

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
17 January 2007

MINUTES

1. ATTENDANCE.

a. Voting Members Present:

Kim Binkley- Seyer	Laura Benson	Tami Conetta	Laura Bauman
David Hicks	Jill Jacoby	Chris Kofler	Bill Little
Janice Mee	Lois Natiello	Nora Patterson	Kathryn Stuckey

b. Non-Voting Members Present:

Dr. Norman Goldstein	Hope Kinney	Ken Modzelewski	Sue Loncaric
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c. Absent with notice (Voting):

Steve Spangler	Lisa Glenn
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d. Absent with notice (Non-Voting):

Lori White

e. Staff:

Janet Kahn	Mike Miller	Linda Mason	Mary Wolf
Dianne Rose	Julia Smirnov		

f. Visitors:

Dick Aubry	Jackie Fontaine	Eva Balcar	Pauline Tracy
Jennifer Ourednik	Lee Johnson		

2. CALL TO ORDER. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

3. CONSENT AGENDA. The consent agenda was unanimously approved (*motion – Chris Kofler; 2nd – Lois Natello*).

4. ACTION ITEMS. The Chair moved ahead one action item in the agenda- the review and approval of the FY 2006 audit.

a. Approval of FY2006 Single Audit- The audit findings were presented by Larry A. Kraujalis, CPA, a partner with Florida CPA Services, P. A. He reported a clean audit with no findings. He reviewed the components of the audit report and invited any questions. Ken Modzelewski asked about a management letter. Larry responded that there were no findings so there is not a management letter issued. He also added, in response to an inquiry from the Chair as to any suggestions for improvement, that the documentation and files maintained by the Coalition staff were appropriate, well organized and easy to find. The audit will be filed with Sarasota County, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Federal Clearinghouse, and any organization in which we apply to receive grant money from. The audit was unanimously approved (*motion- Chris Kofler; 2nd- Laura Benson*).

5. PRESENTATIONS.

a. Summary of Retreat. Goals and Objectives- Janet presented a power point presentation on the highlights/summary of the November Board Retreat. The top five areas as goals for the retreat were as follows:

1. Widespread community investment in and support of high quality child care. Community as a whole recognizes the importance of high quality child care.
2. Businesses recognize the importance of quality child care/investments, and how it affects employees, workforce and future employees.
3. Providers are happy, earning a good living; teachers working toward degrees and higher pay.
4. Quality rating system is in place.

5. All child care sites are of equal, high quality standards.

The Coalition will achieve those goals through the continuation of the many quality enhancement activities that are in place now, and new activities planned within the overall Quality Rating System. Tami asked for more specific information as to “how” these goals will be achieved, that the Board members needed to have more specific information. Janet agreed to create a flow chart showing how the elements within the Coalition Plan relate to each of the goals, showing the specific activities within each category. Janet will also develop a work plan with ideas and ways the board can be involved in meeting those goals, as discussed at the retreat, including assisting Janet in setting up speaking time to present who the Coalition is and what we do in the community. For example, Janet had gone earlier today to present to the Sertoma Club, arranged by David Hicks.

Kim asked Janet as to the status of the Communications Plan. Janet has met with Cheray Keyes-Shima and needs to get back to her with additional information that Cheray requested, as well as to coordinate with the Communications Task Force of the Quality Child Care Council. Kim confirmed that the Communications Plan would have a timeline with targeted goals for specific targeted audiences.

- b. School Readiness Results- Janet shared a power point with the specific School Readiness Results for Sarasota County, with comparable data to prior years, and statewide comparisons as issued by The State Department of Education. These results include *all children* entering kindergarten regardless of whether they were enrolled in Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, scholarship care or any formal preschool setting. In March the data related to the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs will be released, and it will be the first year results will be tied to specific preschool settings. The Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening (FLKRS) results are compiled from all children after their first 30 days of kindergarten for the 2006-2007 school year. The FLKRS is composed of two components:
1. The first component is a new screening called Early Childhood Observation Screener (ECHOS), which is used by the teacher in the first 30 days as they interact and observe each child. The ECHOS is tied directly into the Florida Performance Standards. Kim asked for an example of a standard a teacher would use, and Mary Wolf gave an example as the ability to follow three part instructions. Sue Loncaric also gave an example of the ability to listen to a story for ten minutes. This is the first year for the state to use the ECHOS, so there cannot be a comparison to previous years. The overall “readiness” rate for Sarasota is 90%, combining the Consistently Demonstrating and Emerging/Progressing percentages. There are 10% of children in Sarasota County who are Not Yet Demonstrating the skill areas measured in the ECHOS.
 2. The second component, which has been used for several years and has two parts, is called the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). It is based on the emergent literacy skill set. The first part is based on the ability of the children to name letters during a given period of time. The results are broken into four groups- above average, low risk, moderate risk and high risk. Low risk means the child is performing at grade level; it is the moderate (14% for Sarasota County) and high risk (15% for Sarasota County) that is added together to get the result of 29% of children who entered kindergarten where there is a concern with their ability to name letters. The second part is the ability of children to recognize the initial sound of words. Of those screened 32% were found to be at either moderate or high risk.

