

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering

4/15/09
 10:00 a.m.
 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Kerry Allen, Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Willie Cameron, Nicole Carter, Sharon Cohen, Jill Gelman, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Joy Gordon, Ray Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Joyce Krzemienski, Louise Marine, Doreen Moskowitz, Aldington Murray, Anita Platt, Layne Polakoff, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Charlene Swanson, Melisa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Khalil Zeinieh

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer, Lisa Feeney, Sr. ECE Program Specialist, Janice Carter, ECE Program Specialist, Leticia Strasser, ECE Program Specialist, Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

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 – 3/18/09

The minutes were approved by consensus, no corrections were made.

V. Old Business

Partners

None.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VI. System Celebrations and Updates		
Partners		
<u>Family Central, Inc. (FCI)</u>		
1. VPK Outreach		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK 2009-10 registration: School year - 6,500 certificates issued; summer - 500 certificates issued; 400 provisionally approved providers. 		
2. VPK/Pre-School Conference		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VPK/Pre-school Conference will be held September 12, 2009, at South Plantation High School. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henderson Foundation approved a \$15,400 grant for scholarships and resource materials. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services Council contributed a check for \$1,000. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Leadership Pre-conference for Directors and Owners is scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2009, at JCC, Sunrise, 9am – 12:00noon. VPK and School Readiness provider leadership will be in attendance. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line registration for the conference will be available Monday, April 20, 2009. Early registration fee is \$25.00, after August 15, 2009, \$40.00. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is available for presenters and sponsors. 		
3. Financial Assistance - Waiting List		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 12,000 children are on the waiting list with less than 11,000 receiving subsidies for care; approximately 400 children per month are being enrolled in the mandatory categories (Protective Services and Welfare transition), but financial assistance for income eligible families is unavailable for new enrollment this year. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite not enrolling income eligible families, customer satisfaction surveys in Eligibility Determination and Enrollment (EDE) indicate that parent satisfaction with customer service over the past quarter remains high at over 90%. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khalil Zeinieh, Vice President, FCI reported that as part of his new employee orientation process, he had the opportunity to visit four child care centers in the past week. It was exciting and gratifying to see all of the Early Learning Coalition initiatives and services, such as technical assistance and the resource van taking information and resources to the teachers at the centers. 		
Youth Program		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the leadership of Yanick Goutier, Director of Early Care and Education, and in partnership with Workforce One and Minority Development Empowerment, FCI is providing internship opportunities for young people ages 18-21, April through June 30, 2009. Youths will be assisting in a multitude of ways, while being mentored into early care and education careers. FCI staff looks forward to an ongoing partnership to continue to provide internship opportunities. 		
<u>ORIS Broward County Child Care Licensing and Enforcement(BCCCL&E)</u>		
<p>Ms. Anita Platt announced that the candidate hired for the position of Rater is Bilingual.</p>		

Provider Report

1. Ms. Joy Gordon, Director of New Mirawood School reported that the Child Care Scholarship initiative by providers was presented to the Coalition Board on Monday, April 13, 2009. The result of the survey conducted in October 2008, determined that providers are giving scholarships, defined as: reduced tuitions; tuition below market rate, or waived co-payment fee. In May 2008, providers offered over \$2 million in scholarship. The survey was conducted with 1,000 providers; 110 responses indicated that providers are, in fact subsidizing child care fees.
2. Wyndham Learning Center reported expansion of its facility to care for four infants; the infant room opened to families and reservations have been made for the next two cribs. Parent referrals also attracted more toddlers to the center.
3. Ms. Elizabeth Gonzalez, Director, of A World of Knowledge child care center attended Florida Association of Child Care Management (FACCM) annual conference on March 21, 2009. Discussion topics included different types of Coalitions, Standardization and Duplicate Monitoring, which led to the following questions.
 - (a) Why so many coalitions with different operating procedures?
 - (b) How is the money allocated?
 - (c) Why not standardize coalitions across the state?
 - ELC responded that coalitions were developed to localize Early Care and Education:
 - State Law allocates a minimum of 70% of funding to childcare slots; 1.7% Administrative cost; 28.3% contracted to Service providers to support Resource and Referral, Eligibility and Monitoring, Quality Improvement; Screening and Assessments. Overall the coalition spends an average of \$4,400 per child/12 month slot, which does not include child care.
 - There are 31 coalitions, some of which oversee multi-county operation. Three different models of coalition exist in the state; the legislation was initially written for oversight, afterwards amended for coalitions to provide direct services.
 - Standardized or local control really depends on how providers want services.
 - Monitoring, Licensing and Accreditation:
 - Changes in local licensing protocol
 - QRIS are standards of Quality – some accreditation are not looked at as ongoing quality
 - QIS Training
 - FCI clarified that this meeting is targeted to QIS providers only, will be held a FCI Tuesday, April 21, 2009, and includes 1 hour of training.

