

Early Childhood Framework

Eagle County

February 2014

- *Improve Quality*
- *Unite the Community* • *Create Funding Support*
- *Influence Policy* • *Build Community Awareness* • *Achieve Accountability*

Vision

Our community recognizes Early Childhood as the launching pad for a successful and productive life. All our County's children arrive at kindergarten healthy, well adjusted and ready to learn. Parents and Early Childhood providers have skills to support the children and promote family self-sufficiency.

Outcomes

Early Learning

- High quality early learning opportunities with a safe and nurturing environment for all children, birth to five years old
- Increased achievement in meeting all milestones for school readiness
- Better trained and better paid early childhood professionals supporting our teaching and care networks
- Measurable results in emotional and cognitive development that show consistent increases in the quality of our children's preparation for school and for life

Family Support and Education

- High quality parenting and early childhood development instruction available and accessible to all our parents
- Tracking and increased coordination of early childhood family services for more efficient expenditure of resources and fewer families left out of the network

Social, Emotional Development & Mental Health

- Improved access for our children and families to mental health services yields more stable children and nurturing families
- Better trained and better paid early childhood social and emotional development professionals support our network of care

Health

- Measurably improved children's health screening and status including Oral, Visual, Auditory, Developmental and Special Needs, and more immunized children
- Measurable and timely prenatal care yielding improved birth outcomes
- More providers accept Medicaid and CHP+
- More children are served in a medical care model

Strategies

Early Learning

- Develop a Lab School
- Provide expanded quality training for Infant and Toddler instruction
- Explore incentives for providers serving:
 - Infants and toddlers
 - Children with special needs
- Improve learning opportunities and ongoing support for providers serving children with special needs
- Increase outreach, community providers and support to unlicensed providers
- Encourage partnerships among providers to make trainings available
- Increase community resources and support networks for Early Childhood professionals

Family Support & Education

- Develop a Family Resource Center
- Provide tools and information to families to strengthen their engagement and involvement in their children's lives
- Support the preservation of home language and culture
- Provide evidence-based tools that are easy to use
- Strengthen interagency relationships to improve cross support and referrals
- Provide Family Leadership Training Institute
- Expand family support services

Social, Emotional & Mental Health

- Broaden implementation of prevention programs including Wayfinder
- Cross-train partners in mental health resources available to children and families
- Increase the number of providers who accept Medicaid, CHP+ and sliding scale payments
- Increase social emotional training opportunities for all Early Childhood professionals
- Create a network of support for Early Childhood Professionals.
- Promote specialized training on promotion, prevention and intervention

Health

- Expand and increase public health awareness.
- Decrease barriers to access of health and dental services
- Promote and support a medical home approach for health services
- Promote immunizations provided by medical home provider
- Increase public awareness of the need for prenatal care
- Increase the number of providers who accept Medicaid, CHP+ and sliding scale payments
- Increase access to screenings and treatment of problems for:
 - Hearing
 - Vision
 - Developmental delays
 - Dental
- Promote school based health care.
- Improve and expand health education to all parents including fathers

Systems Building

- Develop an integrated plan through implementation of ongoing community outreach
- Advocate to expand Early Head Start and Head Start programming
- Assess and address unmet needs for adult education and literacy
- Assess and address transportation challenges
- Promote community sharing of basic information about the community needs and services
- Identify, assess and address unmet needs for social, emotional and mental health needs