

<h1 style="transform: rotate(-15deg);">Minutes</h1>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">ECE System Community Partners Gathering</h3> <h3 style="margin: 0;">PROVIDER FORUM</h3> <div style="background-color: #92d050; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> QUALITY COUNTS </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Early Care and Education Continuous Quality Improvement</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;">6/15/11 10:00 a.m. 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309</p>					
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Attendees:</td> <td>Empe Alaix, Julie Bergstrom, Penny Bernath, Michele Cabrera, Sharon Cohen, Suzanne Ford, Joy Gordon, Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Robin Grunfelder, Mari Kelley, Helen Magnuson, Christina Marsman, Julia Musella, Layne Polakoff, Naomi Parker, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Melissa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Andrea Zabel, Khalil Zeinieh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staff in Attendance:</td> <td>Janice Carter, Director of CRRD; K. Lee Tirpak, CPO; Carmen Nicholas, ECE Program Specialist; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Joanne Virgille, CRRD Assistant; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Presenters:</td> <td>Robin Grunfelder, Broward Healthy Start Coalition; Esther March-Singleton, Broward Coalition Breastfeeding Coalition</td> </tr> </table>	Attendees:	Empe Alaix, Julie Bergstrom, Penny Bernath, Michele Cabrera, Sharon Cohen, Suzanne Ford, Joy Gordon, Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Robin Grunfelder, Mari Kelley, Helen Magnuson, Christina Marsman, Julia Musella, Layne Polakoff, Naomi Parker, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Melissa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Andrea Zabel, Khalil Zeinieh	Staff in Attendance:	Janice Carter, Director of CRRD; K. Lee Tirpak, CPO; Carmen Nicholas, ECE Program Specialist; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Joanne Virgille, CRRD Assistant; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant	Presenters:
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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 after the following changes: Move item VI. System Highlights after V. Presentation 1. and discuss “Difficulty in getting Quorum for Board Committee Meetings”						
IV. Review and Approve Minutes – 5/18/11						
<p>Comment: Participant expressed issue with the integrity and accuracy of minutes; noting that they have been very long, repetitive, vague and grammatically incorrect - inaccurate since specific comments were not included from the FAU Study. Coalition staff accepted the concern.</p> <p>The minutes were approved by consensus, with the following changes: Page 1, remove Andrea Zabel and Dee Nevares from list of Attendees and add Yanick Goutier; Page 3, correction line 8 and 9: “FCI updates their COOP Plan annually: In cases of emergency two numbers are activated: Child Care Provider information (800) 925-3531 and Client Information (800) 726-8608.” Page 5, add sentence to line 7 of the <u>Florida Atlantic University Study Report</u> – “Comments & Questions: Child Care provider voiced concern about the purpose of the study, methodology, cost and possible duplication.”</p>						
V. Presentation Topics:						
<p>1) <u>Breast Fed Babies in Child Care</u> <i>Robin Grunfelder and Esther March of BCBC</i></p> <p>The presenters were introduced to the group; a handout was distributed. Participants were informed that the mission of the Breastfeeding Coalition of Broward County, Inc. (BCBC) is to improve the health of Broward County residents, by working collaboratively to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. The vision is to</p>						

strive to make breastfeeding a norm throughout the county. The following was discussed:

- Developing programs to promote knowledgeable, effective parenting and leveraging resources to support women in breastfeeding.
- Collaborating with state breastfeeding coalitions and other maternal and infant health advocacy organizations to achieve optimal health and enhance child development.
 - The BCBC Task Force's primary focus is breastfeeding in the hospitals; however, awareness of unmet needs for mothers who breastfeed and have to return to work became evident. Some child care centers are unsure how to handle breast milk. In response to the concerns, the Breastfeeding Coalition developed strategic goals for the period 2010-2013 which includes local awareness.
 - Community partners are working to develop a needs assessment in child care settings; based on the lasting health benefits experienced by breastfed babies and mothers and to create provider awareness.
 - Refer to page 9 of handout: The National Immunization survey conducted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, showed significant health benefits and cost savings.
 - The Breastfeeding Coalition modified the objective: "By 2010 all hospitals and birthing centers would have at least 75% initiation of breastfeeding" to "By 2010 all hospitals and birthing centers intend to encourage all mothers to breastfeed and to have at least 75% of mothers' breastfeeding." The Breastfeeding Coalition is seeking feedback from child care providers to understand what is needed to train and support child care staff in this initiative.
- Broward Child Care Licensing and Enforcement (BCCLE) was asked for feedback regarding facilities' concerns:
 - ✓ Centers inquire how to properly store breast milk.
 - ✓ Providers can be informed and educated at sector meetings
 - ✓ In the past BCCLE has referred families to centers that accept breast milk.

