

Colorado's Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives, Programs and Policies

(In Alphabetical Order)

Membership Organizations

Behavioral Health Transformation Council (BHTC)

Housed within the Colorado Department of Human Services as part of the Office of Behavioral Health and pursuant to S.B. 10-153, Governor Bill Ritter created the BHTC to advise the work of the Behavioral Health Cabinet. The responsibility of the BHTC is to set priorities for the Cabinet to reduce the economic and social costs of untreated behavioral health disorders, and systematically transform Colorado's behavioral health system from one that is fragmented and compartmentalized into one that is streamlined, efficient, and effective for the State's citizens.

Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health

This council developed in 2003 as a collaboration of three major early childhood initiatives and the Division of Behavioral Health to focus on comprehensive system building. It developed a strategic plan in 2008 which continues to serve as a roadmap for policies that support the social/emotional well being of children and their families and helps ensure that the principles of the system of care for young children guide the work. This plan is updated regularly by the Blue Ribbon Policy Council for Early Childhood Mental Health to reflect the current early childhood climate.

Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC)

A non-profit, membership organization representing Colorado's network of community behavioral healthcare providers, which includes Colorado's community mental health centers (MHCs), specialty clinics and behavioral health organizations (BHOs). CBHC provides a network of high quality therapeutic and community resources accessible to Colorado residents and their families.

Colorado Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC)

A governor appointed body that is mandated by federal law to advise and assist the lead agency in implementing the requirements of Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. They hold quarterly meetings that are open to the public to address any relevant topics or concerns. Additionally, this council is housed under Early Intervention Colorado and supports activities promoting inclusive communities that enhance a culturally competent quality of life for children aged birth to three and their families.

Early Childhood Colorado Partnership

The Early Childhood Colorado Partnership is a network of partners from state and local agencies, statewide nonprofits, local early childhood councils, foundations and universities committed to ensuring the vision of the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework* is effectively implemented in Colorado. The Partnership provides the space and conditions for diverse partners across the comprehensive early childhood system – encompassing health, mental health, family support and early learning – to come together and identify common results, share best practices, implement strategies and track progress towards child outcomes and systems performance improvement. To do this, the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership uses a results-based approach to develop, guide and inform its collective work.

Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA)

A coalition dedicated to providing leadership, innovation, influence and local perspectives. The ECCLA strives to support a high quality early childhood system to positively affect the lives of young children and families in Colorado.

Family Resource Center Association (FRCA)

Sustains the work of Colorado's 23 family resource centers across the state and empowering families to raise healthy children. Family resource centers work with the entire family to become more self reliant in areas such as parenting, health, education, employment housing and financial management.

Medical Home Advisory Board

Colorado Medical Home Advisory Board consists of more than 40 people representing various agencies, families, hospitals, organizations and policy-makers. This board advises the work of the Colorado Medical Home Initiative, which is dedicated to building a sustainable system that delivers quality health care for all children. Positioned within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as the lead agency, the Colorado Medical Home Initiative is a neutral facilitator in identifying barriers while promoting solutions in developing a quality-based system of health care for children.

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Operating within Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Financing this is a stakeholder Advisory Committee charged with the purpose of exchanging information and identifying, evaluating and communicating issues related to Colorado Medicaid Community Mental Health Services Program. Represented stakeholders are: Behavioral Health Organizations; Mental Health Program service providers; developmental disabilities community; Colorado Psychiatric Society; Colorado Community Health Network and homeless initiatives; adults who receive services through the Mental Health Program; Parents of children/youth who receive services through the Mental Health Program; and parents of adults who receive services through the Mental Health Program.

Mental Health Planning & Advisory Council (MHPAC)

This Council was created within the Colorado Department of Human Services as a result of federal legislation which required States to perform mental health planning to receive federal Mental Health Block Grant Funds. Membership in the Council must include stakeholders such as mental health consumers, their family members, and parents of children with serious emotional or behavioral disturbances. The purpose of Colorado's MHPAC is to: exchange information and develop, evaluate and communicate ideas about mental health planning; write and amend strategic plans for mental health services in the State of Colorado; advise the Colorado state government concerning proposed and adopted plans for mental health services provided by the state and their implementation; monitor, review and evaluate the allocation and adequacy of mental health services in Colorado and advise the state government about the need for and quality of services and programs for persons with mental illness; and develop and take advocacy positions concerning mental health legislation and regulations.

Advocacy

Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health (CoAIMH)

A nonprofit organization of volunteers working to promote infant mental health education and research; advocate for the use of evidence based programs; and facilitate networking and

cooperation between programs that are concerned with optimizing infant development and relationships. Additionally, CoAIMH works to promote prevention and early intervention programs and back local and state policies promoting family and infant mental health.

