please discuss and determine those strategies most crucial to begin this work.**
* Offer technical assistance on blending, braiding, and stacking funds to support increased salaries and benefits. Priority 1 – will create a good foundation
* Develop a local EPIC chapter. Not a JI staff activity.

**Culturally and Linguistically Relevant**1. **Are there any strategies you would suggest adding to this section?**
* Hire bilingual Family Navigators

**Managing and Allocating Resources**1. **Much of the specific processes regarding this set of work will be determined once the funding structure rules have been promulgated. Are there any additional initial measures JI should take in this area?**
* What can we do to create funding support? Can raise funds to disperse. System-wide strategy is necessary.
* Using Federal dollars
* Is this an opportunity to get a grant writer?
1. **Are there specific additional resources/funding opportunities that you would suggest JI look into?**
* Finance Committee of UPK versus Finance Committee of Board…reps from all publicly funded sources. Get reps together to figure out what we can do together
* Technical assistance to access additional funding and then how they braid, blend, and stack.
* LCO-elected expert on everything happening…resource. Technical assistance needs to be accurate.
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