



# Memo

**To:** Breckenridge Town Council Members  
**From:** Jennifer McAtamney  
**Date:** 2/28/2018  
**Subject:** February 7, 2018 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report

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The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on February 7, 2018. Committee members present included, Erin Gigliello, Greta Shackelford Jay Homola and Laura Amedro. Johanna Gibbs, Aaron Ness and Shelly Aleshire were unable to attend due to work conflicts. We had guests from Estes Park Child Care Services Committee & Economic Development Committee Michael Moon and Jon Nicholas. Town staff present were Jennifer McAtamney, Laurie Best and Peter Grosshuesch.

*The report for our December 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting was approved.*

## **The following topics were covered**

To start the meeting we introduced our visitors from Estes Park: Michael Moon and Jon Nicholas. Jon is the CEO of the Estes Park Economic Development Committee and Michael Moon is the chair of the Estes Park Child Care Services Committee. Travis Machalek, the Estes Park Assistant Town Administrator had to leave just prior to our committee meeting. They spent the day with Jennifer discussing the history and evolution of our child care program, toured our partner schools and are now here to observe our committee meeting and ask the members a few questions prior to wrapping up today.

## **Update on RFP for Research Partner Process**

On March 1<sup>st</sup> we will be interviewing our two qualified applicants who responded to our RFP: Joining Vision in Action (JVA) and APA Consulting. Sitting on the selection committee will be Johanna Gibbs, Jay Homola, Nicola Erb, Peter Grosshuesch, Laurie Best and Jennifer McAtamney. Following those interviews, we will select a partner, notify the parties and get contracts signed in early March. Once paperwork is finalized, we will deliver background and initial data for the project. Formal kick off with the Town Council is scheduled for the first meeting in April.

## **Colorado Shines**

We conducted an overview of the Colorado Shines quality rating system that the state has implemented. Colorado Shines is a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) that monitors and supports early learning programs. Its primary functions is to help participating programs and professionals improve their quality through assessment, training and tools, and connect families with quality child care.

We shared short video on it: <https://youtu.be/WiAYZr52MeI>

The program includes a rating (QRIS) system for schools, which is similar to the Qualistar rating system used prior to the implementation of Colorado Shines as well as a resource and referral website for

parents and professional development information system (PDIS) for teachers to track credentials and education credits. Under state law a licensed center with minimum standards are rated a 1. Schools with quality improvement plans are rated a 2. To achieve high quality rating of 3-5 requires the completion of an intensive process to demonstrate quality in the following areas: health and safety, well trained and effective staff, supportive learning environment that teaches children new skills, helping families be active in their child's learning and strong leadership and business practices. Currently Carriage House has completed their review and has received a 3 which is considered a high quality rating. Our other partner schools are preparing for this next step and are working with the coach from Early Childhood Options to set them up for success during this intensive review process. Our struggles with teacher recruitment and retention, the high cost of living and access to affordable health insurance, contract services, professional development and supports are some of the criteria our local schools are challenged with.

To give the committee an idea of what criteria is used to evaluate the program we took a tour through the Colorado Shines Program Guide an 80 pg. document, which can be found at: [http://coloradoshines.force.com/resource/144060760500/asset\\_pdfs1/asset\\_pdfs1/ColoradoShinesProgramGuide.pdf](http://coloradoshines.force.com/resource/144060760500/asset_pdfs1/asset_pdfs1/ColoradoShinesProgramGuide.pdf)

For the committee, having a better understanding of what quality standards look like helps to focus the Town efforts on areas where we can move the needle. In fact, Colorado Shines evaluation criteria guided our 2018 program plans resulting in our focus on wages, benefits and professional development & Director/Board training.

**Our meeting adjourned at 4:54 pm**  
**The next meeting is scheduled for March 7th**