Colorado Children's Campaign

A nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization serving as a voice for kids at the state Capitol. The Campaign is committed to championing policies and programs that will positively impact the lives of children across the state and ensuring that children are a priority in policy decisions. They advocate for increased access to quality early learning programs, improved quality in early childhood care centers and learning centers, and expanded support to families. Additionally, they focus on ensuring all of Colorado's kids have access to high-quality affordable health care, healthy food environments, and high-quality K-12 education.

Colorado LINKS for Mental Health Initiative

The mission of LINKS is to promote partnerships among state agencies and key stakeholder groups by weaving together existing efforts to create a more coordinated continuum of mental health services for Colorado children, youth, and families. This initiative aims to fully engage communities, youth and families in developing behavioral health system reform, and playing leadership roles in implementation and long-term activities within the system.

Colorado Mental Wellness Network

Housed at the Mental Health of America of Colorado, this network aims to empower Coloradans affected by mental health conditions to achieve wellness and further recovery through advocacy tools and peer support. It is a statewide grassroots organization run by and for consumers and is working to build a strong effective advocacy network of individuals with mental health conditions through education, advocacy and peer services.

Early Childhood Health Integration Initiative

Supports Colorado's 31 Early Childhood Councils with technical assistance from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In partnership with The Colorado Trust, this initiative aims to better integrate health services into their early childhood system development efforts.

Early Childhood Leadership Commission

From the office of Colorado's Lieutenant Governor this commission aims to improve outcomes for young children ages birth to eight and their families by advancing the alignment, coordination, and efficiency of programs and services within the context of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework. This Framework ensures children have high quality early learning supports and environments and comprehensive health care; families have meaningful community and parenting supports; and early childhood professionals have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of families and children.

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health-Colorado Chapter

A family-driven and family-run non-profit organization that helps families of children with mental health issues maneuver through the behavioral health care system in Colorado by providing education, support, advocacy and promotion of mental health needs of children and families. They also provide a voice for these families through advocacy, leadership, technical assistance, and collaboration.

Invest in Kids

Invest in Kids partners with community leaders, care providers, and donors to focus their efforts on the specific needs of children in low-income families. Their commitment is to improve the health and well-being of young children in Colorado by bringing research-based, proven programs such as Nurse-Family Partnership and The Incredible Years into communities across the state.

Mental Health America of Colorado

This organization works to collaborate, promote and expand access to mental health services striving to ensure every person in Colorado has access to high quality services for all mental health and substance abuse issues. They also provide resources for postpartum depression including a section for dads.

The Children's Corridor (Piton Foundation)

The idea of this division of Piton funding is to give Colorado children living in the Corridor (a 14-mile stretch of north-east denver where two-thirds of the children experience poverty, underperforming schools, undereducated parents, poor nutrition, unsafe neighborhoods, or some combination of these) the right start. Piton supports focusing community resources, energy and ideas to create more effective, affordable and accessible high quality health, mental health, wellness and educational services from conception to career. The overarching goal of the Piton Foundation is to develop and implement programs to improve education, expand economic opportunities for families, and strengthen lower-income communities.

Programs and Direct Services

The following programs and direct services have been rated with regard to their level of evidence when this information has been provided by the program or service. The following coding will be used for those programs/services that have identified a level of evidence.

(RB) Research Based Best Practice - An initiative, program, activity or strategy that has the highest degree of proven effectiveness supported by objective and comprehensive research and evaluation and published in a peer reviewed academic journal.

(FT) Field Tested Best Practice - An initiative, program, activity or strategy that has been shown to work effectively and produce successful outcomes and is supported to some degree by subjective and objective data sources.

(PP) Promising Practice - An initiative, program, activity or strategy that has worked within one organization and shows promise during its early stages for becoming a best practice with long term sustainable impact. A promising practice must have some objective basis for claiming effectiveness and must have the potential for replication among other organizations.

(E/IP) Emerging/Innovative Practice - An initiative, program, activity or strategy that makes use of an approach that is new, innovative or unique in method or population served. Because of the emerging or innovative nature of the program, evaluation data may not be available yet or may be difficult to obtain.

Assuring Better Child Health & Development Colorado (ABCD)

This project works with families, pediatric health care providers, community members and child care providers to help identify as many children in need of early intervention as possible. This is done by incorporating screenings for developmental delays, post partum depression, and autism within the family's primary care environment. When a child or family screens positively in one of these areas, ABCD focuses on ensuring these children and families are successfully connected with the services and resources they need.

Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs)

Colorado has a statewide managed care mental health program that provides comprehensive mental health services to all Coloradans with Medicaid. Medicaid members are assigned to a Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) based on where they live. BHOs arrange or provide for medically necessary mental health services to clients in their service areas.

Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. (BHI)

Serving Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas Counties, this Behavioral Health Organization is a non-profit Managed Care Company. BHI strives to promote mental health service delivery by using a strengths based approach, individualizing care, and ensuring a broad variety of mental health services are available to members. Their website provides an article addressing children and mental health, which also offers national resources for children and mental health.

