



Executive Committee Meeting

4/27/2011

4:00 PM

6301 NW 5th Way
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Members in Attendance:

Jeffrey Dwyer, Chair; Andrew Bray, Donna Korn, Cindy Arenberg Seltzer

Members Absent:

Marvin Dejean

Staff in Attendance:

Penny Westberry, CEO; K. Lee Tirpak, CPO; Andrea Braynon, CFO; Janice Carter, CRRD Director; Gordia Ross, ECE Program Specialist; Inez Webb, Administrative Assistant

Others in Attendance

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, General Counsel; Sharon Cohen, Ainsworth Geddes, Peggy Goldstein, Paul Peluso

Mission

To provide the resources, advocacy, leadership, coordination and oversight for early care and education from birth to school age and to support access to school-age care to ensure children's success in school

Welcome and Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:13 pm.

Quorum was established; the chair proceeded to Agenda item Tab 1:

Approval of minutes 3/23/11

Motion made by Cindy Arenberg Seltzer to approve the minutes of March 23, 2011.

Seconded by Donna Korn. Unanimously approved.

Action items:

Keep minutes on file

Person responsible:

Executive Assistant

Deadline:

5/5/11

FAU Program Evaluation

The Chair requested a summation of the FAU Program Evaluation Research Project. Ms. Goldstein responded by first introducing Dr. Paul Peluso.

The Chair proceeded to ask everyone to look at page 8 of the report to continue from the last meeting: Refer to Table 1 – Ethnicity which raised concerns about the accuracy of the numbers represented by Asian, Hawaiian and Hispanic population.

Mr. Bray agreed that common experience in Broward county would lead us to believe that the number of Hispanic population should be higher than Hawaiian and Asian.

Dr. Goldstein responded that the report reflected whatever parents self-identified and reported. A total of 195 children were randomly selected, and represented all geographic areas of the county. A number of factors that were considered, resulted in the reduction of the number of children who participated in the evaluation:

- ELC funded center-based VPK and/or School Readiness programs.
- Children who were proficient in English Language; The decision to exclude this population was jointly made by FAU and the ELC staff; the added cost of testing in different languages would have been prohibitive (refer to page 7).
- Dr. Paluso reported that from past experiences, Hispanics were reluctant to participate in anything that had the word “investigator”, this may have deterred parents from participating when parental consent was required.

Referring to page 12, the Chair asked for a recap of the pre and post test for 4 year olds.

Mr. Peluso explained that the change was made so no one thought 100 was the top score:

- 100 is the mean on the bell curve in the tests for the state of Florida.
- For a number of the subsets, their mean was significantly low, most would cut off at 85 for “at risk” kids.

The Chair asked what are we doing wrong in preparing children for pre-kindergarten, based on the Communication test scores, growth level remained the same for 3 and 4 year olds.

- Mr. Peluso responded that significance is looked at a 95 percentile level – he is confident that 90% of the time pre/post test intervention did not make a significant impact.

In the future we may want to select from other groups so that there is a little more comfort level.

Ms. Seltzer added that without knowing the demographics of the center we have to be careful and be more precise about the characteristics of the center.

Dr. Goldstein continued with the presentation slide on Research Question Summary that assessed 3 and 4 year olds in ELC supported programs.

Ms. Seltzer stated concern for QRIS center with drop outs and whether we are having an impact.

Ms Westberry commented that research on QRIS drop-out found 20-25% typical of QRIS programs; ELC is not sure if Broward numbers are typical of the state and will look into that.

Ms. Tirpak added that we may not be comparing apples to apples.

Ms. Seltzer noted that Broward do not pay like other counties, funds are not sustainable, but providers get other subsidies such as WAGE\$.

Ms. Westberry said that ELC will look into what other counties experience;

Dr. Goldstein said that there are a great deal of variables

Ms. Seltzer said Broward has important decisions to make, there should be some centers stable enough that will not drop out.

Ms. Korn asked what is being done differently with 3 year olds. Without funding we may be putting some children at a disadvantage.

Ms. Arenberg stated that we are making a difference through QRIS by giving incentives.

Dr. Goldstein continued to present “Variables Proven to Impact Child Outcomes” Structure – Program Criteria and How Teachers Process:

- There are variables that are considered indirect influence. Centers maybe putting their best and most qualified teachers in the VPK classes.

The Chair asked Ms. Braynon how much money is the Coalition investing on 3 year olds in QRIS? Ms. Braynon said the issue is that centers tested are not only QRIS.

Ms Westberry responded that QRIS program impact is based on research.

Ms. Korn stated that increase can be impacted by providing more funds in the QRIS program; determine where the funds are being spent and streamline the process. The School Readiness component shows that this is “subsidized child care” based on the fact that the children are not performing.

Mr. Bray stated that a lot of money was spent, but not results; no harm-no fall outcome.

The Chair asked how do we determine the impact made by QRIS?

Ms. Korn asked if there is any possibility of substantially funding the 4 years old program to make an impact.

The committee recommended that a presentation should be made to the board, FAU should give a time frame for the presentation.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Look at QRIS dropout rates in other counties	CPO	6/6/11
Presentation to the ELC Board	Ms. Peggy Goldstein/FAU	6/27/11

Unfinished Business

None.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:

New Business		
None.		
Public Comment		
None.		
Next Meeting: March 23, 2011		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Adjourn		
Meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm		

These minutes contain the action items of the Executive Committee meeting of the Early Learning Coalition. They do not include all facets of each issue discussed. A tape recording of the meeting was not captured due to technical difficulties. Corrections from the Coalition members will be taken prior to approval at the next meeting.

Submitted by Inez Webb

Reviewed and Edited by

Jeffrey Dwyer, Chair

Penny Westberry, CEO