



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.

MARCH 2023

Universal Pre-K updates and **Council Subcommittee** news are on both on **Page 3**.

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 (PD)
- 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):

- Both of JI's ECMH Practitioners resigned at the end of January to pursue private practice and contract work. Recruitment has been expanded for these positions, and The Resource Exchange is taking referrals until new consultants are hired. (State ECMH representative notes several ECMH resignations throughout the state.)
- The ECMH fiscal Year 2024 State Contract has been accepted and funding received for ECMH Internship Pilot and partnership with UCCS is pending.



8 Classroom-focused cases needing ECMH Consultation (January)



28 Child-focused cases in January, three children at risk of suspension or expulsion, and two expelled

12 Classrooms (January)

205 Children impacted (January)



PYRAMID COLORADO

Twelve Directors attended A Pyramid Directors Roundtable, which offered information on Pyramid scholarships, programming, and opportunities available through Healthy Child Care Colorado. Participant was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for additional programming.

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

- **Jl Playgroups:** These play-based groups introduce music, movement, literacy and school readiness activities to young children and their caregivers and, due to the **overwhelming success, have been extended** through May 3rd. This project is a partnership between Joint Initiatives and the Community Cultural Collective and was recently featured on KOAA – see coverage **HERE**.
- Outreach paused this month to focus on **49 FFNs currently participating in programming**.
- FFN **systems building continues** with Jefferson County, Fountain Valley CTC, and Fountain and Ellicott school districts to look at expanding services to FFNs.



37 Children participating in JI Playgroup along with 23 adults (average February attendance)



QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

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

• CCR+R and Program Outreach

- JI's Foundations Outreach Specialist emailed and called providers within El Paso County to discuss the importance of updating their profile on the PikesPeakEarlyChildhood.org provider portal. The email includes the process of scheduling one-on-one sessions to help providers update their Pikes Peak Early Childhood profile.
- The Foundations Outreach Specialist has engaged in outreach at the JI Playgroup, Simple Gift Scholars Enrichment Training meeting, IREE Child Care Licensing Open Forum, Universal Pre-K Town Hall, Communities That Care Child Care Strategy Team/Fountain Valley CARES meetings, Fountain Valley Communities That Care Community Board Meeting, and BridgeCare Next Steps meeting.

• Colorado Shines Quality Improvement (CSQI) Grant

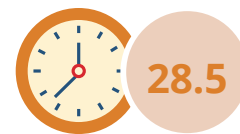
Jl's new Foundations Early Childhood Manager contacted CSQI MOU holders to introduce herself and offered the grant opportunity to programs in the rating window and those in submission status.

• Emerging + Expanding Child Care Grant Applications

A total of 17 El Paso County programs have applied – with only one currently holding a CSQI MOU, so there's an opportunity for quality improvement outreach and growth among these applicants.

• Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP)

- There has not been CCCAP growth to support, but the Foundations Early Childhood Manager met with Fountain Valley Cares and requested the opportunity to present at their board meeting on the topic of CCCAP agreements.
- The Foundations Early Childhood Manager plans to meet with El Paso County Department of Human Services to learn more about our CCCAP contract.



Quality improvement coaching hours (February)



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



Programs receiving CSQI grant support



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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

- **Workforce Development:** Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers (EQIT); Early Childhood Trauma; Make More, Spend Less, A Recipe for Success; Simple Gift Scholars Early Childhood Teacher Enrichment Training; Workplace Culture; and CPR-AED/1st Aid/Medication Administration Part 2
- **ECE Career Navigator supports**
 - Career pathways; Early Childhood Teacher qualification; Director qualification; Professional Development Information System (PDIS) ECE Credential and general technical support; Child Development Associate (CDA) assistance; scholarships; and UCCS Inclusive Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program career goals. In addition, JI's Career Navigator supported two people new to the ECE field and two high school students that reached out to the Career Navigator.
 - Assisted four people new to the ECE field – two were high school students that reached out to the Career Navigator, and two are interested in opening a Family Child Care Home.
- People keep inquiring about **CDA scholarships**. We partner with Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) to support them with the new Concurrent Enrollment Hybrid Model for all El Paso County school districts starting this fall. JI created the PPSC Hybrid Model flyer for the PPSC Assistant Director of Concurrent Enrollment to send to all the school districts.
- JI's Foundations Partner Recruiter offered **three presentations about the importance of Early Childhood Education (ECE) and career opportunities** at three different high school events. High school teachers received JI's ECE Career Opportunities + Pathways document.
- **ECE Boost Workforce Retention survey results** indicate common patterns, including staff shortages, low pay, challenging behaviors, staff overwhelmed by too many jobs under one role, burnout, stress, too much paperwork to fill out, and leadership team management.
- In addition to our trauma training offered through the Foundations PD Catalog, the Foundations Trauma Coach + Trainer has **supported 192 teachers and administrators** with on-site trauma training at several early childhood programs. This includes **one-on-one trauma coaching for seven** training participants.



Participants in 6
trainings offered
(January/February)

83



Individuals
receiving career
navigation support
(January/February)



Career navigation
support hours
(January/February)



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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 reconvened in January to discuss the committee's direction for the new year.

There is a **co-chair opening**. Brian Kates, Parks Operation Administrator for the Meadows Park Community Center, is serving as Interim Co-Chair.

In January, information on **Universal Pre-K** was shared, and the committee was updated on the **JJ Playgroups** and **Pikes Peak Library District events** for families.

In February, 15 stakeholders attended and shared this is a valuable **venue to better understand and share local resources available to families**. The group discussed the best ways to share resources with families this summer.

HEALTH + WELL-BEING

There is a **co-chair opening**, as Megan Billesbach has fulfilled her two-year **term**.

January Resource Highlights:

- **WeeCycle**, a Denver-based nonprofit whose mission is to recycle essential baby gear and match it to Colorado families in need. This organization is going to be opening here in Colorado Springs in the coming months.
- **Macaroni Kids** is an online magazine who has over 12k in readership. This is a great way to find out about local events or to have your event listed.

The **Pyramid Community Leadership Team**, a subcommittee of the Health + Well-Being Committee, met in January to discuss upcoming scholarships through Healthy Child Care Colorado. Sixteen Pyramid stakeholders have signed up for an in-person **Pyramid Strategic Planning Session** in early March.

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

No update.

UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) UPDATES



SCAN or CLICK HERE for LCO-UPK INFO HUB



El Paso County

- Approximately **2,500 family applications** have been submitted..
- **145 UPK provider applications**
- Over **5,000 slots** have been requested by providers.
- Office Hours for providers will be held on a weekly basis through March 2023.

Colorado | The Deferred Acceptance Algorithm (DAA) ran on 2/27 – Colorado has a total of 27,325 applications for 4-year-olds matched.

- **First Choice: 86%** matched
- **One of preferred choices: 93%** matched
- A total of **5.7% of children did not receive a match**. The CDEC is asking LCOs to help contact families to make edits to applications.
- A total of **4,328 3-year-olds** were matched to school districts.