



Coalition Monthly Meeting

2/9/2009

8:30 AM

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Fort Lauderdale

Members in Attendance:

Harry Duncanson, Chair, Robyn Perlman, Vice Chair, Sidney Calloway, Treasurer, Jeffrey Dwyer, Secretary, Stacy Angier, Robin Bartleman, Julia Musella, Shukree Cha Jua, Larry Rein, Dr. Barbara Weinstein, Andrew Bray, Marvin Dejean, Mason Jackson, Dr. Kevin Keating, Maria Kuhn-Brotton, Dr. Steven Ronik, Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, Desorae Giles-Smith, Deborah Hill, Donna Korn, Britt Sikes, Mandy Wells

Members Absent:

Paul Eichner, Jack Moss

Staff in Attendance:

Penny Westberry, Executive Director, Andrea Braynon, Chief Financial Officer, K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer, Deborah David, Director of CRRD, Lisa Feeney, Senior ECE Program Specialist, Janice Carter, ECE Program Specialist, Leticia Strasser, ECE Program Specialist, Debbie Bainton, Executive Assistant, Marcie Westover, CRRD Assistant, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Burnadette Norris Weeks, General Counsel, Claudia Dean, Dr. Carol Wasserman, Doreen Moskowitz, Gilbert Rincon, Ilene Gevirtz, Ainsworth Geddes, Anita Platt, Richard Shagrin, Nancy Brown, Carrie Cohen, Beverly Warde, Peggy Goldstein, Angelina Michel, Paul Peleso, Monica King, Sharon Cohen

Welcome and Call to Order

Harry Duncanson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:33 am. Mr. Duncanson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. He introduced the newest Board Member, Mandy Wells, who has replaced Michael Elwell from Broward County Children Services Division. He also announced that Mr. Sidney Calloway has been appointed Chair of the Ft. Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Duncanson shared with the Coalition that the head of AWI, Monesia Brown, has resigned and an Interim Director has been appointed to take her place.

Report of the Chair

Mr. Duncanson referred the members to a handout of the legislative summary which contains a recap of the actions taken by the legislators. He pointed out that Gov. Christ vetoed the cut to School Readiness Services. Some of the issues he pointed out included the following:

- Although some bills proceed through the process while others do not – need to address them all
- Representative Evers filed a bill to abolish the local Coalitions and place everything under the State – A Senate bill may be filed by Senator Wise but will likely not recommend abolishing the Coalitions
 - Abolishing Coalitions is supported by a certain group of providers
 - This is a huge distraction – need to focus on funding
 - ED to circulate as soon as possible list of members of the Committee that the bill will go to first
 - Encouraged everyone to advocate regarding the benefits of the local Coalition – handouts include some talking points
 - Cost of administering program from State would be greater than locally
- Agency not supporting the bill – looking to see how things can be streamlined and reduce costs

The Coalitions Members had the following comments:

- Broward Coalition only spends 1.7% admin costs
- Attention brought to HB 0487 and SB 0602 – giving two years to require degrees for VPK teachers – not ample time – while advocating please keep this in mind
 - May not have enough people with those credentials
 - Low pay would not encourage obtaining additional credentials

Executive Director Report

Penny Westberry reported the following:

- A strong alliance has been made between AELC and Florida CSC
 - Sharing office space
 - Florida CSC also believes in local control
- Proclamation will be going forward re: Broward County not in support of 501
- Federal Stimulus Package

- Senate version does maintain increased funding for child care block grant as does the house version
- Need your advocacy on this issue
- Understanding is not additional state match will be required
- Has maintenance of effort – can not cut State funds already allocated for match
- School Board had to put a waiver in because the school system can not meet maintenance of effort
- Chair had big influence in creating handout from Chairs of the Early Learn Coalition
- Distribution of funding – large chunk will come within this fiscal year
 - Arrangements made to carry forward funds to next fiscal year
 - State plans to initially use dollars to restore cuts and then use new funding formula for new money which would benefit Broward County
 - ED to send to Coalition talking points regarding the stimulus package
- Broward & Palm Beach will continue to share IT person – will be purchasing more hours for Broward
- AD Henderson Foundation together with CSC funds an ECE project manager at CSC
 - Henderson Board came to Broward to meet
 - Very happy with partnerships that are happening thus far
- Past weekend CSC and County had a joint meeting
 - Some ELC board members and staff attended
 - Looked at how to navigate upcoming budget cuts
 - Looking at the bigger picture – all systems and funders that deal with families and children – any cut to one area affects other areas
 - Joint advocacy across the board rather than just one particular area
- Funders' Forum is on going group
 - ELC has not been invited to attend – would be happy to
- ELC receives local funding from County and CSC which is currently in jeopardy also due to economic constraints

Mr. Duncanson stated that there was two items that need to come forward and asked that they be brought forward during the ED report.

