



Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Executive Director's Report for Coalition Board Meeting— 9/28/05

TAB 2: Office of Early Learning Updates

- **Board Chair and Executive Director Meeting:** Barbara and Sabra attended the AWI Coalition Chairs and Executive Director meeting on Sept. 16th in Orlando with Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings and Susan Paregis.
- **Child Care Executive Partnership Challenge!:** At the Board Chair meeting Barbara attended the CCEP meeting where Susan Paregis offered a challenge to the Coalitions of an **additional \$1M dollars** for Coalitions to attract additional private businesses to participate in the CCEP program as an employee of families who need child care support or to contribute to the purchasing pool. (See attached CCEP information sheet on p. 76) Please distribute to prospective business partners!!
- **DOE Technical Advisory Committee: Kindergarten Screening and Readiness Rate:** Barbara participated in the Kindergarten Screening and Readiness Rate advisory committee on Sept. 1-2 in Tallahassee to recommend outcome assessment tools for accountability of the VPK program. Barbara will also attend the DOE Technical Advisory Committee on Summer VPK Planning on October 26th in Tampa.
- **AWI-OEL Meeting to Discuss VPK Efforts:** Barbara attended a meeting called by AWI-OEL to assess the successes/challenges of the VPK programs across the state on Sept. 6th, 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. Each member will receive a Board Member orientation CD. (See outline on pp. 70-71)
- **VPK Cost Allocation Plan—**Barbara and Mike submitted the **Cost Allocation Plan** to AWI last week. We are waiting on approval to present it to the Board.

- **The VPK Plan**—has been finalized and is in the Board notebook on pp. . Special thanks to Nancy Starr for guiding the work of the VPK Plan committee and to the staff from the Coalition, CCSWFL, RCMA and School District who contributed to the Plan.
- The **Annual Report** is due this week and will be available at the next Coalition meeting.

TAB 3: Coalition Updates

- **Hendry County EDC Business and Industry Appreciation and Annual Dinner**—Barbara and Sabra were pleased to join Phillip Keyes, outgoing Chair of the Hendry County EDC, at the Hendry County EDC meeting and Annual Dinner on Sept. 21st. We were very proud of our own Phillip Keyes who was honored at the meeting with a beautiful plaque thanking him for his outstanding service as Chair last year. Congratulations Phillip!
- **1st Early Learning Symposium**—Over 350 Early Childhood Educators attended the 1st Early Learning Symposium sponsored by the ELC-SWF, Edison College and Barry University 2+2 Early Childhood Program!!! Congratulations to Elaine Schaeffer who spearheaded the effort assisted by Maggie Pointelin, Melanie Holaway, Jeanne LaFountain, and Sandra Palmer. Thank you also to Dan England for doing a spectacular job as moderator of our expert Early Learning Panel. The speakers, Drs. Pamela Phelps and Becky Bailey were a huge hit! (See Symposium summary on p. 92).

We are planning the 2nd Early Learning Symposium in January or February 2006. Our guest speaker will be the world acclaimed researcher and author on emergent language and literacy for preschoolers, Dr. Dorothy Strickland, from Rutgers University. We will keep you posted for the date.

- **New Faith-Based Board Member**—Welcome to, Lasheba Travis, Director of *Opening Doors For You and Me*, our new Faith-Based Representative on the ELC-SWF Board!!!
- **New Logo and Public Awareness Materials for the ELC-SWF!**—We are in full swing of development of public awareness materials. The website is being built page by page. (See the home page layout and the Parent Education web page on pp. 95-112). A web map was produced and our staff are currently filling in necessary information for posting on the website. (See web map on pp. 93-94). Additional materials include a poster to attract business partners and parents to the services of the Coalition. (See poster sample on p. 114).
- **New School Readiness and VPK Contract Monitoring Reports**—Thank you to Nancy Starr and Peter Escayg for leading a committee made up of Coalition, CCSWLF, and RCMA staff to develop the reports for each component of the School Readiness and VPK contracts. Peter Escayg will compile the reports and track progress of the contract management. The reports will be submitted at the November Coalition meeting for review. (See sample report format on pp. 115-144)

