Welcome!

The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County (ECPAC) is pleased to share this 2017-2018 annual report, highlighting its continued positive impact on local children and families and progress toward the ultimate goal of ensuring that all Adams County children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed.

ECPAC is incredibly grateful for all of the people who help us realize our mission and vision on a daily basis. The following individuals and organizations support ECPAC’s goals and programming by serving on the board, one or more collective impact action teams or committees or the quarterly advisory council, or have otherwise contributed.

Partners

- A New Generation
- Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- Adams 14 Schools
- Adams County Human Services Department
- Anythink Libraries
- Bright by Three
- Bright Horizons ECE at Horizon High School
- Bundles of Babies
- Centura Health
- Child Care Innovations
- Children’s Hospital Colorado
- City of Thornton
- City of Westminster
- Clinica Family Health
- Community Reach Center
- DentàQuest
- Every Child Pediatrics
- Family Tree – Safe Care
- Front Range Community College
- Growing Home
- Head Start

Kaiser Permanente
- Kids First Health Care
- Mapleton Public Schools
- McNamie & Associates
- Mile High United Way
- Mountainland Pediatrics
- MSU Denver Early Family Literacy
- North Metro Community Services
- North Suburban Medical Center
- Parent Representatives—Melissa Santizo, Heather Hicks, Jessica Pepperling, Lidia Lucio, Beverly Warner, Elba Ayala
- PASCO (Personal Assistance Services of Colorado)
- Peak Pediatrics
- Salud Family Health Services
- Step-by-Step Child Development Center
- Sweet Pea Center for Early Learning
- Tri-County Health Department
- Unison Housing Partners
- Westminster Public Schools
- Worklife Partners
- Youth Initiative of Adams County

Staff

- Lisa Jansen Thompson, Executive Director
- Sharon Pendergast, Director of Operations
- Rebecca Wilson, Early Learning Initiatives Manager
- Rachel Hubbard, Young Child Wellness Coordinator
- Sabrina Andrade, Administrative Assistant
- Nicole Gonzales, Early Childhood Education (ECE) Quality Improvement Coach and Professional Development Coordinator
- Jackie Sloan Hee, ECE Quality Improvement Coach
- Michelle Jicha, ECE Quality Improvement Coach
- Sue Lohmiller, ECE Specialist
- Ann Martens, Child Care Navigator
- Alisha Mullins, Child Care Navigator
- Rebeca Snowden,* Family Initiatives Coordinator (hosted by Growing Home)
- Stephanie Henderson,* Health Integration Coordinator (hosted by North Metro Community Services)
- *hired by partnering agencies

Board of Directors

- Peter LiFari*
  Deputy Director, Adams County Housing Authority
- Jill Atkinson*
  Director, Community Reach Center
- Julia Brink
  Quality Improvement Program Coordinator, Child Care Innovations
- Anita Deshommes
  Chief Financial and Operating Officer, Growing Home
- Nicole Kinney
  Head Start Family Services Manager, Adams County Human Services

Welcome!

All children and their families are valued, healthy and thriving.

Mission

Building a community where every young child and their family can reach their full potential.

Purpose

A strong, coordinated system is essential to ensure a comprehensive approach to supporting young children and their families.
This Year’s Highlights

Approved in 2015, ECPAC solidified its five-year strategic plan with these overarching priority goals: 1) Enhance system capacity; 2) Increase quality of services and supports in the areas of early learning, health, mental health, and family support and education; and 3) Increase access to affordable services and supports. ECPAC has specifically focused on the following four objectives:

(1) Increase advocacy efforts to build community investment in early childhood efforts, through:

- Holding an Early Childhood Policy Summit in October 2017, with 15 community leaders, including four elected officials, in attendance, who together developed Adams County Early Childhood Policy Priorities. The results of this report have been shared with over 56 leaders and elected officials.

- Partnering with a consultant to complete an Early Care and Education Accessibility and Affordability Study to guide recommendations for the upcoming year.

- Training 42 organizational partners and eight family partners to effectively communicate about and promote early literacy, social emotional development, high-quality preschool, transitioning to kindergarten, maternal mental health, home visitation programs, early learning and developmental guidelines, and the Strengthening Families approach. Over 9,000 pieces of written content have been provided to families in both English and Spanish.

- Creating a Family Partner Action Team Onboarding Tool—used to support conversations between organizational and family partners—including more information about Action Teams, their purpose, what the family can expect when involved and the unique voice the family contributes.

- Supporting a 17-month intensive equity training for a cohort of 14 community partners, designed to help increase advocacy and community investment efforts.

- Encouraging family leaders’ involvement in community cafes, action team meetings, the ECPAC Board and 1:1 meetings.

- Promoting Colorado’s Pregnancy-Related Depression (PRD) and Anxiety Campaign, including the holding of a “celebration breakfast” event, which was attended by 31 cross-domain service providers.
More of This Year’s Highlights

(2) Increase the quality of comprehensive, cross-domain early childhood services that lead to positive outcomes for young children and families, through:

Hosting 42 training and professional development opportunities, with 30 unique topics and 657 total attendees. Nine topics were focused on early learning; 14 on health/mental health; and seven on family support and education.

