



Quarterly Meeting Minutes
DENVER METRO RESPITE COALITION
@Megan's place
April 19, 2017

Location: Megan's Place, Wheat Ridge, Colorado

CRC Mission: Expand quality affordable respite options for Colorado families

CRC Web site: www.ColoradoRespiteCoalition.org. DMRC is one of the regional coalitions listed on this website. CRC has 180+ organizations like yours and together we are the "go to" entity for lifespan respite and caregiver resources. Please let us know if there are things missing on the website or from discussion. If you are a provider and have not signed onto the website, please do so as this will ensure that you will receive announcements regarding events as well as upcoming grant opportunities.

INDIVIDUALS PRESENT	FAMILY OR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	CONTACT INFO
Janis De Baca,	Haley House, Developmental Pathways	720-231-5268, J.DeBaca@DPColo.org
Kim Tenure	Arc of Arapahoe Douglas	kim@arc-ad.org
Val Saiz	CRC cofounder and facilitator	Chicago4208@gmail.com
Meghan Kluth	Program Manager, Colorado Respite Care Program	mkluth@eastersealscolorado.org
Rosanne Surine	Aurora MHC	RosanneSurine@AUMHC.org
Tia Saucedo	Seniors Resource Center	tsauceda@srcheing.org
Hilary Lenz	A Little Help/Share Care program	Hilary@alittlehelp.org
Ann Henderson	JFK/Iliff School of Theology	AHenderson@iliff.edu
Amy Boulas	Arthritis Foundation	aboulas@arthritis.org
Kristin Steadman	Night Lights	Kristens@nightlightskids.com
Jill Jordan	CDHS - office of early childhood	Jill.Jordan@state.co.us
Dana Wedlick	YMCA - ED Littleton branch	dwedlick@DenverYMCA.org
Claire Eades	YMCA - Denver branch	ceades@DenverYMCA.org
Kristin Smock	Megan's Place	Kristin@Megansplacellc.org
Bryan Smock	Megan's Place	bryan@megansplacellc.org
Maggie Dunham	Rocky Mountain Human Services	mDunham@rmhumanservices.org
Becky Miller	Rocky Mountain Human Services	bmiller@rmhumanservices.org
Carrie Savage	Catholic Charities	cSavage@CCDenver.org

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Elle Billman	CRC and Easter Seals	eBillman@EastersealsColorado.org
Carol Lacascio	Nurturing Newborns	Carollocascio@nurturingnewborns.com
Susan Heubner	Nurturing Newborns	Susan@nurturingnewborns.com
Denise Pruitt	Nurturing newborns	necepruitt@Gmail.com
Tammy Ortiz	Weld County adoption subsidies	Via phone

Announcements

- **Janis De Baca, Haley's House, and Developmental Pathways:** DP will be hosting a Respite & Recreation Resource Fair on Tuesday, May 16th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Aurora office, 11111 E. Mississippi.
- **Rosanne with Aurora Mental Health** has respite programs for people with mental illness. They have a program that provides respite using other people's homes.
- **Becky Miller and Maggie Dunham:** announced that RMHS (Rocky Mountain Human Services/the CCB representing Denver) has mill levy funding available for qualifying project innovations. Mill Levy-funded projects are intended to create opportunities for external community partners to address unmet needs of children and people with I/DD in Denver County. Email them at MillLevy@rmhumanservices.org. Handout?
- **Ann Henderson JFK/Iliff:** has a survey for faith based communities' survey, click [here](#) who are providing or thinking about providing respite services. Please pass this information and link on to anyone who might be interested in taking the survey.
- **DMRC** has developed an Advisory Committee: The DMRC-ADCOM will help decide what to focus on and how to improve respite options for the Front Range from Boulder to Monument. Respite is an integral part of many different communities. Our advisory committee represents communities that serve mental health needs, developmental disabilities, seniors, children, kinship families, center-based programs, health care agencies, and adoption.
- **Catholic Charities** has a kinship program for grandparents raising children with special needs.

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1

Guest Speakers: A BIG thank you to our guest speakers!

Claire Eades & Dana Wedlick from the YMCA: Camp-style respite

- The YMCA, Schlessman location has a camp program for children with special needs, ages 3-18. Although it was begun as an autism program, they will consider children who have other neurodevelopmental disabilities-specifically as it pertains to sensory processing
- They have received funding from CRC but also have funding from the Raleigh Kelly foundation and SM energy
- They are able to provide 130 hours of respite in the summer months and 930 respite hours during the school for a total of 1200 respite hours per year. Because of the demand, there is a waitlist and they schedule kids on a weekly basis, up to 3 months in advance to participate in the program.
- They have a newly renovated sensory center in the basement of the YMCA.
- Because they are not licensed as a daycare facility, they cannot exceed a certain number of contact hours, both per day and per week. The 1:1 staffing ratio limits the number of individuals.
- The YMCA has been awarded the Autism Friendly Facility Certificate through the IBCCES
- The cost for the summer program is \$175 per week. Kids can be sponsored for camp from a YMCA community member. This camp is Monday through Thursday from 130 to 4:30 PM.
- This day camp began several years ago and was offered fairly infrequently. It has grown to a very successful program and is now available every Saturday from 130 to 4:30 PM, and occasionally on a Friday night for Parents Night Out. Each day is \$50.
- Recently, the Littleton YMCA, with a new ED, Dana Wedlick, has received funding from CenturyLink and has been able to begin to re-create the respite program on that campus. Dana took over the respite program at the Schlessman Y years ago and was comfortable re-creating it. Thank you Dana! Currently they are able to serve 38 kids, ages 3 to 10, through the CenturyLink grant.
- The YMCA camps do not accept Medicaid or CES except if you are taking swimming instructions. They have 12 grants for kids with special needs through the CES waiver.

