

Minutes

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

ECE System Community Partners Gathering

8/19/09
 10:00 a.m.
 6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

Attendees:

Charissa Agosto, Willie Cameron, Sharon Cohen, Ana Maria Garcia, Jill Gelman, Ilene Gevirtz, Yanick Goutier, Jayne Hafer, Pamela James, Lola Jordan, Debbie Kay, Gloria Leonard, Danielle Liebman, Angelina Michel, Jill Mosovich, Yesenia Nunez, Anita Platt, Monica Pujol-Nasif, Gilbert Rincon, Nurit Sheinberg, Chris Sieber, Wendi Siegel, Melisa Trentham, Carol Wasserman, Mary Jean Woika, Khalil Zeinieh

Staff in Attendance:

K. Lee Tirpak, Chief Program Officer, Janice Carter, 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 – 6/17/09

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

Page 4: 4th bullet **VPK/Pre-School Conference**

Deadline for registration is June 30, 2008.

Ms. Tirpak briefly gave a brief highlight of the Fiscal Year 2008-2009, and pointed towards the upcoming fiscal year.

V. Presentation: U-Tube Video and Group Feedback/Discussion		Facilitator: K. Lee Tirpak
Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline
<i>none</i>		
VI. System Celebration and Updates		Partners
<p><u>Family Central, Inc. (FCI)</u></p> <p>1) VPK /Pre-School Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carol Wasserman thanked the conference committee for the diligent work they have done for the last few months. • Admission to the Leadership Pre-Conference scheduled for Friday, September 11, 2009, is free to owners and directors. This will be held at JCC of Fort Lauderdale, 6501 W Sunrise Boulevard; on-line registration closes on Friday, August 21, 2009. • The VPK Pre-school Conference will be held at South Plantation High School, 1300 Paladin Way on Saturday, September 12, 2009. Registration extends until Friday, September 4, 2009. • Fourteen presenter proposals were received; proposals are being evaluated on an ongoing basis. • Currently 575 Directors/Administrators are registered; space is available for 750 participants. • Online registration closes August 30, 2009. On the day of the conference, registration will be \$40.00 cashier's check or money order only. • The key-note speaker will be Pam Phelps, in addition many more wonderful speakers <p>2) <u>Department of Education (DOE) Rules Workshop is rescheduled for September</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshop previously scheduled for August 25, 2009, was re-scheduled for September, a date will be announced later. • Partners are asked to attend the workshop to give input to the School Readiness Rate and testing • New Attendance rules will be released for 2009-2010 school year. • Substitute teachers are now required to have level 2 screening. • Technical Assistance meetings will be held to update providers on the changes. • VPK enrollment continues as more certificates are being handed out to families. 		

3) Waitlist Enrollment

- Resource and Referral staff contacted 1,000 families from the waitlist beginning November 2007, up to March 2008. Enrollment continues at a slow rate.

4) Training

- Information on services such as scholarships, inclusion and resource library, and staff contact information previously on flyers sent in provider packets, will be replaced with a handy reference booklet. The booklet will be available after August 31, 2009.
- FCI is accepting applications for FCCPC scholarships and National CDA. In-service and college credits changes will be disclosed in the September providers meeting.
- Today Coaches are attending Train the Trainer for the new revised standards for the state of Florida.
- The Children's Services Council (CSC) has provided funding for a series of training which will be helpful to any school; however Low Performing Providers (LPP) will be given priority. Contact Carol Wasserman or Michelle Spender at the Training Academy.
- Best Buy provided funding for FCI to open a new computer lab beginning September 1, 2009, ten computers will be open to the community; users must be computer literate because teachers will not be available to give instructions.

5) Food for Families in the Community

- Through partnership with United Way, FCI collected approximately 300 bags of groceries plus Publix gift certificate through inter-faith council of churches, mosque and temples in Tamarac. They have committed to supply food to the community for the next 12 months, over 10,000 tons of food were brought in and distributed.
- Families will have access to food by calling FCI.

CSC Strategic Planning SREL Committee

The four committee groups met regularly to develop ideas and solutions based on the objectives gained from the 2007 Children's Summit. Last week committee members looked at what has been done in the past 2 years, and the challenges faced as we continue to move the plans forward. At one of the upcoming meeting, Ms. Sharon Cohen, ECE Project Manager at CSC will be addressing these challenges and seek input to find solutions.

Child Care Provider News**NE Focal Point Intergenerational**

- Ms. Hafer expressed thanks to the partners for the scholarship opportunities that provide funds for her to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education.
- Ms. Hafer plans to attend the BAEYC conference in Orlando
- Funds granted to the school for Music has been expended; however, the computer classes continue for 2 more months.
- Open house held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009, targeted low income families who live in the neighborhood; all children will be given access to computer training at the center.
- Swim Central and City of Deerfield teamed up to offer swimming lessons to the children, who enjoyed being in the water with their teachers.
- The center achieved 5-Star Quality Rating.

BAEYC

Local BAEYC Chapter runs a Silent auction at the ECA of FL conference which will be held the last week of September. Donated items are needed to participate in the silent auction; the money received will be given to child care facilities that suffer loss from disaster.

The Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.

- Those interested in statistics and changes in Broward County see hand-out; Annie Casey Florida kid count compares Florida to the other states.
- Hand-outs are available with Core Competency document that the state has accepted.
- ELC Chair, Harry Duncanson has resigned, the Coalition is awaiting appointment of a new chair-person.
- The Coalition wishes to reinstitute the format of the System meeting focused on provider issues and hope this is agreeable to the partners. Board Representatives Stacy Angier and Julia Musella will be asked to facilitate at the meetings.
- The quality funds issued for Child Care Development was kept at the state level. The Coalition will be getting \$118,000 of Stimulus funds, as the budget is developed funding considerations will be given to Quality Rating and training.
 - CSC and the Coalition suggested trainings based on positive behavior supports to the staff and how to implement this in the system.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline

VIII. New Business	Partners
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Information available on the government web-site at www.FLU.gov

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

	IX. Public Comments	Partners
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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11.40 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 16, 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