

## **ECCLA Strategic Plan July 2009**

- Vision Statement**      We envision an early childhood system that positively affects the lives of young children and their families in Colorado.
- Purpose Statement**      The ECCLA is a coalition dedicated to providing leadership, innovation, influence, and local perspectives to ensure Colorado has a high quality early childhood system.
- Goal One**                The local early childhood councils are included as equal, influential partners in statewide early childhood system building work.

### **Strategy 1A – Increase ECCLA’s ability to affect public policy**

**1A1**    ECCLA membership will determine a policy to support & then present “one face” regarding that policy

### **Strategy 1B – Be a primary resource for policy makers for EC systems building**

**1B1**    Develop communication strategies to use with policy makers such as a list of policy makers/contacts by domain area

**Strategy 1C– Complete intentional meeting planning for ECCLA to ensure the mission of ECCLA is achieved**

**Strategy 1D- Increase communication among/between ECCLA members to maximize ECCLA’s unified voice**

#### **07-09 Accomplishments:**

- Active members on ECE Summit – able to impact public policy through this collaboration
- ECCLA is used as a resource by the Colorado Children’s Campaign
- Stronger connection with the Early Childhood Council Advisory Team (ECCAT). Councils are making presentations monthly. Joint meeting held last year to unveil the Early Childhood Framework
- Participation in the Progress and Possibilities Event last October
- Health Integration Grants – opportunity to impact health public policy
- Provided balanced representation for both rural & urban areas of the state; gives voice to efforts in all areas
- Good working relationship with the Lt. Governor’s office
- Increased use of small group work- helps to maximize the opportunities to present a unified voice
- Timely information provided on current efforts such as Race to the Top application & ARRA funds

## Goal Two

An effective, coordinated organizational structure exists for the ECCLA to support the local early childhood councils.

### Strategy 2A– Clearly define roles and responsibilities of ECCLA membership (see Guiding Principles for definition of membership)

- 2A1 Develop an organizational chart for ECCLA
- 2A2 Description of responsibilities of key people

### Strategy 2B- Maintain a well informed membership

- 2B1 Hold regular meetings guided by the strategic plan
- 2B2 Build new member orientation- priority item**
- 2B3 Explore innovative communication techniques- **develop a Council Coordinators only listserv**
- 2B4 Use operating principles
- 2B5 Communicate strategic plan so all members have a common understanding of the plan
- 2B6 Electronic “notebook” - **still need central location for electronic documents**
- 2B7 Use strategic plan to guide agenda
- 2B8 Articulate needs and requests for resource people **Develop mechanism to improve networking by focus on a common issue**  
**Increase understanding of state level systems & their functioning**

### Strategy 2C- Regularly evaluate ECCLA effectiveness

- 2C1 Determine outcomes
- 2C2 Determine evaluation methods
- 2C3 Find funding for evaluation

### Strategy 2D- Utilize TA structure as needed to support organizational structure of the ECCLA group

- 2D1 Implement facilitation training
- 2D2 Conflict resolution training
- 2D3 Training

#### 07-09 Accomplishments:

- ECCLA Bylaws – Committee and decision making structure
- Steering Committee – regular communication to further define roles and expectations
- Communication subcommittee working on improving external and internal communication messages
- Coordination between committees on addressing needs (i.e. local issues/communications 1<sup>st</sup> Friday calls etc.)
- ECCLA taking more ownership of its own direction
- Approved Guiding Principles
- Quarterly Reports – Evaluation Report
- Evaluation Task Force
- Attendance at Facilitated Leadership training by many ECCLA Coordinators
- Use of subcommittee structure has led to improvements in functioning
- List of responsibilities of state staff members

**Goal Three** The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance members have the skills, knowledge and capacity to strengthen effective local early childhood systems building **through an increased collaboration/partnership between state staff and ECCLA membership**

**Strategy 3A – Provide personal and professional support for ECCLA members.**

- 3A1 Survey on current support structure
- 3A2 Continue internal time
- 3A3 Plan retreat for intentional time to get to know each other (coffee, happy hour, dinner parties, travel/conferences)
- 3A4 Formalized mentoring- common understanding of mentoring principles & convene workgroup to look at mentoring
- 3A5 Annual retreat- planned activities and time for support
- 3A6 Foster opportunities- gauge our sphere of influence
- 3A7 Preventing burn out- more collaboration

**Strategy 3B – Identify and communicate our collective work.**

- 3B1 Enhance our websites (CDE and SSC) and include an intranet (**Coordinator only section for the website**)
- 3B2 Collect and distill best practices of local councils- **include in the “electronic notebook” (referenced in strategy 2B6 above); mapping the state by work going on in each council**
- 3B3 Ongoing reporting- **Councils share resources at ECCLA meetings; visits to other councils by coordinators/directors**
- 3B4 Develop and identify internal expertise- **identify opportunities for partnerships among councils**
- 3B5 Forum for generating discussion on specific topic areas- **develop guidelines for tasks common to all councils (i.e. community assessments)**

**Strategy 3C – Provide intentional support and networking for ECCLA. Questions on post-ECCLA survey re: adequacy of support/networking time**

- 3C1 Develop a formalized TA plan
- 3C2 Internal meeting time **Regional break-outs**

**Strategy 3D – Develop a plan for increased funding and resources.**

- 3D1 Look for funding to support web development in communities; **Increased budgetary guidance from state**

**Strategy 3E –Develop a plan for inclusion of new participants. Role clarification.**

- 3E1 Develop orientation materials (covered in strategy 2B2 above) **Development of a job description with similar components across the state**

**07-09 Accomplishments:**

- Peer to peer time/networking time built into each meeting
- Progress & Possibilities- e-mail & event
- Opportunities to get to know each other – Map of the state with pictures of coordinators
- Informal mentoring between coordinators
- Early childhood Colorado website – tools to enhance communication
- Committee structure provides opportunities to share ideas
- Tech Assistance structure & provision very helpful