

ECHO and Family Center Strategic Plan 2015-2018



VISION: Children are valued, healthy and thriving.

ECHO and Family Center Council Mission: To promote and sustain a comprehensive, high quality early childhood system which supports families and prepares children for success in school and life.

EARLY LEARNING

Priority Goal Statement:

Children enter kindergarten with age appropriate development and the school readiness skills they need to succeed.

OUTCOMES

1. Increase the number of children who participate in the ECHO Screening and Access program.
2. Increase access to high quality early learning, birth to kindergarten.
3. Increase and strengthen early childhood programs that are accredited, quality rated and staffed with early childhood professionals who have formal education and professional developmental opportunities.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- 90% of children served in publicly funded early childhood programs entering kindergarten will meet “Widely Held Expectations” for school success on the Prekindergarten Teaching Strategies Gold.
Program list:
Cotopaxi Preschool, Early Intervention Colorado, Fremont County Head Start, The Giving Tree, Kinder Haus, Mountain View Core Knowledge Preschool, New Child Montessori, Rocky Mountain Children’s Discovery Center, Starpoint for Early Head Start, SPIN Early Childhood Care and Education, SPIN North, and SPIN Penrose.
- At least 42% of licensed centers and homes will increase their Colorado Shines Quality Rating System level.
Reporting: 21% of the 24 licensed homes and centers have a current QRIS level of two or higher.
- 100% of employees within a licensed center or preschool will be registered in Colorado Shines Professional Development Information System within 6 months of employment.

Reporting: less than 1%

- At least 50% of the work force in licensed centers and preschools hold a Colorado early childhood credential.

Reporting: less than 1%

STRATEGIES

Related to Outcomes 1 and 2

- Identify and secure funding to support the comprehensive early childhood education services of the ECHO and Family Center Early Childhood Council.
- Assure enrollment of children who are at risk into publicly funded, community-based programs funded by: Colorado Preschool Program, Preschool Special Education, Early Head Start, Head Start and Early Intervention Colorado.
- Participating providers are:
 - Cotopaxi Preschool, Early Intervention Colorado, Fremont County Head Start, The Giving Tree, Kinder Haus, Mountain View Core Knowledge Preschool, New Child Montessori, Rocky Mountain Children's Discovery Center, Starpoint for Early Head Start, SPIN Early Childhood Care and Education, SPIN North, and SPIN Penrose.
- Maintain current and accurate data regarding child outcomes for school readiness.
- Support financial sustainability of early learning programs and infrastructure.
- Maintain collaborative community recruitment, screening and enrollment of children through a single process of entry into publicly funded early childhood programs.

Related to Outcome 3

- Promote and incorporate the Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System and the Professional Development Information System.
- Provide incentives to encourage formal education and professional development for early childhood professionals and providers.

Related to Outcomes 1, 2, and 3

- Develop and maintain written data-sharing agreements with council member agencies, i.e. demographics, child progress, enrollment numbers, professional development of staff and other data as needed.
- Monitor children's learning and development through screening and ongoing assessments.

FAMILY SUPPORT and PARENT EDUCATION

Priority Goal Statement:

Families have meaningful community and parenting support.

OUTCOMES

1. Increase family engagement in high quality parenting / child development programs, services and supports.
2. Increase the numbers of children who live in safe, secure and supportive homes.
3. Increase availability and use of family resources to promote self-reliance.
4. Increase coordination of services and supports for children and families.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- Ages 0 to 5 will show a decrease in the number of founded child abuse cases.
Reporting: Numbers of founded cases in 2014 reported by Colorado Department of Human Services Trails System.
- Enrollment in Parents As Teachers Home Visitation will increase 25% beyond 2014 levels.
- Attendance figures as reported by council agencies will show an increase in numbers of children and families enrolling and completing programs.

Reporting: Tracked in agency data bases

STRATEGIES

Related to Outcomes 1, 2, and 3

- Maintain quality programs such as Parents As Teachers Home Visitation, Partners In Parenting Education (PIPE), Circle of Security, Maternal Wellness, Fatherhood Initiative and other programs to increase parent knowledge, skills and confidence.
- Promote early enrollment into preschool by enhancing current community marketing campaigns.

Related to Outcome 2

- Implement Colorado Community Response program.
- Ensure Partnership in Early Childhood Education Services (PIECES) referrals as per agency policies and memorandums of understanding.

- Provide Strengthening Families training, Circle of Security and Parents As Teachers Home Visitation.

Related to Outcome 4

- Maintain coordinated agency efforts to refer families appropriately.
- Cross-train community agency personnel to understand supports and services in other agencies.
- Encourage parents to build a helping relationship with an early childhood provider for personal support and information.

A. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Priority Goal Statement:

Children have a broad array of comprehensive prevention and intervention health care services available.

