

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering

6/17/09

10:00 a.m.

6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Stacy Angier, Penny Bernath, Ellen Breslow, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Marie Cohn-Dolan, Jill Gelman, Elizabeth Glaid, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Yanick Goutier, Claudette James, Monica King, Joyce Krzemienski, Louise Marine, Angelina Michel, Ilene Miller, Doreen Moskowitz, Julia Musella, Angela Michel, Jill Mosovich, Anita Platt, Nurit Sheinberg, Terri Shermitt, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Michelle Sponder, Charlene Swanson, Melisa Trentham, Jenny Turnquest, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika

Staff in Attendance:

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

***FPL Presentation:
Additional staff in
Attendance***

Penny Westberry, Executive Director, Sandra Gonzalez, Accounting and HR Manager, Marcie Westover, CRRD Coordinator, Faye Franklin, Office Assistant, Deborah David, Director of CRRD

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Lisa Feeney

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 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 – 5/13/09

The minutes were approved by consensus, after the following correction were made:

Page 5: **Director/Provider**

Dr. Wendi Siegel, Director/Owner of The Early Education Center in Pembroke Pines, announced that the school was awarded NACECEP Accreditation.

Page 5: **Nova Southeastern University** – 2nd Point

Both call centers will be closed for business as of June 26, 2009 through the week of June 29, 2009.

V. Presentation: Preparing for Storm Season by Theresa Quintero/ Mark Schweiger - FPL
Florida Power & Light (FP&L)

Mr. Schweiger outlined the community benefits from FP&L investments, and the reliability plan to strengthen the electrical system. Ms. Quintero explained how FPL prepares the entire system for a storm, including, safety and plans for restoring life to normal as quickly as possible after a storm. The presentation follows:

1. Make the infrastructure stronger by removing any potential hazards
2. Use of Smart technology that allows for more control and improves reliability
3. Provide efficient clean-energy leaders for future generations
4. Plan to upgrade to nuclear plants for more emissions-free power
5. FPL Emergency Preparedness Plan
 - Identify the right people and resources needed, and where they will come from
 - Review critical role which includes conducting regional workshops that help community leaders and FPL work together
 - Conduct annual training: Assign FPL employee “storm role” aside from their usual function
 - Improve processes by FPL communicating estimated restoration times to customers.
 - 24 hours post-storm, system wide
 - 48 hours post-storm, regional and county-wide
 - 72 and 96 hours post-storm, localized
 - Storm communication to customers, public officials, emergency operations center and the media
 - Organize proven restoration priority plan to focus on restoring power to the most critical functions first: Restoration commitment to :-
 - Damaged areas to pre-storm conditions
 - Complete electrical inspections on equipment

- Communicate resolutions to customers
 - Program for Special Consumers
 - \$1 million contribution to benefit vulnerable customers; FPL Care to Share; Assist with emergency payment; AWARE – Watch out for At-Risk elders; United Way
 - Share time, talent and knowledge through Education programs for all ages, partner with organizations, volunteering, and home energy make-over.
 - Community Outreach Teams: Specially trained FPL employees and free informative presentations at www.FPL.com/seminars
6. Storm Season Safety
- Before, during and after a storm: visit www.FPL.com/storm.
 - Preparing for a storm
 - Complete trimming landscape by June 1
 - Emergency evacuation plan
 - Log on to FPL’s website to update contact information with FPL
 - Complete local emergency management for special medical needs
 - Assemble 7-days disaster supply kit
 - Review and secure hurricane insurance policy
 - Visit Storm Center at www.FPL.com for more storm safety tips
 - Take action as soon as you know a storm is approaching

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
<i>none</i>		

VI. System Celebration and Updates **Partners**

State Licensing Rules Revisions

The state is making changes in the Rules regarding several components. Question was raised as to how Family Child Care Providers become aware of the proposed changes in state rule, especially the new education/training requirements and the new system for maintaining documentation. Broward County Child Care Licensing and Enforcement Sector meetings, FCC Association, and Licensing personnel bring the message to the providers.

