

Minutes

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

QUALITY COUNTS
Early Care and Education Continuous Quality Improvement

9/21/11
10:00 a.m.
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees: Stacy Angier, Penny Bernath, Michele Cabrera, Willie Cameron, Nicole Carter, Marjie Cohn-Dolan, Sharon Cohen, Maria Helen Fernando, Jill Gelman, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Yanick Goutier, Evelyn Grooms, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Nadine Jackson, Lola Jordan, Debbie Kay, Mari Kelley, Christina Marsman, Louise Marine, Jill Morgenstein, Julia Musella, Jessica Novak, Beatriz Pillier, Ann de las Poza, Layne Polakoff, Cecily Roberts, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Shari Silverstein, Michelle Sponder, Amy Ungor, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Richard Yi, Andrea Zabel

Staff in Attendance: K. Lee Tirpak, CPO; Carmen Nicholas, ECE Program Specialist; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Andrea Braynon, CFO; Janice Carter, Director of CRRD; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Presenters:

I. Welcome and Call to Order K. Lee Tirpak

Partners took a few minutes to network before the meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.
The upcoming October Family Central and ELC fundraisers were announced.

II. Introductions

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

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 8/17/11

The minutes were approved without any corrections.

V. CEO Search Discussion: (1) In what direction would you like to see the next CEO take the ELC?

**Consultant by Skype:
Renee Narloch**

In what direction would you like to see the next CEO take the ELC?

Purpose: To gather input from partners and providers in the hiring process of the next ELC Chief Executive Officer's (CEO).

- An inquiry was made as to whether a comparative study was done of other Coalitions that serve the same population with similar funding; was a job description and other components of the job requested.
 - It was noted that the Coalition had designated a Search Committee to take on this task.
- Recommendations were made to review the present job description and craft a document to empower the individual to take the Coalition in a new direction to support and strengthen the role of child care providers and system partners in Broward.
 - Job descriptions are being requested from various Coalitions and developed for the Committee's acceptance.
- The following suggestions were made as to what participants would like to see in the next CEO:
 - Attendance to ECE System meetings; visible in the early learning community; approachable; friendly and warm; advocate for providers; hands on knowledge of early care and education; initiate fund-raising efforts; vision for fundraising.
 - Promote the Coalition's mission; identify purpose of the Coalition; take position as an umbrella agency; create awareness among child care centers; marketing the mission.
 - Ability to move with changes quickly and initiate operational changes recognizing how they affect all early childhood program services in Broward.
 - Engaged, articulate visionary; creative leader.
 - Experienced with procurement processes and related activities, able to articulate details appropriately at all levels of community partners.
- An inquiry was made as to whether an exit interview had taken place with the CEO and how staff was involved with this process.
 - It was noted that there has been interaction with the past CEO and staff to find a good fit. The Coalition staff has been given the opportunity for input with Ms. Narloch, as well as communication via email or telephone. Additionally, the Board has asked specifically for input from staff and all who can contribute beneficially to this process.
 - Providers have actively participated in the Search Committee and have asked that Ms. Narloch make herself available to staff.
- Participants thanked Ms. Stacy Angier, Coalition Faith Based Representative, for including providers in this forum today. Additional, recommendations should be sent to Sandra Martinez at smartinez@elcbroward.org or Renee Narloch at (850) 391-000 or reeneen@bobmurrayassoc.com.

Comments

Final decision will be made based on a “good fit” with the ELC and Broward, which will be an indicator of the success for providers.

VI. System Highlights

Partners

A. Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. Updates

(1) Quality Rating

The Chief Program Officer updated the participants on the recent discoveries in the ELC 4-1 contract (Quality Rating Services) an important component of the Quality Counts System, involving the need for recent assessments to be redone based on the May assessor reliability report from the authors. The actions taken by the Coalition were identified, and discussion included participant’s questions and answers from Coalition and Broward County Licensing staff. All involved are committed to ensure this situation does not re-occur in the future; the item will be discussed at the October 14th Coalition Board meeting.

Announcement: Dr. Carmen Nicholas had transitioned to the Coordinator of the Quality Counts Project for the Coalition. The Program Department staff will be stepping back to develop a strategic plan based on the information gathered this summer, along with national best practice results, face to face interviews, and visits with Broward Community early care and education providers.

(2) Special Needs Reimbursement Rates

The Chief Program Officer updated the participants on the history and progress of the Coalition’s Ad hoc Committee on Special Needs. The Committee is tasked with reviewing the current policy and identifying revisions to ensure children with identified special needs have access to child care services that offer special accommodations to meet the child’s individual needs, and to develop a system for appropriate reimbursement including a quality assurance component. Discussion included participant questions and answers from Coalition staff. The item will be discussed at the October 14th Coalition Board meeting.

Announcement: Inclusion Training series to begin in late September and sessions will be held monthly throughout the county until June 2012. Lori Miranda, facilitator of the Technical Assistance and Training Services (T.A.T.S.), from Central Florida University, will conduct 10 sessions of Inclusion training for providers; information will be sent to providers via email. The Inclusion Specialist will distribute the series details in the next few weeks.

(3) State Board of Education and VPK Readiness Rate update

1. Final recommendation for VPK Readiness Rate, affecting 2011-2012 kindergarten children was set by the State Board of Education this week: at least 70% of the children in a provider’s site must pass both the ECHOS and the FLAIR to be considered getting children ready for kindergarten. Rules still need to be promulgated.
2. The Department of Education will be hosting a Rules Workshop in Broward County, on October 26, 2011 at the Coalition, 4:00 – 7:00 PM. The Rules Workshop will address the revisions to the VPK Readiness rates for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 and the Good Cause Exemption.

B. Kid Vision VPK

Kid Vision continues to support and make learning meaningful and fun:

1. Launched a new free I-phone application inclusive video, music and reading quiz; as well as a new field

trip featuring a trip to the Dentist office; lesson plan is included.
 2. Draft for 2011 VPK Standard will be available on Kid Vision website, as soon as they are approved by the State Board of Education on October 18, 2011.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
(1) Communicate eligibility requirements including those related to children with IEP/IFSP to pass on to parents.	FCI staff	On-going
(2) Presentation to gain further understanding for the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) and Individual Educational Plans (IEP) process for young children.	ELC staff	October System Partners Gathering
(3) Identify required challenges within the School Readiness and/or VPK system that effect operations and distract from best practice.	Partners & Child Care Providers	October System Partners Gathering
(4) Distribute the Inclusion Training Series details.	Inclusion Specialist	October 19, 2012

VII. New Business

None.

VIII. Public Comments

None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 pm
 Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 10:00 am

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