

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota
Blue Awning Building, Room 219
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT and TRAINING COMMITTEE
**Joint meeting of the Staff Development and Training Committee and Quality
Initiative Committee**
April 23, 2007

MINUTES

ATTENDEES		
Wendy Harris	Janet Kahn	Venise Duchesne
Kerri Deiffenwierth	Mary Wolf	Virginia Myers
Kathleen Sullivan	Dianne Rose	Jackie Fountaine
Jill Jacoby	Tynisha Wynder	
Eva Balcar	Sandy Zook	

CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was call to order by the Chairperson Wendy Harris at 9:32 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS.

A. Confirm agreement to structure committee meetings around discussion topics and form subcommittees as needed to do additional work as short-term task groups.

- The committee agreed to this structure.

NEW BUSINESS.

A. Professional development issues/strategies.

- Assisting teachers to earn a minimum of a CDA-
 - Wendy began by reminding the group of the TEACH scholarship which Children First uses and clarifying how it works. The teacher signs a contract to stay with the center for two years while they pursue their CDA. The center is reimbursed for the cost of the substitute when the teacher is out of the classroom. The teacher receives paid time off to attend classes and complete homework and includes reimbursement for transportation, books and babysitting. The problem is that there is no penalty if a teacher leaves the center before the two years are over. Janet added that the Quality Rating System will include money for quality improvement which can be used to assist teachers with receiving a CDA and increasing teachers pay (another tenant of the TEACH scholarship).
 - Kathleen stated that at SCTI the TEACH scholarship has the teacher pay \$70 and the center pays \$70, then the state pays the rest. CDAs may be earned through one academic year at SCTI or through two years in the Apprenticeship Program. TEACH works for any teacher wanting to earn a CDA, AA, AS or BA.
 - We all need to continue to encourage teachers and centers to take advantage of the TEACH program. Many people still don't know about it despite the Coalition informing them in newsletters, at our conferences, etc.

2. Another scholarship program available is the Passport Program through Jobs Etc that has built in incentives for beginning, attending and completing classes, it also pays for school. Participants must have a dependent under the age of 19.
 3. The Early Learning Coalition also provides a reimbursement scholarship for teachers pursuing education. This scholarship may also be used to attend national conferences.
- Ways to follow up so trainings are more meaningful and implemented in the classroom-
 - Kathleen began discussion by stating the importance of knowing what is happening as a group and everyone promoting what the other organizations are doing. The Coalition puts out a training calendar and tracks the attendance, but even then trends are not always being identified until after the trainings occur. An example of this is in the fall as the Coalition began the Creative Curriculum Assessments, Dr. Myers conducted trainings for the Coalition. SCTI also did a training session on assessments expecting 20 people to show up, but because of the timing, 51 people showed up needing the information. Bringing trainings to the Professional Development Committee and creating a community wide plan of action for trainings for the year can assist in resolving this issue.
 - Dianne raised the issue that several sites are receiving mentoring services from more than one group. The SCTI, ELC and Florida Center mentors need to coordinate their work and have knowledge of what the other mentors are doing, and to also reinforce the work that each is doing at the site. The committee agreed and suggested the mentors set up a sub-committee or meet bi-monthly to discuss the centers that are receiving mentoring services and ways to coordinate more effectively.
 - Mary raised the issue of follow through, teachers are not taking the information they learn from the trainings and implementing it into the classroom long term. Mary suggested taking 15 minutes at each training to have teachers create lesson plans to take back to their centers. Dr. Myers and Venise suggested cluster trainings-- doing more training with smaller groups in different regions in the county.
 - Dr. Myers is also concerned that the newsletter and training calendars are not being passed from the director to the teachers of the centers. Some teachers are not informed of what is even available.
 - Janet asked whether the FCCFD was using a cluster approach to their trainings. Tynisha described that now with the Building Better Behavior program, a training is conducted, then workshop relating to the training she just did are done to reinforce what was learned. This gives teachers an opportunity to make something discussed from the training and bring it back to their classroom. Mary mentioned also tying trainings mentored sites attend into the mentoring they receive.
 - The committee decided to discuss and set up a tentative training calendar for the next fiscal year with set themes. It was also suggested fewer trainings with greater follow up to improve implementation of new information in the classrooms.
 - Another goal to discuss for next time is holding Standards Trainings for all age groups because of the new teachers in the community.

- Quality Rating System Update- Janet reported the Gulf Coast Community Foundation approved a three year challenge match grant for the Quality Rating System. Other funds will be coming from the ELC, and grants have been requested from Sarasota County and the United Way. The Coalition will begin the process of assessing sites in August and September. Currently ELC mentored sites will serve as an unofficial test pilot to make sure the system works effectively is being conducted over the next couple of weeks.
- DECA Update- Kathleen is planning a retreat for all of the DECA trained mentors to plan for an integration of the DECA within all of the work next year. SCTI is planning to focus on DECA for next year in their trainings. Tynisha added the Florida Center is also using DECA in their trainings and in the BBB program.. Mary reported that the DECA Infant and Toddler tool is available to order, but is on back order right now. The committee agreed that DECA is a great tool because it is a tool parents and teachers use together to help children.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

- Venise and Jill announced that the CDA-E has been renamed and there are new forms for CDA renewal.
- Dianne reminded the group there will be a subcommittee after the meeting to plan mathc and science workshops.
- Tynisha reported that there is a training tomorrow- Scripted Stories and the workshop is May 8th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mary asked the committee if they felt Saturday would be a good day for the disaster preparation training, the committee agreed it would. Mary also announced the literacy training would be postponed until the next fiscal year. Mary is working with our regional VPK facilitator on that training.
- Tynisha announced that the Florida Center hired a new Inclusion Specialist, and she would be attending the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56am. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 9:30 am at The Landings.

Sandy Zook