

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering

5/13/09
 10:00 a.m.
 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Gloria Addo-Yamoah, Penny Bernath, Willie Cameron, Nicole Carter, Sharon Cohen, Marie Cohn-Dolan, Ethel Edwards, Jill Gelman, Joy Gordon, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Maria Hernandez, Debbie Kay, Monica King, Joyce Krzemienski, Bethany Marcusson, Julia Musella, Angela Michel, Jill Mosovich, Dee Nevares, Anita Platt, Monica Pujol, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Charlene Swanson, Melisa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Amy Ungor, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika

Staff in Attendance:

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

Lisa Feeney

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 – 4/15/09

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

V. Old Business

Partners

None.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
VI. Analysis of Broward ECE Training Needs Dee Nevares - FCI		
<p><u>Family Central, Inc. (FCI)</u></p> <p>Ms. Nevares referred to the hand-out with the Summary of training needs for 2009-2010, and stated that the assessment of the training needs is an integral part of an ongoing initiative that regularly seeks provider input. Surveys and focus group data on training needs and gaps are collected, analyzed and the results incorporated into training plans that are developed by the training agencies and community partners. A total of 1,052 surveys were mailed with self-addressed envelopes; 74 responses were received. Partners were invited to review the summary results and suggest ways to bridge any gaps identified in the Broward ECE training system. The most needed trainings were identified as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Director’s Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change Agents in their own sites: Equip directors to make changes to the pre-school standards in their classrooms • Form a committee to investigate what measures are needed to change the training model presently being used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not adopt an F-CAT- like philosophy of teaching to the test when preparing for the Readiness Rate. This will result in neglecting the overall development of young children. - Focus on achieving quality child care programs. 2. Behavior Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites asking for behavior management in the classroom may have underlying issues to be addressed in their program, not only correcting the children’s behavior This may also mean that many are not improving the quality of their center. • Behavior issues have become more evident in younger children; while more holistic programs are being explored, FCI offers the following program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I Can Problem Solve • Managing behavior requires parents and family members who are involved in the life of the child; the home environment affects behavior in the classroom. • Ms. Hafer, Director, NE Focal Intergenerational school shared her course work study at FAU which includes a book entitled “Challenging Behavior in Young Children”, by Kaiser Rasminsky. ELC staff will invite the professor from that program to present at the VPK Pre/conference on Friday, September 11, 2009. • Directors and Teachers need behavior modification training; what kind of training do they need to help them? • Determine if this is a ratio problem – is there a need to advocate for state-wide ratio changes? • Children’s behavior is related to child development; teachers need the right training to understand the development of the child. • Programs that need improvement in quality can do so by working with FCI or School Board of Broward of Broward County (SBBC) to improve their centers. • FCI staff who met with teachers and guidance counselors, discovered that kindergarten teachers face similar problems and concerns; testing children in kindergarten classes showed mixed results. 		

The kindergarten staff could be a source of help for early childhood.

- Non-performing centers visit with performing centers – should we develop a mentoring program?
- Plan field trips, visit high-risk centers and build relationships.

3. Curriculum training

- Using ideas from other centers is low cost and proven
- Providers can visit United Way, Center for Excellence in Miami. They demonstrate how to set up classrooms for every budget.
- Ms. Feeney stated that the Executive Director’s committee is preparing a document to be sent to the Department of Education, VPK to make recommendations for a system that is appropriate for assessing:
 - School Readiness
 - Classroom Accountability factors
 - Appropriate assessment tools

Ms. Nevares noted that the training survey have addressed the problems referenced in the hand-out, however a new approach to collecting provider feedback on training needs may be advisable. Ms. Woika from NSU stated that surveys are not the best way to collect information on training needs, the Environmental Rating Score (ERS) and other outcome related data may be more appropriate.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VII. Presentation & Workshop: Professional Development – Core Competencies Cont’d	S.R.E.L. Workforce Committee
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School Readiness Early Learning Committee (S.R.E.L) Workforce Sub-Committee
 The discussion was postponed until June meeting; the groups were reminded to bring their Core Competencies for continuation of the review at the meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

	VIII. Celebration and New Business	Partners
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Association for the Education of Young Children (BAEYC)

- The first tri-county conference Best Practices in Multi-lingual Communities will be held Saturday, June 6, 2009, at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). The cost is \$50.00 for members, \$60.00 for non-members and \$70.00 at the door. The conference is sponsored by the Broward, Palm Beach, South Florida AYC and the Early Childhood Association of Florida in Partnership with NSU. CEU’s can be purchased on the day of the event. Workshops will be presented in English and Spanish and will include topics on Infants and Toddlers.
- On-line registration and CEU’s are available. A link will be created from FCI to BAEYC website

for Broward participants who wish to apply for scholarships to attend.

