

SWFI Child Care Learning Community Meeting

June 11, 2018 1pm-3pm
Community College of Aurora

Desired Outcomes of Meeting

- Review the Learning Community's progress to date on overall objectives
- Understand the connection between each action team and larger systems change
- Plan next steps for action teams and the overall Learning Community

Welcome and Introductions

Janel Highfil reminded the group of the overall purpose of the learning community & welcomed people back to the quarterly meeting to share out summaries of the action teams' progress.

Meeting Participants

Name	Organization
Alison Fredman Phillips	Womens Foundation of Colorado
Melanie Soneson	Denver's Early Childhood Council (DECC)
Alisha Mullins	ECPAC
Jessica Cassarino	CCA
Roweena Naidoo	MHUW
Cathy Fabiano	WorkLife Partnerships
Tracy Stewart	Gary Community Investments, Piton Foundation
Victor Vialpando-Nunez	Community College of Aurora
Kate Riding	WorkLife Partnerships
Janel Highfil	Community College of Aurora
Matt Cornett	AD Works
Sharon Pendergast	Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC)
Janeth Attebay	ECPAC; FFN Coordinator
Rich Jones –	Bell Policy Center
Pedro Mendez	Denver's Early Childhood Council (DECC)
Sarah McNeil	Denver Public Library
Julie Woodruff -	Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Susan Lohmiller–	Child care navigator, Adams County Early Childhood Partnership
Mary Alice Cohen	CO Dept. of Human Services
Meghan Chaney	The Civic Canopy
Bill Fulton	The Civic Canopy

Learning Community Journey & Taking Systems Change to Scale

Bill walked the group through a review of previous sessions, and the approach the group is taking. He noted that the overall focus of the group on "systems" change does not mean that

the group cannot focus on the SWFI program as a system as a first step in scaling the impact of the learning community. To the contrary—by focusing at a level that is tangible and impactful, we can develop the strategies, relationships, and understandings that will be necessary to effect change at a higher level. Starting with a smaller unit such as the SWFI program at the CCA and CCD, change can scale to the full campuses, and then to the region or the network of community colleges. But it is essential to understand and deconstruct the misconception that working on improving 2 Gen outcomes SWFI program, then we are just working on improving a program.

Presentation & Discussion of SWFI program data at CCA & CCD

Jessica shared a report on SWFI data from CCD and CCA students and the type of childcare settings they are using. Additional things the group would like to know that are not currently being collected include:

- How many people are not on CCCAP? And if they are not on CCCAP, why not?
 - Discussion point: It is more difficult to get CCCAP in Denver and Adams than Arapahoe. Denver and Arapahoe both have waiting lists.
- If students are not on CCCAP, how much can they afford to pay?
- Can we get a clearer sense from those who don't have childcare what percentage are looking for it but can't find it

Caution on CCCAP data from 2016: monumental shifts happened in CCCAP in 2017, including making it mandatory that all counties offer at least 12 months of child care for post-secondary study.

Comments from CCCAP representative: what we really need as a program is to have advocates for people to get the services and programs that are offered. Each county has to do their own advertising (the state cannot advertise this), so depending where a county lands on the ideological spectrum of whether they would like to see a lot people accessing government services or if they don't want many people accessing the services. Where counties land on that ideological spectrum will influence how much they advertise the services. So, one of the key roles partners can play is advertise and making sure people know about and can access the services available to them. For example, campaign at the colleges that says "Did you know that 12 months of paid child care is available to you as a student?"

The Policy Team Meeting will be meeting on June 25th from 10am-12pm —there will be guest speaker coming to share on policy changes with CCCAP – open invitation to join to anyone who is interested in learning more about CCCAP policy changes

Action Team Share Out & Discussion

Increasing Awareness of Quality Care Options Action Team

- Hospital packets for people when they come home with a newborn that explain child care options – systems intervention is with students who may become pregnant while being a student

- Many people don't have access to a computer, they use their smart phones instead. Team tested how user-friendly the key websites regarding child care are. Team found that the sites are not phone friendly and use language that is hard to understand.
- Strategy could be raising awareness that there are free computers at libraries, dept of human services
- CCCAP rep spoke up, saying that they have worked to make the website more user-friendly with more approachable language; apparently didn't hit the nail on the head and they could use help creating more approachable language

