



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes – Unapproved
Thursday, January 26, 2017
2536 Countryside Blvd, Suite 500
Clearwater, FL 33763

Members In Attendance: Craig Phillips, Jack Geller, Patsy Buker, Elliott Stern, Jackie Lang, Comm. Karen Seel, Nancy St. Arnold, Anne Ryan, Susan Johnson, Dr. Marie Mason and Nick Meza

Conference Call: Celeste Fernandez, Phillip Russell, Yvonne Malague, Ellen Lasher, Joshua Drechsel and Dr. Jim Sewell

Absent: Ray Hensley, Harry Fogle, Dr. Shana Rafalski, Eric Lynn, and Ed Peachey

Coalition Council: Jay Walker

Coalition Staff: Lindsay Carson, Merita Kafexhiu, Carrie Culbertson, Angela Loring and Matt Bonner

Guests: Art O'Hara, Cheryl Miller, Lynn Bittner, Ricardo Davis, Heidi Greenslade and Erica Bolline

I. CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was present.

Chair Craig Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

Chair called for a moment of silence in memory previous Board member, Marie Edmonds.

- A.** Chair Craig Phillips called for approval of the agenda for the January 26, 2017 Board of Directors' Meeting.

A motion was made by Elliott Stern and seconded by Anne Ryan to:

Approve the January 26, 2017 Agenda.

The motion passed unanimously.

- B.** Chair Craig Phillips called for approval of the consent agenda for the January 26, 2017 Board of Directors' Meeting.

A motion was made by Elliott Stern and seconded by Jack Geller to:

Approve the January 26, 2017 Consent Agenda.

- i. Approval of December 1, 2016 Minutes
- ii. Fiscal Policy & Procedures
- iii. Review and Approval of Form 990
- iv. School Readiness Provider Enforcement Policy
- v. Finance Report Page
- vi. Performance Report

The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Comm. Karen Seel was welcomed to the Board as the new Board of County Commissioners representative.

II. RECOGNITION

Kimberly Boykins and Shelia Haugabook, Family Child Care Homes, were both recognized as new Gold Seal Providers. We now have a total of 69 Gold Seal Providers: 12 Homes and 57 Centers.

III. C.E.O.'s REPORT

Lindsay Carson presented:

Enrollment & Utilization

In December, we served 6,088 children in School Readiness. We recently invited 560 children ages 0-5 years to enroll from our waiting list. This reflects all eligible children (0-5 years) who were placed on the waiting list before January 6, 2017. We are now beginning to schedule eligibility appointments in real time as families are placed on the waiting list. We are currently projecting a surplus in School Readiness; however, with the additional enrollments underway and other quality initiatives, we expect to close the year with a balanced budget. Participation in VPK continues to increase. As of January 18th, we've served 6,169 children YTD in the 16-17 program year.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)

The Department of Education has procured a new tool to assess kindergarten readiness. Star Literacy will be implemented in fall of 2017. This means children currently in VPK will be assessed this fall and we will have 2016-2017 Readiness Rates in spring 2018. Star Literacy assesses several indicators in the literacy and math domains.

Celebrate Literacy Week. Florida!

Educators and child care centers throughout Pinellas County are celebrating literacy January 23rd through the 27th--as part of a statewide reading initiative. Designated by the Florida Department of Education, the Just Read, Florida! Office, and in partnership with Florida's Office of Early Learning, Literacy Week is a statewide event held each year to promote the importance of early literacy experiences. The Coalition will celebrate this year by hosting special guest readers throughout the week at various early learning sites. Special

thanks to board members: Patsy Buker, Elliott Stern, and Eric Lynn for participating. Among this year's readers are: *Betty Castor former University of South Florida president, state senator and commissioner of education, Miguel and Holly from Hot 101.5's Miguel & Holly morning show, Trevor Pettiford of Bay News 9, Raymond the Tampa Bay Ray, Deputy Mayor Tomalin of St. Petersburg, over 25 Officer Friendly's*, and many other community partners and volunteers! This year's book is "I Don't Want to be a Frog" by Dev Petty, where "dialogue between a frog father and his son makes its point about accepting one's nature with a big grin."

2017 Early Care & Education Conference

In partnership with the Pinellas Association for the Education of Young Children and St. Petersburg College, the Coalition is presenting the 2017 Early Care & Education Conference on January 21. Our keynote, Mike S. Longoria, Ph.D. will present on "Music, Movement & Learning: Developing Strong Brains in Your Children". Participants select two of 24 breakout sessions on topics of interest including: infants & toddlers, inclusion, preschool and directors 260 early education teachers and 50 volunteers will attend the all-day conference at SPC Gibbs Campus.

Professional Development Institute

The Coalition is launching the Professional Development Institute. The mission of the Professional Development Institute is to maximize child outcomes through an innovative professional development system designed to empower early childhood professionals and advocates. At the core of a high quality early learning system are the instructors working with the children each day. Through the Professional Development Institute, we will be expanding our training opportunities and assisting providers in navigating their professional growth plans. In addition to our Clearwater location, our partnership with the St. Petersburg College Midtown Campus allows ample opportunities for south county providers.

JWB Capital RFA Award

The Coalition has been awarded a JWB Capital Grant in the amount of **\$61,267** to enhance the Professional Development Institute in Clearwater. The Training Room at our Clearwater location is large, but research shows that trainings are more effective when the group size is limited. Installing a moveable partition will allow the flexibility to offer concurrent trainings and breakout sessions. The two additional screens and projectors will enhance the training experience and versatility of the space. Additionally, the request includes 25 tablets and related software and accessories for training early education providers to enhance and individualize instruction. These iPads will also replace the paper packets currently used at board meetings.

