

# Minutes

## Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. ECE System Community Partners Gathering



3/23/11  
10:00 a.m.  
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

**Attendees:**

Empe Alaix, Kerry Allen, Cherie Benjoseph, Penny Bernath, Julie Bergstrom, Lorraine Breffni, Michele Cabrera, Willie Cameron, Nicole Carter, Sharon Cohen, Claudia Dean Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Joy Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Evelyn Grooms, Jayne Hafer, Mildred Hightower, Nadine Jackson, Lola Jordan, Josie Maymi, Ron Mohl, Julia Musella, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Nurit Sheinberg, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Melissa Trentham, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Andrea Zabel

**Staff in Attendance:**

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Carmen Nicholas, ECE Program Specialist; Joanne Virgille, CRRD Assistant, 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: Attendees announced their name and agency or organization.

**III. Review and Approve Agenda**

Addition to the Agenda: Director’s Dialogue Day; Week of the Young Child; New Business

**IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 2/16/11**

The minutes were approved by consensus, after the following corrections: Page 2, first paragraph line 5: “As of December 31, 2010”; Page 3, **Discussion:** Last paragraph line 15: “The publisher chose Spanish and Haitian Creole for Ages and Stages”

## V. System Celebration and Updates

## Partners

### Conferences Attended

#### **National Association for Child Care Resource Agency (NACCRA)**

- Ms. Ilene Gevirtz attended the National Association for Child Care Resource Agency (NACCRA) in Washington DC. NACCRA's objective was to put forth their agenda which includes training for providers, mandatory inspections and complete background screening. Additionally, NACCRA would like us to share the need for early childhood education. Ms. Ilene Gevirtz attended meetings with six legislators, and had the opportunity to speak with three of their Aides, discussion included:
  - In a comparison of scores in mandatory inspections of all the states, Florida scored in the top ten.
  - Florida licensing does not require information from the sex offender registry: A Bill is being introduced by Senator Burr, NC, to enforce completion of background screening in Florida.
  - NAACRA recommended that Congress should strengthen the Child and Development Block grant to:
    - ✓ Require accountability for expenditure of federal funds;
    - ✓ Require background check, based on fingerprints for all child care center employee
    - ✓ Require states to establish minimum health and safety requirements and enforce them through regular unannounced inspections.
    - ✓ Require all child staff to have at least 40 hours of initial training including CPR, first aid and other basic safety and health training in addition to child development.
    - ✓ Authorize the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to withhold funding from states that do not require minimum protections for children and that do not conduct regular unannounced inspections of child care settings
    - ✓ Increase the quality set-aside to 12 percent, gradually increasing it to 25 percent, on par with Head Start.

#### **National Association for Education for Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference and Expo**

- National Association for Education for Young Children (NAEYC) Annual Conference and Expo will be in Orlando, Florida November 2-5, 2011. The basic annual membership fee for NAEYC is \$75.00. The cost to attend the conference, plus member registration fee combined will cost less than non-member conference registration fee.
  - NAEYC membership is strongly recommended as it satisfies the professional membership that is required as a part of the CDA and Director's Credential renewals.
- Dr. Wendi Siegel and Ms. Julia Musella were named State Accreditation Chairs for FLAEYC. Currently, there are 16 NAEYC Accredited child care programs in Broward County.

#### **Federal Head Start Director's Summit**

- The Head Start summit for directors held on February 14-17, 2011, introduced tremendous changes that are being made nationwide; expectations are higher and accountability is required.
  - Programs found non-compliant will be taken away from grantees and going out for RFPs.
  - Ongoing assessment tools and CLASS being administered in all Head Start classrooms.
  - Implementation of new curriculum in all Head Start classrooms in the District.
  - The School District has new expectations for preparing children to enter kindergarten.
  - New Professional Development strategies are being introduced for Head Start teachers.

Question: Is Broward the only county with Head Start Program? No, each county has a Head Start

Program. Broward is among 14 grantees with Head Start Programs in school districts.

### **Florida Association for Child Care Management (FAACM) Conference**

During the FACCM conference, held on March 5, 2011, Ms. Julie Bergstrom, Director of First United Methodist preschool, met with Mr. Curtis Weaver, who is presently lobbying for early childhood education cause, and represents providers on behalf of FACCM. Mr. Weaver is actively participating in the 2011 legislative session that is held in Tallahassee. FACCM built a partnership with the law firm of Smith, Bryan & Myers, located in Tallahassee; this partnership allows for a solid representation on behalf of providers.

