



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

These minutes summarize the key issues of the ELCLC Board of Directors' meeting on November 3, 2010 held at the Early Learning Coalition of Lake County.

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The following members were present: Dr. Hugh Brockington, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Marsha Carpenter, Mr. Hays Ginn, Ms. Porcha Green, Mr. Oscar Palau, Mr. Will Pruitt, Ms. Kathryn Sutherin, Ms. Michele Rawls, Mr. B. E. Thompson, Ms. Jennifer Walz and Mr. Eddy Workinger. The following members were absent: Mr. Eric English, Ms. Kim Grabert, Dr. Barbara Howard, Ms. Melissa Lyford, Ms. Erica Mott and Ms. Jeanie Rowin. The following guests were present: Ms. Kimberli Pruitt, Ms. Tina Webb, Mr. Bud Webb, Ms. Angie Norvell, Mr. Mike Norvell, Mr. Morgan Romano, Ms. Betsy Mae Wilson, Ms. Nancy Allison and Ms. Patricia Scott. The following staff was present: Ms. Lesha Buchbinder, Ms. Patricia Pierce, Ms. Joanne Simpson, Mr. Tim Layne, Ms. Gina Davis and Ms. Maria Martinez.

Ms. Buchbinder began the meeting with a presentation to the Norvell family members who were invited to attend the meeting. Ms. Buchbinder read a proclamation approved by the Board at the October 2010 meeting stating that the Coalition's children's corner located in the main area of the office has been dedicated and renamed as "Mason's Corner" in memory and honor of Mason Michael Norvell, who passed away at the age of 6 months. Mr. Mike Norvell served as former attorney for the Coalition for several years and is the grandfather of Mason. Ms. Buchbinder and members accompanied the family to the area so they could see "Mason's Corner" and the memorial plaque which was hung in his honor.

The Board members, guests and staff returned to the Board room to continue with the meeting's agenda.

CONSENT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Pruitt presented action item 649 for consideration. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2010 board meeting. The motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded with the Executive Director's report with a brief review of the Day in the Park event held on October 28, 2010 at Hickory Pointe. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the event was very successful and received comments that this year with the best ever. There were 866 children, 379 teachers/chaperones and 84 volunteers. Ms. Buchbinder stated that due to the extreme heat last year, we were successful in getting a donation from the City of Leesburg for 1900 bottles of water. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that some of the tents used in previous years had been damaged and it was necessary for the Coalition to purchase 25 new tents for the event. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the new tents will also be available for use during community outreach events in the future.

Ms. Buchbinder presented the board with a recent request of a local Charter School for grades K-2 to apply for a School Readiness Contract. Ms. Buchbinder commented that this is not the first time that a school age only facility has approached the Coalition for the approval to serve school

readiness children. Ms. Buchbinder commented that in the past school age ONLY contracts have not been considered due to the fact that the Coalition has not had a way to monitor these agencies for developmentally appropriate curriculum, activities, health and safety, etc. All of which are required by F.S. 411.01. Ms. Buchbinder stated that if we were to open up our program to school age only facilities that we would have to adopt a specific monitoring tool and we would have to utilize current staff to monitor those programs. Ms. Buchbinder suggested that the school readiness contract would have to be amended to address the varying needs of these programs. At this time, the Coalition does not have any specific criteria for monitoring the school age children in the centers. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that there is a current wait list and if new programs come on board the only children that could be served are those children who would transfer from a current contracted provider.

Dr. Brockington stated that he felt that serving this population would be beneficial for the children. Ms. Buchbinder reminded the Board of the funding challenges that might be realized once the ARRA funds have been depleted. Ms. Buchbinder stated that if the State does not replenish the school readiness funds that the board will need to consider ways to serve our target population of 0-5. Ms. Buchbinder also stated that the board would want to consider any need for provider reimbursement rate increases. Ms. Buchbinder commented that a breakdown will be prepared for December regarding the number of school age children currently enrolled in our program as well as the number of children on the waitlist and the number of providers currently offering school age care.

Mr. Pruitt asked members for their thoughts on the issue. Ms. Sutherin asked if there is any current monitoring being done in the Lake County Schools. Ms. Buchbinder stated that at this time the extended learning centers (ELC) in the school system are not being monitored. Dr. Brockington stated that not serving children 10-13 would be an injustice, as they need help with learning in their preteens. Ms. Buchbinder informed the Board that there may be a need for additional staff if the Coalition pursues this avenue. Ms. Buchbinder stated that at this time we have 4 team members that monitor 0-5 for the ITERS and ECERS for over 100 contracted providers. Mr. Pruitt asked if the level of monitoring for children ages 10-13 was increased, how that would affect our dollars. Ms. Sutherin suggested that the board consider reducing the amount of funding for 10-13 year old children and allocate the dollars to our younger kids. Ms. Sutherin also suggested that ELC could lower the reimbursement on school age kids to providers and through increased parent fees they could make up the difference.

