

Minutes

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

QUALITY COUNTS
Early Care and Education Continuous Quality Improvement

4/14/2010
10:00 a.m.
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Kerry Allen, Penny Bernath, Michele Cabrer, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Marjie Dolan, Renae Ellis, Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Joy Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Lola Jordan, Debbie Kay, Karina La Banca, Ana Maria M-Garcia, Helen Magnuson, Angelina Michel, Ilene Miller, Doreen Moskowitz, Julia Musella, Ellyn Okrent, Anita Platt, Terri Shermett, Jenny Turnquest, Nurit Sheinberg, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Melissa Trentham, Karla Walker, Mary Jean Woika, Gloria Yamoah, Andrea Zabel, Khalil Zeinieh

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer; Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist; Jessica Novak, ECE Program Specialist; Leticia Strasser, ECE Program Specialist; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Presenter:

Natalie Calleja, Director, National Green School Coalition

I. Welcome and Call to Order

K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

II. Introductions	
Self-introductions were made: Attendees announced their name and agency or organization.	
III. Review and Approve Agenda	
The agenda was approved by consensus.	
IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 3/17/10	
The minutes were approved by consensus, with the following corrections: Page 2 (2) 1st bullet - Task involves letter naming, phonological awareness and comprehension. Page 6 (2nd paragraph) - Department of Children and Families: Create new title as follows: <u>Office of Early Learning/Agency for Workforce Innovation (OEL/AWI)</u> Participants inquired about a flyer promoting “A Recipe for Success” training. The flyer noted that for more information contact the local coalition. Ms. Doreen Moskowitz acknowledged that the training was developed by OEL/AWI and she would follow up with more information. Page 6 (Action Item): Forward DCF presentation to the Coalition; Person responsible: Melisa Trentham, DCF	
V. Presentation (1) National Green School Coalition	Natalie Calleja NGSC Director
Ms. Calleja, from the National Green Schools Coalition, was welcomed and introduced to the partners, she gave the following information: 1. A Green School is A Green Child Care Facility that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects children from environmental hazards • Monitors the indoor quality • Conserves and saves energy, water, gas and transportation resources • Monitors and uses non-toxic toys and supplies • Uses resources sustainably • Respects nature and promotes environmentalism • Uses non-toxic cleaning chemicals • Eliminates harmful pesticides • Educates children, teachers and parents • Recycles, composts, wastes less and conserves • Improves nutrition, providing a balanced and healthy diet • Supports local businesses and local products 2. What is the meaning of Green? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Health Impact” of the actions we take in our area of influence. 3. Where do we start the Greening? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with the indoor quality and expand to other areas. 4. What is the connection between Children, Health & the Environment?	

- Children are especially vulnerable to environmental risks
 - Infants and children are different from adults because they are growing and developing
 - Environmental hazards affect children differently than adults
 - Children's bodies are not fully mature, therefore may not be capable of detoxifying certain harmful compounds.
 - The very nature of children's behavior - highly curious and physical, can also put them at increased risk.
 - Children breathe more air, drink more water and intake more foods than adults; therefore, receive a higher dosage of whatever contaminants are present in the air, water and food.
- We must protect our children. What we know:
 - They are more vulnerable to pesticides until the age of 7, due to lower enzyme levels.
 - The World Health Organization estimates that the environment significantly affects more than 80% of major diseases in children.
 - More than 1/3 of the diseases in children under 5 are caused by environmental exposure.
- The state of children's health because of toxins, preservatives, pesticides, hormones, etc.
 - About 1 in 6 children has a developmental disability
 - Approximately 1 in 150 American children has an autism spectrum disorder
 - 1 out of 8 babies are born prematurely
 - The third most chronic disease in children is Rheumatoid arthritis
 - Early signs of puberty in girls as early as 6 years of age
 - Cancer is still the leading cause of death by disease in children
 - 1 in every 400-500 children in the US has Type II diabetes
 - Childhood obesity is an epidemic; 1 in every 6 children in the US between the ages of 6-19 are considered overweight
 - Asthma is a leading cause of disease among American children
 - Annually, approximately 34% of American children under 18 suffer from allergies
- There are over 80,000 synthetic chemicals on the market today, because of little or no testing, the impact on our health is unknown.
 - High production chemicals are found in shampoos, conditioners, foods, etc. Over 100 synthetic chemicals are now present in our blood, breast milk and umbilical cord.
 - "Window of vulnerability" - times of exquisite sensitivity from gestational stage to 3 years old

Questions

1. What is the fee for this service, or grant opportunities available to offset start up fees? The program is fairly new; however, NGSC is working on programs to subsidize cost.
2. What is the total cost associated with the program? Approximately \$2,000 yearly for certification; 30 hours includes a full audit, certification and training of teachers and director; tracking success and audit every 6 months. The yearly cost of continuous education and inspection is approximately \$700.
3. NGSC's first mission is to educate the public; a free 3 hour seminar is offered to engage everyone to look at the indoor quality; a plan can be developed from this.

