



Early Learning Coalition of Lake County

Innovative Services for Lake County's Children

These minutes summarize the key issues of the ELCLC Board of Directors' meeting on January 12, 2011 held at the Early Learning Coalition of Lake County.

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. The following members were present: Dr. Hugh Brockington, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Marsha Carpenter, Mr. Eric English, Mr. Hays Ginn, Mr. Oscar Palau, Mr. Will Pruitt, Ms. Kathryn Sutherin, Ms. Michele Rawls, Ms. Jeanie Rowin and Ms. Kim Grabert. The following members were absent: Ms. Erica Mott, Ms. Porcha Green, Ms. Jennifer Walz, Dr. Barbara Howard, Ms. Melissa Lyford and Mr. Eddy Workinger. The following guests were present: Ms. Cindy Winkle, Ms. Doreen Chatelier, and Ms. Betsy Harrington. The following staff was present: Ms. Lesha Buchbinder, Ms. Patricia Pierce, Ms. Laura Close, Mr. Bill Hartman and Ms. Denise Lancaster.

CONSENT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Pruitt presented action items 679 and 680 for consideration and asked if anyone had questions or wanted to pull an item for discussion. There were none. A motion was made and seconded to approve action items 679 and 680.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Buchbinder began with a review of several documents that had been distributed to each board member. Ms. Buchbinder reported that Committee meetings are scheduled to begin in Tallahassee the week of January 24, 2011 and asked Board members to take time to reach out to local legislators regarding Early Learning Coalitions and the importance of high quality early childhood education for both Lake County and Florida children.

Ms. Buchbinder distributed a spreadsheet that was developed by Ms. Sutherin and ELC Staff and regarding the current provider rate reimbursement schedule. The financial information included in the spreadsheet related to current market rates for providers and various options for a provider rate revision that would align Lake's current provider rates more with the current market rate. The option that was favored the most was Option 3 which included increases for the 0-3 age groups and decreases for 4 - school age. The option also decreased the reimbursement rates for registered homes. The members discussed in detail how the various options could impact parents and the savings that could be realized for the Coalition. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to authorize Ms. Buchbinder to implement Option 3 as recommended effective February 1, 2011. The providers that were in attendance agreed that Option 3 was a good place to start and that the savings will go to help serve more children from the wait list.

Ms. Buchbinder reviewed the revised Memorandum of Understanding with neighboring counties as requested by the Board at the December meeting. The new MOU states that the reimbursement rates paid will be the approved rates of the funding coalition, which means that Lake County rates will be paid for all Lake County children regardless of the County in which they are enrolled and receive services.

Ms. Buchbinder announced that the Coalition has been approved for a second donation from Disney in the amount of \$20,000. Ms. Buchbinder reminded members that this was a non-competitive award.

Ms. Buchbinder reviewed several documents that AELC had put together to use as talking points for the Coalitions regarding the importance of the School Readiness and VPK programs. The documents compared funding for the program since 2007 and the number of children being served. Ms. Buchbinder also referred to an article stating that Florida now ranks 5th in the nation according to a report on January 11, 2011 in the Orlando Sentinel. This is a big improvement from a previous report with Florida ranking 14th in 2008 and 10th in 2009.

Ms. Buchbinder reported that she had an opportunity to speak at a legislative meeting that was held in Clermont at the Cooper Memorial Library. Ms. Buchbinder stated that the presentation included talking points regarding the importance of quality early education as well as having teachers who have earned their degrees. Ms. Buchbinder reported that there are 846 people who are working as a result of the funding for child care assistance through the BG8 program. Ms. Buchbinder commented that those working parents now contribute \$6.3 million back into the Lake County economy.

