



ALLIANCE FOR KIDS APRIL 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.

REPORTING TIMEFRAME: APRIL 1-30, 2024

Council Subcommittee updates are on **Pages 4.**

Below are the two 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)

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 | EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION



Childhood centers supported with embedded ECMH Consultation



Three child-focused cases this month, six children at risk of suspension or expulsion



Classrooms
Children impacted

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

- **Two playgroups** were held in April. Nine FFNs attended the first playgroup and four attended the other.
- A **new FFN Specialist joined JI** on April 2nd and has been creating content for home visits. Marketing materials developed this month, with outreach to begin in May.



Children attending JI Playgroups in April (combined total for both playgroups) along with 73 adults

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING + COACHING

- See Professional Development section



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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.

CHILD CARE RESOURCE + REFERRAL (CCR+R)

No update for April.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

- Nine provider-focused events attended
- Two family-focused events attended



Providers engaged with Navigator to increase from Level 1 to Level 2



Programs receiving CSQI grant support



Quality Improvement coaching hours



Programs in queue for Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Rating



Colorado Children's Academy achieved a Level 5 rating.

COLORADO SHINES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS



TSQI

Targeted (TSQI) grant is for programs serving infants and toddlers, having an active CCCAP fiscal agreement, a MOU with JI, and a Colorado Shines rating of Level 2-5.



ESQI

Expanded (ESQI) grant is for programs without a CCCAP fiscal agreement, serving a high-needs population and a Level 1-5 rating.

EMERGING + EXPANDING (E+E) CHILD CARE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- **Twenty-nine (29) programs applied**
- One provider has been successfully paid, **receiving \$46,990.38**
- One additional provider has been approved.
- Council will be reviewing and prioritizing applications in May.



Programs approved to receive E+E grant support



\$2,232,071



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COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCCAP)

- **Family Child Care Home Start-Up Grant** awarded a new provider with **\$1257.77**
- **Expansion Grant:** One program moved from waitlisted to under review.

TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING & COACHING

- Trauma 1 at Creative Kids College on April 11th (22 attendees)
- Conflict Resolution-JI PD course on April 18th (25 attendees)
- Trauma 1 at Talent Kids Academy on April 23rd (12 attendees)



**Participants in 3
Trauma Responsive
trainings offered**

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Workforce Development Training:

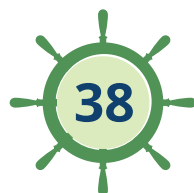
- EQIT Session D (28 participants and 6 hours)
- Pre-Licensing Training in Spanish/Pre-Licencia para un Hogar de Cuidado Infantil Familiar (4 participants and 15 hours)
- Pre-Licensing Training (14 participants and 15 hours)
- Conflict Resolution Within Your Early Childhood Workplace (25 participants and 1.5 hours)
- "Guiding Growth: Mastering the Implementation of Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Education" (26 participants and 2 hours)

Additional Highlights

- JI's Career Navigator supports individuals in the areas of 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.
- **Six people applied for a credential level** on Early Childhood Credential 3.0.
- Barriers removed/UCCS: Career Navigator helped write a **resume for one of the apprentice's portfolio** assignments to graduate.
- Barriers removed: Career Navigator **supported twenty Spanish speakers** with their ECE career pathway.
- Career Navigator supported **two new people in the EC field**.
- **Eight** EC Career Pathways outreach events this month.
- **Launched the Advancing Early Childhood Educators Program.**



**Participants in 5 trainings
offered, including EQIT**



**Individuals receiving
career navigation support**



**Career navigation hours
(including 24 walk-in hours)**



**Scholarships
provided**



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ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

The **Learning + Development Committee** met on April 11th with seven stakeholders in attendance. The team discussed the importance of positive messaging and self-compassion for early childhood providers, focusing on developing a growth mindset and enhancing work-life balance. The group discussed the strategic planning goals, specifically, Objectives 4 and 5, with Angela set to share positive messages for the ECE community.

Self-Compassion and Support for Providers: The group agreed on the need for positive reinforcement and acknowledgment of the challenges faced by these professionals, aiming to uplift and encourage the workforce. The group committed to developing a message to appreciate Family Child Care Providers' unique roles and share helpful resources such as crisis service lines.

Growth Mindset Strategies in Early Education: The group discussed the concept of a growth mindset and its application in early education. They explored strategies to help children and educators develop a growth mindset, such as encouraging self-reflection, learning from mistakes, and viewing challenges as opportunities for growth. The team also discussed ways to engage parents in this process, including providing resources and information on how to support their children's development of a growth mindset. Lastly, they considered ways to make learning about a growth mindset more interactive and engaging for children, including the use of quizzes and other interactive tools.

The group also **reviewed the new rules and regulations for Family Child Care Providers, the progress of the UPK program, and the potential benefits of the Advancing Early Childhood Educators program.** Lastly, they deliberated on community updates, upcoming events, and the Stabilization Grant, agreeing to meet again in August.

Next steps: Angela will finalize the wording of the positive messages and provide them to the group for feedback.

HEALTH + WELL-BEING

The April **Health + Well-Being Committee** had 11 stakeholders in attendance. Mia Trujillo presented on the early childhood Pathways programming and Michelle Klohe, Pathways Care Coordinator, was introduced. Additional information was presented about the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), respite care, The Family Success Center, El Paso County Care Coordinators, and Colorado Community Health Alliance. The group decided to participate in a training from Paula Hergert with El Paso County Department of Health.

Pyramid Community Leadership Team: This sub-committee met on April 22nd, with eight stakeholders in attendance. Updates were presented to the group on state scholarships, communities of practice opportunities, grants, facilitator applications and the new Pyramid modules.

FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

The **Family Support + Education Committee** did not meet in April.