

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

Community Partners System Gathering

9/17/08

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Gloria Addo-Yamoah, Stacy Angier, Howard Bakalar, Milva Barrugon, Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Ethel Edwards, Michael Gaffley, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Jane Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Monica King, Gloria Leonard, Julia Musella, Anita Platt, Gilbert Rincon, Terri Shermett, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Jenny Turnquest, Mary Jean Woika

Staff in Attendance:

Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist, Leticia Strasser, ECE Program Specialist, Marcie Westover, CRRD Assistant, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

Changes in the system noted:

Claudia Dean of Broward County Public Schools has been assigned to a new project and will be the Principal Investigator of Reading First Grant. Today she is represented by Gloria Leonard.

Chris Sieber of Family Central, Inc. is the Director of new C-QuELL program.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 7/21/08

The minutes were approved by consensus with no corrections.

V. Presentation

Dr. Michael Gaffley

1. The 9th Triennial International Child & Youth Care Conference

Lisa Feeney introduced Dr. Gaffley to the partners. He thanked Monica King for her help in envisioning what needed to happen to revive family matters.

- The 9th Triennial International Child & Youth Care Conference will be held at the Broward Convention Center on May 26-29, 2009.
- Every 3 years the venue alternates between Canada and The United States of America. In 1985 the first conference was held at the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Others were held in Washington and in Montreal. In 2006, the response was overwhelming in Montreal, with 1,362 people from 37 countries attending.
- Proposals have been received from every continent, exceeding 37 countries. The conference is co-sponsored by Nova Southeastern University, Fischler School of Education and Human Service, Council of Canadian, Child and Youth Care Association and the American Association for Child and Youth Care Practice, Inc.
- The vision of the conference is to bring agencies and researchers together, training them to take a global view of the state of the world’s children in the welfare system and beyond; including children who are at risk.
- The conference is designed with workshops focusing on the research being done by organizations from Sweden, Canada and Florida. The keynote speaker, a prominent Psychiatrist from Sydney Australia, whose studies include children who have issues such as suicidal tendencies, obesity and self-esteem.
- Invitation was extended to presenters from Florida, and in particular to Spanish speaking presenters.
 - In an effort to customize the local content and have a relevant amount of topics, Floridians were asked to identify the crucial issues affecting children, youth and families. The number one topic was “Sexual Predators” followed by “Early Childhood”.
 - The deadline for RFP’s was Monday, September 15, however, people were invited to visit the website www.icycc2009 and submit “late” proposals, which can be sent directly to Dr. Gaffley at gaffleym@nova.edu; a decision will be made on October 13, 2008.
 - The normal cost of the conference is \$450; a presenter can register for only \$250.

Questions

Are there presenters who can present in languages other than English?

Answer

Great effort is spent to get presenters in other languages; a Spanish track was sent out; however, responses were few.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VI. Workshop: Brainstorm
Topics/Presentations for System Gatherings
for 2008-2009

Lisa Feeney

A list of last year's (07/08) system gathering presentations and topics for future presentation submitted at the July 14, 2008 meeting was shared.

Partners identified the following suggestions for the upcoming year:

- Health issues that affect the early care and education system
- Educate child care providers on ECE resources available to them in Broward
 - Develop a resource sheet to take away as reference
 - Section the county into areas: north, south, east and west
 - Get partners to buy in to ensure everyone is represented
 - Make it into a training course – give CEU's
 - Find out what are the most frequent questions that centers ask; discuss and provider answers
 - Advertise the event, targeting providers
- VPK Department of Education new test, changing the VPK standards.
- How do we mentor CDA students who are not covered under scholarship?

Discussion:

Frequency of system gathering:

- Possibly hold quarterly gatherings
- Find a balanced way to hold monthly Systems Gathering and present the system issues to the centers on an on-going basis.

Long term, possibly year-long, Systems Topic to **act** on:

- Identify training needs and gaps in Broward and developing a training registry
- Make a strategic plan for the gaps in training funding; a long term financial goal
- What's available to providers to help pay for training, systems partners identify any gaps present, then take to the providers at quarterly meeting
- Consult Palm Beach Coalition and invite them to talk about what they are doing to fund training and their training registry.

Question:

What has happened to the state requirements to upgrade qualifications of VPK Teachers?

Answer: Gilbert Rincon, FCI (and Stacy Angier, Abundant Life):

This was an aspirational goal; however, funding matrix decreased, funding rate increased, and reimbursement rate decreased per student. Currently there is no funding to attach itself to this aspirational goal; however, the state may decide to request centers meet this goal to achieve compliance.

Discussion:

Pros and Cons of not having monthly Systems Gathering to allow partners time to attend other meetings.

- Refer to ELC contract – ensure contract compliance; however, alternate with the other meeting.
- Evolving issues have shifted from formalizing the contract obligations to partners and child care providers, which may indicate a change in priorities.

- As issues arise in our work, relevant topics can be developed for people sharing common goals.
- Sharing pertinent information, e.g., Kid Vision VPK.
- Understanding what are the particular issues occurring in the community; there may be value in shifting facilitators or ownership of the meeting.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VII. System Celebrations and Updates

Nova Southeastern University

- Kid Vision VPK will roll out in October, 2008.
- Penny Bernath will present the Kid Vision VPK at next month’s meeting.
- Surveys given out to be completed and returned to Penny Bernath.

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward, Inc.

- Community Relations and Resource Development will have Family Un-Event Night; package available for \$85.00. Money will be matched. Packages will be available at the Coalition Board meeting on Friday, September 19, 2008; information is also available on ELC website.

Child Care Provider

- Jayne Hafer, Director of North East Focal Intergenerational Child Care Center announced her completion of Associates Degree program in Early Childhood Education; thanks to TEACH scholarship which helped with funding.
- Stacy Angier, Director of Abundant Life Christian attended VPK Rules for Shop, it was an interesting meeting. FLKRS testing will be changed. The presentation made by Shan Goff was not well received, providers articulated that the rules should not be changed mid-stream when outcome is expected; expectations must be articulated prior to testing. Ms. Angier is willing to share the information with other providers.
- Visit Department of Education VPK website for hands-on interactive lesson plans that demonstrates the standards such as, activity that shows gross motor skills.
- Child Care providers need to be trained in a unified standard on the new outcomes, so that they know what their expectations are.

Community for Quality Education Learning and Literacy – (C-QuELL)

C-QuELL program will be funded by the Jim & Jan Moran Foundation. Participation is available for low-income child care centers. Applications are being accepted. The goal of the program is to encourage literacy by building partnership between child care centers and the business community, and getting parents involved. The primary designation is income eligibility, 10 child care centers will be chosen.

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, Family Central, Inc., and BCCL&E QRS will be having a family child care Mini Retreat at the Anne Kolb Nature Center, Hollywood, to introduce the FCERS QRIS program. The theme is on environmental for family child care providers.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
	VIII. New Business	Partners
IX. Public Comments		Partners
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
X. Adjourn		
The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.		
Next Meeting: October 20, 2008		

These minutes contain the action items of the Community Partner Systems Gathering. They do not contain all items discussed. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Submitted by: Inez Webb