Janet then showed the Board maps indicating comparison of the DIBELS to previous years, showing slight improvement in letter naming and no gain in the initial sounds fluency component. Slides comparing state wide results were also shown. There was extensive discussion on understanding the results, how to impact it across the community and on what the Coalition does specifically to address these areas, etc.

6. CHAIR REPORT.

Kim reported to the Board that there is not a lot to report at this time. Kim reported that Monesia Brown is the newly appointed director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. Kim has known her from her work in Tallahassee and feels that she will be excellent in quickly assessing priorities, etc Kim reported that The Chairs Advisory Groups' Quality Committee has been meeting by telephone but there has been little progress. They are reportedly waiting for consultants hired to dissect the quality rating system to submit a report. The committee was supposed to have results and analytical data presented to them in December but it has not happened yet.

7. ACTION ITEMS.

- a. Approval to incorporate the Quality Child Care Council within the ELC structure as an official Advisory Council- Janet discussed with the Board that the Quality Child Care Council was formed initially by funders and community leaders and up to now has functioned as a separate entity working in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition. Now that the work of that Council has moved along to the point where funding is being sought, the Council needs to have an official organizational home so that there is not confusion that a separate entity is being established and will require operational dollars. It was always the intent that the work would be carried out by the ELC. It is being recommended that the Quality Child Care Council come under the Early Learning Coalition as an official community Advisory Council, and that the ELC bylaws be amended to reflect that role. The Board discussed the goals, purpose and functions of the Council and how they are complementary with those of the ELC until the motion for approval of the Council and amendment of the bylaws was made and unanimously accepted (*motion – Bill Little; 2nd – Tami Conetta*).
- b. Approval of request to AWI for additional School Readiness funds for this year- Janet announced that AWI has sent official notification that Coalitions who are projecting a shortfall or deficit for the 2006-2007 fiscal year can request additional funds at this time, and asked the Board to approve a request for \$207,000 from AWI. She went on to explain the Coalition is facing these shortages because of an unexpected number of mandated protective services that has resulted in a monthly increased cost of 20,000 from 6 months prior. Lois Natiello and Lee Johnson both indicated that there has been a 20% increase on protective services reports within the community. In addition, our attrition rate has been somewhat lower than in the previous two years. Staff has already taken measures to work on the deficit and have stopped taking in new families, resulting in a waiting list. The Board continued with a discussion regarding the amount of money that should be requested, based on the need of the Coalition. Tami moved that the request be submitted, but for the amount of dollars it would take to also serve every child in Sarasota County, which allows the Coalition to eliminate the "waiting list" of 155 families waiting to receive services. The motion is unanimously accepted (*motion- Tami Conetta; 2nd- Janice Mee*) and staff was instructed to submit a request that includes both.

Public Comment

(There was no public Comment.)

8. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. Building Better Boards project- Current Board Self Evaluation: Janet reported that the results are ready from this project, but she has not had the opportunity to coordinate the Chairs schedule to meet with Shelley Robertson, the consultant assigned to us for that project, to discuss the results. The goal is to have a report on the results for next month's Board meeting.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS.

- a. Quality Childcare Council (QCC) update - Janet reported that much progress has been made in the work groups and referred the Board members to the written Executive Director's Report that was sent to the Board prior to the meeting that has details of this work. The full Council will meet again in February.

b. Program Updates (VPK, STAR, upcoming initiatives) - The Substitute Training and Recruitment (STAR) Program has 12 substitutes who have worked over 60 times in November and December. The Annual Provider Conference is scheduled for January 27, 2007. Board members were invited to stop by. There are over 280 signed up at this time and we expect over 300 to attend. For VPK, the Coalition is gearing up for summer registration and outreach overall for the Fall 07-08 program. Our numbers are much higher for this year than the first year and families are already inquiring about the 07-08 program.

c. Update on State level changes - Kim already discussed this in her Chair Report.

d. Associations of Early Learning Coalitions' Legislative Priorities - Kim and Janet reported that the Legislative Priorities include increased funding for School Readiness and VPK as well as the implementation of a statewide quality rating system. These items are also on the legislative platform of other child advocacy groups, with additional items such as: increased educational requirements for VPK teachers, establish a statewide Children's Cabinet for birth to 5 years, improved screening and assessment, increase VPK reimbursement consistent with high quality programs, increase the VPK hours, and ensure that **all** accreditation programs meet the NAEYC standards.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Tami announced that the Women's Initiative is doing a makeover at Love and Laugh Child Care Center on February 10th and 11th, and are looking for volunteers.

11. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21 February.

Kim Binkley-Seyer, Chair