Matching Mini-Grants

Penny Westberry gave a brief summary of the issue.

Motion made by Jeffrey Dwyer to waive the matching requirement for ELC 3 Quality Improvement Support Contracts with FCI and BCPS, for the Matching Grants distributed to participating providers, during the remainder of the 2008-2009 contract year, effective 2/10/09. **Seconded** by Sidney Calloway. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion made by Jeffrey Dwyer to approve policy that programs receiving Mini-Grants or Matching Grant funds after February 10, 2009, but withdraw from technical assistance before completing participation in a full star rating, be required to reimburse the grant funds to the Coalition and work with General Counsel to develop language to be included in the contract. **Seconded** by Sidney Calloway. **Unanimously approved.**

SBBC-09-ELC6: Florida First Start Contract: Budget Modification Guidance

Penny Westberry gave a brief summary of the issue noting that it is time sensitive. It was pointed out that the issue came about due to collective bargaining issues. Claudia Dean also noted that \$65,000 will be returning to the Coalition from a different contract with the School Board. The Coalition members had the following comments and concerns:

- Are there any alternatives to the request for additional funding for increase funding
 - ELC was informed there was no other options for the School Board
- May be contracts other than the one currently on the table that may be brought forward at the next meeting that would need additional funds
- Will this come forward again before the end of the Contract year – will not happen again this fiscal year
- Believe this practice is unusual – this would be a lot to go back and make adjustments in the middle of the contract period
- ED expressed concern that the social workers would not be in line with salaries of other vendors' similar positions.

Motion made by Sidney Calloway to approve allocating additional funds to the SBBC-09-ELC6 Contract as requested limited to this particular issue at this time and in the future once Contracted with a vendor at a particular amount will remain that. **Seconded** by Jeffrey Dwyer. After a roll call vote - **Motion passed**

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Circulate list of committee members looking at HB 501 to Coalition members	Executive Director	2/15/09
Circulate talking points re: stimulus package	Executive Director	2/15/09
Notify providers of waiver in matching requirements for ELC 3 and addition policies regarding program completion	Chief Program Officer	2/20/09
Develop language with General Counsel to implement reimbursement of grant funds	Chief Program Officer	2/20/09
Amend SBBC Contract to include additional funding	Chief Program Officer	2/20/09

Consent Agenda		
<p>Motion made by Sidney Calloway to approve the minutes of December 8, 2008. Seconded by Maria Kuhn-Brotton. Unanimously approved.</p>		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Keep minutes on File	Executive Assistant	2/11/09
Committee Reports and Recommended Action Items		
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
Allocation of AD Henderson Grant Funds		
<p>Motion brought forth by the Executive Committee to increase scholarship funding for Contract #FCI-09-ELC3 by \$50,000 for approximately 40 additional CDA National scholarships and/or scholarship application fees, at an average of \$1,250 per CDA National Scholarship or \$350 per CDA National Application, with priority for those on the waiting list who currently receive coaching or mentoring from either ELC3-FCI or ELC3-SBBC. Unanimously approved. Dr. Kevin Keating abstained</p>		
Additional CCEP Funding Re-Allocation		
<p>Motion brought forth by the Executive Committee to allocate the additional CCEP funding of \$423,234 to Family Central, for use in slots and related costs. Unanimously approved.</p>		
Office Space		
<p>Motion brought forth by the Executive Committee to empower the Coalition Chair to move forward on the execution of a lease with Lakeside Plaza (current building space) for a period of five years, at a cost of \$665,000 over five years in accordance with lease terms acceptable to ELC (as previously prepared by the General Counsel). Unanimously approved. Harry Duncanson directed the ED to meet with General Counsel and move forward on the lease.</p>		
<u>Finance Committee</u>		
Financial Statements		
<p>Sidney Calloway referred the committee to Tab 6 which contains the Financial Statements. He stated that there was nothing unusual in the statements. Motion brought forward from the Finance Committee to approve the Coalition's October and November 2008 Financial Statements pending the annual audit performed by a qualified independent certified public accounting firm. Unanimously approved</p> <p>Mr. Calloway informed the Coalition that the December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009 Financial Statements will be brought forward at the next Coalition meeting on April 13</p>		
Utilization Report		
<p>Sidney Calloway stated that there is nothing out of the ordinary in utilization reports. He pointed out that forecasting continues to be a challenge. Penny Westberry informed the Coalition that VPK rates have been cut mid year. The providers are very upset that they are receiving these cuts half way through a</p>		

program year. Ms. Westberry also indicated that admin has been cut retroactive to July 1.