FLKRS TESTING IN THE FALL

FLKRS testing for Broward will be affected by the staff reduction in the School Board District. One of the alternatives being considered is programs or parents taking children to designated BCPS school sites for testing. The coalition is proposing that volunteers are trained to help the school district:

- Administer assessments
- Contact assigned schools for appointment
- Go to private schools to administer assessments

Partners were asked to add private kindergarten that was not included on the distributed list. The proposed date of training for kindergarten teachers will be August 25 and 28, 2009. Testing for the children begins in September and ends October 6, coordinated by Amy Duffey, BCPS; anyone interested in assisting should contact Amy at amy.duffey@browardschools.com after August 10.

Department of Children & Families (DCF)

Public Hearings on Child Care Licensing Rules: 65C20-22 Administrative Codes will be held June 22, 2009, in Tallahassee and Thursday, June 25, 2009, in Orlando. Rule changes are posted on Department of Children and Families (DCF) website: www.myfl.com/childcare/What's New. The change process is lengthy; however, updates and information can be checked on the website.

Comments made at the Broward public hearing scheduled in November 2008 will be counted as input; however, the Orlando hearing will only be kept on record.

Family Central, Inc. (FCI)**VPK /Pre-School Conference**

- The Pre-conference for Directors will include an optional 'Happy hour' for providers.
- 14 presenter proposals were received, proposals are being evaluated on an ongoing basis
- Current enrollment for Pre-conference: 55 directors; Conference: 215 teachers and 68 Directors/Administrators
- Deadlines for early registration is June 30, 2009.

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.

Child Care Provider News

Wyndham Learning Center reported that their summer program has 24 VPK children using the Summer Alphabet Circus Curriculum; one parent noticed that her child finally learned the days of the week on the second day of the program.

School Board of Broward County (SBBC) FDLRS

The School Board reported budget cuts have resulted in staff reduction, which is expected to cause a backlog of screenings for children (3 – 5 year olds) referred to FDLRS.

- This impacts families receiving assessment through the ECE system, particularly the pre-school population. Child Find is rescheduling over 200 families. The timeline is pushed back resulting in approximately a 6 month wait after a referral is made to the BCPS.
- Providers wanted to know if outside testing is accepted by the School Board: The School Board responded that a certified Technologist can submit screening documentation; however, the documentation is subject to be reviewed for a match with criteria that meets the qualifications.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
Submit data (when available) that indicates timely concern for FDLRS assessment activity to Coalition staff for use with community leaders on the Coalition Board	Jill Gelman/FCI Ellen Breslow & Terri Shermitt/SBBC	As is becomes available
VII. Presentation & Workshop: Core Competencies Cont'd S.R.E.L. Workforce Committee – Anita Platt/Charlene Swanson		
<u>School Readiness Early Learning Committee (S.R.E.L) Workforce Sub-Committee</u>		
The System Partners met in seven (7) groups and reviewed the draft Core Competencies, received from a state workgroup. Each group documented and wrote feed-back on the seven assigned areas. The revised document will be sent to the state workgroup by June 30, 2009, as suggestions for revisions to the final document.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
1. Complete and submit document to the State Workgroup	Anita Platt/Charlene Swanson/ K. Lee Tirpak	June 30, 2009
2. The Coalition will distribute document to partners	K. Lee Tirpak	June 30, 2009
VIII. New Business		Partners
<u>The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.</u>		
1. The Coalition Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 26, 2009. 2. The 9 months key indicator report is available		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
IX. Public Comments		
None.		
X. Adjourn		
The meeting was adjourned at 12.40 p.m.		
Next Meeting: August 19, 2009		

These minutes contain the action items of the ECE System Community Partners Gathering. They do not contain all items discussed. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Submitted by: Inez Webb