

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County

Community Partners System Gathering

1/14/08

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Stacy Angier, Howard Bakalar, Afua Baptiste, Julie Bergstrom, Ana Bueno, Willie Cameron, Claudia Dean, Brenda Delisle, Ellen Farina, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Louise Marine, Julia Musella, Dee Navares, Tammy Padron, Layne Polakoff, Anita Platt, Gilbert Rincon, Rebeca Rosa, Jody Sheres, Wendi Siegel, Chris Sieler, Charlene Swanson, Melissa Trentham, Melisa Weinkoff, 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, Marcie Westover, CRRD Assistant, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 1/14/08

The minutes were approved by consensus with correction to pages 3& 4 – Under heading “Ideas” & “School Readiness Funds” – Teacher Scholarships.

V. Provider Focus Group

Stacy Angier/Julia Musella

Questions and Concerns for Coalition Board Provider Representatives

Child Care providers voiced their concern as follows:

1. Family Central, Inc., need modern equipment to handle provider response
2. Need telephone system at Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

Response: Family Central Inc., announced the implementation of the new telephone system (funded by the Coalition) by Friday, January 18, 2008. The system has a greater capacity for handling incoming calls; the tracking system will ensure voice mail recording, and show responses made, along with the callers' telephone number. Faxes will be received on-line going directly to staff computers.

Response: Coalition staff provided an update regarding the new state Early Learning Information System (ELIS) software; this version began development with business - procurement will begin for the new state software by June of 2008; expecting to be in place by December of 2009; 2010 will be implementation date.

One difference in the approach to realize the goal of obtaining advanced software is that the Governor and legislative offices are sitting on the review committee and making final decisions. Providers have been sent ELIS materials which outline the time-lines of the project and can submit their input to Lee.

3. Finger-printing and Background screening:

- Duplicate finger printing – child care centers desire one source to end duplication of functions and reduce cost by having one source for finger-printing.
- Increased cost of finger printing imposed by the Broward County Licensing: Child Care providers inquired about the appeal process to reduce or remove the additional fees.
- What are the communication avenues that alert providers when such changes are going to take place or have taken place?
- Who will absorb increased fingerprinting cost?

Response: BCCLE stated that the additional \$25.00 fee was imposed by the County Commission to generate revenue due to reduced property taxes. The decision to raise fees was made by the County Commissioners on December 11, 2007, to alleviate budgetary concerns, and becomes effective on February 1, 2008. An increase in Licensing fee is also expected at the rate of approximately 10%; raising licensing fees on average by \$2.50 to \$6.00; licensing fee will increase annually, beginning in 2008.

Response: Coalition staff requested that all System Partners bring information related to potential System changes, to the monthly meetings, or send such changes and other relevant information to Coalition staff, for distribution to all parties affected. Advance notice is always appreciated and often gives individuals who are affected the opportunity to voice their opinion.

4. Scholarships and Training

- Need scholarships for other child care staff such as Directors, Administrative staff, etc.
- Teachers are looking for CEU's to go with training.
- Providers would appreciate curriculum training. Is there any assistance through grants, etc.

- Providers have difficulty accessing funding availability information, from FCI.
- The National CDA applications are not offered in Spanish and English; Bilingual centers feel that this is not being addressed in the portfolio requirement of the CDA course.

Response: FCI have implemented a training academy. Information is shared with providers at the beginning of the year and quarterly in the training calendar. An appeal is being made for scholarship dollars.

- Ten hours or \$100 for in-service scholarships are available for CEU’s per applicant, per year. Providers may contact *Christina Dudash* at 954-724-3986 for more information.
- Funds are available for in-service, CEU’s, and college credit. Qualified applicants are reimbursed after submitting attendance and completion document. CDA funds are exhausted for 07/08.
- CEU’s and in-service training must be provided by a trainer approved by Children’s Council Services (CSC) training collaborative or by an approved training institution for the student to qualify for scholarship.

Additional Information

- Spanish speaking on-line course available for \$199.00.
- Classes were offered in Spanish in 2000, however the response indicated that less centers were interested.
- Information is also available at CSCbroward.org/Training Calendar.

5. Abuse of Services

Families who incur bills at one center then move on to enroll their children at others.

- What services are these families getting?
- Recognize who these families are

Response: This issue is a business risk, which business owners need to address.

Recommendations for 2008

6. School Readiness Reimbursement Rate: Cost of living increase

- Amount paid for School Readiness to look at a yearly cost of living increase.
- The legislature must be made aware that Pre and Posting of VPK effectiveness, and professional trainers should be used to conduct the evaluation so it reflects what the children have learned.
- To be more effective, providers should communicate to legislators individually, or as a group to let their voice be heard.
- According to article; Readiness Rate will reflect what the child has been taught.
- Kindergarten Readiness Rate – children can be tested as part of VPK application.
- What will happen in 3 years when schools are closed?
- Students attend 70% of program.

| Action Items: | Person Responsible | Deadline |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Scholarship Application will be sent to Julia Musella | FCI | |

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| Send information on new private schools to the Coalition | Providers | |
| Session showing providers ECHOES & DIBELS | Coalition | |
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VI. System Celebrations and Updates

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward, Inc.

- State revised Budget formula;
- New services will include children below poverty level
- Resource and Referral services based on use on population 0-5 years
- New money with additional requirements

Family Central, Inc.

- Currently serving children (non-school-age) who were placed on the waiting list November 27, 2007. This means all families that have non-school-age children where both parents (or if a single-parent family, the single parent) are working and/or going to school at least 20 hours per week have received an appointment letter for enrollment off the wait list, if they went on the wait list on or prior to November 27, 2007. Approximately 2,000 children on the wait list are school-age children.
- Approximately 4,000 letters had been sent to families on the waiting list during the period December to February; appointments were set to enroll 1,400 children.
- New off site location – Eligibility staff co-locating at Hispanic Unity located at State Road 7 and Johnson Street.
- Amendments have been completed for all providers that updated their reimbursement rates to the coalition’s newly approved rates.
- Provider Service Agreements are almost completed.
- Five child care centers and two homes received Accreditation with assistance from FCI Technical Assistance so far in 07/08.
- FCI is in the planning stage to obtain kiosks for families to apply for DCF related services such as food stamps, TANF, etc. Computers are available in the Resource Library for the public to use.
- FCI is looking to install computers in their library for provider’s use.

Nova-Southeastern

- By September 2009, special needs training will be going on-line

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement

- Council on Accreditation (COA) endorsed BCCLE - Notification received
- VPK classroom monitoring will begin shortly
- Providers asked for a protocol as to what providers can expect from BCCLE

| Action Items: | Person Responsible | Deadline |
|---|--------------------|----------|
| Distribute ELIS material to providers | K. Lee Tirpak | |
| Send notification regarding VPK visits for 2008 | Willie Cameron | |

| VII. Old Business | | |
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| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
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| VIII. New Business | | Partners |
| Howard Bakalar, Vice President of Program Operations in Broward replaces Ann de las Pozas who is now Vice President of Resource Development | | |
| IX. Public Comments | | Partners |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providers believe that information distribution should originate from the Coalition to save time. It was the intent of the state to develop Early Learning Coalitions to enhance local community control and provide a mechanism for agencies to collaborate and develop an efficient/cost effective system of services within their communities. Look at the feasibility of monitoring cost – whether best practice external monitoring is better. <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 3 types of Coalitions in the state, they all function differently. The Coalition contracted BCCLE to conduct monitoring activities; following procurement activities of the ELC. | | |
| Action items: | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
| | | |
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| X. Adjourn | | |
| The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm | | |
| Next Meeting: February 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