

Early Childhood Council

Just Think...

...if all children could grow to their full potential

...if all parents had the information and support they need

...if all child care professionals had sufficient resources

...if all child-serving agencies worked in concert

...if public policy supported them all

Just Think...

...if all of Boulder County shared a vision of young children as a priority

Interim Board of Directors

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Boulder Day Nursery Association

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LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY...

From ECCBC Board President & ECCBC Director:

Recent years have been significant in the life of the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County and we would like to provide a summary of events for you.

House Bill 1067 was passed in the 2007 legislative session which has had significant implications for our council work. First, this legislation changed the 17 councils status from “pilots” to “councils” so that legislative support for ongoing council work is assured. In addition, the number of councils was increased from 17 to 31 thereby covering the vast majority of counties in Colorado. House Bill 1067 also delineated not only what council membership is required but also clarified the scope of work for the councils both in the program and service arena as well as in their system building efforts.

In Fall 2007, the Steering Committee of the council met to determine how the organization could best meet the requirements of this legislation. Recommendations from this strategic planning meeting included:

- Merging with the existing county 501(c)3 County Kids First in order that the council receive a non-profit designation
- Changing the name of the council to the Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC)
- Increasing the diversity of representation on the board of directors
- Recommending to the board of directors the addition of the Latino Task Force charged with identifying the early childhood program and service needs of the Latino community in Boulder County.


These recommendations have gone a long way to support and enhance the work of ECCBC. As a member of ECCBC, you will notice a couple of additional changes: The council membership, representing over 150 individuals and organizations across Boulder County, has historically met four times each year. Attendance at the summer and winter meetings (July and December) has been sparse. Therefore, the board of directors has decided to have two meetings per year (in October and in April) and to invite speakers who will address a broad range of issues pertinent to all young families throughout Boulder County.

Along with the change of name, the website has been re-designed and the domain name changed to www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org. A link to the old website will remain for the next year.

We look forward to the release of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework in early 2009.

Thank you for your continued support of ECCBC's work in support of families with young children living in Boulder County.

Respectfully,

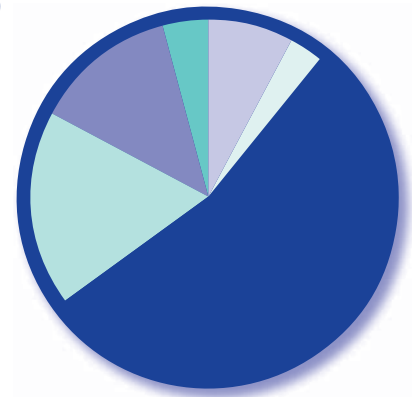

Steve Callander, Board President


Bobbie Watson, Director

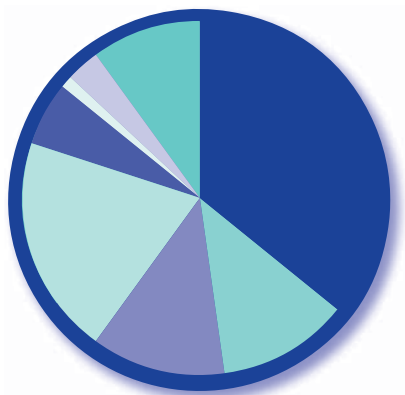
SOURCES OF FUNDS — \$ 743,969

The US Department of Health and Human Services funded an expansion of all ECCBC areas of work in 2007 through the Early Learning Opportunities Act grant. The Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services collaboration in early childhood system development across the state funded just over 31% including council coordination personnel

costs, operating costs, the School Readiness Quality Improvement Project and some of the Professional Development Program initiatives. Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation support formed the basis of the professional development service provision. Local government sources and other foundations supported comprehensive systems planning activities.



- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation \$58,168 8%
- Knight Foundation \$23,500 3%
- US Department Housing & Human Services \$402,369 54%
- Colorado Department of Education \$133,851 18%
- Colorado Department of Human Services \$97,081 13%
- Local Government Sources \$29,000 4%



- School Readiness Quality Improvement Program \$268,170 36%
- Informal Child Care Quality Improvement \$91,667 12%
- Professional Development Program \$87,727 12%
- Salaries \$152,535 20%
- Benefits \$43,207 6%
- Finance & Bookkeeping \$11,054 1%
- Non Personnel Expenses \$18,891 3%
- Systems Planning \$70,717 10%

USES OF FUNDS — \$ 743,969

Programs and services to the child care community of Boulder County formed the bulk of the uses of funds. Over \$350,000 was spent on quality improvement services to child care providers and the children in their care. Quality improvement activities include Qualistar ratings support, cash resources, child health and mental health services. Over \$85,000 was spent supporting the professional development needs of all child care providers in Boulder County through career path support and high quality training opportunities. Systems planning funds (\$70,000) provided research and development of a

comprehensive early childhood framework for Boulder County as well as evaluation of existing ECCBC programs and services. Salaries, benefits and non personnel expenses accounted for 30% of council budget.



Systems Planning Activities

The Expert Committee, 25 local community members representing the 4 disciplines of early childhood (early care and education, health, mental health and parent education and family support), met monthly in 2007 and evaluated services and programs across the county. Their recommendations, ***Report to the Community*** (available in early 2009) will serve as a foundational part of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework.

A Community Finance Forum comprised of local, state and national finance experts, undertook a Finance Modeling Assessment and a Cost Modeling Assessment of early care and education across the county. The cost model was conducted by Dr. Rick Brandon and University of Washington Human Services Policy Center. These recommendations will be evaluated by the Finance Task Force and incorporated as an integral part of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework.

Boulder County Early Care and Education Council Indicators Report, completed by OMNI Institute in collaboration with the Expert Committee, will be used to measure progress and outcomes in the implementation of the Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework.

Ongoing Community Forums promote the understanding of the importance of early childhood as county-wide priority, integral to the quality of life enjoyed by all Boulder County residents.

New and improved website developed
www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org

Programs & Services

Professional development career path initiatives resulted in 22% of licensed providers in Boulder County either undertaking college level coursework in ECE or being recognized for Colorado Early Childhood Credential achievement via ECCBC promoted programs. The total number of credentialed providers increased by 31% to 119 in 2007. \$21,000 in financial incentives were distributed by ECCBC for successful college level coursework in ECE completion in 2007.

Professional development training initiatives delivered monthly training calendars with news and information to over 300 providers in Boulder County in 2007; assisted 28 providers to attend the "Art of Coaching" workshops with Thomas Crane and graduated 11 center Directors from the Directors Training Series (5 of whom received college level credit).

Professional development training series initiatives had record participation levels (approximately 54% increase) at video night trainings, training collaborations with Naropa University and the annual Parade of Classrooms training event.

Professional development infant toddler care giving trainings trained 38 new providers in best practices in infant toddler care and provided follow up services for over 30 former trainees.

An average of 300 children attended the 23 child care classrooms that received Qualistar quality ratings and intensive improvement support in the ECCBC School Readiness Quality Improvement Project. All these children also received child health promotion services from Boulder County Public Health including vision, hearing, dental, developmental screenings, referrals and follow-up.

Annual star ratings improved in 2007 an average of 1 star per site across the seven participating programs: four sites at 3 Stars; two sites at 2 Stars; one site closed.

ECCBC recognized community agency partners, provider programs and provider participation in quality improvement at the Boulder County Association of the Education of Young Children (BCAEYC) Provider Recognition Event in May 2007.

OUR VISION & OUR MISSION

Our vision is to ensure that all young children birth to five in Boulder County are ready to succeed in school and in life.

Our mission is to expand and improve the comprehensive system of quality early childhood services for families in Boulder County.

COUNCIL HISTORY AT A GLANCE

1998: Boulder County Department of Community Services & City of Boulder Department of Housing and Human Services convened the Early Care and Education (ECE) Task Force to streamline the planning and implementation of programs in early care and education throughout Boulder County.

1999: ECE Taskforce submitted an application to the Colorado Department of Education to become a designated Consolidated Child Care Pilot community.

2000: ECE Taskforce received first Consolidated Child Care Pilot grant and collaborated with Boulder County Department of Social Services to obtain a Child Care Quality Expansion Grant from the Colorado Department of Human Services.

2001: ECE Taskforce created a strategic plan and presented progress reports to the Human Services Coordinating Council of Boulder County. The Professional Development Committee was established to apply for funding and oversee developing programs and services.