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1

Hilary Lenz: A Little Help: Community-based place respite

- A Little Help is part of the national senior village movement, which began in Boston with Beacon Hill Village
- They host Service Saturdays! in the spring and fall and 300 volunteers from the neighborhoods come to provide various yard and home services to people who are aging in their own homes.
- A Little Help coordinates direct volunteer services and transportation is the number 1 request
- Respite/assistance with caregiving began to emerge as a need and the “Care Share Program” was launched to provide more intentional respite.
- Care Share volunteers are fingerprint background-checked and trained. Training is approximately 2 hours and volunteers are provided a handbook adapted from AAA. Clients are carefully and logistically matched up with volunteers. Not everyone will qualify for this program. Care Share volunteers provide respite on a weekly basis for 3-4 hours in or out of the home.
- A Little Help is a membership-based program. Membership levels include \$225 per individual or \$250 per household. 30 to 40% of the members don't pay the entire cost, but at least have some buy-in to the program. They call this a “middle-class expectations model.”
- Half of A Little Help's funding comes from in-kind donations. They have a Board of Directors and volunteers. Last year, they received \$110,000 from Colorado Gives Day. They also have many foundations that support them. 4.5% comes from membership fees.
- A Little Help currently serves four Branches. These include Denver, Jeffco, Chaffee County, and the North Fork Valley. Recently, Fort Collins has contacted them to begin a program there.
- A Little Help has “What the Help” parties that will provide volunteer orientation for interested folks, who will then complete online volunteer training.
- May 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Mile Hi Church, A Little Help will host the Engaging in Aging Festival, a new event with interactive workshops for seniors, caregivers, family, and neighbors.

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1

Kristin and Bryan Smock: Megan's Place: Center-based respite

- Megan's Place opened 3 years ago and is licensed as a childcare center and as a CES waiver program, providing center-based respite for children, ages 3 to 18
- It is a 24 -7 facility with regularly scheduled and overnight respite hours available
- they provide some transportation from school for a nominal fee
- Funding for this program comes from the CES waiver (they bill respite and community connector hours), the CRC voucher, and private pay, which starts at \$10 per hour and is based on level of care required.
- Siblings are allowed but not during the summer hours due to volume
- Summertime hours look much like a summer camp: field trips, etc.
- All disabilities will be considered, including medically fragile and behavioral. They cannot staff appropriately, if the child is aggressive toward others. Enrollment looks very much like an interview process.
- Megan's Place utilizes online training for their providers and then additional training to meet child care licensing standards and CES guidelines. They have an RN on staff and she provides Q map training, care plans, and delegation for seizures, G tubes, etc.
- Future goals include starting a foundation so that they can provide scholarships for people who cannot afford to pay, opening a 2nd location, and possibly providing respite to the 18 to 21-year-old population.
- The currently have 43 employees and are able to hire providers from care.com, Jeffco, high school internships, word-of-mouth, etc.

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1

Colorado Respite Care Program (CRCP) update, Meghan Kluth

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- Exciting announcement: Easter Seals Colorado has been awarded the Respite Care Task Force contract. Funding began in February 2017. It will be a 2 ½ year effort to conduct a cost-benefit study for respite care in Colorado, audit the trainings that are available in Colorado with best practices highlighted, develop a statewide outreach campaign, and will work with the Bell Policy group to look at challenges in either getting or providing respite. The task force will purchase an ad campaign from another state regarding caregiving. There will be a training audit of Colorado and an evaluation of best practices and training recommendations based on levels of care.
- The Colorado Respite Care Program will conclude two federal grants in August. Lifespan Respite Federal grants began partially funding CRC in 2011 and have been instrumental in carrying Colorado forward in its mission to create more respite opportunities for families with special health care needs. It is expected that there will be additional federal funding opportunities, and in partnership with other funding streams, CRC will continue to move forward.
- 2 people from the CRC leadership team (Meghan and Peggy) will be attending a 9 week course called Stress Busters Program for Family Caregivers. This is a national train-the-trainer program so they will be able to train more people in Colorado after they are certified. Contact Meghan Kluth for more information.
- The CRC voucher program continues to provide small awards to families in need who fall through the gaps. This voucher program can award up to 2 vouchers per year for family. The amount usually does not exceed \$2000 yearly per family. CRC now has 24 providers signed up to provide respite for this program. If you are interested in becoming a provider, please contact Elle Billman.
- CRC continues to offer provider agencies small grant funding opportunities each fall and spring.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in the Medicaid/HCPF rate review last month. The appointed committee is reviewing the information and will continue to meet regarding rate reimbursement for direct service providers. They will gather their recommendations and present them to Medicaid at a future date.

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- Caregiver Cloud is an online training tool for family caregivers. There are 25 to 30 courses available and you can contact Meghan to sign up for this free online service. Check out course offerings at <https://www.caregivercloud.com>. Space is limited, so please contact Meghan Kluth at MKluth@EasterSealsColorado.org or 303-233-1666 to get involved with this program.
- Easter Seals Colorado hosted a kinship, adoptive and foster families respite weekend March 24-26 at their Rocky Mountain Camp in Empire, Colorado for children ages 5 through 18. Please see attached brochure
- Tax check off legislation: HB 1222 has cleared the Senate. This aims to allow Easter Seals Colorado to be added to the tax check off after a 2 year waiting period. These funds will go directly to respite/caregiver needs at Easter Seals Colorado.

Upcoming DMRC meetings:

- July 19: 10 AM to noon at Developmental Pathways, 11111 E. Mississippi
- October 18 10 AM to noon, location to be announced