

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

Community Partners System Gathering

6/18/08

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Stacy Angier, Howard Bakalar, Julie Bergstrom, Ellen Breslow, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Claudia Dean, Ethel Edwards, Suzanne Ford, Ana Maria Garcia, Evan Goldman, Ilene Gevirtz, Vanessa Graham, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafner, Maria Hernandez, Monica King, Melanie Magill, Oma Megbuluba, Ilene Miller, Mary Monahan, Doreen Moskowitz, Julia Musella, Dee Nevares, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Michelle Reid, Gilbert Rincon, Shannon Rhobes, Terri Shermitt, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Charlene Swanson, Melissa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Andrea Zabel

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Director of Program Operations, Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist, Janice Carter, 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.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 5/19/08

The minutes were approved by consensus without correction.

V. Presentation

Monica King – Children’s
Services Council (CSC)**School Readiness and Early Learning Strategic Planning Committee (SREL) Update**

Ms. King gave an overview presentation outlining the sub-committees and CSC Literacy funding sources. This Committee was created as part of the Youth Summit. Primary goal is to ensure children’s education success by strengthening the ECE system.

Copies of the presentation were handed out to the attendees.

- The Broward Strategic Plan has 14 sub-committees; further information can be found at cscbroward.org
- The SREL committee (one of the committees) is partially supported by CSC
- The SREL committee is looking for ways to partner with providers

The SREL committee has been meeting since April 2007. The main challenges faced are how to frame discussion around literacy, job and economics. There were discussions to broadening the committee’s involvement to change the community perspective on issues such as transition children from School Readiness to the School System. The SREL committee advocated for the following:

- Creating current planned strategies around ECE Model, e.g. special needs
- Finding funds for Early Care and Education position of Project Manager
- The full SREL committee plans to meet on July 18, 2008, at the Girls Scout Headquarters, in Fort Lauderdale, as well as the 2 sub-committees.
- SREL committees seeking avenues to get additional help as follows:
 - Transitional Sub-committee: concept of bringing everyone together around the topic: Children transferring from pre-k to kindergarten
 - Need special attention by professionals and businesses.
 - Volunteer Sub-committee: Need questions to conduct survey, which will come from Volunteer Broward taking care of the community needs.
 - Determine what type of volunteers are needed
 - To ensure that prior to the survey the providers are informed

- **School Readiness Early Learning (SREL) Committee**

Sharon Cohen was introduced as the newly appointed Children’s Services Council, Early Childhood and Education Project Manager: The position is funded by CSC and A.D. Henderson Foundation. Ms. Cohen stated that Florida is in the forefront of the nation in looking at ECE issues; she looks forward to meeting providers on an individual basis.

- **Transition to Kindergarten Sub-Committee Report**

Transition from pre-k to kindergarten was created to address issues identified at the Youth Summit; the sub-committee is currently surveying the service available to families, by polling pre-k teachers and directors. Questions developed and survey monkeys will be used to gather information.

- Survey will incorporate sample of kindergarten teachers and principals.
- First action steps were to identify the current transition practices and resources in the community.

- Next, the sub-committee will identify community-wide transition needs for children and parent in a variety of settings, including diverse school settings.
- Research indicates that plenty of printed and web materials are available.
- The ultimate plan is to create best practices timeline and close the gaps in identified areas of need.
- Anyone interested in participating is invited to the next meeting, please contact Dee Nevares at 954 724 3955.
- Volunteer Sub-committee
The Volunteer sub-committee looked at organizations offering volunteer services. Volunteer Broward is the organization identified to take the lead on work identified by the committee.
 - Identifying what types of volunteers providers would utilize
 - Helping providers understand how to use volunteer services.

Filling Broward County ECE Training Gaps - Dee Nevares: Family Central, Inc.

ELC 3-FCI: Quality Improvement Supports: Summary of provider Training Needs Survey results was distributed to discuss where gaps in ECE Training needs exists and ascertain the organizations that offer training and begin to provide training institutions with information related to gaps in services.

- Survey with self-stamped addressed envelopes was sent to legally operating centers, homes and informal providers.
- 555 centers; 201 homes; 6 informal providers; 173 surveys were returned – a much higher returned than the last couple of years.
- Totals obtained from the survey results were emailed to all the trainers in Broward, along with invitation to attend today’s meeting and give feed-back on the results.
- ECE Professional Development Providers were invited to share additional training information in today’s meeting.

