

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

Community Partners System Gathering

5/19/08

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Gloria Addo, Lisa Becker, Willie Cameron, Claudia Dean, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Joanie Grillo, Monica King, Louise Marine, Doreen Moskowitz, Jill Mosovich, Julia Musella, Al Murray, Layne Polakoff, Kendrick Prasad, Gilbert Rincon, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Melissa Trentham, Mattie Tucker, Jenny Turnquest, Lillian Vega, 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 Strasser, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made. Lisa Becker was introduced.

K. Lee Tirpak stated that the Ordinance that explains the differences between local and state requirements for training teachers is available on the ELC website.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 4/16/08

The minutes were approved by consensus after correction was made to page 4 as follows: Second heading should read “Family Central, Inc. (Chris Sieber)”, replacing Nova Southeastern University.

V. Presentation

Lisa Becker

QUALITY RATING & IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Lisa Becker facilitated in the absence of Anita Platt; Ms. Becker gave an overview of the presentation of the Broward QRIS. Copies of the presentation were handed out to the attendees.

Discussion: In-Service Training; 5-Star level Curriculum Component

There has been discussion at the state level requiring providers who care for children receiving school readiness funding to achieve a 3 star rating on the QRS - Question: What would happen in Broward if this were to take effect?

- Providers find it difficult to achieve 3-star. The level of each site in the whole system would need to be determined before proceeding.
- Figure the financial cost involved; group size is a big hurdle between stars as well as cost of professional development.
- Beginning July 2007, child care providers in Broward became responsible for funding training of their employees; pockets of economic need exist in our field, along with providers who afford to pay for training. Scholarship funds have been made available and the need for additional funding is yet to be determined.
- The state has not yet accepted the 5-Star system; Level 3 of Environment Rating Scale (ERS) makes more sense as a minimum. More money is needed to build the infrastructure and support the QRIS that is just beginning to be implemented in Broward.
- Group size ratios: Petition for money for smaller group size classes.
- A goal can be set and a strategic plan built to achieve QRIS needs in Broward
- Making sure that the training is available to achieve a 3-Star level; what makes the difference between what exists and what is needed?
- Assessing centers to determine a parallel between 3-Star and Level 3. Staff to determine where centers are presently; if we require them to reach that standard, we must expand the services for providers to access the QRS.
- Staff qualifications.
- Provide more QRS services (rating/Technical Assistant) and funding opportunities for providers to have access to training.
- Use Mentors and certified trainers to facilitate.
- FCI offered training on ITERS and ECERS, response was low.
- Offer new training where Teachers and Directors are trained together.
- How do we determine that teachers are doing what they are trained to do?
- Ratio and group size with 2 years old has been a problem.
- The curriculum used should be developmentally appropriate as a whole.
- Nova had a free training, 40 teachers were scheduled; however, 70 showed up indicating that affordable training is needed.
- Noted: ELC was commended for a fantastic job in sending QRIS information to the providers, who are more accepting of the QRIS as indicated by the decrease in phone inquiries.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VI. System Celebrations and Updates		
<u>Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCPS and NSU have been invited to submit a full application to Early Reading First, an early literacy grant open to the entire nation. • Out of 400 applications, 86 have been selected to submit a full application. Only 36 will be granted; 3 of the centers under the Quality Improvement Support Contract SBBC-QIS-08-ELC3 are a part of the Early Reading First proposal. • Phenomenal funding up to \$1 million for 5 centers for 1 year and 3 year grant, with full-time training and curriculum focusing on Literacy. • 100% training for every teacher who teaches children 3 years and up; this will address training with Mentors and Directors; the OWL curriculum was selected. • Requires full assessment; ongoing class training; screening assessment, the CLASS and ELLCO will be used. • Centers chosen: Jack & Jill; Kids in Distress; New Mira-wood.; 2 from Headstart Public schools: Bethune and Drew Elementary. 		
<u>Child Care Provider</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 20, 2008, 7:00am Coral Springs Chamber of Commerce will having an Education Showcase, and will be honoring teacher of the Year; three teachers from Wyndham are being honored; the pre-kindergarten class will be singing. • Providers inquired about Teacher re-certification of CPR, whether this could be done on-line, stating that providers need a final directive on Licensing requirements. 		
<u>Family Central, Inc.</u>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK Billboard will go up on I-95, North of Sunrise Boulevard on the west side of road when facing south. • VPK Curriculum: Input from providers on how to select packages; vendors will ship directly to providers. • VPK Conference will be held August 2, 2008, at South Broward High School in collaboration with all partners. The target is 500 providers and 200 teachers; registration is limited to two teachers per school, exceeding that number will be placed on a waiting list. • The Committee is looking for sponsorship, presenter and volunteers; sponsorship letters are available at FCI. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee is also seeking additional funds from CSC. - Partners were invited to sign up to serve on the VPK Conference committee, or in any of the above areas. 		

