

Minutes

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



10/19/11
10:00 a.m.
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees: Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Michele Cabrera, Marjie Cohn-Dolan, Sharon Cohen, Ana Maria M-Garcia, Jill Gelman, Joy Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Mildred Hightower, Nadine Jackson, Lola Jordan, Mari Kelley, Helen Magnuson, Louise Marine, Christina Marsman, Jill Morgenstein, Al Murray, Jessica Novak, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Ellie Schrot, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Melissa Trentham, Carol Wasserman, Andrea Zabel

Staff in Attendance: K. Lee Tirpak, CPO; Carmen Nicholas, ECE Program Specialist; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Presenters:

I. Welcome and Call to Order K. Lee Tirpak

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 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 – 10/19/11

The minutes were approved by consensus without corrections.

V. Presentation:

(1) Further Understanding of Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) & Individual Educational Plan (IEP) Process for Young Children

Ellen Breslow, FDLRS
Ellie Schrot, Early Steps

The presenters outlined services provided by the Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource System (FDLRS) and Early Steps, Florida Early Intervention System.

FDLRS/Child Find

- Child Find functions are provided in community settings in order to locate, refer, screen evaluate or initiate service planning for children and families who are in need of these services.
- Technology functions through the Children’s Registry and Information System (CHRIS), a computerized information system, used in every county in Florida to track children, birth to kindergarten for which special services are requested. The system is maintained by the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS)
 - Parent service functions identifying information on a child, parent or family member is strictly confidential and the system electronically tracks parental permission.

Early Steps: Florida’s Early Intervention System

- Part C Early Intervention Program serves infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months, regardless of family’s income.
- Increasingly, the benefits of early identification and treatment on child health outcomes are being proven; with this knowledge comes the responsibility to identify children who are eligible for referrals through the screening process.
- Service delivery model ensures high quality early intervention programs for vulnerable infants and toddlers.
- Federal regulations require that referrals are made **within two working days** of identifying a child who may have a developmental delay or an **established condition** to meet the criteria for eligibility.
- Additional information is available at www.fdlrs.com

Suggestions were made to market the Early Steps information through email blast, Broward County Child Care Licensing Sector meetings and to include in the state brochure, a PowerPoint presentation will be done at a future Coalition Board meeting.

VI. System Highlights

Partners

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

- A Rules Workshop will be held on October 26, 2011 at 4:00p.m. in the ELC conference room: Rule discussion topics include Low Performing Provider Good Cause Exemption and VPK Provider Readiness Rate.
- 2011 Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 year olds is available at: www.elcbroward.org
- New grants coming to Broward:

- The Coalition is one of several organizations partnering with Broward Regional Health Planning Council who was funded 8.8 million dollars over a five year period to implement a Community Transformation Grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Broward's Infrastructure Design to Guide and Sustain Permanency for Young Foster Children: BRIDGES proposes to identify quality childhood environments that are equipped to address and heal challenging behaviors; educate foster parents, parents, guardians and child advocates on the importance of quality early learning environments; provide resources and support to early childhood teachers; strengthen existing relationships between the child welfare and early learning system; address policies that directly impact placement of young children in foster care and pilot an trans-disciplinary approach that meets the needs of both foster children and foster families. Partners include FCI, ELC, ChildNet, CSC, The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, and WPBT Channel 2.
- Race to the Top Webinar – October 26, 2011 at 2:00pm – 3:30pm.
- Scholarship reimbursement is available for registration fee for teachers who attended the Early Childhood Educators Conference; information will be sent to the centers.
- The Coalition staff will look into the availability of funds for scholarships for directors attending the NAEYC conference.
- The Coalition staff asked providers what process or regulations currently hinder operations in child care?
- Provider announced that some teachers participating in the WAGES[®] program, and are waiting to achieve a higher educational program may not be able to do so within the 2 year period allotted in Level I and recommended a 4 year period may be more reasonable.

Child Care Provider

- Directors' awareness of new procedures for reporting child abuse cases to the Broward Sheriff Office.
- Appreciation to the sponsors of the Annual Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference.
- Ms. Jayne Hafer, Director of NE Focal Point Intergenerational was recognized for "Weaving and Networking" track at the conference.

Broward Association for Education of the Young Child (BAEYC)

Meeting will be held today at 7:00 pm at Children's Services Council.

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

New online training:

- Serving Safe Food in Child Care
- Count Me In: Resources for Early Childhood Inclusion
- Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters
- Asthma Curriculum

Kid Vision VPK

Kid Vision presents a new field trip to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, visit www.KidVisionVPK.org

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Scholarship information to Broward ECE conference attendees	ELC	11/31/11
VII. New Business		
None.		
VIII. Public Comments		
None		
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: Provider Forum: Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 10:00 am</p>		

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