



Memo

To: Breckenridge Town Council Members
From: Corrie Burr
Date: October 25, 2022 Town Council Meeting
Subject: October 5, 2022 Child Care Advisory Meeting Report/Minutes

The Child Care Advisory Committee held a regular meeting on October 5, 2022. Committee members present: Greta Shackelford, Scott Perlow, Leslie Davis, Jay Homola, Johanna Gibbs, and Jay Beckerman. Staff from the Town of Breckenridge included Julia Puester and Corrie Burr. In attendance was Catherine Schaaf and Katy Fiedler from Early Childhood Options

Discussion with Early Childhood Options

Catherine and Katy from Early Childhood Options (ECO) joined our meeting to talk to the Committee about Leg Up, which is the software program used for the County-wide waitlist. The Leg Up program is designed for waitlist management and placement for child care facilities. Each provider tracks their own list, ECO receives aggregate data that can be broken down into the North area of the County and the South area of the County. Once a child is accepted into a program, there is a seamless transition for the child's information into the tracking program. Leg Up has been used for the last year. The program does reach out to parents once a month to ask if they want to stay on the waitlist. The centers work the list to remove families from the list once they are entered, even if they need more days than what they start with.

Catherine shared the background and structure of ECO for new members. ECO is mainly funded by two mil levies: Right Start program which started in 2008 (no sunset) and then in 2019 the Strong Futures funding was added to fund Summit Pre K for 4-year olds. This year, the program expanded to cover 3-year olds with slightly different parameters that matched the TOB program

ECO was established in the '90s as a placement service in the community. Currently there are 13 staff members and two teams, one for Head Start and then the Pre-K / Tuition Assistance program. Head Start services approximately 65 kids per year. ECO offers high-quality trainings for early childhood educators that are time sensitive to their job requirements. They also incentivize the teachers to take the courses. They write for grants that serve all programs, one of which covers 125 ski passes. ECO also services in-home providers and helps to recruit for new ones.

There are currently 108 infants on the Breckenridge waitlist. The Committee discussed the economies of scale of preschool vs infants. The same room that holds 6 infants could have 16 preschoolers. It is just much more expensive to cater to infants and can be hard to keep staff in infant rooms.

The hope for ECO's future is to manage all funding sources for child care as a County-wide approach. They have Universal PreK coming (prop EE) along with SPK, CCCAP, Head Start, CPP that are all available here in the County. They are working on a document that will show eligibility for each program, but hope when someone applies for funding, ECO can help find the correct path for that family.

There is still the plan for a center at Wintergreen in Keystone and Smith Ranch in Silverthorne along with Vail Resorts offering spots to employees in Breck and Keystone. These will be licensed centers.

TLC Expansion Update

Town staff, Leslie and EUA met at TLC to talk about the potential expansion options at the center. EUA will be presenting initial drawings on 10/17/2022 for feedback and revisions.

Next meeting is on Wednesday, January 4, at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom.

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Staff will be available at the Town Council meeting for questions.