AGENDA

In Attendance:
Kathleen Merritt (Executive Director, Bright Futures)
Cathy Barber (Strong Start Program Coordinator)
John Pandolfo (Telluride School District Superintendent)
Cheryl Miller (Community Member at Large)
Lance Waring (County Commissioner)
Perri Gipner (Norwood School District)
Liza Cooney (VISTA)

1:00 Welcome
1:10 Review & Approve 9.22.2020 Minutes
WARING: MOTION TO APPROVE WITH PANDOLFO EDITS
PANDALFO SECONDS
ALL APPROVE
ACTION: MERRITT TO SEND MOU VIA EMAIL BETWEEN BRIGHT FUTURES AND TELLURIDE FOUNDATION FOR ECAP APPROVAL

1:15 Program Coordinator Updates

Telluride Foundation Grant Application
● Discussed collaboration with Telluride Foundation
● Barber compiled requests from each center and submitted application

BOCC Presentation
● Barber presented 2020 Accomplishments/Spending to Date/COVID response
● KOTO aired coverage of presentation

State of Childcare
● Providers are struggling with workforce
● Lack of staff numbers and subs have caused some providers to close on Fridays or operate at limited enrollment numbers
This impacts families too
- Highlights the importance of increasing staffing capacity
- COVID-19 has exacerbated staffing challenges
- Discussed EC teacher appreciation ideas

**Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) Presumptive Eligibility Discussion**
- Funding set aside for families who apply for CCAP and then are found not eligible
- Merritt recommends ear marking $5,000 in case family does not qualify - safety net for provider to not front that cost and also helpful for families

**Financial Aid Funding Cycle Discussion**
- Discussed transitioning to a funding cycle that begins in January rather than June. This would make budgeting easier because it aligns with the county budget cycle
- Discussed concern with asking families to apply over 1 year before they would access child care/receive funding
  - Waring points out that a confusing budget (current system) might be better than any alternative if it creates a barrier to families (i.e. applying early for financial aid)
- ACTION: Miller, Merritt, and Barber to meet outside of ECAP meeting to discuss how or if this transition should occur

**2021 Budget Review & COVID-19 Emergency Funding Discussion**
- Reviewed budget
- Discussed possible solutions for addressing staffing capacity challenges/workforce recruitment and retention
  - Discussed leaving some funds unappropriated so they may be allocated to a pilot solution when one is identified
- Waring recommends leaving $45K in budget and spend $8,151 to net
- ACTION: MERRITT TO TAKE ECAP’S RECOMMENDATION AND EDIT THE BUDGET, ECAP WILL APPROVE VIA EMAIL
- Might change grant portal platform to one that is more user friendly and cheaper - could open up some money there as well (currently spend $7,200 on grant portal)

**2021 Meetings**
- **4th Tuesday of every month from 1:00 to 3:00**

2:39 Adjourned

**APPROVALS VIA EMAIL:**
**ECAP unanimously approved Bright Futures-Strong Start-Telluride Foundation MOU via email on 10/30.2020**
**ECAP unanimously approved 2021 Strong Start Budget via email on 11.3.2020**

Sent Zoom Invites for Remaining 2020 Meetings:
- Tuesday, November 17
- Tuesday, December 8