



**APPROVED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF
MARCH 19, 2009**

Members Present

Christina Worley
Tana Ebbole
John O'Malley
Kerry Perl
MJ Steele
Perry Borman
Philippe Jeck
Dr. Roanne Moreno
Traver Gruen-Kennedy
Patrick Cannan
Nicole Matlock
Wanda Baldwin
Commissioner Shelley
Vana

Members Absent

Alvin Leaks
Dr. Carmen Nicholas
Dr. Barbara Weinstein
Kenneth Kahn
Kristy Pressly
Leondrae Camel
Dr. Marsha Fishbane

Guests

Doreen Moskowitz
Kathy Haight
Laura Pincus
Karen Brandi
Kim Lu
Lawanda Williams
Eunice Tarey
Tyuerra Willis
Jeanne Brossell
Karen Deringer
Elizabeth Jackson
Jhul Su

Ex-officio

Warren Eldridge
Vivian Blackmon-Taylor
Mike Sothen
Christie Young
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 1:03 p.m. A quorum of voting members was established.

CHANGES, ADDITIONS, DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Move New Business before Old Business.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to move New Business before Old Business.

PRESENTATIONS

Richard Rampell and Michelle DePalma of Rampell and Rampell, P.A. summarized the results of the Early Learning Coalition's Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2008. The Coalition's audit report discloses an unqualified opinion. The auditors did not report any questioned costs, material weaknesses, or management letter comments.

Laura Pincus presented the statistics of Child Find in Palm Beach County. Child Find helps assess the growth and development of young children birth to five years of age.

Kim Lu and Karen Brandi presented the results of the one year evaluation of the Quality Improvement System (QIS). First, they discussed how it was evaluated. Second, they looked at the quality of the child care programs and how they progressed. Third, they discussed the impact of various components based on the practitioner's knowledge and skills.

VIII.D Nominating Committee moved up on the agenda. The Nominating Committee met and recommended that Commissioner Shelley Vana sit on the Board to replace Commissioner Jeff

Koons (no action is required from the Board). Also, the committee recommended that the following members serve second terms: Ken Kahn, Kerry Perl, and Wanda Baldwin.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations for Ken Kahn, Kerry Perl and Wanda Baldwin to serve a second term.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to nominate Philippe Jeck as Secretary on the ELC Board of Directors.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to nominate the slate of remaining officers to the ELC Board of Directors.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to nominate Helene Rosen as the South Palm Beach County representative on the ELC Board of Directors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Warren Eldridge reported that the Coalition is working closely with Workforce Alliance at both the state and local levels to ensure we are coordinating stimulus money.

The Coalition submitted a letter to Palm Beach County Licensing in regards to requiring a High School diploma for child care professionals as directed by the Board of Directors at the last meeting.

The Coalition met with Randy Palo and Karen Deringer of CSC and Ken Kahn of the ELC Board of Directors to try and locate additional opportunities for extra funds through either stimulus or grant options.

The state monitoring audit for the Coalition will be held the end of May 2009 at the ELC offices.

CONSENT ITEMS

The following items were on the Consent agenda:

- A. Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2008
- B. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2008
- C. Approval of Audit Committee Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2009
- D. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2009
- E. Approval of Finance Report

Tana Ebbole motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Consent Items.

NEW BUSINESS

Banking Report

Mike Sothen reported the results of the interviews for banking services. Three banks presented to the Finance Committee. The decision was based on competitive rates on low risk investment, credit fees, and banking fees. BankAtlantic had the most attractive proposal and was selected by the finance committee. The transition of services will begin May 1, 2009. The Coalition requests the Board to authorize a new line of credit with BankAtlantic.

Christina Worley motioned, Tana Ebbole seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Board Chair to execute BankAtlantic loan documents for a new line of credit with BankAtlantic for an amount up to \$4,300,000. The line of credit with Wachovia will be closed before the new line of credit is executed with BankAtlantic.

Budget Amendment

Mike Sothen reported on the Coalition's budget amendment. The Coalition is increasing the proposed budgeted revenue of the Child Care Purchasing Pool (CCPP) fund by \$1,474,299. CSC is awarding additional funds into the Afterschool program of \$179,652. Palm Beach County's matching grant was reduced from \$300,000 to \$285,000.

Commissioner Vana mentioned for next years request it would be helpful to indicate in the letter how we quantify the outcomes of the funds and explain that we are also leveraging them through federal funding.

The Coalition negotiated approximately \$200,000 in cost savings through the RFP and ITN process which funded additional school readiness slot costs as well as \$80,000 for the entry agency. The VPK grant revenue budget was increased significantly because we are serving more children in the fall VPK program.

Christina Worley motioned, Pat Cannan seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the budget amendment.

Petition For Variance From Rule 60bb-4.210 (1), Florida Administrative Code

Warren Eldridge reported that a policy change of the allowable unemployment period was proposed to the state to increase the variance from 30 days to 60 days. Currently, a child can be pulled out of child care if a parent is unemployed longer than 30 days. Due to the economy the Coalition has proposed the unemployment period be extended to 60 days. It is scheduled to go into affect June 1, 2009.

Tana Ebbole motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the Petition for Variance Rule 60bb-4.210 (1) increasing the time period a parent can be unemployed from 30 days to 60 days.

OLD BUSINESS

Tana Ebbole motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve on Consent the updates of Child Care Utilization, VPK, Curriculum, Procurement, and the VPK Low Performing Provider reports.

Legislative Update

Warren Eldridge reported that a bill was sponsored by Greg Evers of the Pensacola area. Evers's bill would abolish early learning coalitions. This bill has been influenced by FACCM, the organization that sued the Early Learning Coalition of Duval County last year. The bill has been referred to four committees but has yet to be heard in a committee.

A second bill, sponsored by Senator Wise of Jacksonville reduces the number of coalitions from 31 to 20. This bill may have a greater impact. The bill also limits local decision making while sending more authority to the State. It has been referred to five committees. Senator Wise is a senior senator so the bill may get to a couple of committee hearings. It is imperative that the bill does not get attached to any of the shell bills that may move.

Legislative Budget Update

The stimulus bill has \$105 million earmarked for child care. However, the \$80 million that will go into child care slots may not mean new money for slots. For example, \$24 million will replace non-recurring funds and \$13 million will be spent on quality initiatives.

Tana Ebbole reminded everyone that the stimulus money is only good for 24 months so we should not put it into recurring programs.

Office of Early Learning Taskforce Update

AWI is presenting the consolidation of coalitions that serve less than 2000 children. It is not on any bill but there are 80 shell bills. Efforts will be made to make sure there are no attachments to bills that may have a negative effect.

Tana Ebbole mentioned another angle that may occur is the merging of the Healthy Beginnings Coalitions with the Early Learning Coalitions. There seems to be a general activity to eliminate local coalitions. Another bill proposed would open up legislation with the Children's Services Councils using Miami Dade as an entry point to the Miami Dade Board. It is a very active season.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jackson inquired why there is a two month waiting period between accreditation and payment reimbursement. Ms. Jackson inquired about capacity limits in regards to licensing and nontraditional hours. Ms. Jackson asked why a center is penalized if they do not surrender the only copies of their sign in / out sheets to Family Central during the monitoring process. Warren Eldridge will meet with Ms. Jackson on her issues.

NEXT MEETING

June 18, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Tana Ebbole motioned, Christina Worley seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.