- FCI has funding for up to 10 hours of CEU's, the Coalition Board approved funds to eliminate the waiting list for in-service scholarships. Contact FCI for pre-approval applications.
- FCI invited a representative from BAEYC to attend the VPK Pre-school Conference committee.
- Jewish Early Educators of Broward professional exhibit was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009, at 7:00pm at the Central Agency. The exhibit entitled Windows on Learning, documenting boards showing activities by the children, culminating a year long project of directors and mentors.

Family Central, Inc. (FCI)

Service Agreement Packets

- Fiscal Year 2009-2010, FCI and the Coalition are in the process of obtaining approval to hire a full-time staff person to revise the process of getting Service Agreement packets to providers.
 - FCI would like to form a workgroup that will disseminate information to providers to help them understand the importance of complying with the Provider Agreement. An email will be sent to providers. VPK and SR providers should know that reimbursement is based on the terms of agreement, and that deadlines have to be met.
 - Many providers are questioning the process of qualification to become a VPK provider; the state has mandated standards for the VPK and SR programs which must be followed to obtain funding.
- The VPK payment process tracking system records the date when certificates are received, and will not allow FCI to bend the directives set by the Office of Early Learning (OEL). For more information contact grincon@familycentral.org
- Timeliness of turning in attendance sheet is affecting FCI's ability to generate real time data that would allow FCI and the Coalition to create more realistic projection on expenditure.
- **Provider Questions and Answers:**
 - Why can the Director no longer sign the Service Agreement? Legal Counsel for the Coalition has determined that Directors can no longer sign Service Agreement unless given the Power of Attorney by the owner of the center.
 - How does a center know that a child is transferred? Centers are notified by FCI that children are terminated from their center; in the case of a transfer or if termination has occurred, so that the space will be open to others for enrollment.

VPK Pre-school Conference Committee

- VPK Pre-conference for director/owners will be on Friday, September 11, 2009, 8:00am-1:00pm, and the Conference on Saturday, September 12, 2009. The committee is looking for presenters, sponsors, exhibitors and vendors. On-line registration is available.

VPK Registration

2009-2010 enrollment: School year 11,608 children, 426 providers - 1 approved, 425 provisional;
Summer 152 providers - 62 approved, 92 provisional

Professional Development

- NSU Director's Literacy training sponsored by AD Henderson was very successful.

- KidVision VPK on-line adult training survey following the path of what teachers like: A snapshot of the survey indicated overwhelming participation of over 2,000 users.
- Ms. Penny Bernath visited child care centers to set up observational tools for teachers to keep track of their lessons; providers are encouraged to use the KidVision website www.kidvison.org

Child Care Provider

- Ms. Wendi Siegel, Director/Owner of The Early Education Center, Pembroke Pines announced that the school was awarded NAC Accreditation.

Nova Southeastern University

- Effective July 1, 2009, the Child Care Training Information Center and the Child Care Examination Scheduling Center warm line calls will be redirected to DCF through menu prompts. Calls will feed into one digital interactive voice response system, which will allow callers to select from a variety of options to obtain information.
- Both call centers will be closed for business as of June 26, 2009, through the week of June 29, 2009. The centers will re-open on Monday, July 6, 2009, with extended hours of operation. All information must be added to the DCF transcript prior to July 1, 2010.

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

- DCF is in the process of updating their website, contact Melissa_h_trentham@dcf.state.fl.us

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Send email to providers	Gilbert Rincon	

IX. Public Comments

Ms. Jill Mosovich is running for Vice President of Public Policy for the southeast for NAEYC, cast your vote by mailing ballot postcard by May 20, 2009.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2009

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