Questions, Comments, and Suggestions:

- Provider shared that breastfed infants in centers have fewer absences.
- Providers suggested a poster be available that identified proper handling and storage of breast milk.
- The Child/Adult Care Food Program promotes breastfeeding and reimburses for breast-fed babies. Centers who receive food reimbursement from the State Department of Health can increase awareness.
- Knowledge that breast milk is allowable, easily handled and stored gives multiple avenues to get information to providers.
- The Breastfeeding Coalition will provide information and resources wherever it is needed.
- Partners invited Healthy Start Coalition representative to present at the Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference and host a table.
- BCBC Support Groups, resources, and workshops for child care practitioners are identified on Pages 16-17 of the handout.
- To support women who are unable to breastfeed, BCBC recognizes the need for good parenting skills and encourages more skin to skin contact for infants while feeding and holding.

VI. System Highlights

Director's Dialogue Debut - Broward Association for the Education of Young Children (BAEYC)

The participants will be encouraged to create the name of this initiative. Seventeen NAEYC and five 5-Star program directors were invited to the August meeting. The first focus group meeting will be held at Temple Beth El on Thursday, August 4, 2011 at 9:00 am, breakfast will be served. Focus group: "Face-Time" conversation will include the accreditation process and Quality Counts; challenges and opportunities and the importance of mentoring others. The vision of the group is that all children enrolled in group care in Broward County attend a program that is on a quality improvement path.

Broward Early Childhood Educators Conference

- Vendor requests and sponsorship forms will be available next week.
- The Conference Date: October 15, 2011; two 2-hour sessions and one hour keynote session; CEU's will be offered.
- Participants and volunteers needed; next meeting - July 20, 2011 at 2 pm, location to be determined.
- FCI has promoted Christina Marsman to assist in coordinating the activities for the 2011 conference along with other community ECE outreach efforts; funding was made available from ELC.
- Providers asked for the costs of the 2010 conference, FCI will bring the results to the August meeting.
- The conference committee was acknowledged for their dedication and commitment.
- Providers questioned the child care centers participation in the Annual Conference, the magnitude of volunteer hours provided, and the need to seek other volunteers to enable them to reduce participation the day of the conference to attend educational sessions.
- Providers also expressed their concerns that they are being asked by the Coalition and State agencies to do more, as the agencies do less; they fear that volunteer work will become mandatory for them. They are seeking some equitability of the volunteerism with agency staff. Their claim is that people who do a lot of volunteer work usually have the financial ability to do so.
- Providers agreed that the committee is a dedicated group and expressed concern for policy makers and funders' inability to notice the need for funding this event due to the tremendous volunteer support. It was noted that the conference had achieved National level status and providers never thought the volunteerism would be expected each year.

Providers suggested the following changes:

- The Coalition should seek additional funds to fully fund the conference model.
- Record volunteer hours for the providers and reimburse them for some of their volunteer hours.
- Ensure transparency of all monies spent.
- Providers shared that they would like to see stronger partnerships and respectful dialogue between them and the Coalition staff and Board members, identifying that it would be difficult for the Coalition to do its work without the providers.
 - Board members have shown disrespect, by not responding to provider invitation to visit centers; however, it was noted that the Board Chair has visited centers.
 - It was mentioned that unwilling Board members should give up their membership.
- Coalition staff should be responsible for educating the board and inform them of what the providers are doing, rather than providers advising or educating board members.
- Provider expressed resentment that board members appear to make decisions without knowledge of the child care system.
- Provider expressed concern that their comments had been omitted from the Personnel Committee meeting minutes in May.

