



# ALLIANCE FOR KIDS MAY 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: MAY 1-31, 2024

**Universal Pre-K** updates and **Council Subcommittee** news are on **Pages 5-6**.

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

- **Building your Bounce** training was conducted for 11 center staff.
- **Graduation events, staff meetings and end-of-year class parties** offered opportunities for ECMH Practitioners to connect with staff, parents and children.
- **Kindergarten transition supports** are being offered for child-level cases.
- **Post-ECMH staff surveys** were given to two of the six sites. Results will be shared in June for all sites.
- Work continues to reduce suspensions and expulsions, but some sites cannot meet the special needs of some children.



Childhood centers supported with embedded ECMH Consultation



Three child-focused cases this month, four children at risk of suspension or expulsion, and one expelled



Classrooms

95

Children impacted

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

- The **FFN program was promoted** to all Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) recipients in El Paso County with the permission of the Department of Human Services.
- In-person outreach was conducted at a **Penrose Library circle time**.
- Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) approved distribution of **flyers to all libraries**.
- Outreach conducted to all **qualified exempt FFN providers**.
- Outreach conducted to **WIC and CASA** and an announcement was made about the FFN program at JI's bi-monthly **Playgroup**.



Children attending JI Playgroups in May (combined total for both playgroups) along with 84 adults



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## 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.

### FAMILY, FRIEND + NEIGHBOR PROGRAMMING | UPDATES

- **Conversations are taking place** between the FFN Specialist and seven FFNs. There is interest in the program, but no home visits have been conducted yet.
- **Playgroup:** Eleven FFNs attended the first playgroup in May and nine attended the second May playgroup.

### TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING + COACHING

- See Professional Development section

### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



Paula Hergert, Prevention and Policy Specialist for the Maternal and Child Health Program at El Paso County Public Health, will be hosting an in-person ***"Beyond the ACEs Scores"*** training at JI in June. *Twenty-seven (27) attendees are expected.*



**A grant was awarded to JI** from Delta Dental/Assuring Better Child Development (ABCD) to implement oral, vision, hearing, and developmental screenings as part of the **Healthy Universal Preschool Collaborative**. Interviews are ongoing.

## 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)

- **Fountain Valley CARES** meetings (Fountain Valley Childcare Association for Resources, Education and Support) – May 2, 9, 23, and 30th
- **Pikes Peak Region Family Child Care Association** meeting – May 21, 2024
- **Family, Friend, + Neighbor Strategic Action Network** – May 20, 2024
- **Children Youth and Family Services** Meeting – May 7, 2024



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## QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

### PROGRAM OUTREACH

**Level 1 to Level 2:** Four programs are working on their application. Two providers increased from Level 1 to Level 2 (St. Paul Lutheran Preschool and Colorado College CSB Children's Center)



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

### 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.



Programs receiving CSQI grant support



Quality Improvement coaching hours



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



Programs concluding ratings in May

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

- A total of **29 applications** were submitted.
- Colorado Department of Early childhood has **approved six applications**, totaling \$2,232,071.
- E+E team identified an **additional three** programs for possible awards to be made



Programs approved to receive E+E grant support



**\$2,232,071**

### COLORADO CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCCAP)

- Final **\$2,000** awarded through Existing Provider Grant
- **One Family Child Care Home Start-Up Grant** application under review
- **Ongoing QI coaching** for three early childhood programs

### TRAUMA-RESPONSIVE TRAINING & COACHING

- Challenging Behavior (PDIS/Virtual)
- An in-person trauma training scheduled for May was rescheduled for June.