- **Naples Children’s Education Foundation Grant “Wine Festival”—**
Special thanks to our Board Members Myra Shapiro and Pat Gulley and to Dr. Freedman and Shirley Losch for their help in writing the ELC-SWF application for the NCEF Grant application. We feel we have a very strong proposal to coordinate vision and hearing screening efforts, utilize and expand existing services, address gaps in community based screening events, and link families to corrective vision and hearing resources. (See grant application and evaluation plan on pp. 145-156).
- **Hurricane Katrina Evacuees—** The Child Care Bureau has granted approval of the Florida State Child Care Plan to include eligible School Readiness children, evacuated from an outside community as a result of a natural disaster, to follow the same priority guidelines as Children Under Protective Services (BG1). For this reason, we ask the Coalition to accept eligible Katrina evacuees as a priority category without going on the waiting list. We currently have 3 children from LA who request enrollment as of 9/27/05. (See list of resources for Katrina Evacuees on p. 157).
- **Growing Up With Books Presentation—**Thank you to Marilyn Graham, Shirley Losch, Maggie Pointelin, Melanie Holaway, Kimberly Ciarlone and other volunteers who participated in the Lakes Regional Public Library Growing Up With Books event last Saturday! The children and families had a wonderful time and our Shirley was on hand to do vision and hearing screenings.
- **US DOE Professional Development Grant Updates—**The ELC-SWF has worked hard to get our region up and running to participate in the PERKS Professional Development Grant that was awarded to us last month. The grant will supply training and technical assistance to VPK providers in at risk rural communities in Hendry and Collier County in year 1 and Lee, Glades and Collier in year 2 and 3. We have recently hired Jean Smith to be the new Technical Assistance Specialist for the PERKS project. Her responsibilities will include:
 - Providing TA for the VPK classrooms.
 - Attend meetings with the VPK providers.
 - Auditing the two college classes with the VPK teachers.
 - Sharing child and classroom assessment data with the VPK teachers.
 - Maintain project documentation.
 - Reporting difficulties or concerns to the TA Coordinator.
 - Perform other duties as assigned.

In addition to Jean, Terri Konczak will be the program assessor; Jenn Faber and Maggie Pointelin will be the Child Assessors and Elaine Schaeffer is coordinating the Edison College classes on “Curriculum” and “Observation and Assessment. Special thanks to Marjorie Wilson, Sally Duff and Franny Kain for contacting the center directors and Family Child Care homes to get everyone enrolled in the program. We have a total of 12 PERKS intervention classrooms: 8 Centers in Collier and 4 Family Child Care homes in Hendry County. (See highlights of the PERKS Grant on p. 158).

- **VPK HIGHLIGHTS include:**

1. **VPK Strategic Planning Meeting to Prepare for January and Summer 2006 Sessions**—will be held at the Bonita Bay Group Administrative Office in Bonita Springs from 2pm to 4pm on October 19th. We will plan our strategic outreach efforts to all families of 4 year olds as well as prospective new providers. (See draft of VPK tabloid to be mailed to all parents of 4 year old children in our counties on p.) (Current statistics on VPK children enrolled per county is on pp. 159-163)
2. **VPK Provider Classroom Supplies Distribution Day**—Will be held on Saturday, October 1, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Coalition office. Providers will receive an assortment of classroom materials, books, tapes, puppets and parent/child literacy activities.
3. **FL DOE VPK Regional Facilitator**—Terri Konsczak, the FL DOE Regional Facilitator Grant for the Coalitions of SWF, Hardee, Highlands, and Sarasota, has been very successful with her VPK Provider Support Group Meetings. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5th. (See VPK News and Provider Support Group notice p. 164-165A)

- **UPCOMING EVENTS in SWF**

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.

After-School Administrator's Seminars—Nov 5th 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. 166)

Early Childhood Association of Florida Conference—Sept. 29-30
To be held at the Double Tree Hotel across from Universal Studios in Orlando. For more information contact Suzanne Gellens, 1-866-322-6335.

- **Early Learning Services Reports—**

Creative Curriculum.Net Assessment Report (p. 168A-168B)
Ages and Stages Report for June (p. 169)
Collier Education Report (pp. 170-172)
Health Service Report (pp. 173-177)