

The Child Care Advisory Committee held their monthly meeting on December 7, 2016. Committee members present included Mike Connelly, Greta Shackelford, Mark Wimberly, Lucinda Burns Anne Marie Chapin and Shelly Aleshire. Town staff/representatives present were Peter Grosshuesch, Laurie Best and Jennifer McAtamney. Jessica Terrizzicaldwell from the Roots school also joined the meeting.

The November Meeting Report was approved and signed by Mike Connelly.

The following agenda items were covered:

- **Early Brain Research – Harvard Early Learning Center**

We wanted to share this information with the committee members so they will be equipped to understand some of the research on how strong communities and great early education programs can contribute to long terms success of adults and society at large. Committee members having a good grounding on the science of brain development and the impact of early education is vital so they can share this info out in the community with credibility.

To learn more about the long term impacts on quality early care and learning check out the following links which provide more in-depth information on the programs highlighted in the presentation.

[http://www.highscope.org/file/research/perryproject/specialsummary\\_rev2011\\_02\\_2.pdf](http://www.highscope.org/file/research/perryproject/specialsummary_rev2011_02_2.pdf)

<http://abc.fpg.unc.edu/>

<http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/Proven-Results/Published-research>

- **Child Care Initiatives 2016 Annual Report**

Jennifer shared her first annual report & presentation which describes the vision of Breckenridge’s Child Care Program, its history and elements along with break out data on the families using tuition assistance. As part of the presentation we shared personal video stories from Board members and families to thank the Town Council for their continued support of the program. As we looked at our program the committee recognized that we have work to do with capacity, sustainable business models and salaries and benefits.

This report will be used in our community outreach program as well as posted on our website and shared with our partner Child Care Centers. Peter suggested that we should provide this presentation to the Planning Commission and even expand to other town employee groups so they are familiar with the program and its benefits.

On a side note Lucinda thought it might be a good exercise, to meet with other agencies that provide assistance and look at the applications across programs and see if there are opportunities to streamline this for working families.

Shelly made the point that our program is important for working families who commute into Summit County because other programs have guidelines that restrict access for residents outside of Summit County but work and access care here in the Upper Blue.

- **Policy Discussion – Understanding the Cost of Care**

Jennifer did some initial work to break these costs out between infant/toddlers & preschool. What we see is that delivering infant care at ideal ratios requires 2x the payroll costs over that of a preschool classroom. In light of our earlier conversation on the need to work on salaries and benefits we are going to take a step back. Instead of using our current budgets we will start again with what we are terming “ideal” budgets. This means incorporating competitive wages and benefits along with program and training budgets we would like to see implemented but are not accounted for today.

One of the reasons Jennifer wants to delve deeper into these cost structures, is a thought that we may want to shift our business model to charge the true cost of care for each classroom slot. What this means is that for each

age/classroom slot the tuition would be reflective of the staffing ratios and program costs to deliver it. From there we would determine how this would impact tuition assistance. Intuitively we believe that all things being equal it should be cost neutral. In this new model we would continue to provide tuition assistance to cost burdened families but believe we would see a shift with greater subsidies going to infants and toddlers during those early years when the care is more expensive and less assistance for preschool because families may then be able to afford to cover more of the lower true cost of care. This approach would also remedy the issue with preschool families subsidizing infant/toddler care even when they did not use any of this type of care. Jennifer will work with Greta to determine a base level ideal budget to present to the group and we will work on the rest of the model from there.

- **Update on Health and Wellness Benefit, Shared Services & Increased Capacity**

Work continues on the partnership with the Summit County Community Care Clinic. The contract is now in the hands of Early Childhood Options (ECO) and has evolved again. In the earlier iteration the Clinic was going to provide Care Clinic Passes for up to 5 cost free visits for well care, acute care as well as behavioral health. The latest version would have ECO purchase these services on behalf of the early childhood teachers across the county and they would all be entitled to unlimited visits for well care, acute care as well as behavioral health. ECO will fund the program through the Right Start Recruitment and Retention budget which means the Town's Child Care fund is not impacted by the program. Currently the contract is being reviewed by attorneys and we are hoping to roll it out in January along with a FAQ on the program. We are absolutely delighted to see this moving forward and providing even more benefits for our early child care teachers all across the county.

We have also provided Census info to Trinet so we can get some realistic quotes for both their payroll and benefit services as well as the health care programs we can access as a member of their organization.

**Capacity Updates:** As mentioned last month we are seeing more demand for infant and toddler care and subsequent growth in waitlists. As a result we are moving ahead to look at how we can add capacity at Carriage House by subdividing their very large preschool classroom. This gives us the opportunity of providing more toddler spots to help address some of the demand for that age group at a relatively low cost. With the increase in demand we will need to continue to track this closely to determine how it might impact the timing of building a new center.

- **Future Committee Members**

We have three committee members whose terms are up this January; Lucinda Burns, Mike Connelly and Greta Shackelford. Requests for letters of interest will be published in the Summit Daily and advertised on our website starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> and due on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Council interviews will be scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup> with new appointees joining us for our February Meeting.

### **Outreach & partnership updates**

With the delivery of the Child Care Initiatives Annual Report to Town Council, Jennifer has begun her public outreach tour. Following the council meeting we have visited with Rotary Satellite, Mark Burke & Mike Dudick who missed the meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, Summit County Human Services Department/CCCAP, & the Summit Daily. Since our meeting a great article was published in the Summit Daily which gave an overview of our program and its benefits to the community. Jennifer will continue reaching out to community groups to share the work we are doing on behalf of local families and their employers. In January we will focus on the Child Care Non-profit Boards and their staffs and start on the broader business community.

<http://www.summitdaily.com/news/local/tuition-assistance-helps-breckenridge-residents-combat-rising-child-care-costs/>

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 4th**