



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

The Landings, Blue Awning, Room 101, Sarasota  
Monday, August 24, 2009  
10:00

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDEES

Janet Kahn	Marjorie Fondacaro	Mary Wolf
Dianne Lawrence	Yvette Robison	Claudia Malecki
Meryl Kleiner	Candy Exline	Eva Balcar
Jill Jacoby	Valerie Walton	Missy Eckenrod
Jackie Fountaine	Wendy Harris	Elizabeth Crouse
Elma McKay		

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Janet Kahn. Janet mentioned that Kathleen Sullivan is still the chair of this committee but unable to attend today. Janet welcomed everyone.

#### 2. OLD BUSINESS

Look for the Stars update: Mary distributed summaries that showed the comparison of the number of participating sites and their star levels last year compared to this year. She stated that the data showed that it was a challenge for some of the 4 and 5 star sites to maintain that level, but that many 2 star sites that were able to make improvements. The data also showed that training had clear positive results - providers who attended trainings were far more likely to improve their scores. Mary reviewed the comparison of subscale scores chart noting where the most improvements were seen. Jackie Fountaine commented that the Family Child Care Home providers were bothered with the assessment process due to perceived inconsistencies of the assessors. Mary responded that the tool is very specific and any provider with concerns should let the ELC know the specific instances. The Coalition wants to get feedback from providers and respond to their concerns. Mary also reported that looking at the subscale scores it is clear what areas need concentrated trainings. Mary stated that the ITERS and ECERS trainings will be starting in September; FCCERS will begin this weekend and the training schedule should be coming out this week.

PBS update: Wendy Harris reported that staff really enjoyed the training and there are more teachers that want to participate. Janet Kahn reported that there may be another training offered in September and possibly an Infant/Toddler training. Janet reported that she thinks this program is having a positive impact.

Children First Community Event: Elma reported she received an email from Pam Phelps saying that she really enjoyed the training and would like to come back. There were 96 total participants from 66 community sites and feedback was very positive. Gary LaFamina presented a social/emotional training that was well received. Elma reported that it had not been decided if they would present a community event tied to the Children First staff development week next year. Dianne reported that she has received calls from several directors who said they really enjoyed the day and Mary said she had heard positive comments as well.

### **3. NEW BUISINESS**

Florida Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Practitioners & Setting educational criteria for trainers at different levels: Janet reported that Palm Beach County had started their core competency model 5 years ago, the state had workgroups on this topic for at least 2 years, and before that the state had developed a “Paths to Professionalism” framework, so this has been in the works for quite a while. The state has officially adopted the Florida Core Competencies, which are quite similar to Palm Beach. Last year we took the Palm Beach Core Competencies and tweaked them; now we will adopt the state competencies, with the expectation that eventually this be accepted across the state. Janet discussed a possible state wide registry for all trainers to track their qualifications, which may be made available through the Children’s Forum. In Sarasota County we have already adopted the framework of the core competencies and now need to look at identifying trainings based on participants’ competency levels and establishing guidelines for trainers’ competencies. The next step would be to locally implement criteria for trainers knowing that some trainers will only be at the entry level. This could be tied into the Look for the Stars QIS, with credit given only to trainings offered by approved trainers. Mary stated that when describing our trainings for distribution, it would be a good idea to include what level of teachers might find the training most helpful, and make sure we are offering trainings for all levels of experience.

ELC trainings: Mary reported that the Coalition’s schedule of upcoming trainings should go out to everyone today or tomorrow. Many trainings this year are being offered as part of a series and a full range of topics will be covered.

### **4. OTHER DISCUSSION**

Conference: Janet shared the idea of incorporating the arts for the upcoming ELC annual provider conference. Committee members embraced this idea and discussed tying this theme to the classroom environment at all levels – stress management, self expression, social/ emotional, and including music, dance and drama. A possible conference title was suggested, “Discover the Joy of Self-Expression.” Members talked about the possibility of a different conference location this year, since the limit will be 300 at Pine Shores. Yvette volunteered to help located a venue. Elma stated she would also help with this.

#### Announcements:

Yvette reported that she is available to offer Educational Career Planning to Look for the Stars sites that have staff trying to piece together a career path. Yvette asked that anyone talking with Directors to please let them know that this service is available.

Mary reported that the Coalition is currently in the process of clarifying the TEACH cost requirements for participants and providers and looking into ways the Coalition can offer assistance.

Jackie stated she would like to recommend Michael Gurian as an author of excellent books.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting set for September 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Landings. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Valerie Walton