



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 October 13, 2010 held at the Early Learning Coalition of Lake County.

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present: Mr. Hugh Brockington, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Daphine Harvey for Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Erica Mott, Mr. Eddy Workinger, Ms. Kim Grabert, Ms. Porcha Green, Ms. Jennifer Walz, Ms. Joleen Green for Lake Co. Health Dept., Ms. Kathryn Sutherin, Dr. Barbara Howard, Ms. Dawn Mainville, Ms. Michele Rawls, and Mr. Hays Ginn. The following members were absent: Ms. Sabrina Ciceri, Ms. Maureen Jergins, Ms. Melissa Lyford, Ms. Jeanie Rowin, Ms. Linda Stewart, and Mr. B. E. Thompson. The following guests were present: Ms. Doreen Chatelier, Ms. Cindi Butler, Ms. Linda Brown, Ms. Margie Wilkes, and Ms. Locki Michaelson. The following staff was present: Ms. Lesha Buchbinder, Ms. Laura Close, Ms. Lisa West, Ms. Denise Lancaster, Ms. Ashley Noble, Ms. Wynderlon Blunt, Ms. Jeni Aldrich, Ms. Sylvia Storman, Ms. Teressa Parrish, Ms. Tonya Martin, Ms. Tameka Mays, Ms. Nelida Diop, Ms. Jennifer Harrison, Ms. Joanne Brinck, Ms. Simone Hylton, and Mr. Bill Harman

Ms. Buchbinder opened the meeting stating that presentations were to be made to Commissioner Linda Stewart and Ms. Sherry Olszanski, however, neither was able to attend. Ms. Buchbinder read the inscription on the plaques in recognition of the years of service by both parties on the Coalition's Board of Directors. Ms. Buchbinder explained that due to the recent transition of CCCS to the Coalition, Ms. Olszanski who served as the Central Agency representative, that position was removed from the board membership.

Ms. Buchbinder informed the Board that in recent months the Coalition had the opportunity to offer an IBM Grant to local 501 C (3) SR providers which included a computer, early learning software, monitor, keyboard, mouse and a Little Tykes table to be used for housing the computer system. Ms. Buchbinder commented that Lake County was awarded four co computer systems and though several providers completed applications the Coalition selected the four winners based on their ER scores, credentialed staff as well the number of subsidized children they served. Ms. Buchbinder presented certificate awards to the following providers: Little Blessings, Little Gems, and IDW. Unfortunately Carver Heights was not in attendance. Ms. Buchbinder explained that the computer equipment was picked up by the providers prior to the Coalition's transition and move at the end of September. Ms. Buchbinder commented that these providers will participate in a webinar to obtain the training needed for the computers.

Ms. Buchbinder commented that there were 24 computer systems distributed around the Lake County area including Marion, Orange and Polk counties

Mr. Pruitt introduced Ms. Kimberli Pruitt for a presentation to the Board. Ms. Pruitt commented that Mr. Pruitt senior, Will's father who passed away several weeks ago, loved children and a donation of \$1000 was made to the Just Match It campaign and an additional \$500 was donated to the Foundation in Mr. Pruitt senior's name. Mr. Will Pruitt commented that he had received a check from Mr. Eddy Workinger in the amount of \$200 and an additional \$150 from Ms. Kathryn Sutherin for the JustMatchIt Campaign.

Mr. Pruitt also commented that Ms. Doreen Chatelier had made another donation to the campaign. Ms. Buchbinder reported that Dr. Howard had also contributed.

CONSENT CONSIDERATION

Mr. Pruitt presented action items 637 and 638 for consideration. Mr. Pruitt asked to pull item 638 for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to approve item 637. Motion carried. Mr. Pruitt referred to the proclamation that was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Pruitt explained that Mason Michael Norvell was the grandson of Mike Norvell. Mr. Pruitt explained that Mr. Norvell has been a supporter of the Coalition for several years and his family has been long time residents of Lake County. Mr. Pruitt explained to the Board that Mason was diagnosed with leukemia shortly after birth and recently passed away. Mr. Pruitt reported that this is the second child in the Norvell family diagnosed with this disease. Mr. Pruitt commented that the Coalition has a specific area in the office that is used to serve children and their families and suggested that this space be named in memory and in honor of Mason Michael Norvell. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proclamation and to name the children's corner the "Mason Michael Norvell's corner". Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Buchbinder began the Executive Director's report with an update on the transition showing some photos of the before and after the moving process. Ms. Buchbinder reported that the transition to date has gone very well. Ms. Buchbinder further explained that EFS was up and running by October 3 and all computers were operational. The Family Services Department was ready and prepared to see parents beginning on Monday, October 4 at 08:00 a.m. and all services were ready on time. Ms. Buchbinder commented that provider payments were being processed on time and delays were not anticipated.

