



## Early Learning Coalition of Lake County

### Innovative services for children of Lake County

These minutes summarize the key issues discussed at the meeting. An audio recording is available upon request.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pruitt called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and a quorum was determined. The following members were present: Mr. B. E. Thompson, Ms. Michele Rawls, Ms. Jeanie Rowin, Ms. Marie Carlberg, Ms. Sherry Olszanski, Ms. Marsha Carpenter, Ms. Dawn Mainville, Mr. Eddy Workinger, Commissioner Linda Stewart, Dr. Barbara Howard, Dr. Hugh Brockington and Mr. Oscar Palau for Ms. Donna Gregory. The following members were absent: Ms. Nancy Allison, Mr. Hays Ginn, Ms. Porcha Green, and Ms. Cheryl Ridley. The following staff members were present: Ms. Leshia Buchbinder, Ms. Laura Close and Ms. Patricia Pierce. The following guests were present: Ms. Sabrina Ciceri, Ms. Cindy Winkle, Ms. Maureen Jergins, Ms. Doreen Chatelier, Ms. Rebecca Foley-Kearney and Ms. Denise Lancaster.

#### CONSENT CONSIDERATIONS

Mr. Pruitt presented Action Items 497 through Item 502 and asked if anyone had questions or comments. Ms. Jeanie Rowin asked to table Item 500, the draft Report of the Annual Audit, until the January 2010 Board meeting. Ms. Rowin commented that the Audit Review Committee did not have an opportunity to review the revised document. There were no other comments on the remaining action items. Ms. Rowin moved to approve Items 497 through 502 with the exception of Item 500. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Pruitt welcomed the new Board members and asked them to be seated with the other Board members.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Buchbinder began the Executive Director's report commenting on the upcoming 2010-2011 Association of Early Learning Coalition meetings, stating that the main focus of the group will be the level of funding for the SR program. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the current grant award could possibly be expended by April or May, and that reduced funds will increase the wait list. Ms. Buchbinder commented that there will still be ARRA funds available.

Ms. Buchbinder also reported on changes at the state level commented that the Agency for Workforce will be the entity that oversees all school readiness and VPK programs and will be separate from Department of Education and Office of Early Learning. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the new structure will be better and will function more efficiently without duplication of efforts.

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded to review a document from the Child Care Bureau included in the packet that references questions they have received regarding child care providers/parent who receive a subsidy for services for their own children. The Child Care Bureau has reviewed the federal policy which is what Florida follows; however, they are recommending that a policy be written at the State or County level going forward. Ms. Buchbinder commented that at this time there is no state legislation regarding this situation. Ms. Buchbinder commented there are a few Lake County directors/owners of family home child care facilities who are receiving a subsidy for caring for their own children. Ms. Buchbinder asked the Board for guidance on the issue and the members agreed that ELCLC should develop a policy stating that the owner/director of a family child care home will not receive a subsidy for services for their own child. Ms. Buchbinder stated that a letter will be written to the appropriate providers stating the new policy and that the Coalition will work with those who may need assistance in finding suitable care for their child at another facility. Ms. Buchbinder commented that they will be able to continue with the child care subsidy at the other location. Ms. Buchbinder commented that perhaps the same policy should be extended to include owners/directors in private child care facilities who are currently serving their own children and are receiving a subsidy.

Ms. Buchbinder continued with an update on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Partnership, stating that upon research at the state, it has been determined that there would be no conflict of interest if the

Coalition was to provide financial assistance for the Imagination Library as previously authorized by the Board.

Ms. Buchbinder briefly reviewed the additional program information that was included in the Executive Director's report. Ms. Buchbinder commented that the VPK monitoring for 2009-2010 has been completed. There were 63 providers monitored and 9 were out of compliance due to having the wrong teacher name on the state form. Also, there were 4 centers that had issues with ratio or inappropriate use of classroom time; therefore they will not receive payment for that day. Ms. Buchbinder added that the School Board is currently conducting their first semester monitoring and we should have the results in January.

Ms. Buchbinder referred to the Coalition QIC Update that was also included in the packet.

Ms. Buchbinder proceeded with the OEL/AWI correspondence, stating that the ELCLC Plan Amendments previously submitted to the State in August, have been approved on November 3, 2009. Ms. also reminded that the ELCLC 2009 accountability and eligibility review team will be here on December 8 to review child files and provider files. The review process will include telephone interviews with Board members and she will let the appropriate members know what times the interviews will be conducted. Ms. Buchbinder also reported that KPMG will be coming to the Coalition to conduct the state financial audit on January 11, 2010.

Ms. Buchbinder concluded the Executive Director's report stating that there is an Early Learning Advisory Council meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> in Tampa and encouraged the Board's Governor Appointees and other members to attend the meeting.

#### CHAIR REPORT/BOARD NETWORKING

Mr. Pruitt informed the Board members that he would like to change the format for the Chair report to include more informational exchange amongst Board members. Mr. Pruitt commented that he would like to see more involvement from the members. Mr. Pruitt encouraged members to stop by one of our centers for a visit when they are out in the community as this will help them have a better feel for what our providers may need at their facilities. Mr. Pruitt commented that Board members may already have great ideas on how the Coalition can assist providers with getting materials for an urgent need to maintain their contracts. Ms. Buchbinder previously shared that there are several centers that are at risk due to non compliance regarding fencing or barriers to protect children playing outdoors. Mr. Pruitt suggested that if the Board compiled a list of what we wanted to achieve, members could talk with their business associates to see how they may be able to partner with the Coalition to provide materials or services to our providers. Mr. Pruitt reminded members that the Coalition has tremendous discretion with grant funds and some things could be purchased for the centers. He also reminded members that some of those discretionary dollars were used to enhance advertising this past year for the VPK program. Mr. Pruitt asked members to share one thought or goal they wanted the Board and Coalition to consider in this endeavor. A synopsis of the discussion with the Board members is included with the Chair's Report Item 516.

Mr. Pruitt commented that there were several good ideas and asked members to follow up on some of their ideas.

Due to the lengthy meeting, Mr. Pruitt asked Ms. Buchbinder if the remaining Information Items in the packet could be discussed at the January. Ms. Buchbinder was in agreement.

Mr. Pruitt called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by:

Patricia Pierce  
Executive Assistant

Approved Jan 6, 2010