Colorado Access

As Denver county's Behavioral Health Organization, this nonprofit health plan provides direct access to needed behavioral and physical health services for members, and indirect services to underserved Coloradans through its partners. Colorado Access is sponsored by Children's Hospital Colorado, Colorado Community Managed Care Network and University of Colorado Hospital/University Physicians, Inc.

Colorado Health Partnerships (CHP)

A Behavioral Health Organization serving Alamosa, Archileta, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley Custer, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Lake, La Plata, Las Animas, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Ouray, Otero, Park, Pitkin, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Routt, Sagauche, San Juan, San Miguel, Summit, and Teller Counties. It provides a recovery driven system of care to medicaid eligible members. CHP focuses on helping their members achieve their personal goals in all areas of their life.

Foothills Behavioral Health Partners

The Behavioral Health Organization for Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jefferson Counties. They manage the mental health benefits for residents of these counties who are enrolled in Medicaid. Their commitments are to treatment, recovery, prevention and development of resiliency to mental illness and emotional problems adults and children.

Northeast Behavioral Health Partnership

The Behavioral Health Organization serving Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Larimer, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, and Yuma Counties. They work to ensure accessible, high-quality behavioral health services to individuals

and families that are member and family driven, recovery oriented, and respectful of cultural differences.

Child Find Colorado

Child Find works to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities or at risk for developmental delays from birth to age 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Every school district or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) has Child Find professionals who are trained to evaluate children in a variety of areas, including cognitive functioning, physical functioning, hearing and vision, speech and language and social and emotional development. Evaluations are conducted by the Child Find team at no cost to parents.

Child Mental Health Treatment Act (Colorado)

Enacted into law in 1999 HB 99-1116 allows families the use of residential treatment services for their child when necessary. This Act allows families to access residential services without requiring a dependency and neglect action when there is an absence of child abuse or neglect. However for access to services the child must have a mental illness and require the level of care provided in a Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facility or Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility.

Clayton Early Learning (Birth–5)

Designated as 1 in 10 Centers of Excellence in early childhood across the nation by the office of Head Start, this program collaborates with others to improve early care and education to ensure optimal development during the critical period of all children, especially for those with limited opportunity. It is based on the integration of 3 dynamic initiatives: family-centered classroom and home-based practices through the Educare School; research and program evaluation; and professional development of teachers and leaders. One aspect of this program focuses on delivering culturally relevant mental health services such as screening, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment to children and families. Their website offers resources for families to enhance their young child's social emotional development. Resources are available for infant, toddler and preschool aged children.

Colorado Bright Beginnings (Prenatal–36 months)

A free service available in English and Spanish that promotes positive parent-child interactions and relationship building. It is run by volunteers and staff who meet with parents at home, work, in groups or other community setting of their choice to provide parents with resources and tools to help educate and support them as their child's first teachers. Materials given to parents are based on proven research and research-based techniques that promote healthy child development.

Colorado Help Me Grow Initiative

Originating in Connecticut, this system provides a cost effective, efficient, and user friendly mechanism for identifying children from birth to age 8 for developmental or behavior problems and connecting them to appropriate community resources in a timely manner. Colorado has been receiving technical assistance on this initiative from Connecticut since 2009 and has focused on addressing support and service needs across prenatal, health, mental health, early learning, and family support.

Colorado Medical Home Initiative (CMHI)

Positioned within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment this initiative works as a neutral facilitator in identifying barriers while promoting solutions in developing a quality-based system of health care for children. The initiative began in 2001 in response to the Title V/Maternal and Child Health national outcome measure and is a systems-building effort to promote quality health care for all children in Colorado. A Medical Home is a concept of quality health care that utilizes a team approach and partnership between families and providers to coordinating medical, mental and oral health care.

The Community Infant Program (Boulder County; Birth-3)

A program that is limited to working with at-risk, high-need families. Services are provided in the home by Nurses and Mental Health therapists to promote healthy attachments between parents and infants. Services are focused on parents experiencing difficulty in adjusting to a new infant or young child in the home. Positive parenting, healthy nutrition and feeding, creating family support systems and identifying health problems are the goals of this program.

Community Mental Health Centers

Early Childhood Specialists (FT)

Through the Colorado Department of Human Services-Division of Behavioral Health, this program's purpose is to place an early childhood mental health specialist position in each of the 17 publicly funded community mental health centers across the State. Goals of the program are to: provide direct services, consultative services to families, early care and education providers, and cross-systems program development; provide early childhood mental health services to non-Medicaid children; and increase the capacity to provide early childhood mental health services at each of the 17 Colorado community mental health centers.

In addition to the Early Childhood Specialists, some Community Mental Health Centers offer other infant and early childhood services

Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health Network

As part of the community mental health center for Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, this Network offers infant and early childhood services. Available services are individual and filial play therapy with a licensed professional counselor; group therapy; education; and support groups for families. They also maintain a child psychiatrist on staff for evaluation and medication management purposes.

Aurora Mental Health Center

As the community mental health center for Aurora and parts of Arapahoe county, this program for children, adolescents and families works closely with schools, social services and other caregivers to ensure proper care is delivered to help children overcome obstacles that affect their ability to learn and thrive in life. Available early childhood services through the center are: the early childhood and family center, childhood trauma treatment and research, and safe and stable families.

Centennial Mental Health Center

The community mental health center for Cheyenne, Elbert, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington and Yuma counties. Their division of child and family services serve children ages birth to 17 years and their caregivers. Services such as Play Therapy, Family Coaching and Therapy, Mentoring, Animal Assisted Therapy and Day Treatment are available in locations such as the center's local offices, schools, client homes, day-care centers, community agencies, and detention centers.

Community Reach Center

The community mental health center serving Adams county, their early childhood services program provides social emotional health services to children six years old and younger and their families. Services provided by the Early Childhood Services team consist of: individual, group and family therapy; psychiatric services; and mental health consultation and care coordination with the child's other caregivers. The early childhood services program also provides on-site occupational therapy to children 6 and under.

Mental Health Center of Denver

As the Community Mental Health Center for Denver they offer child and family services to ensure the delivery of mental health services alongside physical health services to Denver's most vulnerable neighborhoods. They also offer the Right Start for Infant Mental Health program for pregnant women and families with a child/children ages birth to 5 years to provide services when concerns are raised about a child's development or when parents are struggling with the demands of parenting. The goal of this program is to help parents improve their relationships with their babies or children.

Mental Health Partners

The community mental health center for Boulder and Broomfield counties, they provide comprehensive psychiatric services to county residents regardless of their ability to pay. They also offer 24 hour emergency psychiatric services and outpatient offices for infant, children, adolescents, adults and families. They offer a variety of programs and services such as school-based programs, substance abuse treatment, rape crisis counseling, advocacy and education.

Midwestern Colorado Mental Health Center

The community mental health center for Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties houses an early childhood mental health services program that focuses on children ages birth to 5 years old. Their program provides direct services to children, consultation to families, preschools, and day care providers, advocacy for families and children, and referrals. Also included in this program is outreach to the community and collaboration with other service agencies in the communities.

North Range Behavioral Health

The early childhood services program of the community mental health center of Weld County works to provide early childhood behavioral health services in conjunction with Project Launch. This program promotes collaboration in evaluating children who are demonstrating behavioral challenges. It is focused on early identification and treatment of behavioral issues leading to positive outcomes for children.

San Luis Valley Community Mental Health Center

This community mental health center for Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties provides child, adolescent and family services to clients from all backgrounds and cultures. Available early childhood mental health services and supports available through the center are: consultation in childcare centers; parenting

programs offering information, education and support; home-based services; wrap-around services; and comprehensive assessments.

Southeast Mental Health Services

Serving Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan Counties as the community mental health center, they offer outpatient services for parents which benefit young children such as parenting skills, anger management, and readjustment services for veterans.

Touchstone Health Partners

This community mental health center for Larimer county houses and early childhood program to serve children exhibiting behavioral concerns and experiencing disruptions in the parent/child relationship. The program serves children ages birth to 9, and their parents in outpatient and home settings. Mental health consultation and education to community based day cares and early childhood programs are also provided through this program.

West Central Mental Health Center

This center operates as the community mental health center for Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and Lake Counties. They offer early childhood mental health services targeted at children ages birth to 5 years old to provide early identification and intervention for early childhood social emotional health. The center delivers family treatment, education, consultation and parent training opportunities.

Early Excellence

Promotes and offers high-quality educational services to young children and provides job development and social networks for Colorado's most at-risk and needy families so they may achieve self-sufficiency. They work to prepare children cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically so they may achieve academic success in kindergarten and beyond.

Early Intervention Colorado-Social and Emotional Services (RB)

Part of the Colorado Department of Human Services this division offers assessment and intervention services that address social AND emotional development in the context of a family and parent-child interaction.

Emotional Availability (RB)

Emotional Availability (EA) Parent Intervention is conducted by an EA instructor in vivo, face-to-face, with a group of 6-10 parents in the group. This is an evidence-based intervention for emotion education, to enhance the emotional availability in the parent-child relationship. An EA Instructor Manual is available with the EA Training, see in vivo or distance/online training via www.emotionalavailability.com. This is a 6-week program, conducted once per week, for approximately 2 hours each time. The program is designed to be user friendly so that an EA-certified professional can be the EA Instructor.

Expanding Quality (EQ) in Infant and Toddler Care

The Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQ) Initiative is a collaboration between the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care. The program's primary goal is to increase the quality and availability of responsive care for infants and toddlers throughout Colorado by: strengthening the skills and

knowledge base of Early Childhood professionals working with infants and toddlers; building capacity and promoting systemic change to foster increased quality and availability of care and services; supporting leadership and collaboration at the community level; and facilitating professional development for infant toddler professionals, particularly those who are teaching or coaching infant toddler teachers. It is a 48-hour training program for infant and toddler teachers, with a strong emphasis on social/emotional development throughout the curriculum.

