

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering

10/14/09
 10:00 a.m.
 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Sharon Cohen, Claudia Dean, Ethel Edwards, Ana Maria Garcia, Jill Gelman, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Monica King, Maggie Laino, Angelina Michel, Anita Platt, Ilene Miller, Layne Polakoff, Monica Pujol, Nurit Sheinberg, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Melisa Trentham, Amy Ungor, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Khalil Zeinieh

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer, Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist, Janice Carter, ECE Program Specialist, Jessica Novak, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Presenter

Grace RoQue, University of Miami, Behavioral Health

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m.

II. Introductions

Self-introductions were made: Attendees announced their name and agency or organization.

Ms Gwendolyn Clarke-Reed, State Representative, District 92, addressed the group regarding resubmission of Bill asking for a percentage of funds to be given directly to the early childhood classroom.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 9/16/09

The minutes were approved by consensus, no corrections were made.

V. Discussion: Early Childhood Practitioners
Access to H1N1 Vaccine

Ethel Edwards, DOH
Khalil Zeinieh, FCI

Family Central, Inc. (FCI) and The Health Department are seeking ways to get the H1N1 vaccine into the community. The vaccine will first be administered to groups that are at greatest risk for the H1N1.

The Health Department is targeting children for initial rounds of vaccine. The department is embracing the idea of setting up central geographical locations in the county. The vaccine is being sent to the department in incremental amounts, to be administered in the following priority groups:

- Children in private, public and charter schools, and children without health coverage
- Caregivers of young children under 6 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel
- People with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease
- Application of the vaccine is available in Nasal Mist, intranasal spray and inactivated injectable dosages. Supplies are presently being distributed in increments; however, increased quantities will become available as the Federal Government releases more to the entire community
 - Immunization will only be administered with parent consent, which will be sent home with the children, or offered on site.
- Early childhood sites are being targeted as distribution sites.
 - Some providers have volunteered their center for use as a distribution site; the Health department will work directly with these centers.

Questions

How do we determine which child is already immunized?

- Ask parents and children
- Immunization registry with lot numbers given to each person as they get immunized.
- A traceable record of the immunization is available

Does one become immune after contracting the virus?

- No concrete ruling is available, it is recommended to obtain the vaccine.

How is it determined that in fact it is the H1N1 flu?

- People with flu-like symptoms have been tested to determine if they are negative or positive H1N1 virus

How should reported cases be handled?

- The Licensing Enforcement posted recommendations for child care centers on their website: www.flu.gov . There is a tool-kit documentation which has been distributed.
- The Director of Wyndham Learning Center shared the action that was taken with one reported case in his center; the steps taken will be looked at to possibly address other cases in the future.

Partners suggested that the H1N1 update should be kept as a standing agenda item throughout the flu season.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send template of letter to FCI ELC keep H1N1 as a standing agenda item	Layne Polakoff ELC staff	
VI. Presentation: (1) First Year Result of the Early Reading Grant (2) Behavioral Health		Claudia Dean, SBBC Nurit Sheinberg, NSU Grace Roque, UMBH

First Year Results of the Early Reading Grant

The Department of Education slated the 2009 Early Reading First Grant to the School Board of Broward County for three years. Designed to help early childhood centers improve quality, the program is implemented at 2 District sites – Bethune Elementary and Charles Drew Resource Center, and 3 private sites – Jack and Jill Children’s Center, Inc., New Mirawood School and Child Care Center and Kids in Distress. Twenty Seven classes with 6 mentors are providing technical assistance to the selected sites.

The School Board was among the 30 applicants awarded funds from 500 applications:

- The program supports studies on family structure.
- Implements a curriculum, Opening a World of Learning (OWL) with oral language.
- Vocabulary graded based on the units.
- Oral language component; picture cards were created for each of the OWL’s units.
- A literacy note-book was created and added to OWL to compliment the curriculum.
- The tools are introduced to encourage teachers to engage children in conversation.
- Classroom Assessment Scoring System. (CLASS): Teacher interaction and language rating scale.
- SBBC in collaboration with NSU started the Program in September 2008; the program is in the early phase of development.
- Implementation program: Five (5) sites are participating with mentors on site, planning, guiding and working with the teachers; the use of laptop allows them to conduct on-site pre- and post screening.
- The assessments team has the results available to mentors and teachers, so they can implement change.
- Assessments are done by Nova Southeastern University team, who are responsible for evaluating the project.
- Standardized Instruments used for measuring age-appropriate oral language skills:
 - Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test-III (PPVT-III, Receptive)
 - Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS) – scoring instrument; measures the average number of letters preschool-aged children are able to identify.
 - Centers and school districts evaluations include Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO).
- Outcome measures: Reasons for assessing children
 - Identify range of concern

- Evaluate effectiveness of intervention
- Make adjustments to implement a better way of teaching
- The goal is to have the children increase scores to about 85 and recognize more than 19 letters of the alphabet.