The following concerns were raised

- Providers may refuse to do the VPK program in the future
- Income eligible children that do not get wrap around services due to financial constraints
- Utilization Analysis
 - o Noted that 11,000 children served – what is the slot level?
 - o Each child is in a slot – but a child could come in and then leave with another child taking that slot
 - o Need to look at the duplicated number of children served each month to get that answer
 - o Approximate slots served – to get more precise is tricky due to different costs of slots by age
- In terms of VPK and balanced budget
 - o Does not need to be cut – due to conservative forecasting of revenue initially

Budget Modification

Motion made by Sidney Calloway to authorize staff to allocate \$408,598 from the fiscal year 2008-2009 reserve fund to slots and related cost after consulting with the Coalition Treasurer:

- 1) To increase the number of children served, if the Federal Stimulus package is fully enacted inclusive of child care funding; or
- 2) Maintain the current level of children served allowing carryover of CSC funds into the next fiscal year, if the Federal Stimulus package is not enacted or is enacted without child care funding.
- 3) Recommend approval of the overall agency budget including the \$50,000 grant.

Seconded by Desorae Giles-Smith. **Unanimously approved**

Banking Services

Sidney Calloway gave an overview of the current situation with Wachovia Bank account, which is currently incurring service fees. **Motion** made by Sidney Calloway to increase the balance in the Wachovia account to \$750,000 to eliminate bank fees, which balance is fully insured by the FDIC in a new program call the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program through December 31, 2009 **Seconded** by Robyn Perlman. **Unanimously approved.**

Waitlist Committee

Deborah Hill gave an overview of the waitlist recommendations. The Chair indicated that he would like to present each item and have a discussion and vote for approval. Mr. Duncanson thanked the Committee for the hard work that went into this item.

Motion made by Sidney Calloway to table the item and place the issue at the top of the agenda at the next meeting. **Seconded** by Cindy Arenberg Seltzer. **Unanimously approved.**

The Coalition members requested the following information be forwarded to members and included in the next meeting packet:

- Issue paper from staff that show the implications of these decisions
- Back-up of what other Coalitions are doing and the number of children that will be impacted
- Verify committee agreement on recommendation no. 2
- Criteria for referrals from DCF

Mason Jackson stressed that the committee continued to come back to the issue of funding. He also indicated that the Committee also focused in on the Mission Statement when discussing the priorities

CRRD Committee

Robyn Perlman indicated she had nothing to report. She referred the Coalition to an editorial that was distributed at the meeting written by Deborah David.

Nominating Committee

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer gave a brief summary of the process used to select the nominee.

Motion brought forward from the Nominating Committee to approve Alfreda Coward as a private sector member of the Coalition, effective immediately following this meeting.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Amend Contract for additional AD Henderson Funding	Chief Program Officer	2/20/09
Amend Contract for additional CCEP funding	Chief Program Officer	3/31/09
Proceed with lease on current office space	Executive Director	3/31/09
Keep Financial Statements on File	Chief Financial Officer	2/15/09
Move forward with budget modifications	Chief Financial Officer	2/15/09
Proceed with changes to Bank Account with Wachovia	Chief Financial Officer	2/20/09
Place Waitlist Committee recommendation on next Coalition Agenda at the top of the agenda	Executive Director	4/13/09
Prepare and compile additional back-up information for waitlist committee priorities agenda item	Chief Program Officer	4/1/09
Notify Alfred Coward of her appointment	Executive Director	2/15/09

Staff Reports and Recommended Actions

FAU Research

Dr. Peggy Goldstein, Dr. Beverly Warde and Dr. Paul Peluso from FAU were present to give a presentation on their proposal for a research project

Motion made by Maria Kuhn-Brotton to approve the research. **Seconded** by Robyn Perlman.
Unanimously approved.

Community Partners System Gathering Update

Julia Musella gave a brief report pointing out the following:

- Providers are continuing to subsidize parents
- Upset with VPK cuts – particularly mid year – some providers talking about not doing VPK

VPK Conference Committee

Stacy Angier reported the following:

- Meeting will be held this Wednesday to finalize sponsorship
- Will ask ED to e-mail sponsorship materials
- Still need community support – appealed to board members for help
- Working on \$25,000 grant with Family Central from A.D. Henderson – will take conference to another level
 - Thanked Carol Wasserman, Wendi Siegel and Tish Strasser
 - Working toward CEU opportunities

FY

No discussion

Unfinished Business

No discussion

New Business

Discussed at beginning of meeting

Public Comment

Dr. Barbara Weinstein reported that City of Miramar has a new City complex and Family Central will be offering services at the new complex. Cindy Arenberg Seltzer proudly announced that CSC sponsored the playground at the complex.

Next Meeting Monday, April 13, 2009
Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am

These minutes contain the action items of the Early Learning Coalition meeting. They do not include all facets of each issue discussed. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Coalition members will be taken prior to approval at the next meeting.

Submitted by

Debbie Bainton

Reviewed and Edited as necessary by

Harry Duncanson, Chair

Penny Westberry, Executive Director