System Gathering Participants shared the following information:

- Most popular need - Behavior Modification
- NSU is offering the following in-service training:
 - 30 hour introductory on-line with 5 different topics; each cost \$10.
 - “Steps, Strategies, and Techniques for Passing the Competency Exams” for \$25.00 and Keeping Kids Safe while in Care- free. Both 5-hour trainings will be offered on August 23 at NSU. Depending on demand they will be repeated.
 - Instructor-led-class attendance is decreasing because of the online courses.
 - Instructor led courses for the 45 hours will continue to be offered at NSU, BCC; Jose Marie Vargas. BCC – and JMVU offer classes in Spanish
 - 5 hour on-line courses can be combined to equal part 2 of the training. The competency exams must be offered in order to obtain the Certificate.
 - 3 hour child care training course for substitutes and informal providers was discontinued May 19, 2008 and has been replaced by the six (6) hour Rules and Regulations for Family Child Care Homes.

- Renewing CDA, FCCP, and Director’s Credential can occur with 3 hour ECE college course
- CCIUP also called *Kaplan On-Line*: – 1 CEU for each class; 1 year subscription of \$69.00
- FCI staff offers training on Developmental Screening
- Family child care training cancelled
- FCI and School Board offer Technical Assistance to providers involved in Quality Improvement Supports as needed; SBBC currently focusing on Curriculum
- FCI establishing Computer Literacy Lab
- Children’s Forum project provides assistance to gain NAECY accreditation if providers willing to serve local Army families.

Providers were asked to review survey and contact Ms Nevares to help fill out survey and contact Lisa Feeney and K. Lee Tirpak at ELC with additional information.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Information on the SREL Transition to Kindergarten sub-committee	Dee Nevares	

VI. System Celebrations and Updates

VPK Conference Committee Report:

- VPK Conference Committee has been meeting
- VPK Conference is made possible through fund-raising
 - Some monies have been raised, however more is needed
 - Tables are available for Vendors: \$150
 - Presenters and volunteers are still welcome
 - System Members were encouraged to locate \$200 - \$350 sponsorships; become presenters; and volunteer at the event or with existing resources for the event – contact Carol Wasserman or Marissa at FCI
- VPK providers thanked the coalition for ordering curriculum enhancement material for the conference.

VPK News:

- VPK Enrollment:
 - Summer 2008: 1,378; certificates issued
 - School Board – approximately 300 children have enrolled
 - Fall 2009: 9,645 certificates issued;
- 2005 VPK Standards training will resume in June 2008
- 2008 VPK Standards will not arrive until after the new VPK program year begins.

Nova Southeastern University News:

Kid Vision: on-line VPK standard training going live June 19, 2008.

Broward County Public School (BCPS) News:

Transition Component of ELC 3-SBBC: Centers/Teachers from child care centers and kindergarten are getting together to share.

Broward County Child Care Licensing and Enforcement (BCCLE) News:

- As of last commission meeting BCCCL&E was not on the recommended elimination list.
- Regarding question from last meeting: On-line CPR courses - training must be done in class room per County Ordinance, Section 7-6.01(c) "First Aid Treatment and Emergency Procedures". State standards, 65C-22.004(2)(b) "First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Procedures".
- Revisions to State Regulations impact software – No changes were made to Broward Ordinances at this time
- 257 Quality Rating System sites have been assessed since 2004.

Work Force One (WFI) News:

Celebrate *Once Upon a Time Early Education Center*: hired 3 employees from WFI – employees are working out well!

Provider News:**Northeast Focal Point Intergenerational Center**

- Ms. Hafer stated that the articulation of local schools is making a difference;
- Hollywood Memorial Hospital workshops have been positive – last workshop is being held in June.
- The center has completed the TOPS program; noticeable behavioral differences have been seen, particularly with teacher parents and children communication.

Once Upon a Time Early Education Center

- Wendi Siegel stated that she had the opportunity to consult in Dade County and found the ECE systems less user-friendly and quite different from Broward.

Florida Department of Health (Broward)

- The Health Department is in the process of developing a Schedule for free "Back to school immunization". Dates will be made available in July and August; locations will be sent via email.
- A link will be on the Health Department's Website: Ethel will follow up with information.
- Early intervention nurse – Oma Megbuluba: Will provide Assessment and immunization on site for child care centers.

Family Central, Inc. News:

- Training Academy:
 - CDA Portfolio Preparation component is being offered for a fee as an additional component to the on-line course; waiting to see the response.
 - CDA National Credential – <http://www.cdacouncil.org>
 - Candidates needs:
 - 120 hours of ECE course work in specific areas, a portfolio,
 - An Application Packet (fees: \$18 + \$325)

- Professional Resource File
- An observation(completed by an Advisor)

Early Learning Coalition of Broward, Inc.

- VPK Standards trainings will be offered in July and August on the existing VPK Standards.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Schedule for free immunization to be sent to providers for inclusion on Partner Websites	Ethel Edwards	July 2008

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: July 21, 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