



## **Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.**

### **Executive Director's Report for Coalition Board Meeting— 8/24/05**

#### **TAB 2: Office of Early Learning Updates**

- **Board Chair and Executive Director Meeting:** Barbara and Sabra will attend the AWI Coalition Chairs and Executive Director meeting on Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> in Orlando.
- **DOE Technical Advisory Committee: Kindergarten Screening and Readiness Rate:** Barbara was asked to participate in this advisory committee on Sept. 1-2 in Tallahassee to look at outcome assessment tools for accountability of the VPK program.
- **AWI-OEL Meeting to Discuss VPK Efforts:** Barbara will attend a meeting called by AWI-OEL to assess the successes/challenges of the VPK programs across the state on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, in Tampa.
- **Coalition Membership Orientation Program—**The Children's Forum has completed the revised Coalition Membership Orientation Program to include the new VPK legislation. A presentation of the orientation will be held at the September board meeting. (See outline of Orientation CD p. 107).
- **VPK Cost Allocation Plan; VPK Plan; Annual Report—**Barbara and staff will be working on the CAP, VPK Plan and Annual Report for submission at the end of the month.
- **Coalition VPK and School Readiness Contracts with AWI—**All contracts for VPK and SR were submitted to AWI along with advance requests. SR and VPK advance funds were received and VPK providers received their prepayment the first week in August. (See SR and VPK allocations by OCA categories pp. 108-113)
- **AWI SR and VPK Quarterly Report—**Coalitions are requested to submit bi-monthly reports on the VPK and SR programs with program data, narrative on activities, and updates. (See May/June Report, pp. 114-122)
- **FL DOE Regional Facilitator—**Terri Konsczak, the FL DOE Regional Facilitator Grant for the Coalitions of SWF, Hardee, Highlands, and Sarasota, has been working hard to supplement our VPK efforts (See DOE VPK Facilitator Activity Report pp. 123-128 and VPK Provider Support Group notice p. 129)

### TAB 3: Coalition Updates

- **FDLE and Coalition Fraud Task Group**—As a result of recently issued Fraud information memorandum by AWI, the Coalition and staff from FDLE formed a task group to establish procedures for reporting allegations of possible fraud in the Early Learning Programs. (See OIG Instructions on p. 130).
- **Florida Gulf Coast University HUBS Research Project**—Barbara and Dr. Charlene Olliff completed the final report of the HUBS research and development program to enhance emergent literacy professional development and child outcomes. An additional grant of \$11,000 was awarded to the ELC-SWF to continue training, coach mentoring, and provide additional materials to the programs who participated in the HUBS project (See final report, pp. 134-144).
- **New “Optional” Board Member**—New optional board member representing the “Parent” category is Jennifer Smith, Parent Services Specialist, with FDLRS. (See application on p. 145).
- **New Logo and PR Materials for the ELC-SWF!**—A full public relations and marketing materials plan is being developed to market the Coalition services for children and families in the SWF Community. (See proposal from the Children’s Forum on p. 66-74).
- **Successful Board and Staff Retreats: “Partners in Quality Outcomes for Children”** —were held for the Coalition Board as well as Coalition and Central Agency staff on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> , facilitated by Charlie Waters from AWI. (See minutes on pp. 8-12).
- **Growing Up With Books Presentation**—Marilyn Graham, from the Lee County Library System, was joined by Barbara Saunders and Kimberly Ciarlone from CCSWFL, at a panel presentation about GUWB at the annual One Goal ECE Conference in Tampa on July 19th. (See overview of GUWB initiative p. 146).
- **US DOE Professional Development Grant Award WINNERS!**—The ELC-SWF was included with 7 other Coalitions in the winning PERKS proposal. Only 5 grants were awarded in the Nation. The grant will supply training and technical assistance to VPK providers in at risk rural communities in Hendry County in year 1 and Lee, Glades and Collier in year 2 and 3 (See overview and Coalition Agreement on p. 75-77).
- **“SEEDS” Presentation (Seeking Early Education Develops Success)**— Was held on August 11<sup>th</sup> to SWF ECE educators, featuring College staff and ECE Instructors from Edison College, Barry University, and Central Agency. Staff shared information on how to further education in the early childhood field. (See flyer on p. 149).

