**Strengthening Working Families Initiative**

**Action Team Meeting: Expanding the Availability of Quality Care**

**April 9, 2018**

**Attendees:** Alisha Mullins, Pedro Mendez, Melanie Soneson, Sarah McNeil, Fumnanya (last name)

**Introductions:**

The SWFI grant currently is serving students who are enrolled in certificate programs and assist with issues surrounding CCCAP, childcare, early childhood development, employment opportunities during and after completion of certificate program, and alternate resources.

Pedro Mendez, Community Engagement Coordinator at Denver’s Early Childhood Council – will be joining our action team – expertise in working with informal caregivers, fluent in Spanish, and working on an Early Head Start grant for slots in the Globeville, Elyria, Swansea neighborhoods.

**Ongoing Outreach:**

**Triad ECC, Arapahoe ECC, Providers, SWFI Parents, Colorado Children’s Campaign, Mile High United Way: Parent Possible, HIPPI, LAC (GES), Family Resource Centers, Workforce Development Centers**

At our last whole group SWFI meeting, we were asked to create some actionable items to work on as a group. We decided we would first focus on outreach and information gathering.

Alisha: From the 99 students at CCD, currently have childcare data from 20. Majority are using formal care, 7 are using informal, 6 are grandparents. Spoke to ECPAC about working with informal caregivers (22 total participating). Focuses on training and home visits, bilingual in Spanish, and most likely got the word out by word-of-mouth.

Sarah: Continuing to do outreach with the state library, Parent Possible, and HIPPY.

Melanie: Informed Pedro of the SWFI work and reached out to Arapahoe – awaiting response.

Melissa: Absent, but focusing on getting information from the Office of Early Childhood, Rules and Regs

**Action Items: We will continue to build on the outreach and information we collect and use it to inform our dialogue and next action steps.**

Alisha: Continuing to gather data from parents, will follow up with ECPAC on how they began the program working with informal caregivers, built interest, and did continuing Ed with the group.

Sarah: Will follow up on the Mayor’s group that spoke out about the child care issues in the county. Will follow up with Parent Possible (Heather) for lessons learned and strategies, and Joyce Johnson’s group for current data.

Pedro: Will send the meeting happening on April 19th in GES and keep the action team informed with any updates.

Melanie: Continuing to do outreach to the ACECC and workforce development/family resource centers. Will send out next meeting invite, May 7th at 3:00pm at Denver’s Early Childhood Council and update meeting minutes and upload in Civic Network.