



# Memo

**To:** Breckenridge Town Council Members  
**From:** Jennifer McAtamney  
**Date:** 10/5/2018  
**Subject:** September 27, 2018 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report

---

The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on September 26, 2018. Committee members present included, Greta Shackelford, Johanna Gibbs, Laura Amedro, Scott Perlow, Bradley Ragan, Mary Jo Zweig, Heather Garcia, Joyce Ruderman and Jay Homola were unable to attend due to conflicts. Dick Carleton our Town Council Rep was present as well as Jennifer McAtamney and Peter Grosshuesch from Town Staff. Kathryn Rooney and Abby McClelland from APA Consulting attended to present their report and Leslie Davis from Timberline Learning Center attended to hear the program evaluation report.

## The following topics were covered.

### Tuition Assistance Update

Tuition Assistance applications for the initial 2018-19 round were completed in late August. We had 93 families apply. In this year's initial round, we saw an increase in households with 2 children in care with 41% of the families having two children in care. This is significant for our program because across income levels these families are cost burdened even at two and three days per week for both of their children and the Town's assistance is greater for these larger households during the years when both children are in care. Of the 93 applicants, we only had one family who was not eligible; this was due to a career change and not working in the upper blue.

Since closing enrollment, we have six new families who are in the application process and new to the program so qualify under the life change clause that allows families outside of open enrollment.

### Needs Assessment Update

We reviewed the needs assessment with the committee. The most significant finding here was the increase in the wait list from 31 children in 2016 to 154 in 2018. To address this capacity issue Staff has recommended that we begin the planning process in 2019 to explore opportunities to add capacity through either expansion at existing sites or the construction of a new center at a town owned site. This may involve hiring a 3rd party to analyze expansion opportunities at our existing facilities.

## **APA Child Care Program Evaluation**

Kathryn Rooney and Abby McClelland attended the meeting to present their findings following the evaluation of the Town's Child Care Program. APA's primary finding is that the Town of Breckenridge's investment in the Breckenridge Child Care Program is well-conceived, and well-targeted towards addressing the most critical factors in building a sustainable, high-quality early childhood education system. Among our competitive set of mountain communities the Town of Breckenridge was a pioneer making the most significant discretionary investments in their early childhood system. Even today, the Town is a stand out relative to peer communities with only Aspen surpassing the Town's commitment thru their dedicated tax of \$2,000,000 annually.

The program is also a strong support for the local economy, as families receiving tuition assistance work in a wide array of industries, including local and county governments, tourist organizations, restaurants, professional services, and others. Over 120 Unique businesses benefit indirectly from the improved child care supports provided to these families. 99% of the families eligible for tuition assistance at our local partner schools have at least one parent working full time in the Upper Blue.

As part of the report, APA made the following recommendations as opportunities to improve or enhance the program and discussed the research and data behind these recommendations with the committee.

- Plan for Sustainable Funding
- Continue to Strengthen Policies Supporting Teacher Recruitment & Retention
- Increase Efficiency through Shared Services
- Maintain and Refine the Tuition Assistance Program
- Collect Additional Data on Critical Program Metrics
- Review Communication between the Town of Breckenridge & the Child Care Centers
- Conduct a Facility Space Review at All Centers
- Prepare for the Possibility of Universal Pre-K

APA Consulting is pursuing grant funding to continue following the program and track child outcomes and broader impacts of our Program on the ECE System.

During the upcoming Child Care Advisory meetings, the committee will be discussing and prioritizing these recommendations and program suggestions in preparation for upcoming presentations to the Town Council following the November election.

**Our meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm**