



# Early Childhood Coalition of Flathead Valley Activity Report 2022-2023

The Steering Committee of the Early Childhood Coalition of Flathead Valley offers this report on our work over the last year. Thank you for being a part of our Coalition, and for your work with children and families. We are stronger and more effective together!

## Our Purpose

Early Childhood Coalition of Flathead Valley provides opportunities for early childhood professionals and community members to network, strategize and learn so that young children and their families may thrive.

**Our Sponsoring Members** make annual financial contributions voluntarily to support the Coalition:

- Discovery Developmental Center
- Flathead City-County Health Department/Healthy Montana Families
- Flathead Valley Community College Early Education
- Healthy Beginnings Pediatric Therapy
- Logan Health
- Northwest Montana Head Start
- The Nurturing Center (host organization)

**Participating Members** give of their time and energy by attending meetings and events, making connections and sharing resources in the 2022-2023 program year:

- Abbie Shelter
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Montana
- Child Development Center
- Children and Family Services Division, Kalispell Office (Montana DPHHS)
- Columbia Falls School District
- Evergreen Schools
- Flathead Association for the Education of Young Children (FAEYC)
- Glacier Children's Museum
- Imaginelf Libraries
- Kalispell Public Schools
- Montana Legal Services Association
- Montana Afterschool Alliance
- Northwest Montana Educational Cooperative
- Tamarack Grief Resource Center

## Community Resources and Professional Development Topics at Coalition Meetings

- Held two forums with School Superintendents around Flathead County
- Heard a Child and Family Services Division update for the Kalispell Region
- Got an update on hunger in our valley and the work of the Flathead Food Bank
- Heard an update about the work of the Perinatal Mental Health Coalition
- Learned about strategy and updates on bills related to Early Childhood through the Montana Legislative session
- Hosted the Health Department Home Visiting team for an update about their work in homes around the valley
- Presented the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Early Childhood Champion Award to Healthy Beginnings Pediatric Therapy
- Learned about relational de-escalation techniques to handle difficult interactions with adults

### Building Awareness and Sharing Resources

- Facilitated sharing of event announcements, available resources, and other information at our Coalition meetings
- Curated and sent out 13 e-newsletters including resources and events for families, professional development opportunities, legislative updates and trauma-informed practices

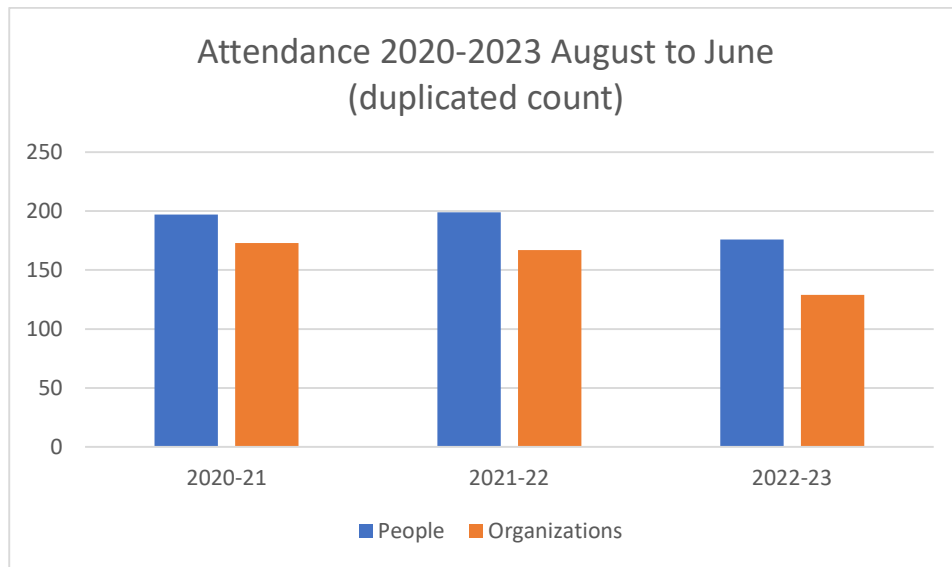
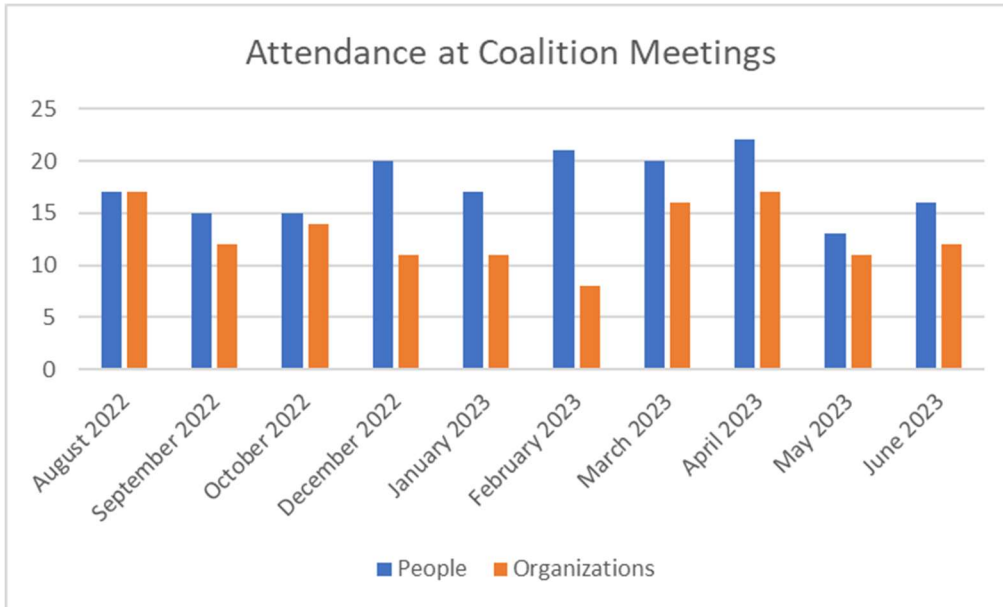
### Steering Committee and Sustainability Activities

- Welcomed two new members to the Steering Committee, Karen Weaver and Kalli Jacquay
- Created a rotating calendar to guide our planning over a 2 year period
- Compiled a Member Directory to build connections between our participants
- Continued our Strategic Planning process for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our three year strategic plan

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*"I love being a part of the Early Childhood Coalition! The monthly meetings are a great way to hear what is going on for young children in our community and the data shares from partner organizations help me keep tabs on trends in our community. What I love most is that this coalition has helped me make so many connections that I use to help provider faster and well-rounded care to my patients. I would not be as successful in my work with families without the ECC!" - Kalli Jacquay, Logan Health Maternal Care Coordinator*

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*Note: Lower total attendance in 2022-23 is due to November's meeting being cancelled because of a widespread power outage.*