

2015-2016 Annual Report

Letter From the President of the Board



ECCLC experienced a tremendous amount of growth last fiscal year. As the state of Colorado continues to update its systems for promoting quality in Early Childhood programs, ECCLC brought on new staff and revamped its services to help programs keep up with those changes. This required a great deal of additional coaching for early care and education providers.

In 2015-16 we continued to collaborate with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment on the Kids Initiative for Developmental Support (KIDS) to create a roadmap for developmental screenings for young children. With the Be Ready Campaign, we worked together to define and support school readiness for all children in Larimer County.

One of the most innovative and exciting programs starting in 2016 has been the Leap Project, a comprehensive plan to strengthen and connect our systems so that all young children in Larimer County will be supported in their social development and emotional wellbeing. Twenty-one partner organizations in Larimer County have come together to create a plan that builds a strong and effective workforce foundation, and puts practices and policies in place to minimize the number of children who ultimately need intensive mental health intervention.

In June 2016, my term as President of the Board ended and Mims Harris, the Vice President of the Board, was voted to take over the position. I continue to serve on the Board Development and Finance Committees. Thank you to everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve young children with this position.

- Heather Griffith, 2015-16 President, ECCLC Board of Directors

Mission: We bring the community together to share knowledge and resources, build expertise and work collaboratively to ensure that all young children in Larimer County have the care, support, and opportunities necessary to grow, learn, and succeed.

Vision: All children in Larimer County are valued, healthy, and thriving.

Download our [2015-2020 Strategic Plan](#)

Leap Initiative for Social Emotional Development in Young Children

In February 2016, ECCLC and 21 nonprofit and government partners launched the Leap Project, an initiative funded by the Larimer County Commissioners to develop a strategic plan to build capacity, integrate systems, and improve services to support the social-emotional health of young children. The project began with an environmental scan modeled after Early Milestones Colorado's LAUNCH Together project. Our goal was to develop recommendations for action and a funding plan for strengthening the system of services available in our community to support young children's mental health. Research explored five key areas, based on priorities identified by Early Milestones Colorado:

- Screening and assessment for social-emotional delays
- Family and parenting support
- Mental health consultation and support in early care and education settings
- Home visiting with a focus on social-emotional wellbeing
- Integration of behavioral health into primary care



In April 2016, our partners met to review the findings and determine next steps, identifying existing workgroups wherever possible to lead the effort to develop action plans for Screening and Assessment (KIDS), Family and Parenting Support (Be Ready), and Mental Health Consultation and Support (ECCLC). Future workgroups will address Home Visiting and Integrated Care.

We know that a fully coordinated system of services supports families who may enter the system at any point, ensuring that all children's needs are met. As the partners move forward with the

Leap implementation plan, our goal is to make significant improvements that will have a real, positive impact on health equity in our community.



ECCLC Executive Director Bev Thurber showing off the Leap celebration cake

New Challenging Behavior Tool

ECCLC collaborated with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment to develop and promote the Challenging Behavior Tool to assist ECE providers to better handle challenging behaviors in the classroom. The tool focuses on four categories, including forming positive teacher-child relationships, promoting a positive learning environment, improving communication between teachers and parents, and working collaboratively with parents, ECE staff, and counselors to create behavioral support plans for individual children. This tool can be found on the ECCLC website at <http://ecclc.org/child-care-providers/challenging-behavior-tool>, and is available for free to early care and education providers. Thanks to the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment for heading up this effort!



Learn more about the Challenging Behavior Tool by viewing this short video.

(Push Ctrl and then click on picture to play video.)

Kids Initiative for Developmental Support (KIDS)



ECCLC and the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment continue to jointly facilitate this community initiative to optimize children's healthy development through a coordinated system that supports informed parents/caregivers, universal standardized developmental screenings, and effective referrals. One major accomplishment of the KIDS group during the 2016 fiscal year was the development of a comprehensive physician packet of materials to support physician outreach and promote the use of a standardized developmental screening tool. The packet contains information about emotional, social, and behavioral growth as part of screenings, including common things parents might say which could indicate a concern.

Be Ready

ECCLC continues to participate in the countywide Be Ready initiative, whose vision is that "All children in Larimer County will be successful in school". One key focus of 2015-16 was to collect and analyze parent, kindergarten, and preschool teacher survey data about expectations these groups have for children at kindergarten entry. The findings revealed that there is significant confusion and inconsistency in understanding what it means to be "kindergarten ready". ECCLC Executive Director Bev Thurber, Be Ready Facilitator and ECCLC Board Vice President Mims Harris, and CSU Early Childhood Center Executive Director Karen Rattenborg were invited to present the findings at two conferences: the Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference and Larimer District of Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children (CAEYC) Conference. The Be Ready partners also met with all three school districts to propose the creation of common language and expectations for kindergarten entry across our county. As a result, the Ready Schools Committee of Be Ready will be focusing creating a community kindergarten readiness guide by June of 2017.



