

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

School Board of Sarasota County, Brown Awning Building, Rooms A-B
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota
18 October 2006

MINUTES

1. **ATTENDANCE.**

a. Voting Members Present:

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| Jill Jacoby | Tami Conetta | Laura Bauman | Janice Mee |
| Bill Little | Chris Kofler | | |

b. Non-Voting Members Present:

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| Dr. Norman Goldstein | Sue Loncaric | | |
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c. Absent (Voting):

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| Kim Binkley-Seyer (Chair) | Lois Natiello | Cyndi Reynolds | Steve Spangler |
| Laura Benson | Lisa Glenn | David Hicks | Nora Patterson |
| Raymond Kaiser | | | |

d. Absent (Non-Voting):

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| Ken Modzelewski | Hope Kinney | Lori White | |
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e. Staff:

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| Janet Kahn | Mike Miller | Linda Mason | Mary Wolf |
| Sandy Zook | | | |

f. Visitors:

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| Jackie Fountaine | Eva Balcar | Claudia Malecki | |
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2. **CALL TO ORDER.** The Chair notified Board that she was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Vice Chair (Tami Conetta) called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm, skipping the consent agenda and moving to presentations and discussion items as there was not a quorum present.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA.** Items moved to next regular Board meeting

4. **PRESENTATIONS.**

- a. Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership. "Building a System of Care" was presented by Sherry Crelin, the Communications Coordinator for the program with the Sarasota County Health Department. She reported that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) chose Sarasota to receive a \$9 million mental health grant to be used to implement a "system of care" with the focus being the emotional well being of children from birth to eight years of age. A system of care is created through community based services and supports that are organized to meet the mental health needs of children. Systems of care is a holistic approach to care that recognizes the importance of family, school and community, while promoting emotional, intellectual, physical, cultural and social needs. Without this intervention, the risks rise that these children will not succeed in life.

This program will partner with several different agencies already existing in the community in order to form a support network for the child identified as needing assistance and his/her family. This program will focus on early intervention, effective family focused treatment, cultural diversity and finding solutions rather than placing blame. Allowing the family to be involved as the primary decision maker in all aspects of care -including making choices, setting goals, choosing the programs they are involved in and determining the effectiveness of those programs - ensures that children will not fall through the cracks of the system and ensures accountability of the systems of care. Sarasota was able to receive the grant because of the chosen focus on early intervention and strengthening the system of care already in place in the community. Presenter Crelin referenced the website <http://www.systemofcare.samhsa.gov/> for all those wanting to learn more.

- b. *Brief Discussion of ELC Interface with this Project.* Tami Conetta asked how the Coalition will participate in the system of care being created through this program. Presenter Crelin invited anyone interested in learning more to the next governance board meeting on Friday, October 20, 2006 at the New Library in New Town. Janet Kahn, director of the Early Learning Coalition went on to state the Coalition's role is substantial, that she, representing the ELC has attended several planning meetings, and is on the governance and executive committees. Child Care sites are an integral component of a system of care for young children. The Coalition's focus on child care staff's early identification and early intervention, and on-site support and targeted interventions within child care settings through its contract with the Florida Center provides a strong basis that can be expanded and strengthened.
- c. *Overview of Outcomes in the Coalition's Annual Report submitted to AWI.* Janet distributed a copy of the Coalition's Annual Report that was submitted to AWI. It contains responses to required elements and questions. She further reported that the report shows the Coalition is making progress and is able to demonstrate positive outcomes. From this lengthy report, a shorter, more concise, report to the community will also be made. She then went through the booklet pointing out the various sections and highlighting the noted accomplishments of the Coalition, including improvement in use of appropriate curriculum, creation of the Resource Room, inclusion services, mentoring initiatives, Infant/Toddler initiative and trainings provided to the child care directors and staff. She wrapped up the report by discussing future steps including the Substitute Training and Recruitment (STAR) Program, where providers can access qualified and trained substitutes, as well as future goals of the Coalition. Tami Conetta thanked Janet for the report and urged all members of the board to read the entire report before the retreat next month, become familiar with the work of the ELC and be able to share our accomplishments in conversations with people in the general community. Bill Little and Janice Mee also added a full report should be sent to all of the local State Representatives/ Senators and information should also be sent to all child care sites.

