



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

**The Landings, Blue Awning, Room 101, Sarasota
Monday, October 26, 2009
10:00**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES		
Kathleen Sullivan	Mary Wolf	Claudia Malecki
Dianne Lawrence	Jackie Fontaine	Marjorie Fondacaro
Eva Balcar	Valerie Walton	Elma McKay
Wendy Harris	Elizabeth Crouse	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Kathleen Sullivan. Members reviewed and approved the minutes from 9/28/09.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Look for the Stars update

Mary Wolf stated that the most recent update is posted to the website which does include a slight change to what was sent out in the newsletter. The subscale improvement charts will be added. Instructors at all trainings are reminding attendees that trainings made a huge difference last year. Jackie stated that another consideration may be that sites that increased in only one area may already have been high in other areas.

The updated training schedule is posted on the website. Email reminders are also sent out to all providers. It's important that teachers and directors open all emails to ensure they have the most recent updates – there have been some changes in the dates for ECERS in Sarasota, for example. Anyone that wants to receive emails just needs to email the ELC to request to be added to the distribution list. Postcards will be going out to providers informing them that the Coalition is now communicating primarily by email and requesting correct email addresses and asking that providers let the Coalition know if they need information sent postal mail.

Mary reported on information from a webinar presented by the Children's Forum on their professional development registry. The Forum is making some services available at no cost. Other services will be charged. Currently the cost is \$45 per initial entry and then \$20 per entry for updates. The Coalition is considering taking advantage of the services available at no cost. Mary will forward the link to the audio of the webinar to everyone. The Coalition may contact other Coalitions who have been using the professional development registry to get feedback.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Conference Planning:

Key Note Speaker: This is still to be determined. Suggestion was made that Kathleen Sullivan be added as a possibility. Elma suggested Nate Jacobs from the Westcoast Theatre group. She has used him before and he could perform an engaging monologue based on what we want. Elma will contact him.

Kathleen reported that Pine View School will be the location for the conference, and that we will be able to use this venue at no cost. Committee members were delighted that Kathleen was able to arrange this. A suggestion was made that the next meeting be held at Pine View. Kathleen will check on this.

Conference Structure: Discussion ensued regarding the break out session lengths and it was decided that some topics could possibly need both sessions. Rather than break these into part 1 and 2 it might be better to block out the entire time.

Mary stated that Lisa Allen has an Arts Curriculum training that is very hands on and would need to use both sessions and that Meryl Kleiner expressed an interest in presenting a session on interactive story telling that she has done before and that was very well received.

Elma stated that there is a USF professor that she has used at trainings that might be a possibility for the closing.

Subtopics of creativity that members felt important to include are movement, drama, and art. Kathleen suggested possibly contacting Tara Nicole Academy for a creative movement breakout session.

Discussion ensued on how to structure break out sessions on photography. Suggestions included asking some individuals to take pictures throughout day then putting together a presentation for the closing, what teachers can do with photography in their classrooms, activity ideas to use in the classroom, a presentation of technical information to familiarize teachers with the equipment. Kathleen will check with SCTI staff as possible presenters and Elma will check with Jack Baker.

Speaker/session ideas

- Possible keynote:
 - **Nate Jacobs from the Westcoast Theatre group – *new suggestion, Elma will follow up***
 - Jean Feldman: was at the ECA conference and works with finger plays and songs
 - Pam Phelps: with the BCCT curriculum, hands-on, interactive, power of play and self-expression while supporting performance standards
 - Suzanne Gellens, tie brain development to activities that support hands on exploration, investigation, and self-expression

- Possible presenters:
 - Local high school art, drama teachers
 - Local resources, i.e. Ringling, Arts Council, Van Wezel, Florida West Coast Theatre Troup
 - Explore other community resources
 - Panel discussions to explore value and implications of this approach
 - Have directors and teachers that incorporate art into their centers already do presentations

- Possible breakout topics:

New discussions:

- **Have each session tie into the Standards**
- **Tie “power of play” into each session and overall theme**
- **Dr. Drew: using blocks and self expression**
- **Poetry – Kathleen**

From 9-28-09 meeting:

- Study the power of play; why it is so important, and noting that this approach is supported by research
- Workshop to explore teachers’ relationship to the arts, “What do I do for self-expression?” - this can include a broad range - scrapbooking, gardening, music, etc. and how to bring that into classroom
- Offering teachers exposure to what they may not have taken in college courses
- How to share art with children and encourage them to create their own, look at how art can be incorporated into all components of the classroom
- Field trip possibility: ***Make a Hand out- Jackie volunteered to work on this.***
- Using clay in the classroom
- Drama for preschool and what social emotional skills children gain from dramatic play
- Dance and movement as a core curriculum element, why this is important
- Music
- Power of blocks as an avenue of self-expression and architecture
- Cooking
- Story telling
- Joy of the natural world/gardening
- Photography
- Have classes on specific kinds of art
- Scientific inquiry can also be means of self-expression
- Tie into resiliency and taking care of yourself

Have a brief introduction before the keynote touching on the points below to frame the theme of “self-expression” as it is implemented in the classroom:

- **Allowing children to be creative and express themselves requires adults taking the time to understand what children are trying to accomplish – encouraging creativity may mean extending center/free play times**
- **Answer the charge that “creativity and standards don’t always go together”:** how to get the message out that arts support the standards, how to achieve a balance
- **How to address the fear that supporting self-expression will result in loss of control and chaos**
- **How not to hinder children’s self expression; what are the barriers to self expression**

- Possible conference set up

New Discussions:

- **Provide everyone with a journal to self reflect**
- **Use a reflection box to pull from for door prizes**
- **Use the last 5 minutes of each session to reflect on what is learned and record in the journal**
- **Have a poetry table for anyone to write a poem**

- **Have the Standards on posters hung all around showing how creative arts and self-expression can support skills in the Standards**
- **Have materials available on the table at breakfast and lunch for attendees to express a thought through drawing or writing**

From 9-28-09 meeting:

- Music playing as you come into the conference
- Easels set up around rooms
- Big mural to be created as the day goes on by participants - *Claudia*
- Include statements by professionals in our community about what they learned in preschool – what are the vivid memories of preschool
- Recreate children’s centers for adults
- End each session with a discussion of perceived barriers
- Have displays of art in various media

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting set for November 16th at Pine View if possible. Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Submitted by Valerie Walton