



**APPROVED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008**

Members Present

Christina Worley
 Dr. Barbara Weinstein
 John O'Malley
 Kristy Pressly
 Leondrae Camel
 Dr. Carmen Nicholas
 Nicole Matlock
 Patrick Cannan
 Ken Kahn
 Ruth Doran
 Dr. Roanne Moreno
 Wanda Baldwin
 M.J. Steele
 Philippe Jeck
 Tana Ebbole
 Traver Gruen-Kennedy

Members Absent

Alvin Leaks
 Dr. Marsha Fishbane
 Kerry Perl
 Perry Borman

Guests

Barry Miller
 Gail Fabian
 Robert Nelson
 Ainsworth Geddes
 Doreen Moskowitz
 Kathy Haight
 Terrie Ellis
 Sally Laws
 Karen Deringer
 Corine Williams

Ex-officio

Warren Eldridge
 Vivian Blackmon-Taylor
 Mike Sothen
 Aruna Gilbert
 Ginger Gladden

These minutes summarize key action items of the meeting of the Board of Directors for the Early Learning Coalition. They do not include all issues discussed. A transcript of the meeting by recorded audiotape is the official record and is available to all interested parties.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Traver Gruen-Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:06p.m. A quorum of voting members was established.

CHAIR COMMENTS (Traver Gruen-Kennedy)

The Chair congratulated the Executive Director, Warren Eldridge, and presented a plaque for five years of service with the Early Learning Coalition.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Warren Eldridge reported on action items discussed in previous meetings.

Parent Focus Group. The first parent focus group was held in June in coordination with the State. These focus groups will play an intricate part in our contract and program negotiations. The Coalition is interested in looking at how parents receive and perceive our services and how effective these services are for the children. In working with our service agencies and as part of our contract the Coalition is going to have a qualitative and a quantitative way of measuring the parent's support. The negotiations that are forthcoming and our partnership with CSC will have the program beginning in January.

Department of Children and Families Data Report Collaborations. Upon request, the Coalition is sending data on a monthly basis to the Department of Children and Family Services that shows the offices sending child care referrals for protective services and the number of referrals Family Central is required to send back for corrections and additions.

Duplicate Audit Updates. Volusia County sat down and measured the expense for their audits within a four month period. Their calculations, including personnel costs and supplies, came to \$150,000. The Volusia County Chair went to the State and found that the statewide expense for audits was approximately \$15 million last year. The upcoming OPPAGA report may discuss ways the coalitions and the State can achieve efficiencies.

Afterschool Partnership. The Coalition in coordination with CSC, FCI, and 31 afterschool providers have established a way that parents can choose a quality facility for their children that participates in a quality rating system. The ACCLAIM fund that was started a year ago and is focused on afterschool, was used to leverage additional CCEP dollars. All children in any form of child care funded by CSC will now go through the Coalition and Family Central and reimbursements will be based on unit cost and parental choice. This system allows two advantages. One, parents can choose and have consistency of rules between all providers. Two, it gives the Coalition and CSC the ability to leverage more dollars to draw down additional State and Federal funds.

Family Child Care Local Rule Update. John O'Malley reported that the FCCA petition to increase the teacher/child ratio is scheduled to go before the County for hearing Tuesday, October 21, 2008.

PRESENTATIONS

Nonprofits First presented the Coalition with a Certification plaque. Aruna Gilbert of ELC discussed the Coalition's Annual Report. Robert Nelson of FDLE reported on fraud prevention.

CONSENT ITEMS

The following items were on the Consent agenda:

- A. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2008
- B. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2008
- C. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 16, 2008
- D. Authorization of Executive Committee to Award & Approve
Contracts Following Recommendation by Procurement Committee
- E. Board Survey

Tana Ebbolle motioned, Pat Cannan seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Consent Items.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Report

Mike Sothen presented the Finance Report for the period ending June 30, 2008.

