



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY
The Landings, 1960 Landings Boulevard, Sarasota
Blue Awning Building, Room 220

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING & QUALITY COMMITTEE

February 4, 2008

MINUTES – *Corrected 2/25/08*

ATTENDEES

Wendy Harris
Janet Kahn
Mary Wolf
Jackie Fountaine

Venise Duchesne
Dr. Goldstein
Kathy Stuckey
Kathleen Sullivan

Kerri Dieffenwierth
Marjorie Fondacaro
Debbi Bowler

CALL TO ORDER

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

OLD BUSINESS

QRIS

- Janet provided an update of the QRIS progress. The announcement of the official launching of the program went out to all providers last week. Copies were distributed to committee members who had not received theirs yet. The mailing was intended to get providers excited about the Look for the Stars program, but also to remind them the elements are not new and that the criteria within the rating system are things that we have been stressing for years. The announcement also served as a written notice/ formal notification that assessments would be completed.
- Devereux Florida has been contracted to do the assessments and will start February 18. They have been doing assessments for other Coalitions and have a trained and reliable team of assessors.
- As we have discussed before, the goal is for all providers to eventually achieve a minimum of a 3 star rating. Providers with a 3 star or less will receive assistance through an individual improvement plan based on their QRIS assessment. Providers will have 15 months to improve.
- Janet or Coalition staff will present a series of informational meetings on the details of the QRIS throughout February and March. Dick Aubry will conduct 2 trainings on the ITERS/ECERS, one in south county and one in Sarasota.

- One goal of the QRIS is to educate parents so that they seek quality sites, and the belief is that parents will catch on quickly to the 5 star rating system. There will be a marketing outreach to parents to publicize the program once results are in. Parents who have heard that this is coming are anxious to know more about it. Mommy Magazine is already talking about it and planning to do a full article in April.
- Janet also reviewed the history of the QRIS, from the original push from the state to the collaborative work being done by Coalitions across the state to ensure that there is consistency in the star ratings.
- Gold Seal Accredited sites will be designated with their star rating and a plus sign. Down the road the new NAEYC accreditation might be considered equivalent to a 5 star rating, since the criteria is much more stringent than the old criteria and is close to all of the elements within statewide 5 star levels.

DECA update

- Kathleen reported that the revisions on the expanded DECA Reflective Checklists have been completed and will be used by SCTI mentors in their work.
- Mary mentioned that the DECA Infant and Toddler training is Tuesday, February 5. We expect about 25 participants.

Provider Conference

- The Conference initial summary report was distributed. Committee members agreed that the Conference has gone smoothly and feedback had been positive. Well over 350 attended and we could have had more. We turned people away the last week. The space at Pine Shores was discussed and the possibility of having the keynote and closing in the Sanctuary, which seats over 500 people, was considered for next year. Also mentioned was the need to have more infant and toddler breakouts next year.
- The importance of block play was brought up and some discussion on how to assist providers to ensure that every classroom had a set of blocks. Janet mentioned that the Coalition had applied for a grant to equip every classroom with blocks, which had not been awarded, but we could try again from a different source.
- Kathleen was asked if she felt another ESOL training would have been beneficial at the Conference, and she said no, that those at the Conference who felt they needed that training were able to attend.

CEU/CDA Issues

- Committee members had a general discussion of CEUs and which ones will count for renewal and for accreditation, and what quality accountability should be in place for the many online sources of CEUs. A local position statement may be needed to clarify this and expectations.
- Kerri asked if teachers could be given information about how to proceed if they held a CDA issued by the YMCA Gold Seal Program. Those CDAs do not meet the requirements for NAEYC accreditation and teachers holding those CDAs also need an additional 12 credits in order to articulate to MCC. Janet said that all the confusion with the CDAs and new DCF Staff Credentials and paths to articulation may require a simple chart which could be posted on the Coalition website so teachers would know what their options are and what they need to do next. Kathleen said she would create a chart with that information. *(Note: Kathleen did this and it is posted)*
- Kathy described the requirements at MCC and said she and Kathleen had a long and productive meeting to work out the articulation arrangement between SCTI and MCC.

NEW BUSINESS

Training Plan

- The Coalition Training Plan developed earlier in the program year was passed out. Janet asked everyone to review it for the next committee meeting, think about follow-up trainings to the Conference as had been previously decided, and determine if there are other priorities for the remainder of the program year in terms of training and professional development. A series of “Training Nights” was mentioned as a possibility (Infant Night, Toddler Night, Block Night, etc.). All agreed that more training on lesson planning is also needed. And everyone knows that training on Challenging Behaviors can’t be offered enough.

OTHER DISCUSSION

- Jackie asked how many family child care providers offered VPK and was told 3 this year.
- The Committee discussed changing the time of its meetings to another day or another time. After some discussion, consensus was to keep the day but change the time to 10:00 to make it easier for members who have to fight traffic to get here at the old time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, February 25th at 10:00 AM at The Landings.

Mary Wolf