Expanding Availability of Quality Care Action Team

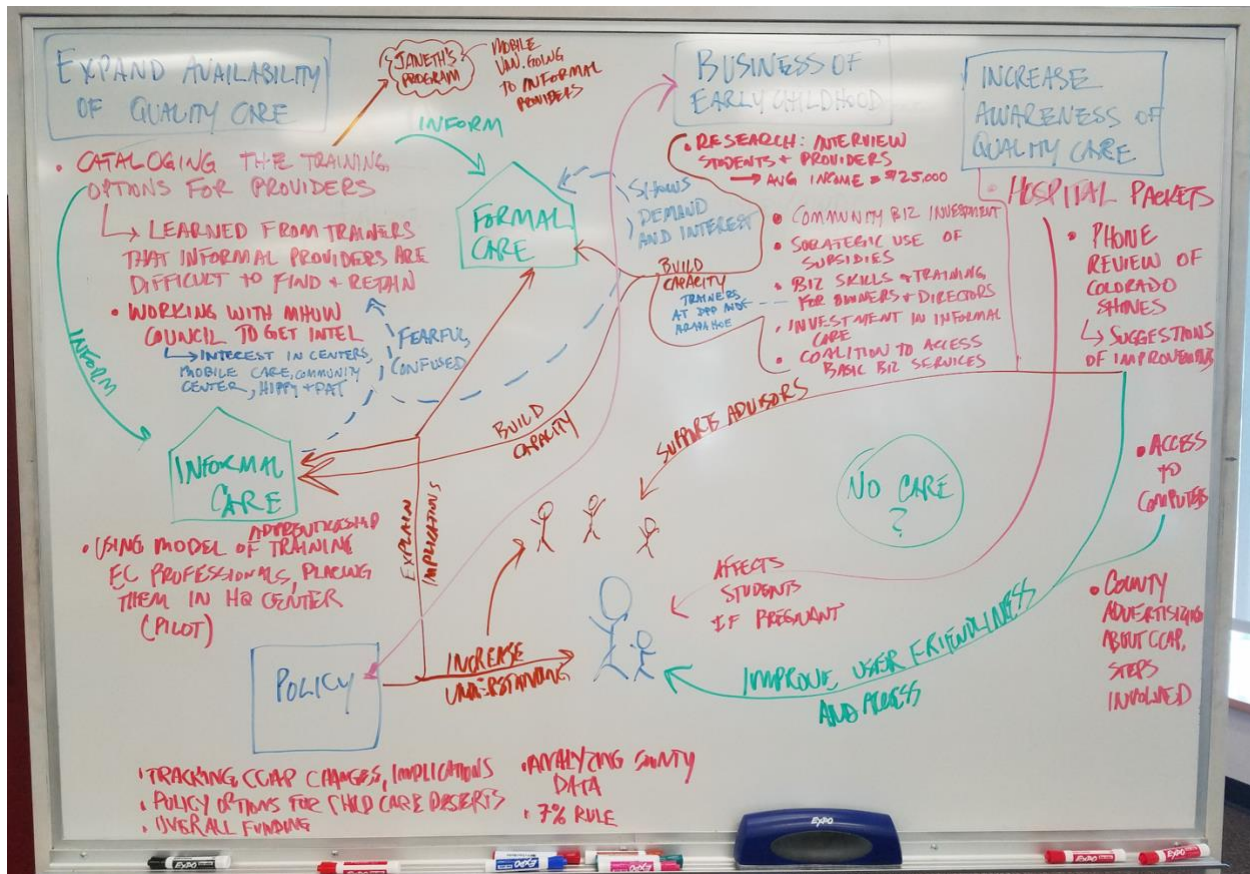
- Team is currently doing a lot of research to understand barriers and existing strengths, assets
- Leadership Advisory Council (LAC) is a group of women who inform MHUW on child care needs in the Globeville Elyria Swansa neighborhoods. Could use the LAC research inform SWFI
 - Ideas about community hub where children can get care and parents can access resources, classes, trainings, etc.
- So many unique and evidence-based programs such as Parents As Teachers (PAT)
- Apprenticeship program

Child Care Economics Action Team

- Team provided a report out with lots of valuable learning, information, research that the team has been undertaking during the last few months. [PowerPoint Presentation is available for download here](#) on [team's Civic Network page](#).
- Gap is in low-mid income level – too much money to qualify for subsidies, but do not make enough to afford
 - Typically SWFI students will be in this category when they graduate
- 70% capacity for centers is the sweet spot for centers to be financially viable
- \$800-\$1500 is Colorado average for child care costs per month
- Team has been using this calculator: <https://www.ecequalitycalculator.com/Login.aspx>

Public Policy Action Team

- New policies allowing parents to stay on CCCAP for longer while paying a high percentage as their wages increase. The team is looking at really understanding these changes to CCCAP
- Another policy change: all counties have to allow families in school to be eligible
- Currently some families in CCCAP are paying for as much as 14%-25% of their income. National group recommends that it shouldn't exceed 7% of income
- Cliff Effect pilot program is dead as of July 1, 2018.



Takeaways and Closing Comments

- We shouldn't rely on government funding and policies to fix this because the economics of child care are totally unrealistic – we have to find an infusion more resources than government model resources (e.g. businesses begin)
- How do we get EC professional to be paid livable wages? When does the pay bump happen? When EC providers leave private centers and go to public school, so how do we get our public schools to adopt pre-K?
- One of the biggest pain points right now is with child care, so how can we exploit that pain point to get businesses to pay for child care?
- Interdependencies of each groups work became apparent during conversation

Next Steps

- Action Teams to continue meeting; teams to share meetings and notes on Civic Network to keep the entire group informed and connected between quarterly meetings
- Next Meeting: September 10, 2018 from 1:00pm-3:00pm @ Community College of Aurora