



Early Learning Coalition of Lake County
Innovative services for children of Lake County

These minutes summarize the key issues of the ELCLC Board Meeting on April 14, 2010.

Board members present: Mr. Will Pruitt, Mr. B. E. Thompson, Ms. Maureen Jergins, Mr. Hays Ginn, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Michele Rawls, Ms. Cheryl Ridley, Ms. Jeanie Rowin, Ms. Marsha Carpenter, Mr. Oscar Palau for Ms. Donna Gregory, Mr. Eddy Workinger, Ms. Jennifer Walz, and Ms. Kathryn Sutherin for Miss: Nancy Allison. **Board members absent:** Mr. Hugh Brockington, Ms. Sabrina Ciceri, Mr. Eric English, Ms. Porcha Green, Ms. Kimberly Grabert, Ms. Dawn Mainville, Ms. Sherry Olszanski, Ms. Linda Stewart, and Dr. Barbara Howard. **Staff Present:** Ms. Lesha Buchbinder, Ms. Patricia Pierce, Ms. Tameka Mays and Ms. Laura Close, **Guests present:** Ms. Willie Burden, Pastor Dan Callahan, Ms. Cindy Winkle, Ms. Renet McCall, Ms. Doreen Chatelier, Ms. Cindi Butler and Ms. Denise Lancaster.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 905 am. A quorum was determined present.

PRESENTATIONS

Ms. Lesha Buchbinder presented a Proclamation-to the Board from the Lake County Board of Commissioners. The Proclamation was in recognition of the statewide declaration that the month of April, 2010 be recognized as Child Care Awareness Month throughout Florida and in Lake County. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the Coalition invited our providers to have their children create artwork to participate in the annual "hanging of the hands" in the Capitol rotunda. The Coalition saved several pieces of hands to displayed in the Lake County Administration building and the Coalition offices.

Mr. Hays Ginn was asked to introduce Mr. Jeff Griesemere representing the Child Rescue Network, located in Orlando. Mr. Griesemere provide some insight on the importance of safety for our children, commenting that research shows the high percentage of rape victims in the US are under 18 and particularly those under the age of 12. Mr. Griesemere stated that their company has training programs that are available for parents and teachers to engage them in the safety of the children. He also mentioned that child ID cards are available which include a picture of the child well as individual information. The ID cards can be sponsored by an individual company who will pay for a determined number of cards printed with their logos on them and then the ID cards can be distributed to parents for free. The members discussed the possibility of purchasing the cards to give out and asked if this would fall under any of our current programs. Ms. Buchbinder commented that this may be something that could be done in conjunction with the Big Blue program at community events. The Coalition would have to look at the cost of each card, but if they were handed out to the community, Quality dollars may be used to purchase them. After further discussion, Mr. Pruitt asked Mr. Griesemere about the percentage of harm that is done by someone the child may know, like a parent or a relative. Mr. Pruitt asked Ms Buchbinder, Ms Rowin and Ms. Sutherin to do some research on the available statistics and asked the group to work with Mr. Griesemere on the research. Ms. Buchbinder thanked Mr. Griesemere for coming to the meeting to do the presentation.

CONSENT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Pruitt asked if anyone had questions or wanted to discuss items 556 or 557. Mr. Thompson requested to pull item number 557 for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to approve item 556. Motion carried. Ms. Buchbinder stated that there had been a revision to item #557, the proposed SR contract/agreement, which states *that amendments may be added to the agreement based on any statewide changes during the course of the fiscal year.* This revision relates to the possible implementation by the state of a core contract for SR providers. There were no questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve item #557. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded to review the legislative update that was included in the board packet stating that there has been some movement on the bill proposed by Senator Wise. Ms. Buchbinder commented on other house and senate bills and stressed the importance of members, providers and the community to call or write to legislators asking them not to cut the VPK funding. Ms. Buchbinder will send board members a list of legislators and the committees they serve on to assist with contacting them. Ms. Buchbinder also briefed that members on the status of the ITN stating that only one Intent to Submit had been received, LifeStream Behavioral Center, and the next step is the submission of the proposal by April 27th. Ms. Buchbinder reported that action-items for the may board meeting will include the 2010-2011 draft budget and the 2010 SR sliding fee scale. Ms. Buchbinder reviewed the 2009 Readiness Rate information that was distributed at each member's seat. Ms. Buchbinder reviewed the information stating that there were 7 perfect scores, with the majority of the programs scoring in the top quartile. Ms. Buchbinder commented that there were a total of 6 low performing providers, Ms. Buchbinder commented that providers who have scored as a LPP for 4 consecutive years will be in jeopardy of not participating in the program in 2010. Based on the provided scores, Lake County, with the exception of one provider, does not have any 4 year LPP repeaters. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the RCMA Center in Mascotte, Which falls under the umbrella of the ELC of Southwest Florida, was a four year LPP in 2009. Ms. Buchbinder stated that several RCMA's across the state which serve a migrant population, mainly of children in a family which English is a second language, are four year LPP repeaters. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the State is currently proposing language which will allow exceptions for 4h year LPP providers, though language efficiency is not one of the proposed exceptions. Ms. Buchbinder also reviewed various charts and information on the 2009 readiness rate data. Ms. Buchbinder reminded the board that the VPK roundups for the 2010-2011 school year will take place April 19 through April 23, 2010 throughout Lake County.