2002: The ECE Taskforce and Consolidated Child Care Pilot merged to become The Early Care and Education Council of Boulder County (ECECBC) and an organizational mission was approved "To expand and improve quality child care and early education opportunities for families in Boulder County." The first Council Coordinator and Professional Development Manager hired end of 2002.

2003: Council work grew. Two system planning work groups were convened: The Economic Impact Study Workgroup and the School Readiness for Latino Children Workgroup. By the end of the year the two reports of the workgroups were published. County-wide council membership represented over 150 individuals and organizations.

2004: Council revenues grew to over \$300,000 with grants received to promote the Consolidated Child Care community. Collaboration with the Knight Foundation Community Advisory Committee launched the Spanish Child Care Licensing Program in Boulder County.

2005: The Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) Grant Committee was established to propose a comprehensive early care and education system plan outline and to apply for federal early childhood funding through the US Department of Health and Human Services. In October 2005, ECECBC was awarded a \$960,000 Early Learning Opportunities Act grant for 18 month funding cycle.

2006: Council work continued to expand through ELOA grant funding to expand all areas of council work plan. ELOA Grant Manager, Sustainability Initiative Manager and Administrative Assistant hired.

2007: State legislation repealed the Consolidated Child Care Pilots and Early Childhood Councils are established statewide. In response, ECECBC merged with County Kids First 501(c)3 to become The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC) and the organizational mission was changed to "To expand and improve the comprehensive system of quality early childhood services for families in Boulder County." The first Council Director hired. ELOA grant and significant comprehensive system planning work completed.

NEWS! *At the annual strategic planning retreat in October 2007, the Steering Committee elected to change the organization name to "The Early Childhood Council of Boulder County," to become a 501(c)3, to appoint an interim board and to establish a stakeholder representative Advisory Council. The full council membership will meet bi-annually in the fall and the spring.*

Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA) Grant Finishes

The ELOA grant was funded between October 2005 and September 2007 in the amount of \$960,000 by the US Department Health and Human Services Early Learning Opportunities Act (ELOA). The ELOA grant provided three part support to council activities. It supported Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework research and planning activities. It supported the expansion of School Readiness Quality Improvement activities to an additional five centers which included the development of early literacy model, mental health consultation services and child health promotion services to an additional 250 children and their families. And it developed a Family Friend Neighbor culturally competent quality improvement model for Latina providers in Boulder County - PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes). PASO received additional funding from the Boulder County Department of Social Services and currently continues under ECCBC until June 2009.



Council Membership

The council carries on its long tradition of being comprised of organizations and individuals who recognize that the quality of a child's health, mental health and family strength is critical for success in school and in life.

Aspen Family Services
Boulder County Association for the Education of Young Children (BCAEYC)
Boulder County Commissioners' Office
Boulder County Community Action Program
Boulder County Community Services Department
Boulder County Cooperative Extension Services Family & Consumer Sciences
Boulder County Department of Social Services
Boulder County Family Child Care Association
Boulder County Head Start ~ Boulder County Movement for Children
Boulder County Public Health ~ Boulder Day Nursery Association
Boulder Family Child Care Association
Boulder Institute Psychotherapy and Research
Boulder Public Library ~ Boulder Valley Family Literacy
Boulder Valley School District, Colorado Preschool Program
Bright Beginnings of Broomfield and Boulder Counties
Center for Alternative and Responsible Education
City of Boulder, Children Youth & Families Division
City of Boulder, Housing & Human Services
City of Longmont, Human & Cultural Services
Colorado House of Representatives ~ Colorado State Senate
Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition
The Community Foundation Serving Boulder County
Dental Aid ~ Child Care Licensing Specialists
Foothills United Way
Front Range Community College ~ Imagine!
Impact on Education ~ Informed Family Life
Longmont Children's Council (Head Start)
Longmont Community Nazarene Church ~ Longmont Salud Clinic
Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties
Naropa University, Early Childhood Education
OUR Center ~ Parenting Place ~ People's Clinic
St Vrain Valley School District, Colorado Preschool Program
The Children's Wellness Network
University of Colorado, Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
YWCA of Boulder County
Over 50 child care providers including family homes
Independent Early Childhood Consultants

Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

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Council Staff: Bobbie Watson-Director, Danielle Butler-Coordinator, Francie Schilling-Assistant