Fussy Baby Network (FT)

As part of the Harris Program in Infant Mental Health and Child Development, The Fussy Baby Colorado (FBC) program proposes an approach that views intervention around infant crying as a unique opportunity to reduce infant risk by building family resilience while remaining highly attuned to risk and vulnerability in the baby, parent, or the family. Utilizing the strength-based model of FBN, the mission of FBC is to follow a model approach to addressing infant crying through reducing immediate risk by addressing parents' urgent concerns about their baby while building longer-term parenting capacities of parenting competence, confidence, and positive parent/child relationships.

Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (RB)

Through Denver Health this program provides care coordination services to families with a child with a special need, ages birth-21 years in Denver County.

Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)

A national program being implemented in Colorado, this school readiness program helps parents prepare their 3 to 5 year old children for success in school. This program provides parents with education, support, curriculum, books and materials designed to strengthen their children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social/emotional and physical development.

HOPE Center

Provides early childhood education and support services for at-risk and gifted children and works to help children with special need advance intellectually, emotionally and socially.

The Incredible Years (2–12 years) (RB)

Made possible by Invest in Kids, it is an early childhood social emotional and social health program. It is designed to increase children's success at school and home by promoting positive parent, teacher and child relationships and has been proven to reduce children's aggression and behavior problems while increasing social competence at home and school. It is proven effective through research, measurable community impact and ongoing sustainability. This holistic approach works directly with kids, parents and teachers by teaching interaction and relational techniques to increase school performance, decrease child behavior problems, and promote positive and consistent discipline. It is designed for implementation by existing community early childhood settings.

JFK Partners

An interdepartmental program of the departments of Pediatrics and Psychiatry of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and housed on the Anschutz Medical Campus. JFK collaborates with numerous organizations involved in Colorado's developmental disability and special health care needs communities to provide interdisciplinary pre-service training, continuing education, clinical services, community collaboration, research and dissemination of products and information written by JFK Partners' faculty.

Learning in Nurturing Communities (LINC) Social & Emotional Skills Curriculum (FT)

As part of Relationship Roots, Inc., LINC is a Social & Emotional Skills Curriculum for preschool through early elementary school. The approach used in LINC is based on brain science and learning theory, which have found that the best way to ensure effective learning during childhood is to do three things: 1) get children's attention and make them interested in learning through exciting, engaging lessons; 2) provide a variety of planned activities to keep the knowledge and skills learned through the lessons fresh and alive; and 3) guide children in using the knowledge and skills in everyday routines and situations. LINC provides these three elements through fun, exciting puppet lessons, a wealth of follow-up activities, and plenty of ideas and tips for using the skills throughout your day. It consists of the following modules: Relaxation and Stress Management; Body Space Boundaries; Problem Solving; Understanding & Managing Feelings; and Friendship & Kindness Skills.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV)

Created by the Affordable Care Act, this program is the result of a grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS awarded 10 states, including the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, to provide early childhood supports and home visits to families. The funding has been awarded for the purpose of expanding or establishing home visiting programs that will provide for effective coordination and delivery of critical health, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention, and family support services to at-risk children and families.

Mental Health Consultation (FT)

As a grant-funded initiative of the Colorado Department of Human Services, this program is implemented in early childhood settings and is a problem-solving and capacity-building intervention based on a collaborative relationship between a professional consultant with mental health expertise and one or more individuals, primarily child care center staff, with other areas of expertise.

Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver: Child, Family, and School Psychology Clinic

The Child, Family, and School Psychology Clinic provides psychoeducational assessment and consultation for infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Services are designed for families who are concerned that their child's development may not be typical, and for infants, children, adolescents and young adults who may be experiencing difficulties with learning, achievement, and/or school-related behavior problems. Assessment, consultation, and recommendations are provided for a multitude of areas including social/emotional skills. Clinical services are offered on the basis of a sliding fee schedule.

Mount Saint Vincent Home

A home and school that serves children who have been abused, neglected, or who have mental illness. They provide preschool programs for both traditional neighborhood children ages 3 to 6, and for children that need a therapeutic healing and learning environment. Both preschools are rated 4 Star programs by Qualistar.

New Directions for Families

As part of Arapahoe House, a drug rehab program in Littleton, this program provides comprehensive services for children of mothers recovering from serious substance abuse, aged birth to twelve years old including: a Qualistar rated, early childhood education on-site learning center; developmental assessment and referral for appropriate services; tutoring and educational support; prevention, mental health groups, family bonding and parental attachment activities; and connections with community resources that help children.

