

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County

Community Partners System Gathering

12/17/07

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Howard Bakalar, Willie Cameron, Claudia Dean, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Maria Hernandez, Shawn Lamarche, Melanie Magill, Ilene Miller, Julia Musella, Anita Platt, Gilbert Rincon, Terri Shermett, Melissa Trentham, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Director of Program Operations, Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist, Janice Carter, ECE Program Specialist, Leticia Boswell, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order by K. Lee Tirpak at 10:10 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 11/19/07

The minutes were approved by consensus with no corrections

V. Presentation: Revised QRIS Effective
January 2008

Anita Platt

Coalition staff announced that the Coalition Board approved a revised protocol for QRIS at the November meeting based on the multi-county proposal and work that had been going on over a year; the protocol had also been adopted by the chairs of the ELCs during the last ELAC meeting.

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement (BCCCLE) gave the following presentation (see attachment):

- Multi-County QRIS Collaborative Proposed Quality Standards: Ms. Platt highlighted the difference between the current Quality Rating system and the new Multi-County Collaborative.
 - Supporting the movement of the quality initiative of Office of Early Learning and the Learning Advisory Council for a state-wide QRIS.
- QRIS Implementation Consideration entails Simplicity, State Leadership and Local Variation, incorporating the following 5 domains:
 - Learning Environment
 - Staff Qualifications/Professional Development
 - Ratios/Group size
 - Curriculum
 - Program Operations: Family Engagement, Administration
- Calculating the Star Rating: Component areas are weighted to reflect relative importance; star ratings from 1-5, determined by pre-established range of total points.
- Recognition
 - Extra Bonus Points
 - Add a plus (+) for Gold Seal Accreditation
- Proposed Bonus Points:
 - 1-4 bonus points given to centers based on percentage of teachers with BA in Early Childhood Education/Child Development.
 - 2 bonus points given to centers with designated staff person (Curriculum Specialist), with a BA or higher in Early Care & Education (ECE) or related field, overseeing center's educational program at least 50% of the time.
- Next Steps
 - Work on manual to define methods for documentation

Questions:

Number of Rated Centers: Since December 2005, over 200 centers were rated or pre-rated.

Suggestions:

Hold focus group to get providers input; help providers figure out their status, bearing in mind that this is voluntary and providers are at different levels, or at the pre-assessment stage.

A comparison with what was done last year showed providers are more accepting of pre-assessment when

“Quality is the focus”. Pre-assessment versus assessment allow the providers to come forward prior to being given the Technical Assistance. A marketing plan is needed to help grow the program and facilitate provider buy-in.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
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VI. Workgroup Discussion Topics	K. Lee Tirpak
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At 11:05am partners separated in two groups for the workshop:

1. Scholarship Reimbursement Process: Facilitated by Lisa Feeney

Questions: How shall scholarships be applied and at what point are they distributed; before the course begins, after the course is completed, or other? What shall in-service scholarships cover?

The Coalition presently offers scholarships for 10 hours of annual in-service training, including CDA renewals (45 hours in 5 years); and College 3-credit hour ECE courses:

- \$15,000 yearly is allocated to the in-service scholarship program.
- \$110 per credit hour/ \$41,250 yearly is allocated to the college course scholarship program.
- It was suggested that centers receiving Technical Assistance should be prioritized.
- Coalition looks at waiting lists to spend unspent funds such as TEACH and local CDA scholarship needs.
- Teacher Directed Improvement Plan (TDIM) discussed.
- Concern expressed related to teachers leaving the industry after utilizing scholarships.

Setting Criteria for Scholarship Applicants:

Suggestions:

- Be in the system for 3 years prior to applying.
- Reimbursement upon completion.
- Establish a signed contract to continue serving in the child care industry for a specified time before separation to another field.

Recommendation:

Conduct interview with teachers and regroup in February 2008.

2. Develop Spending Wish List for 2008 – Possible VPK and SR Funds: Facilitated by Janice Carter

Question: If service providers reveal under spending in January, Coalition staff need recommendations to take to the Executive Meeting in February.

