

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota
Blue Awning Building, Room 201

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY COMMITTEE

December 17, 2007

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Wendy Harris

Jill Jacoby

Kerri Dieffenwierth

Dianne Rose

Mary Wolf

Erin Lawrence

Malikah Daffin

Sandy Zook

Jackie Fountaine

CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Wendy Harris at 9:37 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS.

QRIS update-

At the November 26, meeting, Janet had provided a thorough update of the QRIS progress. Mary shared with the Committee that January is still the target to start implementation. It was asked about how many sites will be assessed and Mary responded that the plan is to conduct the ratings once a year on almost all sites, but anticipating that the first year will start with all centers and a smaller portion of family homes. The program will likely be called "Look for the Stars." General orientation meetings for providers will begin in late January or early February to review the point system within the QRIS that will determine the star rating and to share information about the various supports available to assist providers in improving and maintaining quality. Dick Aubry has agreed to do ECERS overview trainings, but the dates have not been finalized yet.

DECA update

Dianne reported that the DECA subcommittee met on Friday to continue work on the expanded DECA reflective checklists. They will be meeting again for final revisions.

Planning for 7th Annual Provider Conference, "Fear Busters-"

- ◆ Dianne said that this year there will not be a lot of interactive tables. The emphasis will be on math, with a table of manipulatives and sample math activities.
- ◆ Mary mentioned that last year we had big pictures enlarged and called for submissions of pictures of math and science activities to enlarge.
- ◆ Binder: Mary requested submissions of fear-related quotes to include in the binder.
- ◆ It was brought up that if Susan Klein is not able to commit to present the circle time breakout which training would people most like to see repeated? Suggestions were made to repeat gardening.
- ◆ Music by Mar is scheduled for the closing and 2 breakouts. Mary would like the closing to include interaction and audience involvement.

- ◆ Wendy stressed that all presenters should be reminded that needs of infants and toddlers should be included in their training material. The Committee agreed this was an area that has been overlooked in the conference. Mary suggested a possible breakout session. The Committee discussed asking the presenters to incorporate activities for infants and toddlers into their presentations. It was concluded that there should be a breakout specifically for this age group, if possible.
- ◆ The Committee discussed a possible future extended training on this early age group, which could cover appropriate schedules, circle time, and brain development. Possible qualified people to conduct this training were mentioned, including Prasan O'Connor (director of TLC), Suzanne Gellens, Gaye O'Brien (teacher in North Port), and Jane Vanderburg (instructor at Cyesis).
- ◆ The Committee discussed the lunch caterer and agreed to use Corkscrew Deli.
- ◆ The Committee discussed the issue of a possible uneven floor for the outdoor tent. Dr. Drew is the only one using the tent. Sandy suggested the locking tiles used at the Kid's Fair. Mary said she would ask Dr. Drew about the floor. Jackie offered a rug for possible use.
- ◆ The Committee concluded that handouts to be included in the conference binder are needed no later than January 10, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

Elizabeth Iannolino, a family child care provider and instructor, may be available to conduct a training on the FCCERS (Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale).

OTHER DISCUSSION

Mary reported that Betsy Thigpen, who is conducting the conference training on creating outdoor learning environments, said she could come in March for a free daylong "train the trainer" session and also stay for a training targeted to teachers. Committee members felt teachers should have the opportunity to attend this training but would also be worthwhile for trainers, so ideally would offer both. Mary will see if she could stay for 2 days. Betsy Thigpen's Conference breakout will give Committee members a chance to preview the training and determine if it would be valuable. The Committee discussed the necessity of having Betsy address safety concerns with the providers.

Jackie asked if school auctions were mentioned in the Coalition's newsletters since elementary schools typically have one each Fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary thanked those that participated in scoring the mini-grants.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, Room 218 at 9:30am at The Landings.

NOTE: After the December meeting, the next Committee meeting time was changed to Monday, February 4, 2008, Room 220 at The Landings.

Erin Lawrence