Suggestions

Schools may use this as a marketing tool; also a great opportunity for centers to create fundraisers, and involve parents in the green initiatives.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VI. Old Business		
<p><u>Department of Children and Families (DCF)</u> DCF website was repaired: www.myflorida.com/childcare</p> <p><u>Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative Curriculum training is scheduled June 24-25, 2010 at Children’s Service Council. 2. The Coalition will hold a sub-committee meeting immediately following the System Gathering today. 3. Legislative update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decisions made in Tallahassee reduced the VPK Readiness Rate by a .5%. The Coalition and FCI are looking at a 4.5% reduction in the administrative cost; services offered by the Coalition will be affected. <p><u>Office of Early Learning/Agency for Workforce Innovation (OEL/AWI)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copies of the VPK brochures mentioned in last System meeting are available on-line at http://www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/documents/VPK%20Brochure.pdf 2. OEL/AWI is working with the Coalition to determine how the training can be provided in Broward County. The link will also be posted on ELC website. <p><u>Children’s Services Council (CSC)</u> The legislation pending before the Florida Legislature will, if enacted, fundamentally change how the eight independent Children's Services Councils operate in Florida. The Senate Bill 1216 (Negron) and House Bill 1227 (Mayfield) proposals were lost in the Senate. Partners are asked to continue advocacy on behalf of CSC offering programs that strengthen the community. Ms Cohen thanked those who helped to speak out against the Bill.</p>		
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VII. System Celebrations and Updates Partners		
<p><u>Child Care Provider</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. N.E. Focal Point Intergenerational school presented the Coalition with a poster for the Week of the Young Child, April 11 – 17, 2010. 3. First United Methodist Preschool reported completion of “I Can Problem Solve”. The coaches did a great job facilitating the Positive Behavior Supports program funded by CSC. 		

4. Positive Behavior Support is a pilot program, targeting 6 schools. Coaches have taken extensive Positive Behavior Support training; an implementation academy will be held the end of April. QIS Coaches and Mentors were trained on the model and can work with over 150 centers to find ways to spread elements of the program to many more providers. FCI is initiating more pilot programs targeting May/June 15, 2010 as the implementation date.
 - Participation involves centers that have been rated in QRIS. CSC decided to offer this type of training to centers, and how to best use the limited resources based on the level of high risk that children faced. This evidence-based program will be taken to the community; participation in QRIS will increase the level of success in the program.
 - The goal of the Coalition is parent involvement and early intervention.
5. NE Focal Point Intergenerational School reported completion of the “I Can Problem Solve” program. Great relationships were formed, and immediate change was evident as more respectful approaches were taken on the part of teachers, when interacting with children with behavioral issues, and their families.
6. Board Representative for Providers, Julia Musella, invited providers to participate in presenting their program to the ELC Board by creating their own Power Point presentation highlighting their centers; presentations may be submitted to Ms. Musella for preview.
7. CSC sponsored, Positive Behavior Support parent night on March 17, at The Early Education Center in Davie. The topic was, Recognizing Developmental Milestones. There was a large turnout and the information was well received. On April 17, David Garcia will be speaking about Challenging Behaviors, so far 30 parents signed up, and 16 are on the waiting list.
8. First Christian Day School expressed thanks to the Coalition for the opportunity to participate in the QRIS program. Ms. Helen Magnuson, Director of the school, shared a letter she wrote to Governor Crist, which was published in the March 4th edition of “The Deerfield Observer”.

VPK Pre-School Conference

1. The committee continues to work on plans for the pre-conference and conference. The new date for the conference is October 15-16, 2010.
2. The committee is recruiting presenters for the Infant & Toddler and Special Needs tract.
3. The conference will be renamed Broward Early Childhood Professional Conference; however, the theme will remain the same as last year: “Keys to Readiness Unlocking the Brain”.
4. Additional sub-committee members and presenters are needed to represent the infant and toddler practitioners.
5. The registration packages will be distributed prior to the day of the conference.
6. Proposals packets will be sent to the presenters once the conference date is confirmed.

Department of Health

The following information was sent to the Coalition:

Department of Health is offering free immunization to centers:

“We would like to collaborate with providers who have a large VPK enrollment to provide onsite immunizations. If there are providers who are planning a major VPK registration at their perspective centers and are interested in having free childhood immunizations available, please have them contact me at 954-467-4700 Ext.5710. Our calendar for the month of June is open.”

Recognition was given to CSC for sponsoring many programs and training in the community: Additional

information may be obtained at www.cscbroward.org
 Providers asked for clarification of language used in the “Capacity Building Training”.

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc

1. The monthly Coalition Board meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2010. Changes will be made to the management of the ELC 5 Development and Assessment contract as set forth by the Office of Early Learning. Providers will be trained to use “Ages and Stages” Social Emotional screenings with their children and return them to FCI.
2. The VPK Model will remain the same.
3. A hand-out was given with VPK Readiness Rate for children attending VPK program 2008-2009, tested within the first 30 days of Kindergarten, Fall 2009. This was an introduction to the tool highlighting changes that were made this year. Questions may be directed to the Department of Education at fldoe.org/earlylearning.

BAEYC

BAEYC members expressed interest in becoming involved as a System Partner and invited partners to sign up for BAEYC membership, taking advantage of the many incentives offered for a \$75 yearly fee.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Clarify meaning of language used in “Capacity Building” training	Sharon Cohen	5/19/10
VIII. New Business		Partners

None.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

IX. Public Comments

None

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2010

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