



**Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The Landings, Blue Awning  
Monday, November 17, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES**

Mary Wolf	Jackie Fountaine	Malikah Dawkins
Marjorie Fondacaro	Jill Jacoby	Elma J. McKay
Yvette Robison	Venise Duchesne	Wendy Harris
Lynne Weinick	Dianne Lawrence	Valerie Walton

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Mary Wolf

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

Minutes from the, October 27, 2008 meeting were approved.

**Look For The Stars Update**

Mary reported that approximately 80 people attended the Look for the Stars kick off event at Spanish Point on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Members from the Child Care Council, child care providers, and parents spoke at the event. Children from Bizzy Bee Child Care Center came and sang Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Mommy Magazine was present and press releases will be distributed to the media about the event and the Look for the Stars program. The message at the kickoff was to acknowledge community partners for supporting the program and appreciate providers for their participation and commitment to quality. Also emphasized was the benefit of the Look for the Stars initiative as a way to inform for parents of the factors that contribute to quality child care environments and as a tool to identify quality programs.

**Training**

Mary Wolf reported that a form will be developed to track training participation and successful completion of follow up activities. This list can then be submitted to SCTI and used to verify CEU eligibility.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ELC Conference planning

- ❖ Mary announced that the Coalition was delighted to report that Jackie Fountaine and Sandy Carpenter had once again volunteered to prepare the Conference breakfast.
- ❖ The Committee reviewed the planning and decisions from the last meeting.
- ❖ Discussion ensued regarding whether 11 breakout sessions would be enough, but the issue was unresolved. Available breakout space at Pine Shores is a factor to consider.
- ❖ Also discussed was whether door monitors will be needed for each session to assist the facilitator and to close the room when capacity is met. The Committee made a commitment to having a monitor/hostess at each session and determined that between Committee members and Coalition staff there should be enough people to cover this.
- ❖ The Committee discussed the importance of having teachers with the skills to handle transitions well, including the transition children make from preschool to kindergarten. Discussion included the benefit of having kindergarten teachers give input on this transition, and whether they should be invited to share expectations, ideas and give suggestions on what works. Committee members felt that preschool teachers also had things to share that would be useful for kindergarten teachers. Concerns were expressed about assessments created by some kindergarten teachers for students entering their classes which may not be in line with VPK Standards or have developmentally appropriate expectations. The Committee decided that there would not be enough time to cover this topic adequately at the conference, but that there may be a need for a Spring Transition Conference, which will be discussed at a future meeting.

### Conference planning to date:

- ❖ Location: Pine Shores Community Center
- ❖ Date: Saturday, January 31, 2009
- ❖ Theme: Look for the Stars: Quality Through a Child's Eyes
- ❖ Keynote: Kathryn Shea, CEO of the Florida Center
- ❖ Closing: Looking at The Learning Station's new program based on Becky Bailey's concepts. They will also do 2 breakouts.
- ❖ Tentative interactive tables:
  - ✓ Outdoor Environments – to include pictures of change providers have already put into place
  - ✓ De-stressors
  - ✓ Marketing-tips and handouts
  - ✓ Child Abuse Prevention - safety
  - ✓ Health Care/Insurance
  - ✓ Organizations – ECA, SPICE, Hand n' Hand, FCCCHA, etc.
  - ✓ Professional involvement – professional development information provided
  - ✓ Mental Health Partnership
  - ✓ Playground Safety & Standards –(this was discussed as also being part of the Outdoor Environments table)
  - ✓ Character Development – have examples of appropriate resources
  - ✓ Meal time
  - ✓ Resource Room
  - ✓ Infant/Toddler activities – activities that can be taken right back to classroom (*This was discussed as either a 12<sup>th</sup> session or an interactive table*)
- ❖ Tentative Break-out Sessions
  - ✓ Learning Station
  - ✓ Sensory Integration (Judy Corso)

- ✓ Inclusion (Judy Corso)
  - ✓ Infant and Toddler Best Practices (Cyesis Staff)-*repeat session*
  - ✓ Director's Round Table (Kathryn Shea)
  - ✓ Second session for Directors –*Lynne possibly to do this*
  - ✓ Outdoor Environments (Lisa Allen)
  - ✓ VPK updates and resources (Lisa Allen)
  - ✓ Discussing Sensitive Issues with Parents (Federation of Families)
  - ✓ Planning Transitions (hoping Susan Klein will be able to do this) - *two sessions one for infant and toddlers and one for preschoolers, to included transitions from one class to another and from one activity to another within the classroom*
  - ✓ Open Ended Art – *discussion on having two sessions as well as who could present*
  - ✓ Cultural Diversity Center by Center (Darelyn Poole) *this will be presented twice*
  - ✓ Brain Development- *Malikah Daffin will see if anyone at the Florida Center could present this; Elma McKay and Wendy Harris will investigate possible presenters or may take this on themselves*
  - ✓ Organizing and Structuring Your Environment (Ginny Myers) – *focusing on the environment as an integral component of a quality program, including room arrangement, routines and materials that encourage in-depth, complex exploration and interaction – discussion on whether to present this as part 1 and part 2.*
  - ✓ Marketing is Everyone's Business (Lynne Weinick)
- ❖ Other program considerations:
- ✓ To recognize Look for the Stars participants invite a Quality Child Care Council member to speak in appreciation of their commitment, and include information about Look for the Stars in the Conference binders.
  - ✓ All presenters should infuse into their sessions the importance of positive adult and child interaction, and in their presentation refer to the meaning of the Conference theme, "Quality Through A Child's Eyes."

The Committee discussed encouraging directors of 1 and 2 star sites to plan with their teachers which sessions they should attend based on the needs of their programs. This would empower the directors and also tie into the professional development plan directors should be developing with their teachers.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Elma announced that Children First will be hosting the Beyond Centers and Circle Time training. They will have materials available for centers that would like to preview the new kit.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2008 at The Landings.

Submitted by Valerie Walton