

ROCKY MOUNTAIN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL  
2017-2020 STRATEGIC PLAN  
REVISED: 1-3-17  
ADOPTED: 1-26-17

**Mission: To promote and support a system of quality, accessibility and affordability of early childhood services for families in the rural resort region**

# History of the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council

The Rural Resort Region Early Childhood Council (RRRECC-WD) was originally formed by the County Commissioners of Eagle, Garfield, Lake, Pitkin, and Summit counties out of common growth-related issues such as education, child care, affordable housing, and health care. In 1998, we applied to the Colorado Department of Education to become a Consolidated Child Care Pilot. The organization was founded to “promote and support a system of quality, accessibility, and affordability of early childhood for families in the Rural Resort Region.” In 2006, after many discussions, Summit and Grand counties decided to form their own council due to demographics and common interests which changed our council composition to a 4 county region. In 2014, the Council adopted a new name—the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council. Council members chose a name they felt better represented our 4 county region and also gave us our own identity separate from other “resort region” councils. Presently, Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council (RMECC) continues to fulfill its purpose through initiatives that reform and strengthen the early care and education system so all children and families can benefit from high quality early childhood experiences.

## **OUTCOME: ACCESS—LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal 1: Learning experiences and environments are high quality, developmentally appropriate and affordable.**

- A. Assess current gaps and support
  - 1. On an ongoing basis, increase awareness of scholarships and incentives available through Council incentives and funding streams
- B. Advocate and support affordable, quality childcare
  - 1. On an ongoing basis, partner with agencies, DHS and programs to increase CPP and CCAP slots throughout the region.
- C. Support programs in their pursuit of high quality.
  - 1. By 6/30/20, 50% of childcare programs will have a rating of Level 2 or higher in Colorado Shines.
  - 2. On an ongoing basis, provide technical support and coaching to programs
  - 3. By 12/31/18, obtain funding to support development of Health Consultants for the region

## **OUTCOME: ACCESS—FAMILY SUPPORT & EDUCATION**

**Goal 2: Services and supports promote well-being and resiliency of parents and caregivers**

- A. Connect families to services
  - 1. On an ongoing basis, promote and distribute information about available classes, programs and services throughout the region.
  - 2. By 12/31/17, attain continuing funding to sustain Family Engagement Coordinators for the region.
- B. Implement an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) system regionally
  - 1. By 12/31/17, create or adopt a roadmap for early childhood mental health that includes defined components of an evidence-based ECMH Consultation program.
  - 2. By 12/31/19, identify & secure funding sources for implementation of ECMHC initiative.

## **OUTCOME: ACCESS—HEALTH & WELL BEING**

**Goal 3: All settings promote mental health and well-being through early identification, consultation and treatment.**

- A. On an ongoing basis, train caregivers on behavior management and social emotional development

## **OUTCOME: QUALITY—LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal 4: Formal and informal care environments and education practices reach highest levels of quality.**

- A. Identify informal care environments (FFN) and support the development of quality practices
  - 1. On an ongoing basis, collaborate with local, regional and state level efforts to expand impact
  - 2. By 6/30/18, define and work to identify FFN care and identify our role
  - 3. By 6/30/18, identify current trainings and trainings in development at the local, regional and state level

## **OUTCOME: QUALITY—HEALTH & WELL BEING**

**Goal 5: Settings and practices promote strong relationships, social-emotional development, nutrition, physical activity, and oral, vision, dental and hearing health.**

- A. On an ongoing basis, promote and share resources for dental, vision, hearing, and developmental health screenings in child care programs by a qualified professional
- B. Attain funding to implement health consulting regionally
  - 1. By 12/31/18, attain funding to implement health consulting regionally using the Pitkin County model
- C. By 6/30/17, develop a resource list of Child Care Health Consultants for the region to fulfill need as defined by licensing.
- D. On an ongoing basis, disseminate information about Certified Playground Inspectors and about how and why they should receive a CPI.

## **OUTCOME: EQUITY—LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**Goal 6: Children with special health, behavioral, and developmental needs receive individual services and supports**

- A. Promote awareness of and access to specialized supports for young children and their families.
  - 1. On an ongoing basis, promote developmental screenings to childcare programs regionally.
  - 2. Inform providers and parents regarding the supports, services and next steps for developmental, behavioral and health concerns.