Nurse Family Partnership

A home visitor program for low-income, first-time mothers starting as early as possible in pregnancy and continuing until their children's second birthdays. The intervention revolves around six program domains: personal health, environmental health, life course development, maternal role, family and friends and health and human services. This model is an evidence-based program that is proven to improve parental care of children, infant emotional and language development. Nurses employed by NFP receive a 20-hour training module in early emotional development. Ongoing consultation and technical assistance is provided to NFP Colorado by Invest in Kids.

Partners in Parenting Education (PIPE) Curriculum

A program overseen by How to Read Your Baby, this model is a preventive intervention delivered by parenting educators. This program is designed to increase the emotional availability and relationship building skills of parents with their babies and toddlers. The goal of the curriculum is to allow parent educators to create an education partnership with parents where the parent is the most consistent and pervasive force shaping the life of the child; the baby becomes a teacher and the parenting educator is the facilitator and coach.

Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program

A national program implemented throughout Colorado, this is an early childhood parent education and family support program serving families from pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. As a universal access model, this program is designed to enhance child development and improve school readiness through parent education. Primarily service delivery is through a home visitation model, but strategies for childcare, special populations and specialty trainings are also available.

Sewall Child Development Center

Provides preschool and other educational and therapeutic programs for young children (birth to 5) with special needs associated with developmental delays, disabilities, and economic disadvantages. Their transdisciplinary teams work to support children's cognitive, social and motor development.

Young Child Clinic at the University of Colorado Hospital (PP)

Outpatient psychiatry/psychology clinic that serves young children birth through 5 years old and their families as well as pregnant women. Services include counseling, evaluation, psychiatric evaluation, parent-child therapy, parent education, trauma & crisis counseling and individual play therapy. Insurance and medicaid accepted.

Tony Gramscas Youth Services Program (Through Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)

Authorized by §25-20.5-201 through 205, C.R.S. this program is intended to provide funding to community-based organizations that serve children, youth and their families with services designed to reduce youth crime and violence and to prevent child abuse and neglect. Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, local governments, schools, and faith-based organizations. Programs that emphasize protective factors, while working to mitigate risk, are perceived to be aligned with the Program's philosophy.

Resources, Information and Technical Assistance

Care Coordination Community of Practice

The Colorado Care Coordination Community of Practice was developed out of Project BLOOM and consists of a committee with representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Family Voices Colorado, and JFK Partners/University of Colorado School of Medicine. Their work is intended to focus on children, youth under the age of 22, and their families to improve their primary care and behavioral health care. Their mission is to develop a care coordination plan and toolkit and offer a definition of values, functions and outcomes of care coordination, to be accepted across all sources of service, and provide guidance and resources for those involved with care coordination throughout Colorado.

The Colorado Center for Social Emotional Competence and Inclusion (Birth–5)

The home of the Pyramid Plus Center based out of the University of Colorado, Denver. This center takes a tiered approach (prevention, intervention, treatment) to increase social, emotional and behavioral development outcomes using inclusive and evidence-based practices. The Pyramid model is based on teaching to fidelity, engaging in training and support with other initiatives and communities, collaborating with others, and planning for sustainability.

Colorado Early Childhood Councils

Legislated by HB07-1062, these councils are community-based collaboratives assigned the task of improving and sustaining the availability, accessibility, capacity and quality of early childhood services in early care and education, health, mental health and family support for children and families throughout the state. These councils effectively build the foundations of the early childhood system at the local level so more high quality services are available to more people.

Colorado Head Start Association

Supports the work of Head Start programs and their partners with information sharing and advocacy, within the context of the early childhood system in Colorado. Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to 5 from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Colorado Preschool Program (Affiliated with the Colorado Department of Education)

This program has created a set of Quality Standards for Early Preschool Programs throughout the state, in which all classrooms that include Colorado Preschool Program-funded children must be committed to using. Specific to early childhood mental health and social emotional development is section A: Interaction Among Staff and Children of the Colorado Quality Standards for Early Childhood Care and Education Services. The goal of section A is to ensure that interactions between children and staff provide opportunities for children to develop an understanding of self and others and are characterized by warmth, personal respect, individuality, positive, supportive, individualized relationships with adults. Additionally, it outlines that young children develop social, emotional and intellectual capacities through peer interactions. The Colorado Preschool Program also maintains a set of Colorado Preschool Academic Standards in which social emotional development is addressed through the Social Studies Standards.

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Created by State legislation in 2008, Senate Bill 08-001 (C.R.S Section 24-33.5-1801 et seq.) was signed by Governor Ritter in May 2008 to collaboratively assist local schools and communities to create safe and positive school environments for Colorado students in all pre-k and higher education schools. The CSSRC provides consultation, resources, training, and technical assistance to foster safe and secure learning environments, positive school climates, and early intervention to prevent crisis situations.

Colorado Systems of Care Collaborative

The goal of this collaborative is to provide state of the art information and strategies to communities and policy makers about the system of care approach in support of an array of coordinated/integrated services and supports so that children and their families receive seamless, effective services.

Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-3R)

Recognized in Colorado and nationally as best practice for the assessment and diagnosis of young children ages 0-3. Can also be used successfully for children up to the age of five.

Early Childhood Colorado Framework

A framework developed that recognizes the needs of the whole child and family. It works toward ensuring: children have high quality early learning supports and environments and comprehensive health care; families have meaningful community and parenting supports; early childhood professionals have the knowledge, skills, and supports to work effectively with and on behalf of families and children; and all children are valued, healthy and thriving.

Early Childhood Colorado Information Clearing House

Provides information and resources about all matters related to the healthy and thriving development of children, birth to age 8. Their website allows one to find local Colorado agencies providing services for young children, search for information, and supports the ability of professionals to upload information that will be useful to others using member sign-up and upload features.

Early Childhood Social Emotional/Mental Health Navigation Guide

This guide is being developed between JFK Partners/University of Colorado School of Medicine and the Partnership for Families and Children and will be a resource allowing communities to sort through various programs, initiatives, and services to find ones that best match with their current mental health needs. The database will be populated with profiles of programs available for use in communities across Colorado which promote early childhood social-emotional development and mental health.

Family Resource Center Association (FRCA)

The FRCA empowers families to raise healthy children by strengthening and sustaining the work of 23 family resource centers across Colorado. These centers work with the entire family to help them become more self-reliant in areas that affect their family stability, including parenting, health, education, employment, housing and financial management.

Framework in Action State Plan: 2009–2012

Adopted in 2009 by over 100 state partners, this plan was developed to capture, integrate and guide various state efforts and initiatives using the guidance of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework. Additionally it supports shared leadership, ownership and action towards systemic improvements and enhancements at the state level.

Healthy Child Care Colorado

Through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, this program makes access to evidence-based, inclusive early childhood social/emotional practices for caregivers and teachers in all early care a priority area.

Infant-Toddler Policy Agenda

Developed by Zero to Three and adopted by Colorado, this framework was developed to ensure babies have good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences to lay the foundation for success throughout their lives.

Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy (MIELL)

MIELL is a research institute housed within the University of Denver that works to increase the connection between research and practice in early childhood. Their research agenda focuses on contributions that adults can make in creating stimulating and nurturing environments for young children, thereby establishing a foundation for lifelong learning. Topics of research include: professionalizing infant-toddler care; executive function and self-regulation; and parenting and children's well-being, learning, and development.

National Conference of State Legislatures

Published a brief that defines early childhood social-emotional development, describes what can happen when children face emotional and behavioral problems, and outlines what actions can be taken at the state level to support healthy social-emotional development in babies and young children. It also highlights state and community efforts to improve early childhood social and emotional development through promotion, prevention and treatment approaches.

Project BLOOM

Although this project ended in 2008, it provided valuable background, and laid the foundations for much of the current work being done on early childhood mental health. It was the nation's first early childhood focused system-of-care initiative through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration' (SAMHSA) Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services Program.

Qualistar Colorado

A program designed to work to improve the quality of Colorado's early care and education programs and helps families choose high quality child care. Qualistar Colorado partners with programs to help improve their early learning centers by developing or improving strong family partnerships, age-appropriate learning experiences, positive interactions between teachers and children, effective health and safety procedures, and the ongoing training and education of the program staff.

Trainings

Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition (CSPC)

The mission of the CSPC is to promote equitable educational opportunities for all children and their families, ensuring that the school, home and community work together so that every child receives high quality education. The CSPC was awarded a five-year federal grant that allowed them to add an Early Childhood component to their school-based trainings. Through the early childhood program the CSPC works with the ECE/Head Start teachers to implement their Three-Step School Readiness Program, a program for parents to prepare their child to be ready for kindergarten. The Three-Step Program is designed to: provide parents with parenting skills;

equip parents with techniques to teach their child pre-literacy and pre-writing skills; and provide coaching and mentoring to parents in the home.

Consultation Liaison in Mental Health and Behavior (CLIMB) Program

This program is part of the Children's Hospital Colorado and encourages early identification of childhood mental illnesses or behavior problems through a series of quick, on site didactic lectures. This program aims to incorporate child and adolescent psychiatry training in primary health care settings. The goal is to train physicians to intentionally screen kids for potential problems and initiate early treatment when it is most effective.

DECA Training

The DECA Program is a strengths-based assessment and planning system for children ages 2-5. It is based on resilience theory and provides a 5-step system to help parents and early childhood professionals promote healthy social/emotional development and reduce challenging behaviors in young children both at school and at home. The primary objectives of training are to teach participants an approach to supporting children's social and emotional development in the classroom and with families. This approach uses the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment Tool to measure protective factors and behavioral concerns. DECA Training has a history of support throughout various communities across the state by The Colorado Department of Human Services. There currently is a lack of a state-level organizing agency in Colorado, though many communities continue to utilize the DECA Program. Training is offered two times per year in Westminster, CO and is available to local communities by request.

Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI)

The Family Leadership Training Institute is a public-private partnership that works with local communities to provide parents, youth, and communities with the knowledge, skills and tools for civic engagement. Their goals are to create and support leadership by engaging families in civic participation; facilitate and support families in being change agents on a neighborhood, regional and state level; develop supportive communities of families within regions of the state; and increase parent-child interaction through family involvement. Some of the local Early Childhood Councils have been formed as the result of the FLTI curriculum.

ECE-CARES

Training and coaching to promote evidence-based practices to enhance social competence, school readiness and reduce behavior problems in young children (toddlers through primary grades). CARES Model components include workshops and on-site coaching for early care and education providers, skill building for young children, and parent workshops to strengthen parenting skills. The primary objectives of training are to enhance learning environments; implement a social skills curriculum which includes understanding and regulation emotions, prosocial skill building, problem solving, anger management, calming down, and stress reduction; improve classroom management and prevent behavior problems; implement an emotionally-responsive curriculum; integrate assessment into curriculum planning; promote emergent literacy and school readiness; and strengthen parenting skills.

ECE Supports for Social-Emotional Development

As part of Relationship Roots, this program is dedicated to providing high quality, professional services to help caregivers of young children gain the knowledge and skills they need to best support children's development. They offer powerful, engaging, effective and fun workshops for ECE professionals and parents. The trainings cover a wide variety of topics, but have the common theme of supporting healthy social-emotional development of young children. Many of

the workshops specifically address challenging behavior and how caregivers can apply the principles of positive guidance to create lasting change and build children's prosocial skills. Support and planning for individual children is available through follow-up coaching and mental health consultations in ECE settings.

Emotional Beginnings Curriculum

Overseen by How to Read Your Baby, this program consists of a curriculum and on-site training process used by childcare professionals to increase the emotional availability and relationship building skills of infant and toddler caregivers. The primary objective of this training is to train consultants in child care settings to deliver a curriculum to child care staff that teaches the theory and practical application of emotional responsive caregiving in 10 monthly topics and to provide mentorship and coaching to the staff through regular site visits.

Family Infant Relationship Support Training (FIRST) Program

A program offered through WONDERbabies, this training program is for professionals who work with infants who are born prematurely, with special needs, at term but who are not behaviorally well-organized, and born into high risk families. Topics covered include infant neurobehavioral development, communication, behavioral cues, infant-caregiver relationships, transitioning to the community, and caregiver suggestions.

Florence Crittenton Services of Colorado

Provides academic, parenting, healthcare, career readiness, and life-skills training to high-risk pregnant and parenting teens and best practice developmental childcare to their children. Their services aim to foster confident, competent and responsible judgment, decision making and behavior of teen mothers enabling them to participate in healthy relationships and protect and provide for themselves and their children.

Kid Connects Integrated Health & Mental Health Consultation (FT)

Provides integrated health and mental health consultation to licensed child care centers, family child care homes, and Head Start/Early Head Start settings. It uses a relationship-based integrated mental health consultation model where services are offered on a prevention basis. Classroom consultation, home visits, parent support and teacher training provides consultation and education to parents, teachers and providers and works with them to identify children who may need additional support. The goals of this initiative are to increase health, developmental and mental health outcomes for children in child care settings, reduce expulsions, and increase the capacity of caregivers to respond to social emotional needs of very young children.

Learning and Growing Together (LGT)

A program geared toward experienced early childhood trainers and parent partners. It focuses on establishing effective relationships between parents and child care providers using a reflective approach. One of the primary objectives of this training program is to support trainers in disseminating the information in their own communities by providing LGT or Social and Emotional Module workshops or weaving the content into existing training opportunities.

Mile High United Way School Readiness Initiative

This initiative provides children from low-income families access to high quality early education so they gain the cognitive and social skills necessary to thrive when they enter school. This initiative also provides teachers with ongoing training to improve their knowledge and skills.

Pyramid PLUS-Teaching Pyramid Training Modules (RB)

From the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning, housed within the University of Colorado-Denver, this program addresses the social-emotional needs of young children by increasing the use of evidence-based, inclusive, high fidelity early childhood social emotional practices in Colorado's early care and education settings, including family child care and in-home providers. The four training modules used in this program are: Building Positive Relationships and Creating Supportive Environments; Social and Emotional Teaching Strategies; Individualized Intensive Interventions; and Leadership Strategies.

Relationship Roots

A program that helps teachers, caregivers and parents of young children prevent, reduce and manage challenging behavior by using positive and effective strategies that strengthen relationships and build children's skills.

Touchpoints

Through the Colorado Department of Education this program takes a cross disciplinary approach to support the development of children through relationships with those who care for them. Early Childhood Council Coordinators are encouraged to attend a Touchpoints Individual Level Training to strengthen their skills in establishing healthy positive relationships with parents and providers in their communities.