Legislative Update

Karen Deringer discussed the agenda to present at the upcoming Legislative Delegation meeting. Each year ELC and CSC attend the Legislative Delegation meeting jointly. Mr. Eldridge would like the Board to adopt this Legislative Agenda so when the Delegation meetings occur he will be able to speak on behalf of the Board.

Tana Ebbole commented on item two on the agenda titled "Revenue Solutions." The agenda does not request additional money. The agenda requests that the State does not cut children services and funding.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Legislative Agenda.

VPK Update

Sally Laws of FCI reported they issued eleven percent more certificates this year than the 07-08 fiscal year. She stated that more four year olds are coming into the program.

Procurement of Services

Vivian Blackmon-Taylor reported on the procurement services for the VPK and School Readiness programs. There are four separate procurements: Core Services, Quality Support Services, Quality Assurance Compliance Monitoring, and Healthy Beginnings Entry Agency.

The Core Services contract has been awarded to Family Central Inc. and is now under contract negotiations. The Coalition received two replies for Quality Support Services. However, there was a technical issue on one of the replies. Therefore, Family Central's reply was the only reply accepted by the Coalition.

Tana Ebbole motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Coalition staff to proceed with contract negotiations for Quality Support Services with Family Central, Inc.

The Solicitation for Quality Assurance Compliance Monitoring was reviewed by the Reply Review Committee on October 8, 2008 to compile scores and rank replies. The two proposers were Family Central, Inc. and Focused Management Solutions. The Reply Review Committee rated the replies and awarded the highest score to Family Central, Inc. The Reply Review Committee recommended that the Coalition negotiate with Family Central Inc. for Quality Assurance Compliance Monitoring services.

Philippe Jeck motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Coalition staff to proceed with contract negotiations for Quality Assurance Compliance Monitoring with Family Central, Inc.

The final procurement of services is Healthy Beginnings Entry Agency. This procurement provides services for the Developmental Screening Services for children who receive School Readiness funds. This ITN was released on October 20, 2008. No action is required from the Board at this time.

VPK Low Performing Provider (LPP) Grant

The Coalition received a LPP grant from the Department of Education. Many children enter the VPK program at different levels. There should be a pre and post test to measure the program. It was mentioned that the State should look at the quality of the VPK programs instead of measuring the children at the end of the program. **ACTION: Dr. Roanne Moreno will distribute an analysis paper that she wrote on this topic.**

Quality Rating Improvement System Update

Early Learning Coalition of Duval County prevailed in its lawsuit with FACCM. However, the case is currently in the appeals process.

Executive Director Employment Agreement

The Board determined that a severance pay of 90 days for the Executive Director is sufficient compensation for termination without cause.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to cap the severance pay to a maximum of 90 days for the Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS

Gold Seal Update

The rule has been passed with a final outcome that providers who have had a certain number of licensing violations will no longer be able to have a Gold Seal rating.

Disaster Reimbursement Amendment

Providers will be required to show notarized documentation for reimbursement only if the emergency is for more than one day.

Christina Worley motioned, Pat Cannan seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to accept the Disaster Reimbursement Amendment.

Banking Report

In light of the financial crisis, the Coalition moved \$1,672,000 to a treasury money market fund. The Coalition has also moved subsequent grant funds to the treasury money market fund. Currently, there is \$6,000,000 in the treasury money market fund and \$99,000 in the operating account.

BOARD COMMENTS

ACTION: The Chair inquired if letters have been distributed to members that have missed two consecutive scheduled meetings.

Philippe Jeck as well as the rest of the Board congratulated Kenneth Kahn for his being elected as Chairman of the Business Development Board.

Tana Ebbole announced save the date for the upcoming Economic Summit on Early Childhood Investment at the Kravis Center on January 21, 2009.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Corine Williams of the Family Child Care Association would like to request a letter of recommendation from the Board to change the teacher to child ratio from 1:5 to 1:6.

ACTION: The Coalition will send a letter to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

NEXT MEETING

December 2, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

Ken Kahn motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:17p.m.