### **Coalition Updates**

Executive/Finance Committee will meet at 4pm, today: Agenda item for discussion as follows:

- Requesting approval to modify ELC1 contract to expand an existing Outreach and Awareness position to include the Broward Early Childhood Educators conference and funds for on-line registration. Staff is hoping to get the Executive Committee to support these items and to move forward to Board Meeting.
- SR and VPK funds will be reallocated to purchase professional Development Resources for the conference.
- Based on the Federal poverty level for families; funds will be allocated to slots. The Board will decide when it will go into effect.
- Unspent funds are identified in ELC3 as we approach mid-year, funds may be for awards and grants categories.
- Professional Development activities: FCI will offer Birth to Three Standards trainings for teachers who work with that age group.
- Community Relations and Resource Development (CRRD) will exhibit hands in Broward County Building and, also in Tallahassee during Children's week, April 4-8, 2011.

Comments:

1. The Conference committee will be presenting agenda to seek funds at the Coalition Board meeting; providers' support is needed at the Executive meeting today at 4pm.
2. A call was received from Broward representative for the Children's Movement, they are interested in getting providers involved, more information will be sent to providers.

### **Tallahassee Activities**

- Coalition staff attended the Association of Early Learning Coalition and Early Learning Association meetings.
- CCEP: Advocate for funds from the State that had a higher proportion of matched funds.
  - Ms Sharon Cohen attended the Children's Movement reception held by David Lawrence who, along with a number of legislators is pushing the agenda for the movement.

### **Washington Activities**

Refer to handouts: Updates will be sent via email.

AWI reorganization may not continue to exist in its current form; there is much discussion as to what will happen to School Readiness (SR). There has been a big push to split SR and VPK; lobbyists are vying for

different options; both roles as being entrenched with private providers.

- VPK scenario looks better than SR in the Senate; the House is a concern, but is a work in progress.
  - SR is overseen by Transportation and Economic Development Committee, committees are given orders to make cuts; however there is not much under the purview to cut; presently is important to talk to the committees, but eventually will be more important to talk to all the legislators.
  - The House side impacts our Federal match, by returning Federal match funds.
  - The message is: Slots allows parents to work.
  - The ARRA money was not just a one time bonus – it replaced a state cut to the funding base
  - Different parts will be addressed when we need to advocate to different people.
  - VPK and SR parents will have to voice their concern that cutting funds will put them into an economic bind; the greater message will be from parents in the community.
  - The Census figure may redefine Federal money available to Florida as well.

#### Comments and Questions:

- The early care and education message need to be circulated.
- “Early Learning” has to be made a part of the vernacular to change the way people look at early childhood education. Invite people to see what is happening in the centers. Advertisement on local TV stations can promote early learning.
- Statistics on the number of children who receive VPK and SR funds in Broward can make an impact and help advocacy.
- There is need for a continuum of care and educating children from preschool through elementary.
- Where dos Child Care Resource and Referral fit into SR? SR funding sources are different from VPK, with different requirements.
- Many early learning educators are not yet familiar or aware that there are Standards for pre-schools, the education process has to be ongoing.
- Develop and present to the state the kind of service the funds are being used to purchase; outline what is in place and how it flows into VPK and SR.
- How are we engaging the business community in our efforts to affect the community? The Coalition Board members are involved as well the larger business community.

#### **Professional Development Changes**

- Some of the AARA funds were used by AWI and DCF to look at the Professional Development landscape within the ECE system in Florida. The state contracted with Palm Beach College to build this system. The pieces already in place was used in the process to collect and maintain the mandated training information on those who are teaching in the ECE classroom. The Core Competencies is now on the ELC website for teachers and directors, and Educators of teachers and director. The new 3-5 year old standards is being developed.
- Palm Beach recognized that Broward was already a step ahead in collaborating professional development. Broward continues to draw community organizations that touch early learning and the workforce into monthly System meetings.
- The next step is the Florida Early Learning Registry: Pilot Project Orientation offers training exercises that can be passed on.
- Career advising gives the opportunities to those who wants to train and teach is the Florida Early Childhood Career Pathway, educational components consist of a career pathway through graduate

level.