- **VPK HIGHLIGHTS include:**

1. **VPK Parent “Round Up” Days**—Thank you to CCSWFL, Coalition, and Board Member staff who participated in the 8 very successful VPK Saturday VPK Round Up events held throughout SWF. Over 1,000 parents received their VPK provider list and Certificate of eligibility.
2. **VPK Provider Kick Off Meeting**—Approximately 120 VPK providers from 4 counties attended the 1<sup>st</sup> VPK provider meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Providers received updates on new policy and procedures for the VPK program as well as early learning materials from the ELC of SWF totaling \$1,000. All providers have signed their contract with the Coalition and received their advance payment for enrolled VPK children. A special thank you to CCSWFL, Coalition and AWI staff, who helped enter all SWF VPK providers and their enrolled children in the EFS system in order to receive their prepayment.
3. **VPK Town Hall Meeting**—A panel, moderated by Jeff Lytle, from Naples Daily News, and Rep. Dudley Goodlette, was convened on August 8<sup>th</sup> to provide information about the VPK initiative in SWF. Members on the panel included Susan Paregis, Executive Director from AWI, Laura Stacell and members from The Collier District Administration, Donna Philp, CCSWFL VPK Coordinator, Barbara Saunders, and Carol Bechold, from a private VPK center in Collier County. The event was televised and was very well received.
4. **First Day of VPK**—Coalition staff visited VPK centers in all 4 counties on their “First Day” of VPK. A media event was held at the FGCU Family Resource center with President Merwin, Dr. Beth Elliot, Center Director, Susan Paregis, AWI, Terry Konczak, DOE and Barbara Saunders. All “First Day” openings went smoothly with no instances of “lost” VPK children or parents. Thank you to all for your help in making sure we had a safe and successful 1<sup>st</sup> day of VPK in our Southwest Florida communities. (See current numbers of VPK children enrolled on p. 150; see current roster of VPK providers on pp. 151-160).

- **UPCOMING EVENTS in SWF**

**Early Learning Symposium—Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>,** \_\_\_ to 11:00am, at Barbara B. Mann theater on Edison College campus. Internationally recognized ECE speakers, Pam Phelps and Becky Bailey will keynote the event followed by an ECE expert panel, moderated by Dan England, focusing on promoting mental and emotional wellness in young children. The event is sponsored by ELC-SWF, Edison College and Barry College 2+2 ECE Program.

**SWF Communities in Collaboration—November 4-5**—This SWF CSPD Partnership, hosted by FGCU will include ESE agency partners from ELC-SWF, FDLRS, Early Steps, CHADD and others. The event will focus on building partnerships in the SWF community for children and families with special needs. (See flyer on p. \_\_\_).

**After-School Solutions Community Collaboration Training**—Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 4pm. (See flyer on p. )

**After-School Administrator’s Seminars**—Nov 5<sup>th</sup> in Ft. Myers—  
One day administrator seminar with presentations on managing staff and implementing school age programs with high-quality standards. (See flyer on p. )

**Growing Up With Books Events**—GUWB at East County Regional Library, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and GUWB at Lakes Regional Library, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>

- **Early Learning Services Reports**—

Creative Curriculum.Net Assessment Report (p. 130)

Ages and Stages Report for June (p. 129)

Provider Agreement/Assessment/Accreditation Support Report (p. 133-132)

Parents As Teachers Report (p. 133)

Health screening/training and Ages and Stages (ASQ) Developmental Screening Report (p. 129)

Health Training Calendar-May (p. 134)

Glades/Hendry Health Screening Monthly Report (p.135)

**TAB 4 Calendar**— See June-July Calendar on p. 148