

Minutes

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

QUALITY COUNTS
Early Care and Education Continuous Quality Improvement

5/19/2010
10:00 a.m.
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Gloria Addo, Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Risa Demato, Melanie Geddes, Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Joy Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Sande Gruskin, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Debbie Kay, Karina La Banca, Helen Magnuson, Ilene Miller, Doreen Moskowitz, Dee Ann Nevares, Christopher Norwood, Ellyn Okrent, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Chris Priester, Gilbert Rincon, Cecily Roberts, Grace Roque, Jenny Turnquest, Lori Tiger, Nurit Sheinberg, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Diane Tischler, Melissa Trentham, Karla Walker, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika,

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:

Nurit Sheinberg, MSI/NSU
Dee Nevares, Family Central, Inc.

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		
The agenda was approved by consensus.		
IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 4/14/10		
The minutes were approved by consensus, with the following corrections: Page 4 - DCF website: www.myflorida.com/childcare		
V. Presentation		
(1) Overview of Programs at Mailman Segal Institute at NSU & Research Review	(2) Training Needs and Gaps	Dr. Nurit Sheinberg, MSI/NSU Dee Ann Nevares, FCI
(1) Overview of Programs at Mailman Segal Institute at NSU		
Ms. Sheinberg stated that NSU/MSI is a multi-disciplinary demonstration and training center for education and research in the field of Early Childhood and Autism. Mailman Segal Institute is one of the 16 NSU centers offering Early Learning Programs accredited through NAEYC. This includes Autism, Adult Academics, Clinical Services and Research Grants and Contracts. Early Learning Programs include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Center Infant-Toddler Program: Children birth to 2 years of age. • Family Center Preschool: Children 2 to 5 years of age participate in a preschool program designed to foster their cognitive and socio-emotional skills. • Parenting Place: Parent and child classes; positive discipline classes; parent coaching services. • Autism/Clinical Programs: Baudhuin Preschool; Starting right; Unicorn Children’s Foundation Clinic; Autism Consortium; Autism Institute; SuperKids. • Adult Academics: Child Development Associate/Florida Child Care Professional Certificate; Applied Behavior Analysis Coursework and Certification; Positive Behavioral Support Master’s Program in the process of being approved; Academic Programs with a focus on Autism. • Trainings and Professional Development: Customized trainings in Early childhood curriculum and practices; Classroom environments; Importance of play; Early literacy and numeracy; VPK curriculum; Developmental processes in children; Parenting and Care-giving; Mentoring; Leadership; Infant Mental Health. • Research, Grants and Contracts: Early childhood education; Professional Development and Leadership; Early Intervention models; Parenting support/intervention models for families with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Early literacy; Social emotional development of children; Responsive and sensitive care-giving; Quality early childhood environment and children’s outcomes; Behavioral support. • Community Outreach: Early literacy; Professional development; Quality early childhood programming; Support from ELC, A.D. Henderson Foundation, Moran Foundation; Department of Education. • Project “Importance of building responsive care-giving”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Child abuse and neglect is a severe problem ➢ Foster care placement; nationally, in 2005, 513,000 children. The State of Florida ranked 		

number three.

- Strong connection between abuse and neglect and negative development outcomes.
- The majority of abuse and neglect cases being reported involve infants and young children; this usually happens during the early years at a time when children are most vulnerable.

Objective of the study

- To increase staff’s knowledge of child development; levels of responsive care-giving; care-giving beliefs.
- To ensure that KITES (24 hour emergency shelter) provide children with a nurturing and stimulating environment that will support children’s development.
- To help KITES develop the capacity to ensure sustainability and continuity for this model of care-giving once the funding for this grant is exhausted.

There will be a continuation of this presentation at the June 16, 2010 meeting.

(2) Training Needs and Gaps

Ms. Nevares handed out a summary of the training needs assessment for 2010-2011 as determined by the 153 (14%) survey responses. Providers of training of early care and education in Broward were asked to participate by completing the survey and return to Ms. Nevares today. Many of the training institutions that provide early childhood training in our community did not respond to the survey.

Findings of Needs:

- Most requested trainings: Online Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- First Aid/CPR
- Preschool Assessment
- Lesson Planning
- Dealing with Challenging Behaviors
- Staff motivation and Recruitment
- Evening and Saturday classes in English are the most requested

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VI. Old Business

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VII. System Celebrations and Updates

Partners

Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference

1. The committee continues to work on plans for the Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference: The Pre-Conference will be held on Friday, October 15, 2010 at the Rock Island Professional Development Center and Conference on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at Piper High School, Sunrise.
2. The committee is looking for keynote speakers, presenters and sponsors.
3. The deadline for the presenter packet is July 30, 2010; the registration form used last year may be

reused this year.

4. The registration packages will be distributed prior to the day of the conference.
5. Proposals packets will be sent to the presenters once the conference date is confirmed.
6. Cost for the conference will be \$25.00, \$30.00, \$35.00, and \$50.00 at the door.
7. Directors will be required to register all staff, and pick up conference materials one week prior to the conference; centers will be entered into a raffle as an incentive for early registration.
8. Centers that miss the early registration deadline will have one staff member sign and pick up all of their conference materials.
9. Packets will be prepared well in advance of the day of the conference.
10. On-line registration will begin sometime in June.