The first year results were positive. Significant increases were found across the three instruments, meaning that the children participating in the program presented with improvement in their receptive and expressive language as well as in their emergent literacy skills.

Questions:

Child Find gets referrals from pre-schools based on 4 years olds reading and writing: Are there resources that Child Find and FCI can refer to parents or teachers for appropriate development?

- Resources are available for directors and parents: website www.getreadytoread.org

UMBH Behavioral Health - Organizational Background Presentation

Ms. Roque expressed thanks for the invitation to make the presentation, and stated that she looks forward to attending future meetings. Clinical personnel from UMBH will attend future meetings to answer further questions.

UMBH Behavioral Health is an Academic Managed Behavioral Healthcare Organization with the infrastructure, knowledge and research resources of a major university, and one of the largest medical schools in the U.S. It is a non-profit organization.

- Manages the behavioral health care and substance abuse benefits of approximately 300,000 members through healthcare providers; Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) Adjunctive services:
 - Commercial
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid
- The department is structured by Steering, Senior Management, Quality Improvement and Credentialing Committees featuring:
 - Academic managed behavior healthcare for non-profit organizations
 - No sub-capitation arrangements
 - Services for high percentage of disabled Medicare and SSI Medicaid members.
 - A culturally diverse provider network to serve multi-ethnic population in south Florida.
- Clinical Services, Philosophy and Initiatives
 - Assign practitioners to members for care
 - Assist members in receiving quality care, delivered by an appropriate practitioner at the appropriate level of care, to meet members' clinical needs.
 - Emphasis on early intervention and the integration of behavioral and medical health care to meet the needs of members for a continuum of services.
 - Coordinate care with primary care physicians; between behavioral health practitioners; psychiatric consultations; high risk, complex case management with Employee Assistance program and Quality Improvement Activities and Performance Improvement Projects.

Questions:

(1) How does someone become a member?

A member of a participating insured provider: Service is primarily for children; however services are also available to adults and geriatrics.

(2) How does a provider get in the network?

The provider relations department conducts outreach to 11,000 provider locations in South Florida, recruiting providers from Miami to Jacksonville. Application is completed with Credential, Active and Occupational or standing licenses; case managers refer providers to clients who become a part of the network.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VII. System Celebrations and Updates

Partners

Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

- (1) Based on the evaluations, the VPK/Pre-school conference was well received. Thanks to the committee members, presenters and volunteers the conference was a huge success. Planning for the next year has already begun, new committee members are needed.
- (2) FCI was awarded a Federal grant under the Abandonment Infant Act under the Department of Human Services. The grant was provided to work with children 0-3 years old, affected by substance abuse and/or HIV. Two research studies will be conducted simultaneously; locally, at the University of Miami and Mailman Center for Child Development, and nationally the University of California, Berkley. FCI will also complete two publications per year for the Source Magazine, highlighting program success and learned experiences in working with these children.

Professional Development

KidVision conducted a series of VPK conferences during the month of September; thanks to FCI staff who helped to facilitate conferences.

Child Care Provider – NE Focal Point Intergenerational Child Care

- (1) Ms. Hafer was one of the presenters at the VPK Pre-school Conference; she reported that the whole experience was enjoyable.
- (2) Ms.Hafer attended FLAEYC conference in Orlando, she was presented with a plaque for Outstanding Advocate for Young Children and Families in Broward County.
- (3) N.E. Focal Point Intergenerational Child Care will be having a free health fair on Saturday, October 24, 2009.

School Readiness Early Learning Committee (S.R.E.L) Workforce Sub-Committee

The next SREL committee meeting will be held Friday, December 11, 2009 at 9:00am, at The Early Education Center, Davie.

SBBC/Child Find

ESE brochures are available with parent workshops series, which will be offered throughout the year for ESE and non-ESE children.

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

- (1) Procurement committee met on October 12, 2009, beginning the Invitation to Negotiate. Items will be taken to the Board meeting on October 20, 2009.
- (2) November 18, 2009, Systems Gathering will include a Provider Forum, Stacy Angier and Julia Musella will be presiding at the meeting to address provider concerns. The Coalition plan to hold a total of 3 provider forums this fiscal year.
 - Suggested topics to discuss:
 - Effects of the economy on the child care industry
 - System referral issues
 - Homework and parent interaction

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
VIII. New Business		Partners

None

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

IX. Public Comments

None.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12.00 p.m.

Next Meeting: November 18, 2009

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