

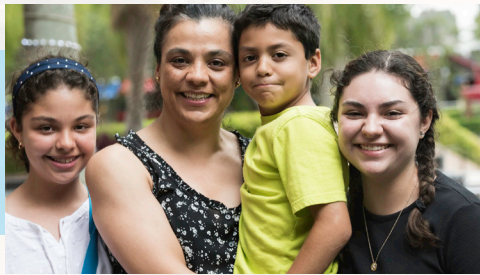


ECPAC

The Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County AUTHENTIC FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

VISION ::

All children, their families, and early childhood professionals are valued, healthy, and thriving



MISSION ::

Build a community all young children, their families, and early childhood professionals can reach their full potential

THE PROBLEM ECPAC IS WORKING TO IMPROVE:

Families know best what they need to be healthy, successful and thrive and yet many times decisions are made that impact families in our community without them being a part of these decisions. Even more so, when it comes to a commitment to reduce disparities and improve equity, when families who come from marginalized communities are not part of the identification of the problem and the solution, often times the implementation of programs and systems solutions are not successful. Furthermore, engagement as a way to check off a box is one thing, however authentic engagement and shared and community level decision making is what is needed. This takes time, commitment, prioritizing line items in a budget that support this, and most of all listening and action.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT:

Many have heard of the saying “Nothing about us without us.” Engaging families in our work creates a sense of community cohesion and a sense of belonging, bringing communities together. It leads to improved outcomes for marginalized and/or underserved members of our community. It helps to ensure that the services children and families need are delivered in a way that is beneficial towards their everyday lives. When done well - it shifts power dynamics and creates a sense of partnership with families and those who they work with.

Families that say “I have had a great experience, you have to come check this out., will always be more authentic than a quote or an advertisement.”

ECPAC is dedicated to providing opportunities from quick engagement to long term engagement in order to ensure every family has the opportunity to be a part of solutions.

THE STRATEGIES ECPAC IS EMPLOYING:

ECPAC has a dedicated Family Engagement and Leadership Coordinator that works to engage and support Family Leaders in all areas of Adams County.

- Provide support to Family Leaders in Adams County to impact change in the community as determined by families
- Bring families’ voice to community (local and state) decisions through surveys, focus groups and problem solving sessions.
- Provide training to families to support their knowledge, skills, and confidence as a family leader.
- Advocate for strong family engagement and leadership within ECPAC’s work and in other community work



THE IMPACT: Over the 12 mos:

- ECPAC has engaged ## of families in focus groups and other areas of input and guidance.
- The Family Leadership Council has 12 members that attend bi-weekly meetings. Members primarily live Westminster, Commerce City, Northglenn, Aurora, and Denver. Members are now inviting friends to join them because of the positive experience they have had. This Council is focused on a Mental Health project to reduce stigma in a culturally meaningful way and increase knowledge of available resources.
- ECPAC has three established Action Teams that have Family Leaders attending as well as 3 Board members.
- The Strengthening Families Action Team has Family Leaders that are helping to pilot a new project between ECPAC, Adams County Health Department and Adams County Human Services.
- Growing Home, ECPAC and Maiker have been continuously working towards a Training Institute where members of the community can come to gain Leadership, Personal and Professional Skills that are of interest to them.

COMMITTED PARTNERS: ECPAC works closely with Growing Home and Maiker Housing Partners in this commitment and has begun to bring more families to the table with Adams County Health Department and Human Services Department.

TO LEARN MORE: Contact Kaylie at kaylie@ecpac.org or 720-289-2172