Coalition staff reminded participants of the following:

- Coalition Board Members represent Governor-appointments and others from the community. The recent Board Retreat - Board Governance conversations are expected to continue and should guide future actions.
- Meetings held by the Coalition are open to the public and corrections to the Personnel Committee Meeting minutes or any others, are addressed by the Committee and adjusted before approved. All Coalition minutes refer to the existence of the recording of minutes.
- The Coalition and System Partners have always worked together to find and use unspent funds to improve the quality of the ECE in Broward; allocation of unspent funds are based on partners input and Board approval.
- Partners recognize and address together what is needed to make the system different. Partners designed the Broward ECE system to include the conference and included designated staff; however, keeping track of the

overtime hours and extra hours of exempt employees can be addressed.

- The Coalition has worked with community partners, staff and providers for years and all have volunteered time to achieve goals. As a result of the Conference Committee’s request and Coalition and FCI staff working together, the coordinator position was approved this fiscal year.

System Partners Recognition

Ms. Ilene Gevirtz, Director of Resource and Referral Services was recognized for her 17 years of working with Resource and Referral at FCI and wished the best in retirement. Ms. Gevirtz acknowledged it had been a privilege and a pleasure making a difference in the child care field and quality care, and encouraged everyone to continue with the good work.

Broward County Child Care Licensing & Enforcement

- Communication Cultural Common Sense Training: June 25, 2011, 8:30am – 12:30pm at Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park, Fort Lauderdale, cost \$20.00.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Provide 2010 Conference revenue/expense report	Carol Wasserman	August 17, 2011

This section returns to V. Presentation Topics

Partners

(2) Workshops

(a) Ideas Regarding 7% Reduction in VPK Funding & the Ratio Change

Providers discussed what the group can do to alleviate the effects from the reductions in VPK funding:

- Providers encouraged the Coalition to consider fund-raising activities to offset the reductions in VPK.
- System budget cuts were identified and questioned.
- Collaborative efforts between FCI and Coalition staff to ensure positive VPK registration experiences.
- Providers expressed need for parents to be told that the VPK budget cuts may result in reduction of the quality of care and long lines at registration.
- Providers expressed concern about the proposed variance to temporarily allow Centers to register enrolled 3 year olds into their VPK program:
 - Increased costs to providers.
 - Eventual permanent requirement for centers.
 - Potential issues/impact of inaccurate completion of enrollment forms (legal document)

Other Concerns/information discussed:

- Some Providers will accept more private pay clients due to the cuts in VPK and SR; Private pay will take priority at some centers. Some Providers may not be affected by economy and choose not to serve SR children.
- Some centers experienced negative results when serving SR children; a “class” or “cost” flight of clients, leaving facilities to appear as ‘non-governmental organization.’
- VPK reductions are overwhelming for centers, while figuring out the next steps providers should keep each other encouraged. Julie Bergstrom offered to host a provider forum to discuss the VPK funding impacts on programs.

Ways to manage VPK Class Ratio and Size

- Two (2) VPK classes may share the same room, doing separate activities.
- Broward Child Care Licensing and Enforcement said teachers can share the supervision of activities: Nur Us Islam was noted as having a good model for sharing a VPK room, with appropriate activities for each group; however, to accomplish a successful model, teachers need support from administration.
- Provider suggested that QRIS should be adopted in the accredited programs.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Host VPK Provider Forum	Julie Bergstrom	July

VII. New Business**Partners****Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. report**

- The above information expressed by providers will be communicated to the Coalition Board. Providers were invited to attend the Annual Board meeting on June 27, 2011.
- The following items were identified as to be presented at the June Board Meeting:
 - Request for a 60 day extension of six (6) FY2010-2011 contracts will be presented to the Executive Committee on 6/20/11.
 - VPK and SR funding total cuts (\$3.5 million) affect all aspects of the Broward ECE System
 - County and SBBC contracts previously approved will also be affected with minimal affect on service delivery.
 - Variance to temporarily allow VPK providers to register children.
 - Extension of the continuation of the ARRA funded child care policy for unemployed families.
 - Continued funding for professional development supports including mini-grants, scholarships, and WAGE\$ stipends
- Adjustments will take place in July. FCI will update providers on all final developments.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Inform Coalition Board of Provider concerns	Coalition Staff	Coalition meetings

VIII. Public Comments*None***IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm

Next Meeting: August 17, 2011

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