Participants in 1 trainings offered



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## QUALITY INITIATIVES PROJECT INTEGRATED WITH PD

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

#### Workforce Development Training:

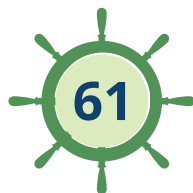
- EQIT Session D (26 participants and 24 hours in May)
- Challenging Behavior in Children
- Leading Edge™ For Childcare Providers (Center-Based)
- Leading Excellence: Empowering Early Childhood Education Leaders

#### ECE Career Navigator Supports

- 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.
- **Barriers removed:** Career Navigator supported four Spanish speakers with PDIS, PD in Spanish, ECE in Spanish, CDA in Spanish, connecting with jobs and classes, Spanish PD on PDIS and navigating the portal, financial aid, support for Advancing EC Educators prospects, and the Career Advance program.
- Career Navigator supported **five new people in the EC field.**
- **Outreach events** at Fountain Career Fair and School District 11.
- Career Navigator engaged and supported **seven high school students** who qualified for the EC Career Engagement Award. The Career Navigator connected one student with a job application.
- JI's new **Foundations Partner Recruiter, Kelsey Breiner,** started working on May 20th.



Participants in 4 trainings offered, including EQIT



Individuals receiving career navigation support



Career navigation hours (including 24 walk-in hours)



Scholarships provided



10

**ADVANCING  
EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATORS  
PROGRAM**



Eleven people were interested in the Advancing Early Childhood Educators Program. **Ten of them enrolled;** six at Pikes Peak State College and four enrolled in Summer 2024 Early Childhood Education classes.



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## UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) UPDATES



SCAN or CLICK HERE  
for LCO-UPK INFO HUB



**179 PROVIDERS**



**5,219 SEATS**  
YEAR TWO



**4,234 ENROLLED**  
4-YEAR-OLDS



**1,169 ENROLLED**  
3-YEAR-OLDS



**375 ON WAIT LIST**  
4-YEAR-OLDS

### Provider Types

- School District-Based: **69** (all 15 El Paso County school districts participating)
- Family Child Care Homes: **30**
- Center-Based: **80**
- Programs accepting CCCAP: **66**

### Matched with a Provider/Enrolled

- 4-year-olds matched: **4,268** (85%) (4,234 enrolled, 34 accepted)
- 4-year-olds unmatched: **765** (15%)
- 4-year-olds on waitlists: **375** (7.4%)
- 3-year-olds enrolled: **1,169**

### UPK Seats + Applications

- Registered UPK Seats: **5,219**
- UPK Seats available: **951** (includes available IEP seats)
- Family applications: **12,811**
- 1,349 have been withdrawn
  - 3627 are “in progress” but have not been submitted. It appears many families that are “in progress” for the 2023-2024 school year thought that this was the 2024-2025 application.

### UPK Team Assistance

- Family calls/emails for May: **905**
- Provider calls/emails for May: **258**

*Areas of El Paso County with low availability to meet need are School Districts 2, 38, and 20.*

### TAKEAWAYS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The UPK team had a **total of 1,163 contacts in the month of May**. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of contacts in May were with families, the majority of whom needed technical assistance with their applications for year two.
- With support from JI's Communications Manager, a **weekly UPK Newsletter** goes out and the **website is continually updated**.



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## ALLIANCE FOR KIDS COMMITTEE UPDATES

### FAMILY SUPPORT + EDUCATION

Nine stakeholders attended the **Family Support + Education Committee** this month. The guest speaker was Pikes Peak United Way 2-1-1. The committee was updated on the Family Friendly Summit and the PPLD Summer Adventure Program. Fort Carson Army Community Service shared that 2500 soldiers would be making a permanent change of station (PCS) to Fort Carson soon.

### LEARNING + DEVELOPMENT

The **Learning + Development Committee** did not meet in May.

### HEALTH + WELL-BEING

The **Pyramid Community Leadership Team** met with six stakeholders in attendance. The focus of the meeting was marketing and promotions of Pyramid to early childhood staff and directors. Angela McKibben, JI's Communications Manager, will create a poll to determine who Pyramid stakeholders are in our community. Co-Chairs Nicole Donatto and Melissa Caron will continue in their roles for another six months. Funding is needed to support the expansion of Pyramid activities in our community.