Moving on....

Two programs left the ECCLC during the 2015-16 year. While these services are no longer being offered through the ECCLC, they both continue to be available to families in our community. Read below about the transitions this year.

Child Care Referral Services Move to Statewide Call Center

At the end of June 2016, ECCLC transitioned our child-care referral service to Mile High United Way's Child Care Options, a new centralized statewide service providing child-care resources and referrals by phone, email, or live chat. Child-care referral services had been offered locally since 1985, first through the Women's Resource Center and then through ECCLC, which took over the service when it became a 501c3 in 2003. Between 2003 and 2016, ECCLC provided over 10,000 referrals to families in Larimer County.

"Finding child care is a stressful task—finding someone you trust with your child's life and wellbeing! I'm grateful to ECCLC and to the two wonderful providers that I found because of them."

-Shannon, mother of two, Loveland

Best Start For Babies Transitions to Community Life Centers

After five years of developing and offering Best Start for Babies and Toddlers (BSB/T), ECCLC's intensive parent education program for at-risk families, ECCLC successfully transitioned the program to *The Matthews House* in Fort Collins and *House of Neighborly Service* in Loveland in the Spring of 2016. BSB/T has been very successful, with an independent evaluation by Colorado State University showing a significant improvement in participant knowledge of child development and self-efficacy after completing the program. ECCLC launched the program in 2010, and between 2010 and 2015 provided this intensive parent education to 481 parents in Northern Colorado. ECCLC was excited to be able to embed this great program into the Be Ready work being done by partner organizations that work directly with families. With the transition, BSB/T will continue to serve families in Larimer County for years to come.

Support for Colorado Shines and Celebrating Achievements



Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center in Loveland receiving their Colorado Shines Level 5 award from Colorado Department of Human Services Executive Director Reggie Biccha and Office of Early Childhood Director MaryAnn Snyder

Colorado Shines is the new quality rating and improvement system for ECE programs that launched in February 2015. Through the Colorado Department of Human Services, ECCLC had several funding streams available to support ECE programs interested in engaging in the Colorado Shines rating system. Race to the Top funds were available to any licensed program serving children birth to age five once they had reached a Level 2 in Colorado Shines. Several other options were available to programs that met additional criteria, regardless of their initial rating. Most of these funds were used to purchase materials, invest in professional development of staff, and fund capital improvements.

Development Information Systems (PDIS). The Quality Support Team learned three new database systems and personally contacted providers throughout the County to support ECE programs through this process. As a result, Larimer County had one of the highest participation rates in the state, with 43% of providers (132 programs) achieving a Colorado Shines Rating of Level 2 or higher. **Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center in Loveland was the first program in the state to achieve a Level 5, which is the highest possible rating!**

ECCLC hired two staff to serve as Quality Improvement Navigator Assistants, providing support to ECE programs and staff in utilizing the Colorado Shines and Professional

EVICS Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Estes Valley Investment in Childhood Success (EVICS), ECCLC's close partner, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2016. Since 2006, the EVICS mission has been to support and promote quality early childhood services and provide parent education. The program meets a critical community need in expanding support for families and early childhood services in Estes Park. EVICS offers resources, information and training to licensed child-care providers and preschool programs. The organization also offers child-care and preschool referrals, and child-care scholarship assistance to families with a financial need. Parent education and support is offered through EVICS' *Parents as Teachers Program*.



Updates to Social Media & Website

Last year, ECCLC launched a couple of initiatives to improve our outreach in the community. Our mobile-friendly website was launched in July 2015, which has ensured that the site appears high on the list of results returned by search engines and allows users to easily navigate and access the entire website by phone.

In April 2016, we launched a new listserv service, enabling recipients to update their subscription preferences, select from a list the types of emails they want to receive, or unsubscribe. As of the end of June 2016, 689 individuals had subscribed, including licensed child-care providers in Larimer County. In addition to information about ECCLC, we send out information on upcoming professional development opportunities, job openings in the ECE community, community resources, and information on licensing for providers.

Focus on Professional Development

A major focus of our 2016 fiscal year was supporting ECE professionals to get engaged in Colorado's new Professional Development Information System (PDIS). Once registered in PDIS, individuals can take online trainings, complete a self-assessment of their skills and expertise, create a Professional Development Plan, and apply for an Early Childhood (EC) Credential. We were excited that between July 2015 and June 2016, 450 ECE professionals in Larimer County received their Early Childhood Credential through PDIS.

Last year, ECCLC was also invited to be part of a pilot group for the Training Alignment and Approval work with the Colorado Department of Education. ECCLC had one training approved during phase one of the pilot, and was invited to continue as one of two Councils from the initial pilot process to work with the team from CDE to submit additional training approval applications. We were able to provide input on the application and the training design course within the PDIS, and also review other Council's training applications. This process gave our team great insight into the State's training alignments and approvals systems and allowed us to make changes needed to our own trainings to align them to the Competencies for Early Childhood Educators and Administrators.

