



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

**The Landings, Blue Awning
Monday, March 23, 2009**

MINUTES

ATTENDEES

Mary Wolf
Kathleen Sullivan
Valerie Walton
Meryl Kleiner

Debbie Bowler
Janet Kahn
Yvette Robison
Elizabeth Crouse

Marjorie Fondacaro
Dianne Lawrence
Susan Miller
Todd Verdun

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Kathleen Sullivan. Janet Kahn and Kathleen stated that several members were not able to be here for the meeting so while the committee can discuss topics on the Agenda, the same topics may need to be brought up again next month. Members can decide what can be addressed at this meeting and make recommendations for next time. Janet stated that she wanted to touch base on trainings that needed to be offered by June as well as the Children First community training.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- **Look for the Stars update:** Mary Wolf reported that assessments are starting to come in and can be shared with any partner that would like to see them. The assessments are very comprehensive and the 4 and 5 start sites are being assessed first.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- **Training follow up:** Discussion was held regarding whether everyone was doing trainings with follow up activities. Mary stated that the follow up activities are very important but time consuming also. Janet stated that she has attended many meetings where the topic of follow up activities has been discussed and the consensus has always been that just doing trainings and then letting the participants go is a waste of time. The committee all agreed that follow up activities are very beneficial. Kathleen suggested having a small meeting to look at what has been done. Yvette suggested that when a topic is identified that needs more in-depth discussion a smaller focus group could meet at 9:00 before the 10:00 committee meeting. It was decided that each entity/agency that is conducting trainings meet at 9:00 before the next PDTQ meeting on 4/27/09, and bring what they have been doing regarding follow up activities to this meeting.

- **ELC Training Plan:** Discussion was held regarding what other areas of training are needed through June. Topics included: Brain Development, Infant & Toddler, Yoga (possibly one evening in April), Infant & Toddler ITERS. Suzanne Gellens has offered a free training and will provide that at a time that fits our schedule (possibly a Saturday morning mini conference in May; 9-12 pm).
- **Children First Community Conference:** Janet stated that she had spoken with Hope Kinney, and the Children First community conference would be an addition to Children First's pre services training week, as Elma had mentioned at the February PDTQ meeting. In past years Children First would open up some spots so that community members could attend one or two sessions. This year they are looking at this community conference to either kick off their in service week or as a closing celebration on Saturday. CF is asking that the PDTQ committee fully participate in considering what topics should be offered as well as help identify speakers and instructors. The committee identified the following topics: self assessments of own professional goals, English language learners, teachers' comfort level communicating and working with parents, curriculum, infant & toddler care, attachment with infants, behavior management, possibility of directors track. Further discussion was held regarding whether to charge participants to attend and whether to charge for meals. There is also a possibility that CF can have sponsorship from Kaplan, which would be a factor in whether or not to charge participants. Janet noted that the PDTQ committee needs to be involved with the planning of this event, as it is a training for the entire early childhood community and the goal is coordination of resources and focus. Kathleen will contact Elma, since the committee needs her input in considering the topics for this community event.

4. OTHER DISCUSSION

The date for the May meeting was discussed. Since the 4th Monday is Memorial Day, the May meeting will be 5/18/09 with a small group meeting at 9:00 am to discuss the structure of the Director's Connection meetings. The April meeting will be on 4/27/09 with a small group meeting at 9:00 am to discuss training follow up activities. The June meeting will be 6/22 with a Partner's meeting at 9:00am.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Submitted by Valerie Walton