Professional Development

1. Ms. Penny Bernath congratulated Ms. Charlene Swanson for conducting 40 hours of training for grand-parent volunteers. Trainings are held every Monday 9am – 1pm.
2. **KidVision VPK**
KidVision has added a new unit “What children need to know when transitioning to Kindergarten” Ms. Bernath next KidVision field trip will be a tour of the Biscayne National Park, which will be available on KidVision VPK site May 1, 2009, www.kidvision.org.

3. Department of Education (DOE)

- The new DOE training management system allows providers to register on-line for face to face training.
- The transition to online VPK Standards training registration went smoothly for Broward, Dade and Monroe counties.
- Once the training is completed and verified online by the Facilitator, a transcript will be generated, allowing the participant to print their Certificate of completion.
- DOE and Department of Children and Families are working out a way for those who have already taken the training to obtain their certificates.
- Handouts were given on new on-line vocabulary and language tool-kit, and math training visit: www.fldoe.org/earlylearning
- “It’s Okay to Play in VPK” training for directors will be offered in June and July 2009.

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

1. Angels Helping Hands Foundation in joint partnership with the LEAP Program recycles used technology which is refurbished to assist under-resourced schools, underprivileged communities, and after school programs to improve their technology-based education program. Representatives will present at the VPK / Pre-school conference.
2. The Coalition is waiting for stimulus funding; suggestions made at the systems gatherings for spending will be taken into consideration.
3. CCEP allocated \$94,308 to Broward county; \$15,000 were raised from businesses within the community; Broward and Palm Beach county does not have a representative on the board.
4. AWI/OEL will be monitoring the Coalition and conducting eligibility training with the staff in Broward on May 21, 2009.

Comments

Hand-outs were given and child care providers was made aware of the following:

- Reporting child abuse and neglect
- Do not shake a baby
- The Exchange Everyday: Pre-k movement voices concerns about the trend for states to adapt Pre-K initiatives funding through public school systems.

School Readiness Early Learning Committee (S.R.E.L) Workforce Sub-Committee

1. The Workforce committee focuses on preparing personnel for educating children in the early years.
2. The SREL group met with Palm Beach to see their presentation.
3. The group examined the current competencies for cross-work between DOE and Workforce One, and made recommendation for changes. Partners were given a hand-out to read and make comments.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VII. Presentation & Workshop: Professional Development – Core Competencies		S.R.E.L. Workforce Committee

Ms. Charlene Swanson gave a brief presentation of the SREL Workforce committee’s introduction of the Core Competencies:

1. The competencies constitute the center of Early Child Care and Education professional knowledge, yet trainings are fragmented after the mandated 45 hours is achieved. The goal of the committee is to gain direction/guidance for the training of Child Care Professionals. Core competencies will offer directions and cohesiveness resulting in:
- Educated, quality professionals and Child Care Programs.
 - Child care providers marketing quality businesses
 - A system of quality programs:
 - Quality Rating Improvement System
 - Environmental Rating Scale
 - Accreditations
 - State Rules
 - Broward County Ordinance
 - Structured systems for children to learn:
 - Florida Educational standards
 - Child assessments
 - Guidelines in curriculum planning
 - Parents finding quality programs and teachers
 - There is no system in place for training of the Early Childhood professionals.

Workshop

Ms. Platt thanked the committee and referred to the Core Competencies which was developed by Palm Beach Community College. She stated that today is an introduction to a continued development over the next few months. The Workforce committee is tasked with putting together a cohesive system for recruiting, retaining and developing the early childhood education workforce; seven Core Competencies were identified from the review. Today six workgroups will examine the Core Competencies to find how to proceed with the existing material.

Report from Workshop

Group 1: Child Development and Learning

Level 2 skill should be realigned

Group 2: Building Family and Community Relationship

Need more time to review

Group 3: Observing, Documenting and Assessing to Support Young Children and their Families

Child development is learned by observing

Group 4: Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning are relationship based. Increase the WAGES program so teachers can make adequate salary for their work. Compare and add any changes in the VPK Standards

Group 5: Professionalism and Leadership

Across the competencies the group identified that certain levels of care related in level 4 could be done by a teacher with a lower level than a BA degree

Group 6: Health, Safety and Nutrition

Levels weren't necessary, in some cases all involved should be knowledge, if there is any stipulation, it should be made between Directors and teachers. Oral hygiene was not included

The groups will continue to examine each area in May's meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
VIII. New Business		
<p>The possibility of the public schools switching to a 4-day week, and the effect on the child care centers: Children Service Council are in discussion with School Board of Broward County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of school sites will open for a fee, the council is reviewing funds availability to begin planning for next year. • Some providers are trying to make arrangements for summer, giving consideration to Special Needs children. • Discussion at last SREL meeting touched on child care providers facilitating the changes. <p><u>Discussion</u> Accommodating ESE students, private care can be tailor made to maintain a schedule that will continue the learning process, while incorporating “summer camp” activities.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
IX. Public Comments		
<p>The Children Budget Summit will be held at Nova High School April 18, 2009, 8:30am -12:30pm</p>		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
X. Adjourn		
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 12.25 p.m.</p>		
<p>Next Meeting: May 13, 2009</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