

**EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY**  
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota  
Blue Awning Building, Room 219  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
*New name for the combined prior Staff Development and Training Committee  
and Quality Initiatives Committee*  
October 29, 2007

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

Wendy Harris	Janet Kahn	Kathy Stuckey
Virginia Myers	Dianne Rose	Kathleen Sullivan
Kerri Deiffenwierth	Mary Wolf	Venise Duchesne
Malikah Daffin	Sandy Zook	Eva Balcar
Debbie Bowler	Jackie Fountaine	Jill Jacoby

**CALL TO ORDER.**

The meeting was call to order by the Chairperson Wendy Harris at 9:35 a.m.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

- QRIS update- There was no additional update at this time. Mary reminded the committee that January is the targeted implementation date.
- DECA update- Kathleen reported that the DECA committee has not met since the last PDT&Q meeting. Tracy Jaekel with the Florida Center is currently working on putting a checklist together. The committee will also be putting together a group to attend Infant and Toddler DECA “train the trainer” training. SCTI began their DECA training series in September and 60 teachers participated in the training. Wendy at Children First added that all Children First classrooms did action plans for their rooms based on the DECA Reflective Checklists.
- Planning for 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Provider Conference, “Fear Factor-” Mary led the discussion by recapping what was discussed at the previous meeting. She handed out a template schedule for the conference based on the last meeting and the last year’s conference. She also pointed out that now the breakout sessions will be lengthened by 15 minutes this year.
  - It was decided one keynote speaker will be Dr. Diana, her topic will be “Science with Early Childhood” and she will be discussing ways to make science hands on and fun in early education environments.
  - Tammy Tener a FCCH provider might be able to do a math breakout, or possibly a keynote, or a workshop focused on helping the family child providers effectively utilize curriculum.
  - Mary also said that Elma is working on getting Chuck Alexander, the “block guy” from Creative Preschool in Tallahassee (works with Pam Phelps) for the unit block breakouts.
  - Playgrounds and Outdoor Learning Environments will be done by Betsy Thigpen, an expert on the value of outdoor play, who has power points and information on creating rich outdoor environments and research findings that support the importance of unstructured play outside. The committee all agreed that this would be a good topic for the conference.
  - Mary announced that there were still a couple of breakouts that needed to be filled, and a couple of breakout sessions that still needed speakers. One idea was the Sarasota Garden Club- Jackie thought the lady’s name was Claire, and she could do a breakout on children gardening. Kathy mentioned having a breakout for Music and Movement, which the group agreed was important. Jackie also mentioned having a parent involvement breakout session.