Professional Development

Nova Southeastern University Fischler, Davie Campus is starting an onsite AA program in Early Childhood Education in the fall.

Child Care Provider

1. Dr. Wendi Siegel expressed her appreciation for the support she received from community partners when she needed a substitute to present to her Broward College ECE class. Several people responded to her request. Stacy Angier, Michelle Cabrera, and Penny Bernath effortlessly held a panel discussion that evening, which was well-received by the students.
2. A Family of 5 children is seeking sponsorship for summer camp, contact Mr. Layne Polakoff for more information.
3. A World of Knowledge is adding space to their facility; opening more classrooms for 2 and 3 year olds and VPK classes; the school offers an annual Musical presentation. Their program involves creative arts and children learning through music.
4. NE Focal Point Intergenerational School thanked Licensing staff for a great workshop on the new State licensing standards. Broward County Child Care Licensing conducted four workshops to update providers on the new standards; more workshops are planned.

Community-Based Connection

The goal of the group is to focus on Sunland Park area and to help the children in that community prepare for kindergarten. The community-based connection will link organizations to the population in need of the services. The project started by Community-Based Connection (CBC) involves:

1. Working in the schools with principals and teachers
2. Partnering with The Housing Authority and the parents
3. Locating and utilizing child care centers in the community

Family Central, Inc., offers a resource library that can connect to this program by supplying Early Childhood Education resources: The use of the computer lab will be made available, also referral to a place for donations of computers – contact Ms. Yanick Goutier. Mr. Priester thanked FCI and stated that one of the organization's goals is to set up a resource center; therefore will welcome the use of these resources and plan to have a discussion with FCI as soon as possible.

The Coalition staff met with Mr. Priester and Mr. Norwood recently, and will continue to work with them in areas that need support to ensure that steps are taken to get children ready for school.

C-QuELL

C-QuELL child care centers are developing positive relationships with several elementary schools, including Riverglades Elementary. The C-QuELL centers are also participating in the Money Smart program. This is a financial literacy program created by the FDIC; all materials are provided free of charge and available online. C-QuELL centers are partnering with representatives of the banking community who present the classes on credit, mortgages, loans etc to the families in each center.

Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

1. Resource and Referral, in addition to providing parents with information on how to choose quality child care, and locating child care in the community, also manages the Waiting list for financially assisted child care. Parents need to update information on the waiting list of over 10,000 children; until last week this was an administrative challenge. FCI went live with website so parents can now update correct information and obtain confirmation so that they can remain on the list. The information will be sent to parents in an update letter.
2. FCI staff attended the Implementation Academy for the Positive Behavior Supports with ELC and SBBC staff. The process involved brainstorm on processes that will be implemented in the program and made decisions on how many schools will participate in the program which will be between 6 months to a year.
3. AWI and Workforce One decision: Early Childhood Professional Certification was removed from industrial certification list for high school students; many of these students earn their certificate before finishing high school and continue working in our local child care facilities. This decision will affect early childhood as many of the High Schools will discontinue this course if it is not listed in the industrial certification list approved by AWI and Workforce One. The Coalition is coordinating with the CEO of Workforce One.

KidVision VPK

1. Kidvision VPK won the 2010 PBS Interactive Innovation of the Year Award, recognizing digital media excellence and innovations that are replicable, sustainable and true to the educational needs of the community.
2. KidVision will be resetting the VPK site to make In-service hours available to teachers by June 30. The questions will be geared towards the overall objective of what teachers should learn from the program; Ms. Bernath is getting feedback from the Coalition and FCI.

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc

1. The Coalition staff and Stacy Angier met with Amy Duffy at the SBBC, the coordinator of the FLKRS training for Private Schools regarding the FLKRS assessment. A plan was designed to find ways to notify more teachers before school closes, so they would take advantage of the training in August. A date has been set and a save-the-date email will be sent soon.
2. The second part of the plan is to reach parents; 30 volunteers are also needed, dates and times to train volunteers have been set, as well as dates for the FLKRS assessments. A parent letter will be given to child care providers informing them of their responsibility and giving information how to determine the locations where the children can be assessed.
3. The Coalition is inquiring of the Department of Education to see if private schools can be trained to administer the FAIRS.

4. The ELC Board voted on the new cycle of services; the information is posted on the front office door of the Coalition.
5. The Creative Curriculum training is scheduled for June 24-25, 2010 at Children’s Service Council.
6. Creative Curriculum committee will meet immediately following this meeting; consideration is being given to hold a lunch-time “Provider Forum.”
7. Last year the Coalition Board made changes to the Priority list; effective mid August children over 10 years old will no longer be served.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
VPK In-service hours offered by KidVision	Penny Bernath	July 1, 2010
Broward ECE Conference: Recruitment of Presenters and Exhibitors; spread the word to Providers.	All Partners	July 30, 2010

	VIII. New Business	Partners
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None.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

IX. Public Comments

None

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 16, 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