5. CHAIR REPORT. Janet gave the chair report in Kim Binkley-Seyer's absence, per Kim's request and instructions. After attending the most recent State Chair Advisory Council, Kim was left somewhat dissatisfied. At this meeting, Coalition Chairs discussed what needed to happen in the upcoming year regarding moving a quality rating system along; however AWI leadership remained noncommittal as to a direction for the upcoming legislative session, given that there is uncertainty as to what will happen after the election. In addition, there was repetitive opportunity for the public to review specific items in the proposed QRS system, items that had already been reviewed in general stakeholder meetings previously. Kim volunteered to Chair the Quality committee of the Chairs Advisory Group that will continue to push for the development and implementation of a quality rating system (QRS) for providers across the state. This QRS system will ensure consistency in evaluating providers and would also offer families a consistent system to judge the quality of sites when they need to select a provider for their children. Also at this meeting the AWI director reminded all of the Coalition Chairs of their roles and responsibilities regarding governance and leadership. Kim requested that someone volunteer to attend the next State Chair Board Meeting in early December, as Kim will be unavailable that week. No one present at this meeting was able to do so.

6. ACTION ITEMS. There were no action items at this time.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Jackie Fountaine on behalf of the Family Child Care Home Association presented Janet Kahn with a certificate of appreciation for the ELC for sponsoring several Family Home providers to attend their annual state conference.
- Claudia Maleki redirected questioning back to Sherry Crelin who presented earlier in the evening on systems of care, asking about the referral and eligibility requirements for children and families to

participate. Sherry Crelin responded that calling the Sarasota County Early Childhood Mental Health Partnership directly is the best method.)

8. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. Building Better Boards project- Current Board Self Evaluation: Tami reminded board members they would receive an email with the password and code needed to complete the Board self-assessment. Each member was urged to take some time and complete the evaluation. While the results might be available for the board retreat, they will not be the subject of discussion until a future board meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

a. Quality Childcare Council (QCC) update. There had been no full council meeting of the QCC since the last board meeting. There have been work group meetings throughout the month including that of beginning to look at funding needs. Bill Little added the sustainability of both short term and long term funding, as well as a funding strategy will be the focus of the next QCC meeting. The ongoing interface of the activities of the QCC, (particularly around the implementation of a QRS) and those of the ELC will be a primary topic for discussion at the ELC retreat next month.

b. Program Updates (VPK, STAR, upcoming initiatives). Janet gave a brief update regarding the status of VPK. It is currently serving over 1400 children, which is ahead of last year. There are more providers participating this year as well. Janet then reported on the Women's Initiative "Child Care Makeover" project through the United Way. Two to three sites will be chosen for March makeovers. The plan is to have a "While You Were Out" format, where the work is done over the weekend unbeknownst to most of the child care center staff. The Substitute Recruitment (STAR) project is well underway, with several subs already recruited and ready for training. Many child care sites have already expressed interest. Planning is also going on for the Coalition's annual provider conference scheduled for January 27, 2007.

c. Tami reminded each board member that they received a copy of the monthly financials this evening and if they have any questions to let staff know. Tami reminded everyone to attend the Annual Board Retreat on November 13th at the North Trust Building on the 11th Floor from 4-8.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

11. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. The next meeting will be the Coalition's Annual Retreat on Monday, 13 November at the Northern Trust Building, 1515 Ringling Boulevard, from 4-8 pm, on the 11th Floor. The next regular monthly meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 January 2007.

Kim Binkley-Seyer, Chair