

SWFI Child Care Learning Community Meeting
March 12, 2018 1pm-3pm
 Community College of Aurora

Desired Outcomes of Meeting

- Review the Learning Community’s progress to date and provide an overview of our next phase of taking action together
- Form action teams to work on child care access solutions that were generated by Learning Community at the January meeting
- Action teams engage in dialogue that helps to deepen their understanding of the context in which they are acting, identify crucial partners to be included, create an action plan of how the group will accomplish key objectives, and establish routines of accountability and learning.

Welcome and Introductions

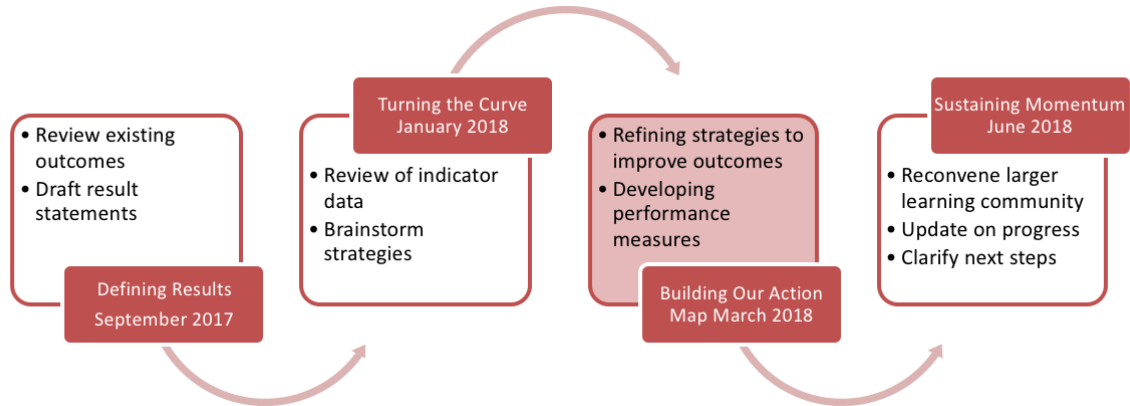
Janel Highfill provided welcome and opening remarks. Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

Meeting Participants:

Name	Organization
Ann Martens	Community College of Aurora
Alison Fredman Phillips	Womens Foundation of Colorado
Jessica Cassarino	CCA
Alisha Mullins	ECPAC
Mary Russell	WorkLife Partnership
Bob Provost	Arapahoe County Human Services
Lisa Jansen Thompson	Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC)
Michelle	
Melissa Corvin	
Melanie Soneson	Denver’s Early Childhood Council (DECC)
Sharon Pendergast	Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC)
Melissa Wavelet	Colorado Dept. of Human Services
David Shapiro	EPIC
Julianna Nelson	Adams County CCCAP
Fumnanya Camara	Colorado Dept. of Education
Roweena Naidoo	MHUW
Cathy Fabiano	WorkLife Partnerships
Tracy Stewart	Gary Community Investments, Piton Foundation
Victor Vialpando-Nunez	Community College of Aurora
Frank Waterous	Bell Policy Center
Janel Highfill	Community College of Aurora
Matt Cornett	AD Works
Rich Jones –	Bell Policy Center
Meghan Chaney	The Civic Canopy
Bill Fulton	The Civic Canopy

Framing & Overview of Learning Community & Today's Meeting

Bill Fulton provided an overview of the learning community approach, process, and progress to date. The graphic below summarizes the process through the four quarterly meetings. **The focus of today's meeting is to form action teams to work on child care access solutions that were generated by Learning Community at the January meeting.**



During the past few meetings, the Learning Community has been working build out an action map that summaries the result they seek the achieve, the indicators they will use to measure their progress toward the result, the strategies they will employ to make an impact on the indicators by addressing root causes, and the performance measures they will use to track their progress related to their strategies.


Action Map 2017 - 2020		USDOL Strengthening Working Families Initiative <i>Access to Success: Expanding Access to Education + Child Care = Economic Success</i>			
RESULT	Colorado families are valued, healthy, and thriving across generations.				
INDICATORS	Post-secondary credential attainment	% of children in high quality child care settings	% of families earning a sustainable wage	4 th grade reading achievement levels	
STRATEGIES	Increase the affordability and financial viability of child care	Create policy solutions that expand access to quality child care	Expand availability of quality child care	Increase awareness of quality child care options	Other?
PERFORMANCE MEASURES					

Forming Action Teams

The group confirmed that the four strategies in the boxes above were the ones they wanted to work on at this time and they formed action teams to work on each.

