



# ALLIANCE FOR KIDS MONTHLY COUNCIL REPORT

Foundations is the early childhood program of Joint Initiatives for Youth + Families, and includes Alliance for Kids, El Paso County's Early Childhood Council.

DECEMBER 2022

There are three key projects which implement strategies to meet **Alliance for Kids' Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives in addition to the Scope of Work (SOW)** indicators for Colorado Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) work:

- 1 Health + Well-Being Project
- 2 Quality Initiatives Project integrated with Professional Development
- 3 FamilySPEAK Project

## HEALTH + WELL-BEING PROJECT

**Health & Well-Being** aims to support and enhance healthy practices and social/emotional and behavioral support for community organizations and families.

### UPDATES | EMBEDDED EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION (E-ECMHC):

- **Consultants supported teachers and directors** with children who presented with trauma and aggressive behavior, providing strategies for following directions, safe peer interactions and self-regulation. Families are being supported through deployments, fostering and parent divorce.
- A professional development (**PD**) **class** was held with **15 teachers** in attendance. An additional **six workshops** have been planned for the upcoming months.
- A center that is not part of embedded programming reached is being supported with a handful of children that are at risk of expulsion.
- Most centers continue to struggle with staff shortages and staff retention. Consultants support directors as they navigate daily staffing changes and continue to build strong relationships with teachers as they experience stress and burnout.



**7** Programs supported with embedded ECMH Consultation (child-, class-, and program-level)

**12** Classrooms  
**205** Children impacted



**17** Child-focused cases this month, three children at risk of suspension or expulsion, and two expelled

### FAMILY, FRIEND + NEIGHBOR (FFN) PROGRAMING: THE COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

- **Outreach:** Outreach continues through attendance at community meetings, events, and virtual settings.
- **Playgroups:** Children and adults actively engaged in early literacy, music, movement, and art activities. Special guests included The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, which hosted a variety of small animals, and the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center, which led the group through a cooking activity.
- An **FFN, Michelle Klohe, was contracted** out to assist with additional outreach and act as a program advisor.



**27** Children participating in Simple Gift Series Playgroup along with 20 adults



**44** FFNs engaging with Foundations' FFN Specialist through email, text, and calls (14 Spanish-speaking, 3 bilingual)



## QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Quality Initiatives (QI)** focus on coaching, outreach, supports, resources/assets, and professional development to enhance quality in early care and education (ECE) programs. Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) work focuses on outreach to update and support licensed ECE programs, increase capacity for licensed ECE programs, and provide resources and referrals for parents/families for ECE programs. Professional Development (PD) is integrated throughout QI and CCR&R.

### QI UPDATES

#### • Child Care Resource and Referral

- BridgeCare has launched the Pikes Peak Early Childhood **Provider Portal**.
- This allows providers to update their desired openings in real time. This will also give families access to current openings and the Council access to community-wide supply and demand data. Once providers are using this information, the website will be shared with families. This is the website that families will be directed to, to apply for Universal Pre-K, so provider engagement is very important.



**Quality improvement coaching hours**

#### • Program Outreach

- A total of **five** early childhood providers are engaged with the QI Navigator to increase from a Level 1 to a Level 2 rating.



**Programs in queue for QRIS rating in El Paso County**

#### • Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Grant

- We would like to get more programs in the queue for a rating, but Clayton is still catching up from COVID delays.
- Colorado Shines ratings will resume in person in January and will utilize the ERS-3 tools as well as a new Colorado Shines Point Structure. QI coaches will be supporting programs in learning these tools through mock observations and will review the new Point Structure when it is finalized to ensure rating readiness.



**Programs receiving Colorado Shines QI grant support**

#### • Emerging + Expanding Child Care Grant

- New – no programs receiving funds yet.



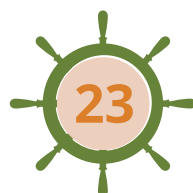
**Programs signed up for the CSQI Grant and Coaching**

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Workforce Development:** November was the last Wages + Stages Leadership Program. Embracing Change-Letting Go of the Status QUO.
- **ECE Career Navigator supports** include career pathways, PDIS general support, Early Childhood Teacher qualification, scholarships, and Director qualification.
- **Scholarships: None awarded**



**Participants in 4 trainings offered**



**Individuals receiving career navigation support**



**Career navigation support hours**



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## FAMILYSPEAK PROJECT

**FamilySPEAK (FS)** partners with community agencies and organizations to develop and implement a systems approach to parent/family education and supports.



### FAMILYSPEAK UPDATES

Joint Initiatives is excited to announce the onboarding of **Chantelle Johnson** as the new Voices Program Director. More to come as this develops!

## ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

### LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

The Learning + Development Committee has been looking at the Strategic Plan to narrow down the area of focus that we will be working on this fiscal year. One of the big areas that we would like to look into is the Workforce. We do have full-time staff that is doing the work but the committee would like to see how we can help. We are also looking into Goal 4: Thriving Community and see if that would be a good fit also.

### FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

The Family Support + Education Committee is excited to welcome Chantelle Johnson as the new Voices Program Director.

### HEALTH + WELL-BEING

The Health + Well-Being Committee did not meet in November.