Mrs. Buchbinder provided an update on the Early Education Bus Tour 2011. The focus of the Bus Tour will be to create a forum to talk about early education with other Coalitions. During the tour, there will be the opportunity to talk about not only Lake County programs, but each participating Coalition will also have the opportunity to discuss their programs. Coalitions could discuss the benefits of getting parents back to work and the impact that the SR program has for working parents. Ms. Buchbinder reported that on January 24, 2011, ELCLC will host a Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of our new offices and then lead into the announcement of the Kick-Off of the bus tour. Ms. Buchbinder asked Ms. Grabert if perhaps DCF and KCI could put together some data that could be included in the talking points for the tour. Ms. Buchbinder stated that she would like to find someone who could help provide refreshments for the event on January 24, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Jeanie Rowin volunteered to see if her employer, RBC Bank in Clermont, would donate refreshment items for the event. Ms. Buchbinder stated that representatives from the various Chambers of Commerce, local and state legislators and the business community will be sent invitations to the event. Ms. Buchbinder reviewed the plans for the bus tour and estimated costs for the trip. Ms. Buchbinder commented that she was informed by the state that some of the costs for the bus tour would not be allowable expenditures and the Coalition is looking for donations from the community to pay for those items. Ms. Buchbinder reviewed some of the stops that were planned and commented that she would talk with Ms. Green to see if Head Start would be able to contribute any funds and mentioned that Jacksonville was scheduled to open a new Head Start center. Ms. Buchbinder said she would contact CSC to see if they might be able to contribute additional funds for the tour.

Ms. Buchbinder continued the Executive Director's report stating that Mr. B. E. Thompson had submitted his resignation from the board, stating that his responsibilities at LifeStream had increased due to additional grants and he needed to reduce some of his outside commitments. Ms. Buchbinder commented that since his position is mandated by the State, that Mr. Thompson will contact Ms. Rebecca Foley-Kearney Director of CSC to fill the position.

CHAIR REPORT:

Mr. Pruitt encouraged members to call or write Mr. Thompson to express their thanks for many years of service and commitment to children and families as a member of the ELCLC Board.

Mr. Pruitt asked Board members to review the Invest in Florida's Future document closely and see the proposed cuts and expectations to serve more children. Mr. Pruitt commented that the Early Education Bus Tour 2011 will address funding throughout the state and that the focus will be on reaching the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President. Mr. Pruitt commented that it is hard to determine what the outcome will be at the state resulting from the recent elections. Mr. Pruitt shared his thoughts on possible outcomes such as reduction or combining of Coalitions or that VPK could be moved to the Department of Education. Mr. Pruitt commented that perhaps our providers could get parents to be more vested in their child's education by contributing match dollars to help the Coalition draw down federal dollars to serve more children.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Provider Growth and Development Committee:

Ms. Buchbinder reported that she had met with Dr. Brockington to discuss the future of the Provider Growth and Development Committee and determine what should be the focus of the program. Ms. Buchbinder reported that they discussed developing a process for providers to apply for mini grants with specific guidelines as well as policies and procedures. Ms. Buchbinder reviewed the documents regarding the grant procedures, and the draft score sheet that were in draft form. The amount of the grants would be based on the ELCLC's budget. The suggestion was made to form a provider work group to review the documents internally. The process could possibly include the completion of a business plan, profit and loss statements, etc. This will be discussed at a future meeting with the entire Committee.

Ms. Buchbinder informed the members that the Fiscal Report and the Program Reports are in their notebooks and encouraged them to review the information and to contact her if they have any questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Buchbinder reminded members that in addition to the regular Board Meeting on March 2, 2011, the Coalition's Annual Board Meeting will be scheduled the same time. Ms. Buchbinder commented that nominees for the Slate of Officers will be necessary on the agenda for the Annual meeting. Ms. Buchbinder reported that a notice had been sent electronically to all Board members requesting nominees for the position of Vice Chair. The results from polling the Board members indicated Dr. Brockington and Mr. Ginn were named by the majority of members who responded. An official ballot will be prepared with both names and distributed to Board members at the Annual Meeting for a private vote.

Ms. Buchbinder also reported that she and Mr. Pruitt have discussed the possibility of changing the frequency of Board meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. Mr. Pruitt asked members to vote on changing the Board meetings to bi-monthly. A quorum was determined and a motion was

made and seconded to change Board meetings to bi-monthly effective February, 2011 and will remain on the first Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be March 2, 2011. Motion carried. Ms. Buchbinder stated that if the Board members would like to get an update for the off-months that a one-page document could be developed and sent out to members.

There was no other business. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patricia Pierce
Executive Assistant

Approved March 2, 2011