As Learning Community members opted into the team they wanted to work on and split up to beginning action planning, they were reminded that these action teams are different than the committees they may be used to in the past with other efforts. Because we are working on a complex problem, with long-standing barriers, we have to take a new approach – one that is experimental and adaptive so that innovative solutions can be discovered. Since we don't know what the solutions will be yet, the group was encouraged to think of themselves as "hypothesis testers" rather than "strategic planners".

To encourage the action teams to operating in this way of thinking and acting, the teams were given a template to guide their discussion and planning. The template walks the groups through the Community Learning Model by asking some prompting questions to get them thinking. A screenshot of the action planning template is below, available on [Civic Network](#), and it can be [downloaded here](#).



SWFI Child Care Learning Community
Result: Colorado families are valued, healthy, and thriving across generations

Name of Action Team:

Action Team Members:


Purpose:

Performance Measures: (What does success look like in the next 90 days?)

Learn – Set benchmarks and use indicators to assess the impact and quality of actions; learn from experiences and translate that information into more effective actions.

- How will we assess our progress?
- What can we do to help us learn and adapt along the way?
- What routines can we establish that will help us hold each other accountable?

When will our team meet again?



Include – Ensure the various people, perspectives, and systems that need to be involved to achieve your results are engaged in the work.

- Who needs to be included to achieve our team's desired results?
- Who is currently missing from our team? Who will reach out to them?
- What needs to be in place so that everyone can meaningfully participate?

Act – Define what actions will happen, who will do them, and when they happen. Plan just enough to get started, think in terms of 30-60-90 days.

What Will You Do?	Who Will Do It?	By When?

Dialogue – Before jumping into action, take time to understand the context, consider research and best practices, and tap into creativity and new possibilities.

- What's been tried before and what can we learn about what worked and didn't?
- What do people impacted by the issue we are working on say that we should consider and do?
- What can we glean from research, best practices, evidence to inform our efforts?
- What strategies seem to have the greatest potential to achieve our desired results?

Share Outs from Action Teams

Each team shared a brief recap of their group's conversations, next steps, and date to meeting again within the next month. Here's were some key next steps from some of the teams:

- Policy Action Team - Over the next 30 days inviting partners to the group, getting information from them, distributing information out to the group
- Access to care - getting information about informal caregivers and what their needs are
- Economics Team – conduct research to get a firmer grasp of child care business model

The teams next meetings dates and notes from their meeting can be found on Civic Network. Each action team has a sub-group of the SWFI network on Civic Network where they can share documents, meeting information, track actions and outcomes specifically related to their team. Below is a high-level description of each action team with a link to their network on SWFI which will show the members of the team, the dates for their upcoming meetings, and notes from any recent meetings.

SWFI Child Care Economics Action Team

The purpose of the SWFI Child Care Economics Action Team is to identify specific, actionable solutions to increase the affordability of quality care for parents while also ensuring the financial viability of care provision for center, home-based and informal care providers. Solutions to be explored for providers include: how to extend the benefits of child care tax breaks to broader array of care providers; expansion of public and private subsidies to underwrite business costs; new business models or structures to create more sustainable child care businesses that offer high quality care and livable wages for employees. Potential solutions for parents include: expansion of and/or re-prioritization of CCAP funds to address areas of most acute need; expansion of savings plan options and employer subsidies.

Public Policy Action Group

The Public Policy Action Group will review current public policies governing child care and early childhood education services and identify those that create barriers for expanding families' access to these services. We will also develop public policy proposals to expand access to affordable quality childcare and early childhood education services for more Colorado families.

Expanding Availability of Quality Care Action Team

This team will work to expand the availability of quality care especially in areas where there is most need. Discussions will include both formal/licensed care as well as informal/unlicensed care. Strategies used will consist of, but are not limited to, increasing training/education, access to resources, technology support and pre-licensing support.

Increasing Awareness of Quality Care Options Action Team

This team will work towards bringing awareness to the different types of available, affordable quality child care options in the Denver-Adams-Arapahoe region. Possible strategies include public service announcements or partnering with public facilities that surround the community.

Next Steps

- Bell Policy Center supporting evaluation of Learning Community. Bell has been and will continue to be reaching out to member of the Learning Community

- Each action team will meet a few times between now and then next June meeting. Each team will prepare to share back with the large group their learnings and progress in June.
- **Next Meeting:** June 11, 2018 1-3pm at Community College of Aurora