

## **Regional Collaboration: Chaffee County Early Childhood Council and Fremont ECHO and Family Center Early Childhood Council**

Since 2011, Chaffee and Fremont counties' early childhood councils have worked collaboratively to promote healthy social and emotional development in our youngest residents. In September of 2016, the two council's collaboration became one of only 4 applicants to receive a 4 year LAUNCH Together privately funded grant to expand this work. This highly competitive grant was awarded based on a strong foundation in all five strategic areas described below. The initiative's regional goal is to expand sustainable capacity in all five areas through a coordinated early childhood system covering prenatal through kindergarten transition.

### **Integration of behavioral health into primary care: Key Features**

1. Cross-sector training on topics such as behavioral health, social and emotional development, and trauma
2. Use of developmental and social emotional screenings in primary care settings
3. Use of an infant/early childhood mental health specialist in primary care settings at various levels (e.g., co-location, collaboration, integration)
4. Referrals, follow-up, and care coordination with community-based services
5. Parenting support and health promotion activities

### **Mental health consultation in early care and education: Key Features**

1. Use of a mental health clinician to build the capacity of providers, programs, and systems to foster children's social, emotional, and behavioral health and development
2. Observation of children and classrooms, classroom management support, and modeling and coaching
3. Screening & assessment for early identification of children with or at risk for mental health challenges
4. Referrals and follow-up for children and families to community-based services
5. Training and staff development activities to build providers' knowledge of mental health issues in infancy and early childhood

### **Enhanced home visiting: Key Features**

1. Training of home visitors on social emotional well-being and behavioral health of young children and families
2. Integration of social-emotional and behavioral health screening into home visiting programs
3. Provision of reflective supervision and case consultation for home visiting staff
4. Brief intervention, including mental health consultation and crisis intervention, prior to a warm handoff for additional services and supports
5. Increased coordination and information sharing across home visiting programs

### **Family strengthening and parent skills training: Key Features**

1. Evidence-based parenting education and skills training
2. Education to increase understanding of parenting and child development
3. Support from program staff as well as peer-to-peer support among parents
4. Linkages to services and resources to help improve overall family functioning
5. Efforts to build parents' leadership and advocacy skills

### **Screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings: Key Features**

1. Use of valid screening tools and protocols
2. Parent education regarding the importance of screening and screening results
3. Referral to appropriate services, follow-up, and ongoing care coordination
4. Training for providers on screening and assessment using valid tools
5. Systemic efforts to implement universal screening