

ECCBC Successes:

Within the Early Learning Domain:

- **Advocate at the local, state, and federal level for increased universal access to high quality early childhood programs**

In November 2010, Boulder County voters took a visionary step forward to strengthen Boulder County's community safety net. The passage of Ballot Initiative 1A, also known as the Temporary Human Services Safety Net (TSN), set aside about \$5 million a year in property taxes to help backfill funding cuts to crucial human services in Boulder County. It was a revolutionary idea. And it couldn't have come at a better time. The Great Recession along with two significant disasters (a fire and a flood) devastated many of our neighbors here in Boulder County. The TSN allowed Boulder County to invest in extremely important services to help make sure it was easier for people to get the help they need. Among other things TSN investments have supported huge increases in the numbers of people receiving food assistance and Medicaid in our county. They've made it possible for hundreds of families to get help with child care so parents can work, look for a job, or go to school. They've helped get additional mental health services to so many of our neighbors who need them. TSN dollars have been used to help people pay their rent so they can avoid homelessness. And the TSN has helped strengthen partnerships that flourished in the aftermath of disaster.

The TSN was set to sunset in FY 2015 so the county commissioners approached ECCBC to see if we could chair a campaign of community wide service providers to advocate for the reauthorization of the Safety Net Tax. Called the Neighbors Helping Neighbors campaign, the voters of Boulder County voted, by an approval rating of over 63%, to continue this tax for the next 15 years. This will raise over \$75M to support family self-sufficiency programs across Boulder County.

Family Support Domain:

- **Provide CCAP subsidy payments to community providers that are: 1) at least 100% of the average market rate and 2) outlines a tiered reimbursement rate tied to quality ratings**

This strategy has appeared on both our 2009 and 2014 Framework documents. The long-term outcome of this goal was to increase provider participation in the CCAP program thereby increasing the chances that a low-income family would be able to access high quality early care and education programs for their children. A second goal was to incentivize community providers to engage in quality improvement work in order to improve their quality ratings thereby increasing their CCAP reimbursement rates.

HB 14-1317 was passed by the Colorado legislature after many years of advocacy by the early care and education community. Boulder county now ties their CCAP community rates to the market rate and has implemented a tiered CCAP reimbursement rate which is tied to a provider's quality rating.

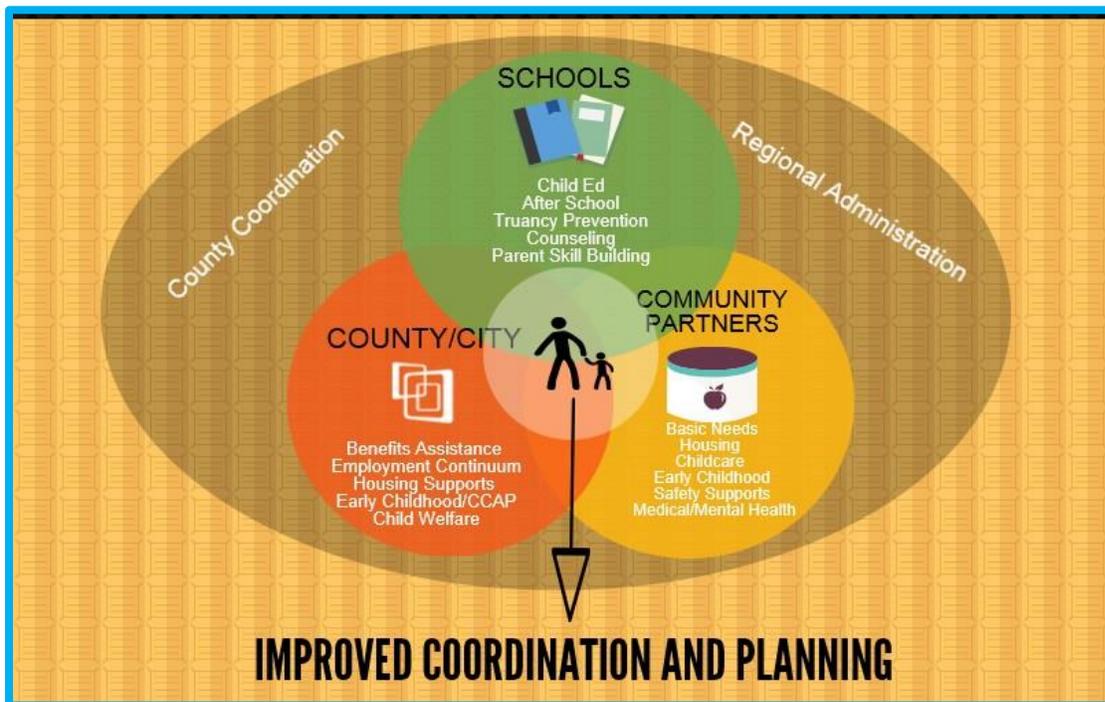
- **Formation of the BoCo Housing and Human Services Family Services Network**

Bobbie Watson is the Chair of the BoCo Housing and Human Services Advisory Council (HHSAC). In 2016, it was decided that HHSAC would act as the organizational governing body or the Regional Council (RC) for the BoCo family services network (FSN):

Vision: Boulder County families are valued, healthy and thriving.

Mission: Based on a two generational approach, Boulder County will have a fully integrated system of service delivery, organized through a county-wide governance structure comprised of citizens, schools, community-based entities, and city/county government aimed at improving self-sufficiency outcomes of families and social, emotional, and academic outcomes of children and youth.

The goal is to create a fully integrated system is a **holistic approach** to serving each consumer, using an **interoperable data exchange** to link the people, services, and information across systems and programs for robust **care coordination, integrated case planning, timely service delivery, and cross-system relationship management.**



The Regional Council is responsible for achieving a visionary, yet complex, large system-change process, aligning strategic direction and implementation consistent with the integration vision outlined above designed to produce the positive, long-term, sustainable outcomes for children, families, and individuals served throughout the community.

Social-Emotional and Mental Health Domain:

- **Broaden implementation of prevention-based programs promoting healthy social-emotional development**

ECCBC continues to provide:

- EQIT (Expanding Quality for Infants and Toddlers) training for over 100 ECE professionals each year. This program provides the tools needed to provide nurturing and supportive environments for infants and toddlers.
- Touchpoints training for both ECE professionals as well as community providers highlighting the need to support parents in the work of raising healthy and well-adjusted children
- Support for Pyramid and Pyramid Plus training for ECE providers in early childhood brain development, age appropriate expectations, and caring international skills

ECCBC also played a critical role in advocating for the continuation of the Kids Connect Program, provided through The Mental Health Partners. This program puts early childhood mental health consultants in licensed childcare centers and homes to provide ‘real time’ recommendations to staff and parents around the management of challenging behaviors.

- **Convene the Early Childhood Mental Health Task Force**

In partnership with BoCo Public Health, ECCBC brought together over 15 individuals working in the field of early childhood mental health. Those partners included: The Mental Health Partners, Salud Family Health Center, private practitioners and representatives of several family support organizations. Recommendations were developed to increase access to high quality early childhood mental health services for families across BoCo. This report is on the ECCBC website: <https://www.eccbouldercounty.org/for-community/our-publications/>

Health Domain:

- **Implement the Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD) project**

In collaboration with Boulder County Public Health, ECCBC staff has worked to ensure that all children in Boulder County:

- receive 3 developmental screenings by the age of three
- receive appropriate referrals should a developmental concern be identified
- trainings are provided to ECE providers on the administration of the ASQ/ASQ SE tool

ECCBC, in collaboration with our family-serving agency partners, continue to refine the Framework, updated strategies, and track success.