Early Childhood Advisory Panel (ECAP)
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Meeting ID: 697 214 5272
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July 27, 2021

ECAP Members in Attendance
Kathleen Merritt (Executive Director, Bright Futures)
Cheryl Miller (Community Member at Large)
Lance Waring (Board of County Commissioner)

Other:
Cathy Barber (Strong Start Program Coordinator)
April Montgomery (Program Director, Telluride Foundation)
Miriam Campana (VISTA, Bright Futures)

1:02 Welcome

1:05 5.25.2021 Minutes

• Merritt will review which minutes have been approved and which have not and follow-up by email
• Merritt and Barber have been in touch with new Norwood superintendent, Todd

1:10 Updates

TANF Awards – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

• Discussed Bright Futures partnership with San Miguel social services to distribute $35,000 in TANF dollars for financial aid
• Barber highlighted that $26,000 was distributed in preschool assistance through TANF, 10 recipients are already receiving Strong Start emergency financial aid or Cathy James financial aid
• The remaining ~$10,000 of TANF was spent on school age children

Cathy James Financial Aid

• Barber shared her analysis of the applications
  o Historically, Strong Start based awards off of the federal poverty level (FPL)
Barber calculated how much Strong Start would need to give to make child care affordable (paying less than 7-10% of their annual income) for each applicant.

- Barber highlighted that some who applied for Strong Start’s financial aid should qualify for CCAP.
- Barber suggested using a hybrid of last year’s applicant evaluation system and this year’s system to maximize funds.
- Additionally, Barber brought up the challenge of families not wanting to apply for CCAP.
  - Next cycle CCAP application expectations will be clearly defined. We will need to lay these
    - Requiring people who fall within CCAP FPL eligibility to apply for CCAP 1st.
- Merritt and Barber brought up challenges with determining proof of income for some families.
  - Merritt and Barber to draft up language to consider re: policies around allowable income verification documents.
  - Merritt and Barber consulting with accountant to determine a list of documents required when income eligibility isn’t clear.

**Primetime Repairs**

- Barber and Merritt summarized their meeting with Right Staff board chair.
  - Prime Time has not made a decision about the roof.
- Miller brought up a new energy efficiency program in San Miguel, that will help with new roads etc., but they also work through grant programs on federal and state level. They will set up a contract to help you get grants and loans.
  - Miller suggested to ask John Pandolfo if this could apply to Prime Time.
  - This organization would evaluate roof and determine the best approach to move forward.

**Elaine’s Place Expansion**

- Barber and Merritt summarized the meeting with the Telluride Housing Authority Subcommittee.
  - Barber re-evaluated the expansion plan and determined that if in the long term vision that corner of town will be redeveloped in the next 5 years, the director of Elaine’s could use a short term office rental space and continue with renovation overall.
- Merritt stressed we want to keep moving forward on the plans to make the space better for infants.
  - The Housing Authority Subcommittee did approve initial plan.
- Discussed supporting Leah with nonprofit application.

**Recruitment & Retention**

- Barber is currently working to promote provider job openings through advertisements and incentives to join the early childhood workforce.
- Waring noted the new affordable housing development, Sunnyside, is happening, but it won’t be available until December.

2:30  **Adjourn**

2021 MEETING:

**August 24 – Financial Aid Award Approvals**

- September 28
- October 26
- November 9
- December 14