Colorado Respite Care Program

Meghan Kluth
Program Manager
Easterseals Colorado
303-213-3666 ext 257
mkluth@eastersealscolorado.org

Current Contracts
- Third federal lifespan grant (2017-2020)
- State General Funds
  - Direct service and training
  - Respite Care Task Force
    - Implementation of key recommendations from statewide Task Force

Core Partners

Focus Areas
- Management of coloradorespitecoalition.org
- Online Respite Locator
- Community grants for respite agencies
- Family voucher program
- Trainings for family and professional caregivers
- Outreach and community awareness
- Respite inquiries and referrals

Program History
- Partnership began in 2011
- Program serves lifespan and disability spectrum
- Statewide
- Program has grown drastically over past seven years
- Now have three full time staff

ColoradoRespiteCoalition.org
Website Updates

- Now mobile responsive
- More pages in Spanish
- 2017: added keyword search, including on Respite Locator
- 2018: update respite locator with more options for filtering

Stress Busting Program for Family Caregivers

- Evidence Based Program
- University of Texas Health Science Center
- Two Tracks: Family Caregivers of Individuals with Dementia and Chronic Conditions
- 9 Weeks Focused on Self-Care, Stress Reduction and Coping
- Master Trainer, Train the Trainer Model
- 12 individuals trained in Colorado

Upcoming Federal Grant Activities

- Continue to enhance Family Respite Voucher Program
- Coming Up for Air Weekend Sessions
  - Children and teens with special needs (Feb 2018)
  - Kinship, adoptive and foster Families (March 2018)
- Development of Regional Coalitions
  - Northern Colorado, Southern Colorado, Denver Metro, Western Slope, Summit County, Southwest Colorado
  - 2018: Eastern Colorado

Stress Busting Program for Family Caregivers

- New professional track (2017)
- Compassion fatigue for health care professionals
- One day; 8 hour training
- Master trainers being trained in Colorado on July 26 and 27, 2017

Upcoming Federal Grant Activities

- Faith-based community engagement
  - Faith conference in 2018
  - Sharing of resources and referrals
- Employer engagement
- Stress Busting training program
  - Spring 2018: 9 week course for family caregivers of individuals with chronic conditions
  - 1 day professional track available
Respite Care Task Force

- HB16-1398 – Funding of Respite Care Task Force Recommendations
- 4/7 Task Force recommendations funded
- Task Force contract February 2017
  - CDHS Subcontracting with Easterseals Colorado RFP process
  - Contract through June 2019
  - Total possible funding $873,000

Implemented Recommendations

- Cost-benefit study
  - What is the Economic Value of Respite Care?
  - Status: Currently obtaining data
  - Methodology: Determine Respite Utilization Relationship to Caregivers’ Need for Other Health Care Costs or Services
  - Timeline: March 2017 – June 2018

Implemented Recommendations

- Community Outreach
  - Developing caregiver awareness campaign for CO
  - Improving Colorado Respite Coalition Website
  - Mobile responsiveness
  - Increased accessibility for Spanish speakers
  - Community survey for additional improvements

Implemented Recommendations

- Training
  - Online Training Database Development
    - Learn more and register your trainings
  - Free and Available to Public
  - Identify Training Gaps and Work to Fill Gaps
  - Develop Training “Best Practices” for Professionals
  - Began Work in May 2017 Continue Through June 2019 (if funded)

Implemented Recommendations

- Policy Recommendations
  - Recommendations to streamline Medicaid waivers to increase family accessibility to respite services
  - Exploring variance in regulations for center-based providers to simplify processes and reduce duplicative efforts
  - Timeline: March 2017 – June 2019 (if funded)
Respite Care Task Force

- Easterseals Colorado
- Quarterly reports to CDHS
- Formal legislative reports June 2018 and 2019
- Advisory committee
  - Meets Quarterly
  - First Meeting – June 2017
  - Several original Task Force Members, State staff and family caregivers

Rose Community Foundation Project

- 2018: Create toolkit to help families and professionals better navigate finding respite services
- Will discuss respite funding sources, how to get set up, how to become a respite provider, etc.
- Will be available online for download and in hard copy

Caregiving is Universal

There are only four kinds of people in the world. Those who
- have been caregivers,
- currently are caregivers,
- will be caregivers, and
- will need caregivers

-Rosalynn Carter

2018 Policy Hopes

- All advocacy work is done by Easterseals Colorado
- No state or federal funds are used to support advocacy
- Easterseals Colorado’s plans:
  - Look for increased/maintained State General Funds to support high demand for respite services
  - Continued support of Respite Care Task Force project

Meghan Kluth
Easterseals Colorado
303-233-1666 Ext 257
mkluth@eastersealscolorado.org
www.coloradorespitecoalition.org