

# Minutes

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

**QUALITY COUNTS**  
Early Care and Education Continuous Quality Improvement

12/15//2010  
10:00 a.m.  
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

**Attendees:**

Cherie Benjoseph, Nicole Carter, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Ilene Gevirtz, Jill Gelman, Joy Gordon, Mark Gross, Yanick Goutier, Evelyn Grooms, Sande Gruskin, Jayne Hafer, Patty Hawk, Mildred Hightower, Maria Hernandez, Debbie Kay, Lola Jordan, Josie Maymi, Bethany Marcusson, Ilene Miller, Doreen Moskowitz, Julia Musella, Dee Nevares, Jessica Novak, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Nurit Sheinberg, Chris Sieber, Michelle Sponder, Derek Tillman, Melissa Trentham, Thomas Walker, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Andrea Zabel

**Staff in Attendance:**

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer; Leticia Strasser, ECE Program Specialist; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

**Presenters:**

Kathy Haight, Consultant PD2  
Bonnie Smith, Michael Watson, Workforce One:

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 – 11/17/10**

The minutes were approved by consensus, with no corrections.

**V. FY 2010-2011 Unspent School Readiness Dollars** **K. Lee Tirpak**

- Unspent School Readiness Dollars**
- (1) A workshop/gathering Symposium event for all ages of interested teachers, i.e., future of teachers, children, curriculum, ages and stages “what’s next”
  - (2) Perishable items for classrooms; i.e., bingo markers (dots), glue, paper, etc.
  - (3) BAEYC or other professional membership for “outstanding” providers
  - (4) Scholarships to NAEYC
  - (5) Broward bus to NAEYC
  - (6) Co-sponsor an event/workshop during (WOYC) - April 10-18
  - (7) CDA Scholarships
  - (8) Director’s training/conference
  - (9) CDA scholarships or credits preschool teachers with BA degree in another field
  - 10) ODT/Quality circle
  - 11) A one-time stipend, or pro-rated amount using number of children served for to all School Readiness providers.
  - 12) Florida Core Competency books for all providers
  - 13) Fund Kidsafe books: Personal safety children’s books with teacher and/or parent workshops
  - 14) Professional development day for directors.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

**VI. Presentations:**

<b>(1) Professional Development</b>	Facilitators
<b>(2) Work force One</b>	Kathy Haight
	Bonnie Smith/Michael Watson

**(1) Professional Development**  
 Palm Beach county contracts with the State of Florida to design a collaborative to establish and expand the existing professional development system. The role of the consultant is to work with Coalitions to expand

the existing system based on the Palm Beach model. The system will be rolled out by the Coalition with funding from Agency for Workforce Innovation; with the intent that the community will own the system; the Coalition being the conduit.

- New logo has been developed “Florida Steps to Success”
- New website: [www.Floridaearlylearning.com](http://www.Floridaearlylearning.com)
- Today’s presentation will review the framework of the National model: The state component and support of local professional development activities with state resources, representative of a national career.
- The objective of the model is to improve development of people and find out what works for the community, and to lay the foundation of designing or expanding a professional development system in the community to meet community needs through a collaborative process.
- Components of a national model for a professional development system:
  - Funding
  - Core knowledge
  - Qualifications, credentials and pathways
  - Quality Assurance
  - Access and outreach
- Florida professional development system is more than training and will be based on the following:
  - Quality Assurance of trainers and training
  - A State registry
  - A career advising model
  - Community collaboration
  - Core Competencies will drive the system based on Quality Assurance
    - ✓ A career pathway, trainer qualifications, outcomes driven training; training manuals for 7 core knowledge areas
- Professional Development Workgroups will build a system by integrating the pieces and maximizing resources; identify gaps and needs and address local challenges to create an effective collaboration.
- Modules for training: Outcomes Driven Training
- Benefits of participation in the Registry pilot conducted by Palm Beach State College. Scholarships awarded to Practitioners to participate in 16 hour on-line course; CEU’s provided.

#### Comments and Questions

How does this compare with the career pathway in the School Board system?

How do we make this a reality in terms of cost?

Is there discussion for compensation

Is there an initiative that will include the grassroots people who will bring the issue to the State?

#### (2) **Work force One (WF1)**

In preparation to discuss Community service and on the job training to gain skills in the childcare industry, the data base revealed that, of 130 employers in the data system, 15% are in childcare and 83% of the positions in the data-base are vacant. WF1 goal is to get customers self sufficient; however, barriers in the populations prevents this from happening.

- Slots are vacant because of barriers in the population such as no high school diploma or criminal background; possibility for on-the-job training at other community sites still available.
- The average rate paid to child care workers is \$9.00 per hour.
- Intentions are to provide on the job training to help eliminate the issue of Low wage and self-

sufficiency. Community sites are open and WF1 offers the support and opportunities for on-the job training

**Questions and Comments**

What is the required pay rate that an employer has to commit to for on-the job training?

- Hourly rates may range from \$8.75 upwards; WF1 gives incentive up to 100% of the customer’s salary if the TANF customer is retained after 30 days instead of 90 days. Two requirements must be met: The customer must be a TANF recipient and has a barrier which creates a potential for training. The trend is that the majority of Transitional customers do not take advantage of vocational or advanced training that is available to them.