Ideas:

- Curriculum materials for VPK providers.
- Teacher scholarships.

- Out-posting VPK money
 - VPK advertising
 - Slots for children
 - Parents/Provider conference (Workforce One co-sponsor)
- QRIS Rater reliability training (already budgeted).
- Curriculum material for parents during summer months (summer packet, family engagement activities for centers - develop in-house {printing cost}).
- QRIS marketing campaign consultant.

Priorities:

School Readiness Funds:

- Teacher scholarships
- QRIS marketing campaign consultant
- Parent/Provider conference
- Curriculum material for parents
- Slots
- QRIS rater reliability training (*)
- Family engagement activities for centers

The groups reconvened at 11:50am.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Family Central interview teachers and regroup session in February.	Howard Bakalar	February 18, 2008

VII. System Celebrations and Updates

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement (BCCCLE)

- Shawn Lamarche: BCCCLE is the first child care licensing regulatory body in the country to achieve Accreditation, the agency was informed that they were the most well organized public agency. The Validator was Dr. Jean Swanson. Ms. Lamarche thanked all the partners, Baby Boomers and Jack & Jill Child Development Center.
- Willie Cameron:
 - BCCCLE has been working with Family Central, Inc., (FCI) on a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the VPK Monitoring.
 - Now interviewing for position of Child Care Licensing Specialist I.
 - Selected Percentage of VPK classes will have unannounced visits made to VPK classrooms; this should get underway by the middle to end of January 2008.
 - Child care fingerprinting proposal to increase service charge by \$25.00 bringing the cost to \$52.25. Effective date will be announced.

Workforce One voiced concern that funding cost for the Summer Youth program does not incorporate this additional amount: Mr. Cameron explained that an agreement will be worked out for volunteer group of students.

Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

- FCI is moving forward with VPK plans for the spring, putting together the VPK 10; VPK 11 which will be in “draft” format until the changes are approved.
- Advertising: Efforts to obtain Bill Boards.
- Two teams are slated to be at the sites each day in March 2008.
- There are additional sites, including one in Plantation, however FCI is still looking for sites with accommodations. Monday afternoons will be left open for the BCSB sites.
- Presently making calendar and orientation schedule for their web-site,
- The Community Outreach Specialist is available to speak at any orientation, call FCI to make arrangements.
- Submit suggestions to Carol Wasserman.
- To date, 11,006 children enrolled.

Board Member - Julia Musella

Reminder to partners to email all the information to be sent to child care providers.

Nova Southeastern – Mary Jean Woika

Mailman Segal Institute has consolidated with the Center for Psychological Studies. A new division has been established bringing together Mailman Segal Institute for Early Childhood Studies, Center for Psychological Studies, and School of Humanities and Social Sciences under one unit with the name to be determined at a later date.

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- Ms. Woika is a member of the State curriculum Committee for 0-5 years; the committee’s goal is to overlap domains 0-3 years to include 0-5 years.
- Any communication to the group can be submitted to Ms. Woika.

Workforce One (WFI)

WFI can assist with developing surveys on the internet; they already have the mechanism to electronically enter and obtain results.

Early Learning Coalition

The coalition reported:

- Providers will be invited to a Focus Group workshop at the next meeting on January 14, 2008.
- There was a Town Hall meeting held on October 30, 2007 (see hand-out).
- Wachovia donated an additional \$45,000 for child care slots.
- VPK providers have been asked to check VPK child attendance data on the DOE web-site.
- OEL is looking at revising the state-wide budget allocation formula for school readiness dollar distribution using Resource and Referral data along with demographics of children.
- AWI is requesting additional funding from the state for the 2008/2009 Fiscal year.
- Ad-Hoc Committee established: Waiting List meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

	VIII. Old Business	Partners
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IX. New Business	Partners
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- The coalition is requesting additional funds from AWI
- The next Ad-Hoc Committee Waitlist meeting will be held at FCI on December 18, 2007, at 2:30pm

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

X. Public Comments

None

X1. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm

Next Meeting: January 14, 2008

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