- Budget will be approximately \$12,000; cover charge will be \$10.00 per person.
- Highlights include a Boutique; tables will be offered at \$100 per vendor.
- Need volunteers and goodies for the goody bags.
- Site visits will begin this week.
- VPK Enrollment Update
 - Certificates currently enrolled; 997; Fall 8,072

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement (BCCCL&E)

- The county is verifying how their information/philosophy is different from the State's policies.
- There are differences such as style of documentation through inspection reports and not maintaining copies of employee forms in master files.
- BCCCL&E have gone through the county commission Audit proposal with some favorable results.
- The County's final budget proposal process begins with a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. This will mark the beginning of discussion on the following budgetary concerns:
 - Proposed budget cut on tax is 10-20% per Departments and approximately \$100 million for the County.
 - Determine whether the county will continue to accept the responsibility for Licensing and Enforcement services in Broward versus the State.
 - Outline to the commission fees charged for the services by County Commission Licensing Enforcement (CCLE): CCLE will provide a service cost analysis response to Commissioners which is due by September 30, 2008.
 - Fees collected by CCLE that are charged to the child care industry outside of the amount awarded by the County's general funds, or Contracts is equal to approximately 30% of the funding that CCLE receives from the County.

Child care providers inquired about Background screening and non-acceptance of paperwork for Atlantic Private Pre-school. This raised the question how long fingerprints are maintained in Life-Scan. FDLE maintains finger-prints for 6 months. What does the state require?

Children's Forum (Joanie Grillo)

Ms. Grillo introduced herself as the Outreach specialist for Children's Forum, representing Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood (ACCYN), in conjunction with Miami, Dade and Broward County providing quality child care for Military families.

- South-Com provides services to people world-wide and is looking to enlist family child care centers. When families are deployed to Miami they have 10 days to be ready to report for duty. The Forum is looking to enlist and gather a cohort of quality centers for Resource and Referral.
- This program is funded by a Federal grant through NACCRA to the Children's Forum to assist Army families with child care at NACCRA Accredited sites.
- Providers who join can receive assistance in NAEYC accreditation and meeting licensing criteria; schools in the program have to be (or be in the process of becoming) NAEYC accredited. Other resources such as monetary incentives and supporting TA are also available to centers and homes in the project.
- Summer months are busiest due to the higher percentage of Deployment.

- Presently there are no schools in Broward County that provide these services. Ms Grillo is in the process of putting a program together to utilize these services.

This information sparked the interest of various partners and child care providers, some comments were:

- This will likely compliment Technical Assistance Services. Contact Joanie Grillo at (786) 346-2184 or email jgrillo@thechildrensforum.com

Early Learning Coalition of Broward, Inc.

- VPK Rates as of July 1, 2008, will be \$2,701.32, reduced by \$47.96.

Providers remarked that maintaining the standards are increasingly more difficult with less funding, while demands are being placed on incorporating higher hiring standards

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Directive on CPR & First Aid Recertification	Willie Cameron	June 18, 2008 meeting

VII. Old Business

None

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

	VIII. New Business	Partners
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None

IX. Public Comments	Partners
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None.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12.15pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 18, 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