50% of the trainings had participants from the field of early childhood care and education; 26% from health/mental health; and 28% from family support and education. 17% of attendees were administrators, 58% were direct services providers, 2% were family partners and 22% stated “other” or did not respond.

In post-training evaluations, attendees reported that the training increased their skills and knowledge in the topic area, rating this at 4.2 out of 5 (5 being “a great deal”), and increased their ability to provide high-quality services, rating this at 4.3 out of 5.

For trainings focused on health/mental health topics, 60% reported that as a result of the training they planned to better address disparities in service access; 100% reported they would be applying new skills; 90% reported they would change some of their practices; 100% reported they would share information received with others; and 100% reported they better understood children and families.

Six organizations received technical assistance in screening and referral best practices, and 10 organizations received technical assistance in improved best practices to promote equity.

ECPAC supports all partners in use of best practices in making referrals for children and their families for health, mental health, early learning, and family supports and services.

(3) Improve the flow of information to, and supportive resources for, Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) caregivers of young children, through:

Focusing on quality improvement within the homes of the FFN providers, ECPAC provided trainings on child development, best business practices, licensing requirements and other FFN-specific requests.

Additionally, a “lending library” of early learning materials is currently being piloted with three FFN providers.

(4) Increase access to community-based services and supports for young children and families, through:

Employing two Child Care Navigators for the Strengthening Working Families Initiatives. This project is a two-generation (2Gen) approach supporting parents of children ages 12 and under to attend either the Community College of Aurora or the Community College of Denver to receive a certificate in a high-demand career, while also ensuring their children have access to needed supportive services, including high-quality childcare. 291 parent students enrolled, impacting 544 children, 193 of whom are under the age of 5 (35% of all children).

Looking forward...

For 2019, ECPAC will continue to work toward progress in all three goals of the current strategic plan. The following new or continuing areas will be ECPAC’s primary focus, taking advantage of anticipated changes and opportunities within the early childhood landscape:

PARTNERSHIPS

1. Move forward in the development of multiple locations where shared services are provided, addressing community need through strong community partnerships.

2. Continue engaging with partners to sustain other pieces of work currently funded by Project LAUNCH—specifically care navigation, parenting classes, family leadership and professional development—strengthening their reach and effectiveness.

3. Strengthen partnerships with licensed family childcare homes to identify unique supports needed for this type of business.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

4. Identify and act upon appropriate recommendations from the Early Care and Education Accessibility and Affordability Study (to be completed by December 2018).

5. Identify and act upon appropriate recommendations from the Early Childhood Policy Agenda (to be completed by December 2018).

6. Support policies that address system barriers—including but not limited to affordable housing—identified through the new Collaboration for Healthy Adams County Families in partnership with Growing Home, Unison Housing Partners and Low Income Family Empowerment (LIFE), as well as the City of Westminster.

FUNDING STABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

7. Increase ECPAC’s private and corporate donor base toward achieving greater diversification of funding.

8. Secure more stable funding for the delivery of parenting classes, for when current funding through Project LAUNCH completes in September 2019.

9. Secure funding to begin implementation of the community Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan.
Although ECPAC sees firsthand the difference it makes through its day-to-day programming, the partnership wanted to perform a deeper dive into the impact being made.

Conducting a series of focus groups and individual interviews, as well as scouring evaluation data, ECPAC unearthed powerful results and experiences. These were compiled in a series of stories to be shared with the community. Stories of Impact was developed to discover and share the effects of early childhood efforts in Adams County.

ECPAC appreciates all who participated and shared their experiences and perspectives across the five focus areas: connection to services, family strengthening, quality improvement, professional development and systems work.

**Stories of Impact**

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**CONNECTION TO SERVICES**

“It’s all about trust and relationship building. Patients before were not calling or were not connected. Now they are calling because they know exactly who to talk to.”

—JACKY QUIROZ
CARE NAVIGATOR AND PEDIATRIC CASE MANAGER, CLINICA FAMILY HEALTH

**FAMILY STRENGTHENING**

“I love how they explain risk factors but they say that you don’t have to fall under those statistics ... You can be a better parent than your parents were.”

—MELISSA SANTIZO,
MOTHER OF THREE

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

“We all have idealistic expectations for how to care for children ... ECPAC provides the hands-on piece for childcare centers with resources and information to get you the quality that is needed.”

—TRACI CHAMBERLAIN
DIRECTOR, SWEET PEA CENTER FOR EARLY LEARNING

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

“[Trainings help] to increase capacity to analyze data, increase organizational attention to equity through discussion at team meetings, consider new partnerships to address equity.”

—SHARON PENNA
NURSE SUPPORT PROGRAM MEMBER, TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**SYSTEMS WORK**

“When you have a system of care that works together, then fewer kids slip through the cracks and the potential risk for generation-after-generation impact goes down.”

—JILL ATKINSON
CLINICAL DIRECTOR COMMUNITY REACH CENTER
Without the generous and ongoing support of our local community members and businesses, as well as our statewide partners and funders, we wouldn’t be able to support children and families in Adams County. You are critical to our success.

Thank you!
EARLY LITERACY

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

COORDINATED SYSTEMS

CONNECTION TO SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

QUALITY EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION ENVIRONMENTS

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