Are funds available for required additional training after the 90 days retention?

- Welfare Transition Program (WTP) does not fund advanced childcare training because it is not on the Occupation-on-Demand list which is tied to Workforce Investment Act,, geared to higher paying jobs.
- Providers commented that the training components creates a problem for child care since after three months there is a possibility of losing the employee.

Is there a way to incorporate child care to factor in-kind for WTP?

- AWI, the organization that oversees and funds childcare in the state does not recognize child care as an Occupation-on-Demand. The early learning community can rally providers to discuss this issue with legislators.
- The School Readiness Transitional Committee can participate in “Broward Days” to make a big impression, using this as a forum.
- Provider Board representative may want to take this to the ELC Board for further discussion and possibly a letter to AWI and ELAC.

The role of Workforce One and available resources to persons seeking employment and businesses seeking employees:

- Florida marketing system: advertisements are at no cost;
- Requirement while on unemployment to do a job search from WF1 data base
- WFI will assist centers to set up any type of screening in their job order; interviews can be conducted at WF1 locations; there are other resources to redirect job-seekers.
- Jobseekers and onsite recruiters visit: [www.wf1broward.com](http://www.wf1broward.com)
- Financial incentives: Tax savings – Hire Act saves percentage on Social Security payment
- Funds are available for training: Employer worker training program for an employer’s 50% match; has to be listed as a nationally recognized skill.
- There are three Broward WF1 centers: Davie; Oakland Park, Pompano
- Florida Ready to Work program – centers with over 50 employers can have this software available to them where Testing can be done for job skills and obtain a certificate.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
(1) Welfare Transition Program to create Occupational-on-Demand	Julia Musella	
(2) Organize group to participate in Broward Days	SREL Committee	

## VII. System Highlights

## Partners

**Child Care Provider**

- (1) Wyndham Learning Center: Holiday Festival sponsored by Henderson Mental Health was a great success; staff from the center volunteered 5 hours of their time for toy drive.
- (2) Baby Boomers International Preschool: In collaboration with Deerfield Beach Elementary Head Start and Baby Boomers, the children enjoyed Carnival activities for their holiday celebration. The Jazz Society will be sponsoring Jazz on the Green and Charles Drew Elementary Head Start children will participate. The School Board and FCI will work with centers to plan more community outreach activities with local Head Start programs.
- (3) NE Focal Point Intergenerational Center raised funds to provide Thanksgiving baskets for 14 families in their center. The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the center for Christmas celebrations and supplied toys to the children. The children also participated in several events which included singing for the City of Deerfield Beach.
  - Parent Night was made possible by A.D. Henderson Foundation who provided a family dinner and Creative Curriculum training; free child care was provided during the training.
  - Partners were reminded of the Children's Movement Milk Party; Legislative Delegation January 7, 2011, at the African American Research Library; parent skill- building. The legislative package has 5 areas of interest.

**Child Care Executive Partner**

Governor Christ nominated Ms. Sharon Cohen as CCEP Board member, she will be attending meetings beginning in January 2011.

**Kid Safe**

Ms. Cherie Benjoseph introduced the Kid Safe organization: Leadership Broward worked with the organization in the past and has adopted Kid Safe as one of their volunteer program; and has created a DVD with child care safety instructions for distribution in Broward. Ms. Benjoseph offered free books to centers as part of the eight week curriculum for children. Providers expressed interest in the program and hope that the Coalition can provide funds to pay for books and training.

**Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.**

Projects that the State is working on:

- (1) FCI is working with the state to switch Developmental screening to Ages and Stages questionnaire tool – the state is working to make it an on-line process, so that eventually providers will have on-line access and more efficient use of the tool.
- (2) Program Assessment: The ERS and CLASS tools provide information on the assessment. Future conversations will include incorporating this in the QRIS.
- (3) A statewide School Readiness Agreement is being developed by AWI and the Coalitions.
- (4) Visit the AWI website for changes to Rules and Workshops.
- (5) Four System partners will be attending Outcome Driven Training in Palm Beach January 18-20, 2011; directors and professionals in Broward will be provided training at a later date.
- (6) Scholarship applications are finalized and will be available by January 15, 2011: College Scholarships; National Child Development Association (CDA) Credential and In-service Professional

**Development**

- (7) Congratulations to Ms. Sharon Cohen, who was named CCEP Board member.
- (8) Training opportunities will be offered in January 2011 for the Florida VPK Assessment Tool.

**Family Central, Inc.**

National Accreditation Commission training will be offered at FCI on January 13 and 14, 2011. APPLE Accreditation training will take place in late January. Anyone interested contact Dee Nevares at 954 724 3955.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
(1) Advertise the Milk Party Legislative delegation, January 7, 2011	Sharon Cohen	

**VIII. Video by Julia Musella – Baby Boomers  
International Preschool**

Video clip by Julia Musella entitled Provider Community Working Together Through Tough Times.

**X. Public Comments**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm

Next Meeting: January 19, 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