12th Annual After School Zone Conference

The 12th Annual After School Zone Conference, held on Saturday, November 7, 2015 featured two excellent keynote presentations. Dr. Jerry Yager, Director of Programs at Denver Children's Advocacy Center, presented the breakfast keynote, "Trauma: Impact on Developing Minds and Brains." During lunch, Mark Hoog gave a presentation on "Conscious Leadership." Mr. Hoog is Founder and President of Growing Field International and best-selling author of children's books addressing personal growth and leadership. In addition to these presentations, the 180 conference attendees chose from 15 interactive workshops throughout the day, with topics including storytelling, music and movement, art and science projects, conflict resolution, bullying prevention, diversity, self-esteem, and substance abuse.



Participants take part in "MMA—Music & Movement Appreciation," a workshop led by Brenda Ullom, Site Director at B.A.S.E. Camp.

ECCLC by the numbers

Quality Support Services

- \$243,849 in direct funding support
- 2,065 hours of in-person coaching
- 104 child-care program participants
- 253 classrooms reached
- 3,857 children impacted

Professional Development

- 450 ECE Professionals received Early Childhood Credentials through PDIS
- 196.5 hours of training provided by the ECC
- 88 college scholarships awarded totaling \$50,229
- 26% of scholarship recipients completed classes for Early Childhood Teacher or Director Qualifications
- 2 students completed Associate of Applied Science in ECE Degrees; 1 student completed a Bachelor of Arts degree with an ECE Teacher Licensure; 1 student completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development & Family Studies

Child Care Ratings

- 129 programs achieved a Colorado Shines rating of 2 or higher

Best Start for Babies and Toddlers

- 2 BSB classes with 27 parent participants
- 1 BST class with 33 parent participants

Child Care Referrals

- 682 free child care referrals, an 8% increase over previous year
- 39 families received enhanced referrals (for non-English speaking families and/or families with special needs children)

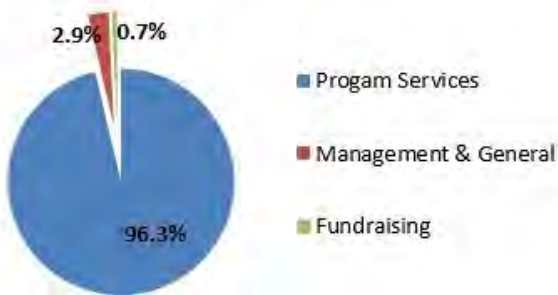
Volunteers

- 278 partners volunteered time
- Donated over 2,500 hours
- Valued at \$58,900

Budget and Financials

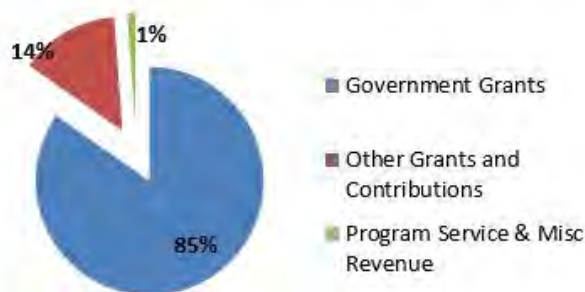
2015-16 Expense

Total Expenses = \$1,036,107



2015-16 Revenue

Total Revenue = \$1,055,481



We deeply appreciate the support provided by the following major funders during our 2015-16 fiscal year:

Bohemian Foundation

Buell Foundation

Colorado Department of Education

Colorado Department of Human Services

*Ida J. Murphy and Russel O. Allen Fund of the
Community Foundation of Northern Colorado*

Larimer County

Nordson Corporation Foundation

Qualistar Colorado

Tony Gramscas Youth Services Program

Our thanks also go to the many individuals and businesses whose generous contributions supported our mission.

Our 2015-2016 Board of Directors

As always, we extend our thanks and appreciation to our governing Board of Directors for their many hours of service. Not only do they attend monthly Board meetings, they also serve on various committees in support of our mission.

Heather Griffith, President
Young People's Learning Center

Mims Harris, Vice President
Community Member/Consultant

Kristin Horkey, Treasurer
Hewlett Packard

Samantha Coontz, Secretary
The Sunshine House

Corinne Van Dyke, Council Liaison
*Early Childhood Education
Program, PSD*

Lisa Andrews
Parent-Child Interaction Center

Karen Barrett
Human Development and Family Studies, CSU

Lamb Caro
Thompson School District

Anne Marie Jacobson
ECE and EDU, Front Range Community College

Kelly Morrison
Larimer County Department of Human Services

Brandy Simmers
SummitStone Health Partners

Averil Strand
*Larimer County Department of
Health and Environment*

Jane Stuart
Occupational Therapist

Belinda Voit, MD
Retired Pediatrician/Parent

Stacy West
Grupo Macro USA

Executive Director: Beverly Wood Thurber
All Board and Staff may be contacted through www.ecclc.org