**Strengthening Working Families Initiative**

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

**May 7, 2018**

**Attendees:** Alisha Mullins, Pedro Mendez, Melanie Soneson, Sarah McNeil, Janneth Attebery, Mary Alice Cohen, Sue Lohmiller

**Introductions:** Welcoming new members into our group, Mary Alice Cohen will be taking the place of Melissa Wavelet from the Colorado Department of Human Services, Sue Lohmiller, the EQ Coordinator and Janneth Attebery, the FFN Program Manager at ECPAC.

**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

**Merger with Increasing Awareness Action Team:** At our last planning team SWFI meeting, we discovered that it is possible the Increasing Awareness of Quality Care team and our team may have some overlap. We discussed the possibility of a merger of the two action teams. PRO: there would not be duplicated efforts since they are so intricately linked. CON: after the meeting we felt that we have more of a handle on our goals as a team and are unsure if they are still linked as we originally thought. Alisha will follow up with the other team.

**Identify clear and concise goals for our action team:** We identified our goal as an action team as to make recommendations/strategies to the Learning Community on June 11th informed by our research to expand the quality of child care in the SWFI areas.

**Other topics:** CCR&R funding is a small portion of the budget and often is not enough to make a dent in what the needs are of the community.

Sue: Community Collaborative groups (6-8 people) works well for family child care, replicate in other areas?

Mary Alice: App that matches a family to a caregiver?

Janneth: Found that informal caregivers do not know what they need/want or what high quality care looks like. In her program, 25 informal providers are offered:

* Trainings (literacy, math, social/emotional, guidance, what is quality & how do you make it happen, etc.)
* Home visitation
* Phone calls
* Events to connect to other resources
* Lending materials library

Mary Alice: Counties that are funding PreK at Elementary schools find it reduces interest for centers to have PreK classrooms. Moving to infant/toddler care only. The centers then find that they cannot sustain the excessive cost of quality infant/toddler care and must close their doors.

**Action Items: Continue to build on reports and qualitative data to create a recommendation on June 11th**

Melanie: FWD MHUW meeting and send out next meeting and meeting minutes

Alisha: Add new members to Civic Network group

Mary Alice: look at reports and identify recommended strategies to expanding quality care and format minutes into civic canopy document

**Next Meeting: May 23, 2018 from 10:00AM – 11:00AM at Denver’s Early Childhood Council, 3532 Franklin St Suite F, Denver, CO 80205**