Ms. Buchbinder briefly commented on the upcoming Uniting for Children Mini Conference on April 17, 2010 to be held at Leesburg High School: stating that we have three presenters; Ron Mohl, Jennifer Faber and Jack Hartman. Ms. Buchbinder pointed out that the 2rd Quarter 09-10 ELC3'(Child Development) contract monitoring was completed and went well. Only one issue-was found relating to an unemployment compensation claim and is pending resolution.

There was no-further discussion on the Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded to report that a letter had been received from Ms. Debbie Dodd regarding her recent contract termination due to non compliance of Meeting attendance. Ms. Dodd was invited to come and address the Board; however Ms. Dodd did not attend the meeting. Ms. Buchbinder informed the Board that another provider, whose contract was terminated for non compliance of meeting attendance, had requested to come and speak with the Board. Ms. Willie Mae Burden addressed the Board and stated that though she attended several ELC meetings, she had not attended the required SR Provider Meeting. Ms. Tameka Mays, ELCLC Education Specialist for Ms. Burden's facility, stated that the provider is known for

doing what is requested of her as it relates to technical assistance, ERS assessments, etc. Ms. Burden asked if she could appeal the termination stating that it was not her intent to miss the required meetings. Mr. Pruitt asked how many children under contract were affected by the termination and her response was three. Mr. Pruitt commented that the requirement of providers to attend specific meetings is intended to help providers in providing quality services for the children. Mr. Pruitt stated that the Coalition has to be accountable to the state and tax payers to ensure this is done. Mr. Pruitt commented that the Board established a policy to terminate after considerable discussions and felt that the board should stay with their decision. After a lengthy discussion regarding the establishing of an appeal process between the Board members and several providers in attendance, Ms. Buchbinder stated that board action on the topic would set a precedent for other providers in the same situation. Mr. Pruitt asked if anyone wanted make a motion on the issue. Ms. Buchbinder stated that due to the length of the meeting, some voting members had to leave so there was no quorum present. Mr. Pruitt asked to poll the remaining members to see if that were in favor of at least getting more information on an appeal process. The consensus of all the remaining members indicated they were in favor of getting additional information regarding an appeal process. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she would work on getting some information for the May meeting.

Ms. Buchbinder informed the Board that a child care facility had been working with Ms. Close on going through the contract process of becoming an ELCLC provider. Ms. Buchbinder stated that after four assessments the facility was informed that they were not eligible for a contract due to failure to meet the required minimum score of a 3.0. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she had met with Pastor Callahan and he requested that she review the assessments and see what the center could do to get a contract now instead of waiting the one year as required. Ms. Buchbinder stated that the day after the meeting, Pastor Callahan contacted Ms. Buchbinder via phone and once again asked what she can do to assist them with gaining an SR contract. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she had responded to him according to the contract requirements and he was not satisfied and threatened to contact the media if he was not awarded a contract. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she informed the Pastor that if he felt that strongly about the decision that he was more than welcome to attend the board meeting and address the Board. Ms. Buchbinder shared with the Board members that there had been a total of four assessments, two ITERS and two ECERS, sighting numerous infractions resulting in an average score of 2.835 (ITERS) and 2.985 (ECERS). Ms. Buchbinder commented that the observations which prevented the facility from meeting the minimum required score were not related to materials or resources which are required by the ERS evaluation tool, but were related to health and safety issues involving the children and their teachers.

Pastor Callahan was at the meeting and was given the opportunity to speak. Pastor Callahan stated that the facility has been in business for 30 years and they are interested in working with the Coalition. Pastor Callahan is seeking information on what they can do immediately to get approved for a contract. He stated that some of the findings had already been improved and/or corrected. Pastor Callahan claimed that some of the findings were inaccurate and questioned the validity of the assessments. Ms. Sutherin, newly appointed Private Provider Board Member commented that had DCF been the one to observe the infractions mentioned there would have been several Class 2 violations which, if they were licensed, would have put their license in jeopardy. Ms. Buchbinder stated that DCF was contacted regarding what was observed. After further discussion Mr. Thompson stated that he felt the Coalition should abide by the policies and procedures that are in place; the remaining members agreed. Mr. Pruitt addressed Pastor Callahan stating that the primary concern is for the children. Mr. Pruitt thanked him for coming to address the Board, stating that if he was dissatisfied with the action, he was certainly free to go to the press. Pastor Callahan then left the meeting. Mr. Thompson thanked the staff on their thoroughness in doing the assessment.

Ms. Sutherin: provided an update in the issue regarding classroom sizes and shared some statistical information that she had researched regarding prior wording in DCF regulations. Ms. Sutherin commented

that she feels that there is some misinterpretation in the intent of the Florida Statute which regulates class size. Ms Buchbinder commented that she is still working on scheduling a meeting with Ms Carpenter; however, she may not have the necessary information at this time.

Due to the length of the meetings, Mr. Pruitt asked to table the remainder of the items on the agenda. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
by Patricia Pierce
Executive Assistant

Approved May 5, 2010