- Kathleen volunteered to do the “Let’s Read! Story time to promote language, listening, critical thinking skills” Kathleen might partner with Beth Ellis to present this topic.
  - The “Water Play EVERYDAY” breakout was changed to “Sensory Play EVERYDAY” and the committee agreed the sensory tables are a fear of teachers and this breakout should be repeated. Venise pointed out it is an excellent way to tie in math and science.
  - It was agreed that “Directors as Mentors” with Elma needs to be repeated.
  - Kerri will be doing the Parent Communication breakout and it will discuss delivering difficult messages and other aspects of parent communication. It will be based on the session she and Dianne are presenting at the NAEYC conference in November.
  - Circle Time was very popular last year, and it was agreed to repeat it for this year. Kathy said she had some current teachers as students this semester that have done some wonderful Circle Times, so she will ask one of them to lead this breakout.
  - For implementing a curriculum in FCCH, Jackie stated that many FCCH providers do not find the Creative Curriculum easy to use because it does not proscribe activities, it is more of a framework. They need to know there are other options. Dianne agreed that there is often confusion with Creative Curriculum that providers think the curriculum will give them activities, but it does not. Dr. Myers has created a notebook of ideas that go along with the Creative Curriculum, and while she will not be available to attend the conference she offered the notebook to be used in the breakout session. It was agreed that this would be a good way of presenting how to use curriculum in FCCH environments. Janet suggested Brenda Ives for the breakout session leader. Having a FCCH teacher who uses curriculum appropriately could be the best way to tackle this subject.
  - The committee moved on to the closing keynote. It was suggested to perhaps have a challenge activity. Have pairs or centers compete against each other eating something, making something or going through a challenge course. These ideas were considered, but none of them were ideal for ending the day. Eva suggested speaking to 40 Carrots, because they might know of a local inspirational speaker that could come for the ending keynote. This was agreed to be a good idea, and more in line with the way the conference should close- teachers should leave feeling uplifted and relaxed. Mary also suggested having someone from McCurdy’s Comedy Club come out. Jill added she thought there was a teacher a Sarasota Memorial that was an amateur stand up comic. Kerri also suggested having teachers come up to the stage and receive a prize for admitting a fear that they have. Maybe even saying what they learned that day to overcome their fear. Or how they will implement blocks, math, science, or a sensory table in their classroom.
  - The committee realized that they were over by one in the breakouts, and would have to eliminate one, until it was suggested that the Sensory Table could be done outside. Janet agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that we rent a tent to set up outside in case it rains and so there will also be shade. Again the group brought up the importance of this breakout. Kathleen pointed out how well run and well planned classrooms cut down on behavioral issues and we need to keep reminder teachers of this. As for a breakout session speaker for this session, Janet Hember was suggested. Also Sonja A. from 40 Carrots had done a presentation with a list at one point of “100 things to put in your sand and water table”.
  - Now that the “Sensory” breakout was moved outside, there was room for one more session. Mary mentioned that Jill Ritchfield with the All Faiths Food Bank had a “Growing Healthy Kids” curriculum grant, and could present on that. Kathy suggested that Margie Thrall, a math teacher at Venice MCC, has taught math in Early Education and might have some manipulatives or know someone who does that can be used for a breakout. The gardening with children was again brought up, and after a vote, the committee chose the gardening as the final breakout session.
  - For food it was suggested dessert could be dirt worms, gummy worms or something like that in keeping with a ‘fear factor theme’. Jill said the difficulty would be with having it meet food preparation standards.
- The finalized list of breakouts with the presenters is as follows:

- 2 sessions- Science with Dr. Diana
- 2 sessions- Outdoor Learning Environments with Betsy Thigpen
- 2 sessions- Math with someone yet to be determined.
- 2 sessions- Directors as Mentors with Elma McKay
- 2 sessions- Blocks with the block guy from Tallahassee if he is available
- 2 sessions- Parent Communication with Kerri Deiffenwierth
- 2 sessions- Sensory Play EVERYDAY with Sonja Azar or to be determined
- 1 session- Licensing Updates/New Certifications with Jill, Eva & Venise
- 1 session- Curriculum for FCCH with Brenda Ives or a FCCH provider
- 1 session- ESOL with Kathleen Sullivan
- 1 session- Lets Read! With Kathleen Sullivan
- 1 session- Circle Time with a teacher Kathy Stuckey will recruit
- 1 session- Gardening with Claire from the Sarasota Gardening Club

The closing is still to be determined.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

There was no additional new business as the conference is the main focus for now.

#### **OTHER DISCUSSION.**

There was no other discussion.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- Malekka announced that Karen has left her position at the Florida Center and Debbie Bowler is the new team member. The committee welcomed back Debbie who used to meet with us when she worked as an Inclusion Specialist at the Y.
- Kathleen and Kathy announced that SCTI and MCC had come to a final and formal agreement on the articulation of credits. Those who achieve a CDA through SCTI can claim 12 hours credit at MCC after completing 12 hours credit towards an early education associates degree at MCC. The articulation is only for Early Education degree seeking students. The discussion then turned to students who had received a CDA through the Gold Seal project, and the problems with those articulating. Kathleen and Kathy agreed to come up with one pager to answer all these questions and send it to the committee before the next meeting in November, and possibly can go into the ELC newsletter. The committee agreed after the Conference in January the topic of professional development along a career path will become the focus of the committee. We will also discuss a local registry, etc.
- Kerri announced that a new NAEYC boot camp was presented in Orlando, sponsored by ECA and NAEYC is determining whether to release it nationwide. If they do, one of the sessions will take place in Sarasota.
- Kerri also announced a NAC Attack training will take place to assist directors no longer looking to renew through NAEYC, but trying to find a new accreditation source.

#### **ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 26, 2007 at 9:30am at The Landings.

Sandy Zook

**Addendum note to Minutes:** After the meeting, it was determined that the name Fear Factor would not be used because of a possible negative association to the TV show. After deliberations via e-mail, the name chosen is: **“FEAR BUSTERS! Transform Teaching Fears into Confident Teaching”**