Ms. Buchbinder commented the Ms. Joanne Simpson, CCR&R, could provide a report on school age provider rates, regular and market rates. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she will meet with staff to research our current schooler population to determine the real need for additional services.

Ms. Rawls added that if we wanted to work with organizations such as the Boys/Girls, etc, there could be issues regarding licensing, background checks, etc. These groups usually have children for 2-4 hours and they play and do homework. Ms. Carpenter commented that the YMCA, Boys/Girls clubs are licensed. Ms. Carpenter also mentioned that Karate clubs are neither licensed nor monitored.

In summary, Mr. Pruitt commented that it appears that allowing school age only contracts would increase the cost of our monitoring efforts which would take away from our target population. Mr. Pruitt commented that he would be concerned regarding what entities would be permitted to do school age programs. Ms. Buchbinder commented that F.S. 411 addresses what programs can be considered for school readiness funding as well as what the program has to offer in order to participate.

Dr. Brockington commented that if funding is the issue, we should leave this alone and he would be in favor of offering our providers an increase in reimbursement payments if possible. Dr. Brockington also commented that if we continue to offer funding for schoolers, that the funding should be offered to current providers and not offer the program to new providers. Ms. Rawls commented that she feels that if we are currently serving schoolers and have a waitlist, we shouldn't pursue this at this time. Mr. Ginn agreed.

Mr. Pruitt asked Ms. Buchbinder to provide more information to the Board and the subject could be discussed in the future. Ms. Sutherin commented on an up charge by raising parent fees for older children that could help absorb the additional dollars and the funds would come back to the Coalition to cover extra monitoring expenses. Mr. Palau commented that he felt that there is a need to help 10-13 year olds as they are the future. Mr. Hartman stated that he would do some research on finding additional grant dollars.

Ms. Buchbinder reported that the state is looking at standardizing the health and safety checks for unregulated providers and the possibility of using electronic notebooks that can be used to upload information into the DCF website. Ms. Buchbinder commented that some Coalitions want to wait for the state to finalize development of the process while others would like to start using the software now. Ms. Buchbinder said that if it does not increase the time that it currently takes to conduct the health and safety check then she is okay with starting the new process now. Ms. Buchbinder commented that she likes the electronic capabilities and we currently have three notebooks for doing ITERS/ECERS. Ms. Carpenter commented that the state wants to standardize the process across counties.

In closing, Ms. Buchbinder reported that Ms. Mainville has submitted her resignation from the Coalition Board of Directors. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that Ms. Ciceri and Ms. Jergins have exceeded the number of absences according to the bylaws and those positions will be vacant resulting in two Private Sector and one At Large position(s) being vacant. Ms. Buchbinder added that Akers Media stated they may have someone who would be interested in serving on the Board and she has informed Akers Media to have that person send in an application.

Mr. Pruitt called Ms. Pat Scott to the floor to read a statement. Ms. Scott expressed her gratitude to the Board for their support. Ms. Scott commented that she knows the decision made by the Board to relieve her debt was not easy but she felt that they were guided in their decision. Ms. Scott wanted the members to understand that it was never her intent to escape paying her debt; and that it was her intent to pay back the dollars that were given her in error. Ms. Scott again thanked the members for their support.

FISCAL/UTILIZATION

Ms. Buchbinder reported that the Fiscal and Utilization reports for September were in the board packet and encouraged them to review the information and contact her if they have any questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ginn reported that the Professional Development Committee has reviewed and approved four applications for the 2010-2011 reimbursement program.

Screening & Assessment Committee

Ms. Buchbinder reported that she had met with Ms. Close and Ms. Rawls, chair of the Screening & Assessment Committee to discuss the status of the State's development of a standard ASQ tool. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the state is going forward with the ASQs and an order for the ASQ kits has been placed on the Coalition's behalf. Ms. Buchbinder commented that depending on the number of kits the Coalition will receive, we may invite providers to assist in doing the ASQs. The results will be submitted to the state and published. Ms. Buchbinder commented that three ELCLC staff attended a statewide ASQ Training last week.

Ms. Buchbinder reported that Ms. Tonya Martin, one of our Reimbursement Specialists, applied and was accepted to for the position of Early Childhood Specialist as Ms. Diop was moved to a position as Inclusion Specialist. Ms. Martin is licensed to drive both buses. A letter will be sent to providers to let them know who they need to contact to schedule future appointments with the BBB.

Ms. Buchbinder asked Mr. Thompson if he knew the current status of the budget for the CSC grant. Mr. Thompson said the budget has not been officially approved but the Coalition has been approved for \$20,000 for the BBB program.

Ms. Buchbinder commented that the Curriculum Advisory Council and the Provider Growth & Development Committees did not meet.

Ms. Buchbinder stated that the Program Reports are in the Board packets for review.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:30 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patricia Pierce
Executive Assistant

Approved December 1, 2010