



Coalition Monthly Meeting

5/13/2011

8:30 AM

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Members in Attendance:

Jeffrey Dwyer, Chair, Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, Andrew Bray, Alfreda Coward, Claudia Dean, Desorae Giles-Smith, Jennifer Gottlieb, Dr. Kevin Keating, Julia Musella, Mayor Barrington Russell, Sr., Dr. Barbara Weinstein

Members Absent:

Stacy Angier, Sidney Calloway, Marvin Dejean, Laura Gambino, Deborah Hill, Mason Jackson, Donna Korn, Robyn Perlman, Larry Rein, Dr. Steven Ronik, Laurie Sallarulo, Kimberly Welles, Mandy Wells

Staff in Attendance:

Penny Westberry, CEO, Debbie Bainton, Executive Assistant, Lee Tirpak, CPO, Andrea Braynon, CFO, Sandra Martinez, Accounting/HR Manager, Tamara Baker, Accounting, Janice Carter, CRRD Director, Jose Abreu, IT Manager, Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant, Faye Franklin, Office Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, General Counsel, Dr. Wendi Siegel, Khalil Zeiniech, Michele Cabrera, Nicole Carter, Beverly Warde, Dr. Peggy Goldstein, Dr. Nancy Brown, Anita Platt, Jayne Hafer, Ainsworth Geddes, Sharon Cohen

Mission

To provide the resources, advocacy, leadership, coordination and oversight for early care and education from birth to school age and to support access to school-age care to ensure children's success in school

Welcome and Call to order

Jeffrey Dwyer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

The Chair indicated that he would like to change the order of the Agenda and go right to the FAU Program Evaluation Project. There was no objection.

No quorum

Consent Agenda

Minutes were not available for the meeting

Committee Reports and Recommended Action Items

FAU Report

The Chair asked everyone to hold their questions to the end of the presentation. Penny Westberry introduced those involved in the project from FAU. She stated that the power point handed out at the meeting will be e-mailed to those who could not attend the meeting. Ms. Westberry gave a brief summary of the background of this research project.

Dr, Peggy Goldstein gave a presentation on the final report of the FAU Program Evaluation Research Project.

The Coalition Members discussed the following:

- Based on the implication of this what further research may we do as a Board or not do to help develop additional information – request for recommendations from FAU
 - FAU will work with staff to understand data base and what is available
- Find bothersome FAIR test (Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading) – changes so frequently there is no way to measure
 - CEO stated thatDOE goes out to bid on aspects of it – may have a couple of years with instruments in common and then one of the instruments changes
- ELC Board may need to send a letter to the DOE pointing out the problems associated with this.
- FAIR was just recently implemented – no matter what it is an assessment of the same pieces – letter knowledge and phonological awareness
- What is changing is the ECHOS piece of the FLKERS which is looking at the other components – looking at social, emotional, physical development
- State is looking for a tool to measure what the VPK Standards are calling for.
- Measuring the whole child and what the child should be doing and be ready for kindergarten – ELC providing services for another tool – totally different piece that is more environmentally related – ELC needs to make a change to get the children ready for kindergarten – environment does not need to play such a big role – noting that the environment should not be forgotten – emphasis should be placed on school readiness
- Support is working way too much on the environmental piece
- Also need to look at the role of how children are learning
- Can ELC develop a tool or do something to ensure the children are ready
 - Can FAU come back to us, to help ELC do better?
 - Coalition is already working in implementing new tools – Classroom Assessment Scoring System – better measurement for interaction, instructional – other pieces to improve

educational outcomes

- Concern raised over the serious issues regarding graduation rates of black males
- Troubled by the lack of progress with the 3 year olds
- Also troubled by not being able to measure students in QRIS whether they are doing any better or not because they were dropping out of QRIS
- CSC Budget
 - will be debated next Thursday at 9:00 am – budget workshop
 - suggesting taking \$500,000 out of slots and moving it to Family Central for the purpose of addressing quality
 - looking to get creative with this funding
- Need to give the centers the tools they need in order to ensure that there is a process for the children to be successful and be ready to go to school
- When ideas come out to improve quality – need to consider the School Board – School Board’s intention is to get children ready for school – there is a model that will make a change – have the data on that model – need to be considered when investing in quality
 - CSC is statutorily prohibited from funding the School Board –
 - CSC happy to take the School Board’s ideas and implement them in other ways
 - CSC has a wonderful partnership with the School Board
- Retention rates in kindergarten are unbelievable
- There is a movement around the State to tighten up quality requirements of school readiness – will be discussed in the future
- How do we make school readiness more like VPK – continuity, quality of teachers, quality of instruction, the idea that this school
- Children needed to be proficient in English in order to participate in the study
- Chair requested Dr. Siegel, staff and Dr. Goldstein to sit down and come up with some ideas to bring forward to the Board to further the results of this study
- This organization and this funding is the only funding in CSC’s \$60 million in funding where CSC does not have outcomes
- Request was made for a Change Score Analysis – Dr. Goldstein indicated she would ask
- Why are the VPK teachers are doing so well and they could be modeled –
 - They have degrees
 - Lower ratios
 - Minimum CDA degree
 - Get paid more
 - Motivated to be teachers and not just baby sitters
- Need to be a shift in the public perception of early childhood education – it is not babysitting – it is education
- What role are parents playing in this
 - Our role to help parents teach their child – a part of being a teacher at a center – not only

