

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hello Friends! I hope you are all doing well and staying healthy. It's been six months since COVID-19 officially came to Colorado and changed our lives. There are days that I feel like the last six months have flown by in the blink of an eye, and there are days that I feel like the last six months have seemed like an eternity. I'm sure many of you feel the same.

So many things have changed in our lives. Social distancing from our friends and loved ones, virtual meetings and trainings, wearing masks when we go out, remote learning, changing of our routines and habits while caring for our young children...the list goes on. While these things are meant to protect our physical health and keep those around us and our loved ones safe, they aren't always the best for our mental or emotional well-being. I have to tell you I hate the term "new normal". The measures we are currently taking don't come naturally and I hope never become "normal". While I agree that they are necessary right now and you will see me following all current recommendations, I prefer to think of them as the "current temporaries". I cannot wait to hug my little friends as much as I want during the day, invite their families into my home, have coffee with a friend and be closer than 6 feet, or go to the store whenever I want and not worry about how crowded it might be.

I also hate the phrase "alone together". We are not alone in this nor do I want anyone to feel alone during this time. There are days I feel lonely. I miss my college-aged sons living in Fort Collins. I miss seeing my sister, niece and nephew, and my parents in Kansas. I miss seeing my friends and fellow JCCCA board members in person. I miss our in-person JCCCA meetings. But I don't want anyone to feel they are alone right now. JCCCA is here to support you!! The board has been trying to come up with ways to support our members while following current health guidance. As much as technology can be a thorn in our sides, it has been a wonderful way for our association to keep connected and continue to offer meetings and training via Zoom. I'm so proud of all of our members who make the effort each month to embrace, learn, help others, and use this technology that they may not always feel comfortable with. We have had a few moments of technical fails and mistakes, but we've had fun and laughs along the way too (don't forget to mute yourself during the meetings, although I do find these moments sometimes comical). September was our first themed Zoom meeting. Members were encouraged to dress up in their tie-dye, and Kim did not let us down!! I can't wait to see what everyone does for October's super hero/Disney character theme.

One of the ways the board decided to support our members, and other licensed providers who are not members yet, is to offer a \$20 membership special. From September 1-October 31, 2020, licensed family child care providers can join JCCCA for only \$20. Current JCCCA members can take advantage of this special by renewing their membership early for 2021-22 if paid by October 31st. Please encourage others to become members as it's the best way we can support them. There's additional information on our website and Facebook page.

When you are part of JCCCA, you are never alone! We are a strong organization with over 100 current members and a very active board of individuals who are passionate about licensed family child care and supporting the industry. JCCCA is the official and united voice of licensed family child care in Jefferson County and works hard to advocate on your behalf. Board members attend multiple meetings and are part of several groups representing the concerns and issues of family child care providers. We are part of the conversation about the future of Universal Preschool in Colorado, FCCH policy meetings, Triad Early Childhood Council meetings, EC Check-in meetings, collaborate with Jefferson County Public Health, offered a special training opportunity with Cooking Matters, and are a strong affiliate member of CAFCC. If you have a licensing question or issues with city or county zoning, please contact a board member to see if we can assist you. Our contact information is on the JCCCA website [www.jeffcochildcare.org](http://www.jeffcochildcare.org) or you can email us at [jeffcochildcare@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcochildcare@gmail.com).

Rather than think we are "alone together", remember the motto of JCCCA: "TOGETHER WE SOAR!" We are in this together. You are NOT alone! This is the "current temporary" and we will be together in person again. Together we can keep each other safe and support each other. Don't be afraid to reach out if you need something. We are here for you.

NEVER STOP LEARNING!

Carrie