OUTCOMES

1. Increase awareness of nutrition, physical activity and healthy lifestyle choices.
2. Increase access for all women to prenatal and maternal wellness care.
3. Increase the number of children who receive medical and oral healthcare.
4. Maintain enrollment numbers for children prenatal to school age who are eligible for Medicaid or CHP+.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

- 85% of parents can articulate three healthier choices they are making around nutrition and physical activity for themselves and their families.
Reporting: By program
- 50% of mothers referred to the Maternal Wellness program will participate.
- The number of community referrals to prevention and intervention health care services increase beyond 2014 levels.
- By 2017, 70% of parents report their child / children have had a dental exam.

Reporting: By agency data bases

STRATEGIES

Related to Outcome 1

- Add physical wellness activities to engage the whole family.
- Offer workshops on healthful eating options on a budget.
- Provide a training series on picky eaters, mealtimes for toddlers, and introducing new foods.
- Provide nutritional training for families, i.e. Nutrition Bingo, Exploring Food Together, and others.
- Exploring foods together related to nutrition, physical activity, and healthy choices.

- Encourage participation with Farmer’s Markets for fresh fruits and vegetables and make use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cards.
- Programs collect and report data related to healthy lifestyle choices by participants.

Reporting: Annual results by programs

Related to Outcome 2

- Engage community participation in Maternal Wellness referrals rebuilding referral information and connections.
- Maternal Wellness group will meet with physicians and the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Office to re-engage participation with Maternal Wellness screenings.
- Maternal Wellness Support Group will continue to meet.
- Partners In Parenting Education (PIPE) will continue to engage teen / young parents.
- Engage local high schools and Goal Academy through nursing offices serving those sites.
- Continue professional development for staff.

Related to Outcome 3

- Define a dental care baseline and determine a target goal above that point.
- Implement a measure and tracking system.
- Identify oral care barriers such as parental education, lack of dental providers for Medicaid, and transportation.
- Add oral care to ECHO screening and access intake questionnaire.
- Share dental information at intake and screenings.
- Agencies who collect dental information share results with council for data collection.
- Maintain the Healthy Communities schedule by connecting parents.

Related to Outcome 4

- Maintain multiple enrollment sites for Medicaid and CHP+.

B. SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Priority Goal Statement:

Children enter kindergarten with the age appropriate pro-social behaviors and skills they need for success.

OUTCOMES

1. Increased availability and use of high quality social, emotional and mental health training and support for preschool teachers, home visitors and case workers.
2. Increased quality of supporting and nurturing environments in preschools and home childcare centers that promote children's healthy social – emotional development.
3. Improved knowledge and practice of nurturing behaviors by families served by Fremont County ECHO and Family Center Council agencies.

SUCCESS INDICATORS

Outcome 1

- 80% of ECHO Council agencies will receive specified social emotional trainings as identified by the "Training Needs Assessment."

Outcome 2

- Maintain 20% growth in learning environments, fall to spring, in socio-emotional competencies as measure by the Gold Assessment.
- The *Early Learning Childhood Classroom Climate Scale* scores will increase 15% in classrooms served by early childhood mental health specialists.

Outcome 3

- 80% of families involved in the Crib to Kindergarten program will demonstrate growth in parent-child relationships as measured by DC: 0 to 3 Parent –Infant Relationship Global Assessment Scale (PIRGAS), the Survey of Parenting Practices and the Crib to Kindergarten Parent Questionnaire.
- Establish a baseline for home visitation families using Parenting Interaction with Children Checklist of Observations Linked to Outcomes (PICCOLO) through Starpoint home visitation programs.

STRATEGIES

Outcome 1

- Use Early Childhood Mental Health / Maternal Wellness sub-committee to develop and manage training needs assessment related to trauma, Circles of Security, socio-emotional strategies and Strengthening Families.
- Identify contact person at each agency to distribute Training Needs Assessment with a deadline for development as October 2015.
- Learning Community sub-committee to develop a three year plan with subjects for training.
- Present results of Training Needs Assessment to ECHO Council to finalize 3 year Social-Emotional Training Plan. This will be integrated with the overall professional development training calendar.
- Increase training level of early childhood mental health specialists and other staff in Circle of Security.

Outcome 2

- Increase the number of classrooms being served by early childhood mental health consultation and encourage collaboration with the coaching system.
- Clarify and distribute coaching map to participating agencies.
- Explore the potential for providing reflective practice and support system wide.

Outcome 3

- Increase funding and resources for ECHO Council Crib to Kindergarten early childhood mental health services by enlisting all ECHO council agencies to explore potential funding sources.
- Track the number of referral sources to Crib to Kindergarten for funding purposes.
- Expand the implementation of Circle of Security to include foster families: expand the referral system and increase system delivery.
- Complete implementation of the PICCOLO data and monitor the results.