Early Childhood Advisory Panel

Join ECAP Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6972145272?pwd=SHAzL1kwTmcyYm1PdkdzNVNLUUZ6dz09
Meeting ID: 697 214 5272
Password: 1
Dial in: 1 346 248 7799
May 26, 2020
1:00 to 3:00 via ZOOM

AGENDA

In Attendance:
Kathleen Merritt (Executive Director, Bright Futures)
Cathy Barber (Strong Start Program Coordinator)
Mike Gass (Telluride School District Superintendent)
Cheryl Miller (Community Member at Large)
Lance Warring (County Commissioner)
Perri Gipner (Norwood School District)

1:00 Welcome Perri and Intro to Strong Start

1:18 Review & Approval of 4.28.2020 Minutes
WARRING MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES
MILLER SECONDS
ALL APPROVE

1:20 Re-opening Child Care Updates
- Child care will be allowed to reopen on June 1st
- In March, panel voted to allow centers to use quality improvement grants for general operating however they need in response to COVID-19
- Gave out over $90,000 in salary supplements
- Continue to pay out financial aid even though schools were closed
  - Barber reviewed monthly financial aid awards
- Barber has been working with child care centers and public health to help centers reopen in a way that adheres to public health guidelines for both businesses and child care centers
  - Barber has created informational packets for all providers about public health guidelines and protocols for child care centers planning to reopen. Packets also include a bilingual storybook for children about wearing a mask and information to distribute to families about what to expect.
- Enrollment numbers for child care have decreased, yet staff numbers must remain about the same
Strong Start currently working to help centers navigate that reduction in tuition while continuing to pay staff
- Centers will take children’s temperatures each morning - Strong Start purchased infrared thermometers to give to all centers
- Strong Start also ordered a bulk order of masks and cleaning supplies for centers
  - Discussed possibility of giving early childhood teachers clear masks so children can see facial expressions - especially important for infants and toddlers

MILLER: MOTION TO APPROVE BULK ORDER OF MASKS AND CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR CENTERS
ALL APPROVE

1:45 Telluride Foundation Collaboration
- Discussed partnership with TF, Bright Futures, and Strong Start to give grants to providers through the Strong Start application process to make it easier for providers (eligible for more funding but only have to fill out one application).
  - This would only affect San Miguel County, not centers in Ouray who receive Telluride Foundation funding
- Discussed how financial aid would factor into this
- Merritt and Barber will continue discussions with Telluride Foundation to pursue this, ensuring that it does not complicate things

2:00 Supporting Child Care through summer programming
- All centers except for Telluride District Preschool, Norwood Preschool, and Mountain School will be opening for the summer on June 1st
- Norwood Preschool has full enrollment but not enough staff
- Discussed new state database for sharing staff between centers
- Some providers have applied to Help Colorado Now - max award is $25,000 and organizations can apply every two weeks
- Providers still receiving CCAP reimbursements
- Strong Start financial aid application open now, deadline is July 1st
  - Strong Start has currently paid out financial aid for families through June
  - Barber and Merritt are meeting with providers to get concrete enrollment numbers for current financial aid recipients for June and July and will share with the panel
  - Discussed possibility of emergency Strong Start financial aid to centers for the summer
  - Discussed anticipated fluctuations in enrollment and tuition and how that will affect Strong Start financial aid
- Strong Start will be requesting financial aid in September and will be requesting that on a monthly basis

WARRING: MOTION TO ADJOURN
MERRITT SECONDS
ALL APPROVE

Next Meeting: June 30, 2020