

Minutes

CRRD Committee

10/5/2010

Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
6301 NW 5th Way, Suite 3400
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Members in Attendance:

Robyn Perlman, Chair

Members Absent:

Fabienne Fahnestock, Linda Flynn, Evan Goldman, Ann de las Pozas, Mayor Barrington Russell, Laurie Sallarulo, and Kathy Woodrum

Staff in Attendance:

Janice Carter, Director of CRRD and Marcie Westover, CRRD Assistant

Others in Attendance:

Andrea Nelson, Dr. Mark Gross, Anita Platt

Agenda topics

Welcome and Introductions

Janice Carter welcomed the participants to the meeting at 10:12 a.m. Self introductions were made.

Public Comment

None.

Approval of Minutes: May 12, 2010; March 22, 2010, March 2, 2010

The participants reviewed the minutes. Robyn Perlman made a motion to approve each set of minutes (done separately); each set of minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Perlman requested all future meeting relating to the business technical assistance program, be listed/titled as ‘CRRD Committee’ meetings.

Action items:

Keep on all three on file.

Person responsible:

CRRD Assistant

Deadline:

10/6/10

Discussion of ECE Business TA Program Next Steps

Ms. Perlman presented a packet of information compiled after meetings in the community (along with Ms. Carter) titled "Business Technical Assistance (BTA) Institute Childcare Provider Institute for Financial Literacy." Mark Gross joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Ms. Perlman noted she and Janice Carter visited the Center for Excellence in Early Education at the United Way of Miami. She said it was in incubator of ideas in early childhood education, with an emphasis on the business aspect. Ms. Perlman noted they also met with Anita Platt in regards to Quality Rating and Improvement System. Ms. Carter clarified this meeting was to explore current practices regarding business or program administration assessments for childcare providers participating in the quality (star) rating process.

Then Ms. Carter and Ms. Perlman visited several centers that had been rated to learn more about their business practices. Ms. Perlman said they noticed a disconnect between making money (better business) and taking care of children. She said there was enthusiasm from the providers for business technical assistance. Ms. Perlman noted they also met with Nova Southeastern University to see how they could participate by providing curriculum to improve business practices for the child care provider.

Ms. Perlman referenced the information packet which listed the provider, family and a funder as partners for the Business Technical Assistance Model. In this model a child on the wait list would go into a center that agrees to participate in the business training; the parent pays a portion of the cost, however, they keep their place in line on the waiting list. She estimated the cost for the business training would be \$10,000, which is cancelled out by taking two children off the waiting list at an estimated cost of \$8,000. The funder (an outside organization/foundation/business) would pay for the provider to participate in the program, which would be a total of \$18,000, which would be an incentive for taking two children from the waiting list. The model also would feature business mentors for the providers.

Ms. Perlman would like to have around 100 providers for the first class participants. Mr. Gross stated he thought the \$10,000 estimate was high. He also was concerned about the hours/locations of the courses. Ms. Carter noted the Miami model has trainings at various locations at various times. Ms. Perlman addressed Mr. Gross' comment about the cost, stating Nova's classes are approximately \$3,000 a piece.

In addition to the courses, Ms. Perlman said the program would also bring in high level speakers once a year. Ms. Carter said the Florida Women's Center would be a possible source of mentors. She said there would be a pre- and post- business assessment score for the providers. Ms. Perlman said a true indicator would be a difference on the balance sheet (of at least 10%) of the providers in the courses. Ms. Nelson said the mentor should be tied into each step of the program. Mr. Gross suggested that a connection with a micro-lending program would be beneficial.

Ms. Perlman then asked the group whether the program should run within the framework of QRIS or be a standalone program. Ms. Carter said both ideas were compared in the program model packet Ms. Perlman handed out. Ms. Carter said if the program was part of QRIS there would be an assessment at the

beginning and the end, with mentors and coursework aimed at improving business skills.

Dr. Gross said there need to be an examination of the current credentialing process, as business education is already in place. He suggested looking at no-cost changes to the current program. Ms. Perlman said they presented the Business Technical Assistance Program to Nova with positive results. The selection process of the providers and children for the program will require some research by the Coalition.

Ms. Nelson suggested there be two ways to enter the program through the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The provider could choose to participate in the Business Technical Assistance side or the Early Learning Environmental side or choose to do both. She suggested the following names for the programs: Quality Counts for Educational Excellence and Quality Counts for Business Excellence. In this path, the funds (raised in the community) would go through the Coalition, under the Quality Counts umbrella, and partner with a subcontractor for additional services if needed.

The three optional Paths for Providers into Quality Counts:

Path A: Provider ----Enters Quality Counts---Only do **Early Learning Environment** Path

OR

Path B: Provider -----Enters Quality Counts----Only do **Business Excellence** Path

OR

Path C: Provider-----Enters Quality Counts----Does Both **Early Learning Environment** and **Business Excellence**

Dr. Gross suggested a third party evaluator for the program. It was suggested to contact the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the national women’s chamber, Synecticsworld, Florida Association for Child Care Management, and National Child Care Association.

In the suggested triangle format for the program, it was suggested the administrative entity be noted to reflect the ECE system (ELC of Broward, Inc.).

| Action items: | Person responsible: | Deadline: |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| Follow-up with suggested contacts. | | N/A |
| Unfinished Business | | |
| None. | | |
| New Business | | |
| None. | | |

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| Public Comment |
| None. |
| Next Meeting Date |
| The next meeting date is TBD. |
| Adjourn |
| The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m. |
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These minutes contain the action items of the meeting of the CRRD Committee of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc. The do not include all facets of each issue discussed. A recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Committee will be taken prior to approval at the next meeting.

Submitted by
Marcie Westover
CRRD Assistant

Reviewed and revised by
Janice Carter, Director of Community Relations and Resource Development