- All of these pieces are coming together to ensure that educational components are taught at the same levels: The Module is outcome-driven training; a free course is being taught in Palm Beach, July 12-14, 2011.
- The overall system will figure how Broward is delivering training; eventually learning how outcome-driven training applies in the classroom.
- Each classroom begins with accountability; really looking at our sites and what is being applied in the classroom: QRIS prepares the activities to tie pieces together for VPK, and hopefully will tie them together for 0-3 years.
- Kidvision for Directors is outcome-driven training: An example is the recent visit to First United Methodist Preschool site; first the children watched the video, after which the teacher engaged children in the lesson plan. Later the audio visual support system provided feedback for the teachers.
  - What is in it for the trainee and for the children? The trainee has acquired a skill and the accomplishment of the teachers and the children.
- Core Competencies and Registry opens up the door to the higher levels for skills to be used in a positive way.
  - Coalition should look into how the Directors/teachers are applying these skills in the classroom.
  - Core Competencies should result in higher quality in the classroom.

Comments: An email, sent to the Coalition from a provider was read to the partners, expressing hope that Palm Beach pilot will become a program. The Coalition would like this pilot program to eventually become institutionalized for Broward county.

### **Director's Dialogue Day**

- ELC approached BAEYC about offering mentoring services as a conduit service. BAEYC offered to facilitate a group of directors from programs that have earned 5-Star QRIS ratings and/or NAEYC Accreditation to meet with directors from other centers. Questions will be answered and hesitations about beginning accreditation and/or quality improvement procedures will be addressed. Directors' interaction could help to establish and strengthen mentoring relationships.
- The Quality Counts program is a rehearsal for accreditation, and for those already accredited; it is a good maintenance plan. The BAEYC board members and others would serve as facilitators and moderators for the event.

### **The Week of the Young Child April 16 -22, 2010**

- Centers are collaborating and now advocating and sharing with families; it was a great opportunity to incorporate with the Kidvision. Flyers are available today, and will also be emailed: Contact Andrea Zabel to obtain copy in color contact by email: [azabel@broward.org](mailto:azabel@broward.org)
- Kidvision on-line resource offers a library field trip which centers can share information with families.

### **Other News**

- ASQ Kits: FCI has distributed 111 ASQ Kits to providers. Provider sites with signed service agreement, who have not yet received their ASQ Kits, can obtain kits at FCI on Friday, March 25, 2011 from 12:00noon-4:00pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
- 2011 VPK Standards: AWI/DOE is working to write the new standards training. Changes to new

DOE VPK Standards will be going out for public comments; substantial changes are being made to Social Studies, Science and the Arts

- DOE is also looking at creating online 2011 updates for Providers who took the 2005 and 2008 Standards.
- Funds are not available for DOE to print new standards, alternatives are being looked into.

- April is Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month; visit [KidSafeFoundation.org](http://KidSafeFoundation.org) to get information to share with centers and family. The standards for child abuse are shocking and KidSafe is trying to get stakeholders involved with the legislation aspects to ensure that background check is mandatory.
- The increase on the statistics of women abusers in the early childhood field is enormous.
- KidSafe is also writing Grants and wants to collaborate with agencies and directly with centers that might want to be the recipient of an 8-week program to bring in parent seminars and teacher training, including a book entitled “My Body is Special”
- Ms. Julia Musella is holding a brief meeting with child care providers immediately following this meeting.

**Questions:** Is the new standards in correlation with the professional development framework Training for providers who serve school age children?

- Upcoming training called SPARKS is available to providers serving school age children and also offer Summer camp: One of the legislative changes that was made requires summer camp employees to have Level 11 screening.
  - Background screening will be done by DCF. FCI will include a flyer in provider packets
- The Coalition teamed up with 4 local AppleBee’s Restaurant and is launching a Dine to Donate Program in which 15% of your bill will go towards the ELC. This event will take place for four days at different locations during Children’s Week, April 4-7. Flyers are available on line.

**New Business**

- Ms. Joy Gordon, Director, announced that New Mirawood School and Child Care Center has achieved a 5- Star QRIS rating.
- FCI is recruiting directors from 5-Star centers to mentor incoming directors to QRIS. It is believed that centers that have achieved a 5-Star rating require less Technical Assistance, therefore other directors can benefit from their experience and knowledge about the process. It is hoped that the mentors will provide guidance and support to the new providers as they complete their portfolio and other requirements for the QRIS post rating. Directors who serve as mentors in this capacity will be fulfilling a requirement for renewing their Director’s Credential.
- Child care providers would like to send personal invitations to Board members to attend ECE System Gathering.
- Information received from WF1 and the SREL Workforce committee revealed that the wages being paid to child care teachers is very low in comparison to the wages accepted by AWI.

<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Need Broward providers involvement with the Children’s Movement, more information will be sent to providers.	Anita Platt	

<b>VI. Public Comments</b>		<b>Partners</b>
None		
<b>Action Items:</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>IX. Adjourn</b>		
The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm		
<b>Next Meeting: April 13, 2011</b>		

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