



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.

JANUARY 2023

Below are the 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):

- A sister site of one of the embedded programs reached out with an urgent request to support three children with disruptive behaviors, all who were at risk of suspension/expulsion. These children and their teachers have been added to the active caseload and work began this month to support them.
- Twenty-four (24) staff attended one professional development workshop.
- Relationships with center staff continue to strengthen, as shown by the number of requests for support.
- Goals for many of the child-focused cases are being met, and several cases are being closed.



7 Childhood centers supported with embedded ECMH Consultation



22 Child-focused cases this month, six children at risk of suspension or expulsion, and one soft expulsion

14

Classrooms

90

Children impacted

PYRAMID COLORADO



The **Pyramid Community Leadership Team** met this month and continued to strategize how to get additional early childhood staff trained in the Pyramid Colorado Model. The Pyramid Coordinator for Healthy Child Care Colorado attended the meeting and remarked that the work of this team is innovative and a great model for communities to follow.

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

- **Playgroups:** These play-based groups bring music, movement, literacy and school readiness activities to young children and their caregivers. **In December, a holiday-themed playgroup was held with 32 adults and 52 children, the largest attendance to date.** Relationships between adults participants continue to strengthen, with friendships forming, and children interacting more with each other. A larger number of FFNs are attending each session.



52

Children participating in Simple Gift Series Holiday Playgroup, along with 32 adults



3

Three home visits took place in December, bringing school readiness activities to FFNs in their homes.



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

- **Program Outreach**
 - JI Outreach continues to educate providers on the benefits of the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP). Foundations Program Director has spoken with four providers about the benefits CCCAP. JI will be working with a sub-contractor starting January 2023, who will provide direct business consultation around the benefits of CCCAP and how to stack that with UPK funding. We are starting to see an increase in the level of interest from providers as the rates for Universal Pre-K have been released.
 - Festival of Lights Gospel Extravaganza at the City Auditorium
 - Promotion of the Simple Gift Playgroup and Simple Gift Scholars Training
 - Ongoing outreach about Pikes Peak Early Childhood website
 - One early childhood provider is engaged with the QI Navigator to increase from a Level 1 to a Level 2 rating.
- **Colorado Shines Quality Improvement Grant**
 - Four programs signed MOUs for coaching in December.
- **Emerging + Expanding Child Care Grant Opened January 23rd**
 - Two El Paso County programs have applied so far.



Tri-Lakes Community Preschool is the first El Paso County center to earn a Level 5 rating!



14.25

Quality improvement coaching hours



21

Programs in queue for Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) rating in El Paso County



43

Programs receiving CSQI grant support

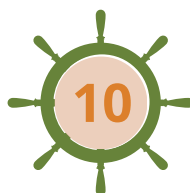
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Workforce Development:** Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers (EQIT) and Compassion Fatigue
- **ECE Career Navigator supports** include career pathways, Early Childhood Teacher qualification, Director qualification, Professional Development Information System (PDIS) ECE Credential and general technical support, Child Development Associate (CDA) assistance, and scholarships.



58

Participants in 3 trainings offered



10

Individuals receiving career navigation support



20

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

Chantelle Johnson joined JI as the new Voices Program Director. More to come on this project in the next report.

ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

The Family Support + Education Committee plans to reconvene in January.

HEALTH + WELL-BEING


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

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

The Learning + Development Committee did not meet in December.

NEW

UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) UPDATES

 **SCAN or CLICK HERE**
for LCO-UPK INFO HUB

Family UPK Application opens January 17, 2023.
Look for an expanded update in the February Council Report.

