

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2021

ITEM NUMBER: 6.B

SECOND READING:

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: Study Session

PRESENTED BY:

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SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

Update on Early Childhood Education Efforts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Longmont City Council has made Early Childhood Education one of the focus areas in its work plan, and directed Children, Youth and Families (CYF) to provide city leadership in that work. In 2019, CYF compiled existing data about the demand and gaps for early childhood services in Longmont and held an Early Childhood Education Summit to better understand these needs and how to best respond as a community. The City Council allocated 2020 and 2021 funding to enhance early childhood learning based on what it learned during the Summit. During this same time frame, a community coalition formed – the Longmont Early Childhood Community Coalition (LECCC) – inviting organizations, businesses, providers and parents to work together to ensure all Longmont children ages 0 – 5 have access to affordable, high quality childcare and early learning. The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected the childcare landscape in our community throughout 2020, which required staff and the LECCC to pivot and re-direct efforts to help stabilize the childcare and early learning sector. We recognized that supporting childcare providers was an integral piece in our economic recovery as a community. If providers are stable and operational then parents can work and our community can thrive.

To that end, city staff has aligned its efforts with the LECCC by:

- Performing a childcare business needs assessment in June of 2020, to identify areas of most needed support post pandemic
- Identifying alignment opportunities with Bright EYES (Early Years Education Stewards)
- Allocating \$705,000 of CARES Act Funding for Childcare Business Support
- Providing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to centers and home daycare providers

The work of the LECCC and additional stakeholder feedback will continue to inform the City's work in Early Childhood. This information and feedback is crucial, particularly as we move forward into and out of recovery from the pandemic. It provides city staff with a picture of needs and gaps and informs on how best to address unmet needs.



Earlier this year, the Longmont City Council requested an update on Early Childhood efforts in Longmont. Tonight Matt Eldred, Executive Director of TLC Learning Center, will present information to Council prepared by the Longmont Early Childhood Community Coalition (LECCC). The LECCC has aligned its work plan with State, County and local efforts.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Information only, unless Council wishes to provide further direction to City staff.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Information only.

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS: N/A

ATTACHMENTS: N/A