

# 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*



## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY...

*From ECCBC Board President & ECCBC Director:*

2009 appears to be the year when early childhood has “come of age.” It is one of the hallmarks of the Obama administration and ECCBC looks forward to continuing our partnerships at both the local and state levels to realize our vision of a comprehensive early childhood system that is sustainable and accessible to all young families throughout Boulder County.

During 2009, the ECCBC System Development Initiative produced both clarity and results. We continued to find that comprehensive systems development takes longer than originally planned and is based fundamentally in the collaborative relationships and trust built with all our child-serving partners across Boulder County. For those of you who are involved in this long term effort, we gratefully thank you and your organizations. For those of you who are just learning about this work, we invite you to visit our website [www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org](http://www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org) to learn how to become involved.

We are often asked this question: what do you mean when you talk about a comprehensive early childhood system? In a nutshell, this refers to a whole child concept. Children need many things to arrive at school ready to learn. They need:

- A nurturing, safe and stable home environment
- Parents who are engaged in their child's life
- A health body and a healthy mind
- A high quality early childhood environment, whether that be in their own home, in the home of a family member or friend, or at a licensed childcare center or preschool

It is ECCBC's role to ensure that resources and planning efforts are coordinated across Boulder County and across the 4 domains of early childhood (health, mental health, early learning and parent engagement/family support). ECCBC also works to ensure that all families in Boulder County have access to the programs and services they need in order to have a child arrive at school ready to learn and ready to succeed. For children to arrive at kindergarten ready to learn, the community must make young children a priority, early care and education professionals need to have access to support resources, and young families need to be able to provide basic supports for their children in sustainable ways.

Should any one of these areas be neglected or sub-standard, the child's ability to grow and succeed is not only *not* optimized, but can be negatively impacted. ECCBC remains committed to this whole child approach where all children in Boulder County are valued, healthy and thriving. It will take all of us to make this vision a reality.

*Respectfully,*

**Steve Callander, Board President**

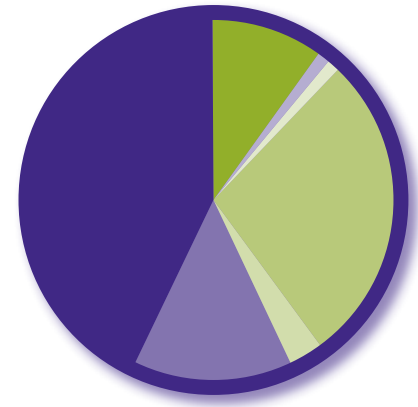
**Bobbie Watson, Director**



## SOURCES OF FUNDS — \$607,373

The majority of the council budget in 2009 was funded by state and local government funds (45% and 43% respectively). The Colorado Department of Education and Colorado Department of Human Services support included 48% of the Director salary, 100% of the Coordinator salary, 100% operating costs, all of the School Readiness Quality Improvement Project, 34% of professional development initiatives and 14% of systems planning initiatives. The majority of the early childhood systems development work in 2009 was supported by Boulder County Department of Social Services (BCDSS) through Temporary Assistance

for Needy Families (TANF) reserve grants and contributions from the city of Boulder. This support included funding the Director and Administrative Assistant positions and the completion and release of the Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System for Boulder County. BCDSS also fully funded the family friend neighbor care project: PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes). Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation funding again provided the basis for the council's professional development programs. Foothills United Way support enabled the council to continue to support some Child Care Resource and Referral Agency activities.



- Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation \$60,316 - 10%
- United Way \$4,191 - 1%
- Colorado Trust \$7,452 - 1%
- Colorado Department of Education \$167,669 - 28%
- Colorado Department of Education ARRA \$21,170 - 3%
- Colorado Department of Human Services \$86,003 - 14%
- Local Government \$260,573 - 43%



- Salaries \$144,533 - 24%
- Benefits \$56,607 - 9%
- Non Personnel Expenses \$17,319 - 3%
- Professional Development Program \$91,155 - 15%
- School Readiness Quality Improvement Program \$83,655 - 14%
- Informal Child Care Quality Improvement \$122,568 - 20%
- Resource & Referral Agency \$4,191 - 1%
- Systems Planning \$87,345 - 14%

## USES OF FUNDS — \$607,373

Direct services to the child care community of Boulder County accounted for 50% or \$310,569 of the funds. 35% was spent on quality improvement services for child care providers and the children in their care. Quality improvement activities included Qualistar rating support, resources for new materials, parent resources, child health and mental health services and the family friend neighbor care initiative. \$91,155, or 15%, was spent supporting professional development needs of licensed child care providers in Boulder County through career path support and access to high quality training opportunities.