Community Foundation of Tampa Bay Award

The Coalition has been awarded a **\$15,000** grant from the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay. These funds will be used to establish Ready to Read Libraries at 30 preschools in high need areas of Pinellas County. Ready to Read enhances the Coalition's ongoing early educational programs by promoting early literacy through book distribution and parent involvement activities in partnership with early educators. The goal of Ready to Read involves placing high quality, age appropriate books in the hands of our community's most needy children. This effort is combined with engaging parents in taking an active role in promoting literacy within their homes. The Ready to Read

Libraries focus on families of young children attending preschool in low income areas. During pick up and drop off at their preschool, families can borrow book to take home from the Ready to Read Library in their school lobby. A variety of books are offered to the child and parents, allowing them to select one which is of high interest, another key component in encouraging reading activities among children and families. In addition, child development and early literacy resources are given to the parents, including tips and best practices for how to read to children.

Legislative Update: Possible School Readiness Program Reduction

There is a projected budget shortfall statewide and all state agencies have been instructed by the Florida House to do the 10% cutback exercise. This morning, Rodney MacKinnon presented to the PreK-12 Appropriations Sub-Committee an outline as to what those deductions would look like if it was to come into play. It would include a \$47,189,594 reduction in School Readiness services impacting 7,899 children statewide and another \$4,393,695 reduction in the Child Care Executive Partnership resulting in another 1,471 children not being served. The Redlands Christian Migrant Association would have a reduction of \$1,240,032 seeing another 208 fewer children served. And the Help Me Grow program performed by the 2-1-1 throughout the state would be eliminated.

There was a lot of discussion about the Performance Funding Project (PFP) during the meeting today and locally, Rep. Newton was a strong advocate and supporter of early learning and we appreciate his effort. We've done these exercises before, they don't necessarily result in cuts, but since there are no guarantees it warrants discussion. Lindsay encouraged the Board, who are so inclined, to contact our local representatives, especially Rep. Latvala and Rep. Newton, along with Sen. Rouson, Sen. Brandes and Sen. Latvala, as they all sit on Appropriations Committees.

There was also a VPK Bill filed recently that would increase the training room requirements for VPK teachers, gives dollars to Just Read, Florida!, calls for a single direct assessment with the results provided to parents and Coalitions, allows for a repeat year in VPK for a child that isn't ready for Pre-K and standardize a unique identifier for each student across the state with a cost of \$10 million dollars.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Advancement Committee

The Committee has set a recurring meeting every month on the second Wednesday. Any and all participation is welcomed and our next meeting is February 8, 2017 at 4:00pm at the Clearwater office.

Chair Susan Johnson, has developed a corporate pitch sheet which will be reviewed at the meeting and solicit comments from the members and staff attending.

Susan Johnson recognized Nick Meza who contacted his own company, Jabil, reaching out to one of their own charity committees for ELC support and with materials and information provided by Lindsay Carson, tailored a request of \$15,000 which is the most

Jabil has ever contributed to any one charity. The committee will meet next month and the outcome reported back to the Board through the Advancement Committee.

B. 2nd Annual PreK 5K Readiness Run

Everyone was asked to mark their calendars for April 1, 2017, the 2nd Annual PreK 5K Readiness Run at Boyd Hill. Sponsorship forms are available in the Board packets. Chair Craig Phillips sponsored in kind to supply water for the event. The goal of the race will be set by the Advancement Committee.

C. Early Learning Collective Impact

Lindsay Carson spoke on behalf of Program Development Chair Yvonne Malague, about continuing efforts to create a system alignment with local organizations to further our common goals related to Kindergarten readiness. At the next Program Development Committee Meeting, February 27, 2017 we are partnering with the Juvenile Welfare Board who is bringing in a third party facilitator to begin collective impact dialog. We will be looking at how kindergarten readiness is defined, where the gaps are and how our different resources can be used for the most impact.

V. PRESENTATION

A. Sunshine Law Public Records Presentation

Jay Walker, Board Counsel on behalf of Charles Harris, presented a refresher course on the Sunshine Law and Public Records Act.

B. Raising of America Documentary

Postponed to a later date.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Public Meeting Notice

B. OEL 2015-2016 Annual Report

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Art O'Hara, R'Club

There was an issue with Happy Workers in St. Petersburg and R'Club has been working with them over the last month. This morning the R'Club Board and the Happy Workers Board approved an agreement to acquire Happy Workers, maintaining the name Happy Workers Learning Center but all the assets and liabilities and debts will transfer to the R'Club. The Management Agreement goes into effect, February 1, 2017, and they expect to complete the asset acquisition by June 1, 2017. The Happy Workers Board has been very cooperative and agreeable and no problems are expected.

Personnel will have the opportunity to re-apply for positions with R'Club. R'Club has a small center that might be merged to the Happy Workers site, moving the children and staff giving an enrollment of 100 children. Head Start also has a center in the area and discussions are taking place with them, as well. R'Club did a similar acquisition with Community Pride and believes this will be just as successful.

Jack Geller and Chair Craig Phillips expressed the Boards' appreciation to Art O'Hara and the R'Club for their willingness and efforts bringing this situation to a positive outcome.