working with the child – it is working with the parent

Roll call was taken – no quorum

Report of the CEO

Penny Westberry reported that there are some potential changes at the budget level. The Governor has not as yet signed the legislation. Ms. Westberry indicated the Board will receive an update when the budget is finalized. She stated that ELC is working with Family Central not to enroll children right now because there could be a problem next fiscal year.

She held off on staff introduction. Ms. Westberry recognized Dr. Wendi Siegel on her NAEYC Accreditation at her new site. Dr. Siegel was presented with a certificate. Dr. Siegel shared some statics regarding centers in Broward that are NAEYC Accredited.

Jayne Hayfer, Director, NE Focal Point Intergeneration Center, thanked the Coalition for all the support they give centers including the scholarship which has helped her earn her AS and she is now working on her BS

Finance Committee

Andrew Bray, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that all is good.

| Action items: | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
|---|---------------------|-----------|
| Send FAU power-point to Coalition members not in attendance | CEO | 5/20/11 |
| Follow-up on a Change Score Analysis | CPO | 6/30/11 |

Staff Reports and Recommended Actions

Contract Extension Recommendations

Unable to approve – no quorum

Committee and Staff Updates

Personnel Committee Update

Chair and Vice Chair of Personnel not in attendance

CRRD Committee Update

The Chair of CRRD and Janice Carter, CRRD Director gave the CEO quick report to read. Ms. Westberry shared with the Coalition that the third workshop meeting for the Business Technical Assistance Program was held, noting that Donna Korn and some Committee members attended.

Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee Update

Did not have a chance to meet.

Nominating Committee Update

Donna Korn asked the CEO to report that the Slate of Officers will be coming forward at the June meeting and the Committee will be accepting nominations from the floor as per usual at that time. The Committee will also be interviewing for the Board slot that is available and hopefully will be bringing forward a recommendation for the Coalition appointed Board slot to the June meeting as well.

Ad Hoc Accreditation Committee Update

Penny Westberry reported that she had the opportunity to participate in the COA Introduction webinar in terms of accreditation. She stated that it was an overview but fairly informative. She stated that she learned that if the Coalition is a member of one of many organizations including the Child Welfare League, that it may impact the accreditation fees. This will be discussed at the Committee meeting.

Ad Hoc Waitlist Committee Update

Alfreda Coward, Chair of the Committee, reported that the Committee is still in the information gathering phase and have not had a chance to meet.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering Update

Julia Musella thanked those Board Members that signed up to visit centers to show moral support and those that made phone calls. She shared with the Coalition that the providers that were visited were extremely proud. She encouraged other Board Members to visit providers to see what they are supporting. Ms. Musella stated that during Teacher Appreciate Week the parents at her school paid for the teachers to go out for breakfast and get manicures and pedicures while the parents worked at the school with a skeleton staff. She stated that she was shocked how well the parents did and how well the teachers prepared lesson plans for the parents.

Ms. Westberry stated that staff goes out to see provider groups and invited the Board Members anytime they want to join the staff. It is at least once or month or every couple of weeks. She also stated that staff can arrange a visit whenever the Coalition members are free. The Chair asked that these schedules be forwarded to the Board Members via e-mail.

Broward's Early Childhood Educator's Conference Update

Stacy Angier not in attendance.

| Action items: | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Send schedule of Center Visits to Board Members | CEO | On-going |
| | | |

FYI

No discussion

Unfinished Business

Desorae Giles-Smith asked if the waitlist could be discussed at the Board Retreat. The Chair stated that would have to be a separate day – the current retreat is booked on governance and fundraising. He also pointed out that there is a Committee to discuss this that is Chaired by Alfreda Coward.

New Business

The Chair thanked Julia Musella for the Tiramisu that she brought to the meeting.

General Public Comment – no comment

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 27, 2011

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 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 by

Jeffrey Dwyer, Chair

Penny Westberry, CEO