Systems planning funds (\$87,354) provided research and development support for the completion of the Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System for Boulder County, the 2009 Boulder County Needs Assessment and the 2009 Benchmarks of Progress Report. Non-personnel expenses (3%) supported operating costs including office expenses and support for the Advisory Council. Salary and benefits accounted for 33% of the council budget.

# 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

## **System Planning Activities**

Several landmark documents were released to the public in 2009. All of these reports are available in full at our website [www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org](http://www.earlychildhoodbouldercounty.org).

### **The Comprehensive Early Childhood Framework:**

The Framework document pulls together the research on the critical importance of early childhood experiences on the development and success of young children. The framework also details the history of ECCBC in the comprehensive system development process and outlines critical next steps towards a comprehensive early childhood system plan for Boulder County.

### **The Expert Committee Report to the Community:**

Recommendations on Programs & Services details the six priorities that 25 early childhood experts recommended as foundational to the development and implementation of a comprehensive early childhood system. The report also highlights the crucial importance of parent engagement, family support and public support in the design, funding and implementation of a system.

**The Benchmarks of Progress:** First Annual Indicators Report for Boulder County, Comprehensive Early Childhood System Planning was released in the summer of 2009. Indicators were chosen for their impact on the four goals of a comprehensive early childhood system: Ready Community; Ready Early Care and Education; Ready Family; and Ready Children.

The Finance Taskforce was convened in 2009 and work resumed on developing revenue and cost recommendations for a comprehensive early childhood system in Boulder County.

## **Programs & Services - Professional Development**

The ECCBC Professional Pathways Program provided direct service and continued its role to promote access to high quality training and ongoing education. Seventeen (17) training opportunities for the child care community were provided and included the expansion of infant toddler caregiving training services.

Professional development career path initiatives awarded \$27,800 in financial incentives for undertaking college level coursework to 62 licensed child care providers in Boulder County. Thirteen (13) persons received recognition for achieving their Early Childhood Credential. Since 2004, over \$100,000 has been distributed in incentives for ongoing college level education to Boulder County child care providers.

Monthly training calendars with news and information continued to be provided to the over 300 licensed child care providers in Boulder County. Thirty-seven (37) child care providers received 15 clock hour certificates for training in social emotional competence in early childhood through the Directors Training Series and/or the Friends School Collaborative Training Series. Eight additional workshops provided training

for a total of 284 providers. Overall, ECCBC provided 1300+ clock hours of ongoing professional development in 2009. Sponsored trainings included a Career Fair, Credential Workshops, Eco Healthy Child Care training, Video Night Workshop, Fall Kick-Off Seminar and the Parade of Classrooms.

The Expanding Quality Infant Toddler caregiving training program grew in 2009 from providing one EQIT cohort each year to providing two, including 6-8 hours of coaching per trainee. The program trains providers in best practices in infant toddler care through the EQIT 48 hour curriculum and one-to-one coaching. The Boulder County EQIT team of six dedicated early childhood experts worked with over 55 child care providers in Boulder County in 2009. These activities provided an additional 1890 contact hours of training and produced 19 EQIT graduates in 2009 and 36 completed in early 2010.

## **Programs & Services - School Readiness**

A new three year School Readiness Quality Improvement Project grant cycle began in July 2009. Four new child care centers (3 Longmont, 1 Boulder) were recruited into the program that provides an annual Qualistar Rating and intensive quality improvement support. Over 200 children in 23 classrooms across the new sites received child health promotion services from Boulder County Public Health including vision, dental, hearing, developmental screenings, referrals and follow-up. All preschool classroom teachers received social skills training services from the Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties through the project. Two of the four sites received their baseline Qualistar rating in 2009, each scoring two stars.