Ms. Buchbinder commented that the training room will not be ready for several weeks and that the Coalition will not be responsible for paying for the space until it is ready for use. Ms. Buchbinder commented that there is a surplus of furniture and old computers that will be offered to other coalitions or sold in a public sale. Ms. Buchbinder showed a video that was made as part of the Children's Movement which is being headed by David Lawrence and was presented at the ELAC meeting in September. This video has been viewed statewide in an attempt to bring attention to children's issues and to secure the necessary funding for Florida's children. Ms. Buchbinder stated that copies can be obtained if any members wanted one. Mr. Pruitt commented that members and the community need to contact legislators to emphasize the need for continued funding for early childhood education.

Ms. Buchbinder continued with the ED Report referencing the third and fourth quarter monitoring that was completed by Ms. Patsy Grant and distributed for review. Ms. Buchbinder explained that there were several non compliance issues regarding CCR&R calls and future training was being scheduled for all staff.

In conclusion, Ms. Buchbinder reported that a letter had been received from Mr. Gary Earl, of Workforce Central Florida announcing Ms. Erica Mott as the new ELCLC Board Representative. Ms. Buchbinder welcomed and introduced Ms. Mott who provided a brief background of her duties and the ZuCan services being offered at the Workforce locations.

CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Pruitt thanked Ms. Buchbinder and the ELC staff, for a wonderful job of getting all the offices and staff from three locations moved quickly and efficiently during the transition.

Mr. Pruitt began his report with a history of the development and implementation of the SR and VPK programs commenting that with the upcoming election the board needs to remain aware and cognizant of legislators' intent when it comes to both programs. Mr. Pruitt gave a brief report on the ELAC meeting in September. Mr. Pruitt stated that he has reached out to several candidates to discuss the ELC programs and that their support can help impact our efforts to increase the state budget for all early learning programs. Mr. Pruitt stated that in his experience many legislators think of the SR program as an "entitlement" and is not viewed the same as K-12 grades. He stated that explaining and changing this way of thinking will go a long way to securing more funding. Mr. Pruitt commented that if funds for the SR program are decreased or lost that the program could revert back to the e the central agency model and the program could lose the benefit of local control. After further discussion, Ms. Buchbinder moved on to the next action items.

Ms. Buchbinder reported that there will be an official ribbon cutting scheduled in the next few weeks and members will be invited to attend.

FISCAL/UTILIZATION

Ms. Buchbinder stated that the Fiscal/Utilization reports as well as the programmatic reports were included in the packet for review by the Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Ginn reported that the Professional Development Committee is scheduled to meet in October to discuss the 2010 Fall Professional Development Applications.

Ms. Buchbinder stated that due to the transition, the Screening & Assessment Committee, the Curriculum Advisory Council nor the Provider Growth & Development Committee did not meet but will convene in the future months.

Ms. Buchbinder presented a situation to the members for discussion regarding a Lake County provider who was overpaid due to an error in part by the staff of LifeStream/CCCS. Ms. Buchbinder explained that the provider's Gold Seal accreditation expired in 2009, but due to an oversight by staff, continued to receive full payment for approximately ten months. Ms. Buchbinder stated that the situation was brought to her attention by the provider in March after a repayment agreement had been made between the provider and LifeStream. Ms. Buchbinder explained that a repayment agreement had been made that allowed LifeStream to withhold funding from the provider if the reimbursements for the month exceeded an agreed upon amount. Ms. Buchbinder further reported that at the time of transition, October 1st, the provider had repaid approximately \$6,000 of the \$20,000 overpayment.

Mr. Pruitt commented that this was only one recent issue that was left by CCCS/LifeStream for the Coalition to resolve. Mr. Pruitt commented that he feels strongly that it is the responsibility of LifeStream to reimburse the overpayment and he does not believe that Pat's Kidz World is financially capable of reimbursing the Coalition for the balance of the overpayment. Ms. Buchbinder reported that recently the Coalition received notification that the Coalition's unrestricted dollars must be expended by the end of the current calendar year. Ms. Buchbinder also stated that since the discovery of this situation of overpayment, new policies and procedures have been established and put in place to prevent this situation from happening again. Mr. Pruitt reiterated his strong opinion that the oversight was the responsibility of management and it was not handled correctly. After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of providing financial assistance to the provider in an effort to assist with the repayment, a motion was made and seconded to assist the provider and use the unrestricted funds available. The motion also required that the provider be trained on how to understand the reimbursement reports as to avoid a similar situation in the future. Ms. Buchbinder performed an individual roll call for voting resulting in a majority vote to assist the provider with the funds available. Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

Motion to adjourn at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lesha Buchbinder
Executive Director

Approved November 3, 2010