



## V. VPK Updates and Low Performing Providers LLP

### VPK update

- 397 VPK providers have been fully approved; 17 VPK providers are still provisional. There are about 20 more VPK providers so far this year.
- 11,889 certificates have been issued; thus far 4,571 certificates have been turned in from providers.
- Partners were informed about upcoming meetings:

Topic: VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate  
Rule Development Workshops  
September 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m.  
Miami Child Development Services Office  
2525 NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Miami, FL

Topic: VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate  
September 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m.  
Palm Beach Community College  
Lake Worth Campus  
Room CE129  
4200 Congress Avenue  
Lake Worth, FL

Family Central, Inc. (FCI) has handled many transfer requests from parents. Parents are allowed an unlimited amount of transfers. FCI has confirmed 10 provider training dates for the program “It’s Okay to Play in VPK” with Kerry Allen. The 2-hour trainings will demonstrate to providers how to present the VPK program to parents. The locations for the trainings have not been finalized. FCI is looking to offer the trainings as in-service.

### Low Performing Providers (LPP) Update

Thirty one (31) providers identified as VPK LLPs have submitted improvement plans that have been accepted. These providers can offer VPK during the 07/08 school year program. There are still opportunities for training assistance after the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, through online classes, as well as training from Kerry Allen. Each provider has received \$830 as part of the project to purchase developmental appropriate items for classrooms.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKERS) scores could be released as early as February this coming year, instead of late spring.

### Curriculum Discussion

Mary Jean Woika addressed provider confusion in relation to approved curriculum. Lisa Feeney said the service agreement asks the provider if they are using one of the ELC approved curriculum. If the provider says ‘no’, then they are asked if they have received information to guide them in selecting a curriculum. Providers can seek to have the curriculum they are using approved, if it is not already on the list. Lisa Feeney said ELC cannot enforce which curriculum a provider uses, only assist with selection. ELC has a current list of approved curriculum. Lisa noted there are three new curriculums that have been submitted for consideration by the curriculum review team.

The VPK providers have the option to choose their own curriculum, unless they are designated as a LPP for the third year, then the state will provide a list of curriculum to choose from. The list of Department of Education (DOE) approved curriculum may be different from the local ELC approved Developmentally Approved Curriculum (DAC) list. ELC and FCI see a possible need to re-examine the language used on the service agreement DAC attachment.

Charlene Swanson distributed materials on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) training information. Under “What’s new on the web?” she noted the 30 Hour Core course is now online, with each course costing \$10.00 plus the exam fee. The exams are not offered online at this time. There is new terminology for birth through five child care staff credentials; the Florida Child Development Associate Equivalency (CDAE) is now called the Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC B-5) or Florida Department of Education Early Childhood Professional or Apprenticeship Certificate (ECPC or CCAC). The National Child Development Associate (CDA) is now called the National Early Childhood Credential (NECC). Yanick Goutier noted the term CDA is still used nationally.

Information on the trainings and public workshops can be found at [www.myflorida.com/childcare](http://www.myflorida.com/childcare).

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Re-examine the language used on the service agreement DAC attachment.	Lisa Feeney	

**VI. Provider Focus Group Outcomes**

Deborah David highlighted the topics from the Provider Focus Group on June 21, 2007. She said ELC is looking at having several future focus groups that each discuss one topic in-depth. Shawn Lamarche said the idea from the focus group that sticks out is the development of a co-op among providers for purchasing goods, as well as the idea of sharing recycled items amongst the centers.

The training calendar for providers was discussed. Under the new ELC 3 contract, FCI has set up a training calendar. It was also suggested to look at a possible collaboration with the Children’s Services Council’s (CSC) training calendar. It was noted that providers receive training information in the mail as well; a training calendar is already in place with CSC.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Investigate development of a co-op among providers for purchasing goods.	TBD	
Investigate sharing recycled items among child care centers.	TBD	

**VII. Workgroup Discussion Topics**

**Intentional Communication between System Leaders and Providers (Facilitated by Shawn Lamarche)**

What providers want from the ELC:

- Workshops
- Timely updates on legislative issues, as well as updates from other agencies.
- Opportunities for providers to self-register on the website to obtain e-mail updates, as well as have the ELC publish updates on its website.
- Use coaches and mentors to share information; use a recorded message sent to all providers announcing meetings, training confirmations, etc.
- Add a prompt to ELC phone message to inform providers/callers of the information line.
- Ensure that meetings are advertised to “invite” providers.
- Modify the board agenda to be more public friendly.
- Provide the public an opportunity to speak after each issue addressed at the Coalition meeting.

**Set up a website that identifies Broward’s system of services and links to appropriate sites (Facilitated by Deborah David)**

Suggestions for the website:

- Change format of component descriptions to address briefly who, what, where.
- Place training information from DCF under the Professional Development link on ELC website.
- Develop a template for every agency that features a brief description with a link to their website.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Intentional communication between system leaders and providers discussion continues.	ELC staff	September Systems Meeting
Update on progress on website links to Broward System of early learning services.	ELC staff	September Systems Meeting

**VIII. Old Business**

The Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum Review Board will be examining three (3), possibly four (4) curriculums. The protocol for the reviewers work is being finalized.

Highlights were given from the joint staff meeting for the Quality Rating and Improvement System. The group will meet quarterly and will include staff from ELC 5 as well. A provider representative position is being considered for the meetings.

In relation to protocol for Hurricane plan, providers are advised to follow the ordinance every day they are open. The providers are entitled to close for a Hurricane; this is not a regulated issue, as child care facilities are independent businesses. Providers can re-open the child care facility when all components of operation can comply with all ordinances.

The Early Learning Information System (ELIS) team on behalf of the Agency for Workforce Innovation, Office of Early Learning (AWI/OEL) will be meeting with 6 selected providers during their visit on August 27<sup>th</sup>. The ELIS team will be here to assess business processes to build a statewide electronic infra-structure to support the needs of the early care and education system as a whole.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
DAC Committee to meet	Lisa Feeney	TBD

#### **IX. New Business**

A question was raised about follow-up regarding school-age children on the waitlist. It was noted that the question will be brought forward and an answer will come to the September System's meeting.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
Update on school-age children on waiting list	K. Lee Tirpak	September 19, 2007

#### **X. Public Comment**

Maria Jammal from North Islam Academy said she was very impressed with the information that came out of the meeting. She said she will encourage more members of her staff to come.

Action Items:	Person Responsible:	Deadline:
n/a		

#### **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 p.m.  
Next meeting: September 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

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: Marcie Westover