



Dear Early Care and Education providers,

**GOT KIDS...**

- that are disruptive and hard to manage in the classroom?
- that wear your staff out - and it feels that no matter what you do, it doesn't work?
- who have families that are hard to engage?
- that have difficulty getting along with others?
- that are difficult to keep safe?
- that live in stressful environments that causes emotional distress at school?

If you answered **yes** to any one of these questions, you may have children in your program who have social, emotional, and/or behavioral difficulties.

Project BLOOM of Aurora is preparing a third round of our program designed to help childcare providers gain access to education and resources to support culturally competent, social/emotional development and to mental health services for children with Severe Emotional Disorders that will benefit all children and families in your program.

One of Project Bloom's goals is to reduce expulsions from childcare settings and support staff in meeting the needs of this growing population.

Over the year, we would like to offer some of your "champion" staff free training to help them better support children and families in your program that struggle emotionally, socially, and/or behaviorally and to provide support to the rest of your staff. In the future, your center may have the opportunity to work with Project BLOOM to support children with Severe Emotional Disorders.

Some of the trainings we are currently considering include:

- How to prevent burn-out and staff turnover
- Caring for the Caregiver
- Increasing Community resources and relationships to help support your program and the children/families you serve
- Helping to build on the strengths and resiliency of children who are struggling
- Enhancing staff abilities to meet the needs of children who need extra support
- How to partner with parents
- How to ensure cultural competency
- How to be a leader in improving your Early Childhood Environment
- Identifying and referring children for supporting services
- Parenting Classes for Families

By participating in this program, you will be required to enroll at least 1-3 of your staff who would be committed to improving the quality of services for children and families who are having social/emotional/behavioral difficulties. These staff members would receive free training and mentoring from the Project BLOOM ECE Support Team, implement training, give feedback, and provide support to the rest of your staff, as needed.

The trainings will occur on a Saturday, every one-two months over the six months, with more training and mentoring opportunities through-out the year. ECE CARES trainings are currently set for:

- August 27<sup>th</sup>,
- September 10<sup>th</sup>,
- October 15<sup>th</sup>,
- November 12<sup>th</sup>
- All four trainings are set for 8:15-4:30
- Additional trainings will be announced for the beginning of next year (2006)

If you are interested or have further questions, please contact Lisa Jansen Thompson at 303-617-2466 or by email at [lisajansenthompson@aumhc.org](mailto:lisajansenthompson@aumhc.org) by **July 21, 2005**. Once you and/or your staff have identified their interest, you will receive additional information about the Program and Registration Information.

In addition, included are several documents that may be reproduced for your staff or families that address social/emotional/behavioral development and mental health facts and resources. Please feel free to distribute these to your staff and families.

Thank you for your interest and for the important work you do.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jansen Thompson  
Aurora Mental Health  
Early Childhood and Family Center  
Project Director for Project BLOOM-Aurora