

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

Community Partners System Gathering

4/16/08

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Stacy Angier, Howard Bakalar, Tricia Baptiste, David Brown, Ana Bueno, Willie Cameron, Nicole Carter, Claudia Dean, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Maria Hernandez, Doreen Moskowitz, Jill Mosovich, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Chris Sieber, Michelle Reid, Melissa Trentham, Wendi Siegel, Charlene Swanson, Carol Wasserman, 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, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 3/25/08

The minutes were approved by consensus.

V. Presentation

Ilene Gevirtz – Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

INFORMATION RESOURCE AND REFERRAL

Resource & Referral is the front door through which most families come, seeking services from FCI; also all families enrolling into any type of financially assisted child care program. Parents obtain consumer education information, quality indicators, licensing regulations and how to check licensing information on file. FCI staff is trained and is knowledgeable about early care options, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Child Care Resource and Referral Customer Satisfaction Telephone Survey hand-outs were given. A detailed description of how this form is used to gather information from parents was discussed. FCI conducts surveys by randomly calling approximately 20% of families who receive child care and 10% who are looking for financially assisted child care. Counselors exchange client cases and make calls until they have achieved 20% of the total referral cases for the month and 10% of the waiting list cases. Approximately 75% of clients served contact the Resource and Referral department by telephone and 25% walk-in for services.

At the end of the month the survey results are tallied, then reported quarterly as part of the ELC1 performance outcomes.

Discussion

Based on the Telephone Survey hand-out, partners were asked to evaluate the most difficult benchmark to achieve, which triggered the following discussion points:

- **Use of the Information by Parents**
 - Most difficult to assess because families fail to express whether the information was used or not.
- **Factors that Influences Parent Choice other than Quality Indicators**
 - Location
 - Cost
- **What does Quality mean to Families**
 - Getting a convenient location may outweigh choosing a center that offers the quality that the parents would have otherwise considered.
- **Recommendations to make changes**
 - Alternative ways to present the information to parents
 - Review how is the information is presented by the Counselors

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VI. System Celebrations and Updates

Family Central, Inc.

- By speaking at a City Commission meeting and helping to change the City's Ordinance, FCI assisted a family child care home in Lauderhill to become licensed to care for 12 children.
- VPK enrollment: 611 Summer and 6,368 Fall.
- First meeting held this morning to make plans for VPK Conference for directors and teachers; projected date August 2008.
 - Partners were invited to sign up to serve on the VPK Conference committee.
 - Next meeting of the committee will be held May 19, 2008, 8:00am
 - Public High School Auditoriums are being looked at as possible venues
 - The committee is looking for sponsors.
- Training
 - FCI is excited about the Training Academy, and is working with BCC on an articulation agreement from FCI trainings into BCC classes. Classes should begin next fall. Students will eventually emerge with 9 credits.
 - On-line CDA program will roll out on May 1, 2009; 120 hours online training combined with 24 hours of face to face training, inclusive of resource file/portfolio assembly, taking test and national observation; Director's renewal classes has become a popular request.
- The City Commission of Pompano Beach hosted a wonderful celebration during the Week of the Young Child. We were very excited as two C-QuELL centers attended and were awarded proclamations.

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)

- BCPS Coordinator met with 24 principals whose elementary schools neighbor 63 early care centers receiving services from the ELC3 SBBC-QIS contract. Principals are excited about the program and look forward to making a connection between their elementary schools and the early care centers. Meetings between kindergarten teachers and pre-school teachers have taken place at different schools.
- A Blog was created to share detailed information about Kindergarten round-up and tours of the sites; visit the website: superintendentschools.blogspot.com

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

- April 21 - 25, 2008, Department of Children & Families (DCF) will be conducting its Annual Contract Monitoring of Broward County as the local agency.
- May 5, 6 and 7, 2008, statewide annual training will be held in West Palm Beach.
- May 7, 2008, Willie Cameron will attend the Progressive Discipline standardized session of the State's Annual Training to review the new Sanswrite 6.0 software that the State will institute and develop procedures for its program staff. The County will consider what components of the procedures can be applied based on a review of the County's Child Care Facility Ordinance standards that the State is considering.

Discussion:

State Ordinance VS. Broward County: Training teachers on differences in State and Local Ordinances. Where can the ordinances for Broward County be obtained?
 Owners/Directors becoming knowledgeable to train their staff in the ordinances.
 Staff should be informed in areas which the state and county tests are different.
 Are the exams state certified?

Family Central, Inc. (Chris Sieber)

- New classes being offered at Broward Community College; 9 credits
- Online program will roll-out on May 1, 2008; 120 hours training combined with 24 hours classroom. Prepares student for the National CDA test

Early Learning Coalition of Broward, Inc.

- Kid-Vision has developed a VPK Standards training website, featuring virtual field-trip; will be ready for pilot Summer 2008.
- Head Start will now serve families up to 130% poverty level. They anticipate serving more 3 year olds; 10% of families with children with disabilities must be served.
- Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Communiqué newsletter circulated with updated information from the state. The article on Broward Council on Accreditation (COA) will be posted on ELC’s website.
- Bill Gates’ father has come out as an advocate of the importance of early childhood education.
- ELIS – legislature is not sure that money can be invested in funding the proposed technology system due to the present budget cuts.
- The coalition 2008 budget will maintain the same service and slots. The CCEP will be funded up to \$1.5 million.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Email volunteer information for the VPK Conference	Carol Wasserman	
Send localized format to ELC for distribution	Willie Cameron	
Obtain State Ordinances for Broward County	Melissa Trentham	
Ordinance will be posted on ELC Website once it is received.	K. Lee Tirpak	

VII. Old Business

None

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

VIII. New Business		Partners	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachments to email create additional work for providers. It would be helpful to have information in the body of the email instead of attachment. 2. Broward county and local match provide childcare funding. The county is looking at divesting itself of all child care funds. 			
IX. Public Comments		Partners	
None.			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
X. Adjourn			
The meeting was adjourned at 11:38am			
Next Meeting: Monday, May 19, 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