## **Programs & Services - Informal Child Care and Health Integration Project**

An extension of Boulder County Department of Social Services TANF grant reserve funding continued to support the ECCBC collaboration with the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition and Boulder County Public Health to deliver the family friend neighbor care project, PASO (Providers Advancing School Outcomes). The project aims to reduce the achievement gap between Anglo and Latino students by implementing quality improvement and school readiness activities in 24 informal early childhood care settings impacting approximately 250 children. Professional development and education training, one-on-one coaching, environmental evaluation, education supplies, parent engagement activities and child health promotion including vision, dental, hearing, developmental screenings, referrals, follow-up and treatment funds were all funded. A \$7,500 planning grant from the Colorado Trust enabled ECCBC partners to plan future child health and mental health services to this population. And to follow up, the Trust granted ECCBC \$31,000 each year 2010-2012 to continue services and to work on integrating child health services into the local early childhood system.

# 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:** ECE Taskforce became 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:** A committee was established to develop a comprehensive early care and education system plan 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 the ELOA grant. 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.

**2008:** Boulder County Department of Social Services provided \$303,000 grant that fully funded one year of comprehensive early childhood system development as well as the expansion of the Family Friend Neighbor Care Project Providers Advancing School Outcomes (PASO). Professional Development Committee plans expansion of infant toddler caregiving services in 2009.

**2009:** ECCBC released several crucial documents delineating work over the past 10 years. The Finance Task force was convened and charged with estimating the cost of a comprehensive early childhood system for all young children in Boulder County as well as recommending possible revenue sources to support program implementation.

***NEWS! April 23, 2009 ECCBC releases two important reports: The Expert Committee Report to the Community Recommendations on Programs and Services & Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System for Boulder County.***

## Board of Directors

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President,  
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Boulder Day Nursery Association

**ROBIN BOHANNAN**  
Vice President,  
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Boulder County Department  
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**KAREN RAHN**  
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Director,  
Housing & Human Services,  
City of Boulder

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The Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition

**BARBARA GIGONE**  
Retired Director,  
Boulder County Department  
of Community Services

**BARBARA PINGREY**  
President and CEO,  
Foothills United Way

**SUSAN PURDY**  
Retired Director,  
Housing & Human Services,  
City of Boulder

## Advisory 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.

### CO-CHAIRS

Matt Eldred • Executive Director, The Acorn School for Early Childhood Development  
Maria Harper • Director, Boulder County Head Start

### MEMBERS

Donna Arnold • Assistant Director of Early Childhood, Boulder Valley School District  
Jordana Ash • Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties  
Karen Cody Carlson • President and CEO, Dental Aid  
Annette Crawford • Recruitment and Training Program Manager, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, City of Boulder, HHS/CYF  
Peter Dawson • Pediatrician, People's Clinic  
Kim Decker • Parent Representative  
Judy Fry • Resource & Referral Program Manager, Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, City of Boulder, HHS/CYF  
Janet Gutman • Director of Early Childhood Services and Special Education, Saint Vrain Valley School District  
Tikki Heublein • Co-Director, Center for Alternative and Responsible Education (CARE)  
Joan Holtz • Early Intervention Program Manager, Imagine!  
Kate Johannes • Director, Children's Alley, YWCA of Boulder County  
Sue McCord, Ph.D. • Retired, University of Colorado  
April Menzies, Ph.D. • Career Education Coordinator, Front Range Community College, Boulder County Campus  
Linda Miron • School Age Care Program, Boulder Valley School District  
Susan Moore • Director of Clinical Education and Services, Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, CU Boulder  
Ann Norris, L.C.S.W. • Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Amy Ogilvie • Executive Director, Longmont Children's Council  
Sarah Scully • Child Health Promotion Coordinator, Boulder County Public Health  
Marcia Seegers • Instructor, Front Range Community College, Boulder County Campus  
President, Boulder County Association Education of the Young Child  
Kirby Stone Ph.D. • Family Support Services Division Manager, Boulder County Department of Social Services  
Denys Vigil • Co-Director, Center for Alternative and Responsible Education (CARE)  
Marsa Williams • President, Aspen Family Services  
Ann Zander • Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, CSU Extension of Boulder County



Early Childhood Council of Boulder County

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Council Staff: Bobbie Watson-Director, Danielle Butler-Coordinator



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