



Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Executive Director's Report for Coalition Board Meeting— 11/30/05

TAB 2: Office of Early Learning Updates

- **Board Chair and Executive Director Meeting:** Barbara and Sabra will attend the 2nd AWI Coalition Chairs and Executive Director meeting on Dec. 1st and 2nd in Orlando with Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings and Susan Paregis. (See proposed agenda on p. 36).
- **DOE VPK Strategic Planning Meeting:** Barbara and representatives from all 4 Coalition School Districts participated in the Summer VPK Strategic Planning Meeting on October 26th in Tampa. (Please see Barbara if you want a copy of the Strategic Planning Tool with State VPK data.)
- **The VPK Plan and School Readiness Plans were approved with minor changes—**Again, special thanks to Nancy Starr for guiding the work of the VPK and SR Plan committee and to the staff from the Coalition, CCSWFL, RCMA and School District who contributed to the Plans.
- The **Annual Report** was sent out last month to AWI and is in the notebook on pp. 37-62.
- **Coalition Board Member Voting Rights—**Clarification on Coalition Board Member voting rights was given by Kelley Cramer, Senior Attorney for AWI on Nov. 17th. See her memo on p. 63.
- **Memo from John L. Winn, Commissioner, DOE—**Memorandum was received from DOE Commissioner, John Winn encouraging Coalitions to expand the current enrollment of children in the 540-hour VPK program as they will have more time to learn than the summer 300-hour program. See memo and enrollment numbers on pp. 64-67.
- **Approval Letter from Tom Imholt, AWI—**Approving the SR Plan Amendment, Bylaws, Membership. (p. 115-116)

TAB 3: Coalition Updates

- **Congratulations to Lara Kunkler!!!!** Laura gave birth to a beautiful healthy baby boy, named Quinn William Reilly on November 9th. Quinn William weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 18 ½ inches long! Lara and son are doing beautifully and Lara says that Quinn is growing fast and eating well. Lara said, “I am truly enjoying the precious moments with him. He is so amazing and such a little miracle!” Our best to you and your family Lara! Bring pictures to the January meeting!!
- **New Child Care Licensing Board Member**—Welcome to, Ms. Alice Parrish who was selected as the Child Care Licensing Supervisor for District 8 in the Dept. of Children and Families. Ms. Parrish has extensive experience in licensing responsibilities. Having worked in child welfare for many years, she has been the DCF Licensing Supervisor/Specialist for that program since 2001. Ms. Parrish will be replacing licensing counselor, Samantha Wass de Czege, who previously served as our representative and is currently on maternity leave. See letter from Robert McHarry, District Operations Manager for DCF on p. 68.
- **Congratulations RCMA on Your 40th Anniversary!**—Congratulations to Barbara Mainster and staff for 40 years of distinguished services to the Florida Migrant Farm Workers and their families! Maggie Pointelin, Elaine Schaeffer, Sandra Palmer, Dr. Wanda Slayton and I were guests at the RCMA celebration which included a historic memorabilia tour depicting the remarkable growth and successful operations of this outstanding organization. (See commemorative flyer on p. 69.)
- **CCSWFL Annual Dinner Meeting**—Barbara, Peter, Shirley represented the Coalition at CCSWFL’s Annual Dinner Meeting where we were treated to a wonderful tour of their directly operated center at Edison College. CCSWFL presented a plaque to the Coalition for their support of the Child Care Executive Partnership. (See pp. 70-72 for the Edison College Child Care Center tour highlights).
- **Congratulations Shirley Losch!**—Congratulations to Shirley Losch who was selected to participate in the 2006 “Supporting Teachers, Strengthening Families National Leadership Program”. This leadership program is a component of NAEYC’s Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, funded initiative to engage the early childhood community in preventing child abuse and neglect, promoting children’s healthy social and emotional development, and supporting families. As part of this leadership commitment, Shirley will participate in two academies, January 18-20 in Coral Gables and the NAEYC Institute in San Antonio, June 3-6....See NAEYC letter on p. 73-74. Also see Hearing and Vision Screening Posters for the Coalition Sponsored screening events on pp. 75-76 and the Health Reports on pp. 86-105.
- **Leadership Article on National Head Start Fellowship**—Barbara Saunders was awarded the National Head Start Fellowship in 1998. An article on “Successful Strategies for Successful Fellows”, appeared in the January

edition of NAEYC's Young Children highlighting the leadership cadre. (See p. 77-83). A new round of NHS Fellowships will be awarded this year. Applicants can see Barbara for additional information about applications. Ten Fellows are selected each year for a year long leadership building experience in Washington, DC, working with senior level staff at the Administration for Children and Families.

- **PreK Now Leadership Forum**—An opportunity for building new leadership for high quality Pre-K programs was presented by PreK Now, the National PreK advocacy organization, led by Dr. Libby Doggett. On November 10, the PreK Now live teleconference was broadcast live via webcast. Barbara facilitated a group of 10 leaders in our community interested in designing national, statewide and local strategies to engage new leaders in the Pre-K initiative. (See flyer and sequence of broadcast on pp. 84-85.)
- **School Readiness Program Evaluator**—Barbara is enlisting the services of Shelley Robertson, from the Robertson Consulting Group, to be the School Readiness Program Evaluator. Shelley will begin on Dec. 1st to obtain data, analyze and report on indicators as identified in the School Readiness Evaluation Plan prepared by Maggie Stevens. See proposal from Ms. Robertson on pp. 106-107.
- **School Readiness Contract Monitoring**—Peter Escayg, our Director of Operations, will conduct the School Readiness Contract Monitoring with Child Care of SW Florida on January 10-19. Peter has done an outstanding job of developing monitoring tools and data reports to measure progress on the School Readiness Contract. See SR reports on pp. 108-112.
- **Hurricane Wilma Reimbursement Policy**—The Coalition will provide reimbursement to the providers affected by the recent Hurricane Wilma according to the CCSWFL policy on p. 113. Thank you to all those who helped with relief efforts for those providers and families devastated by this dangerous storm. Thanks also to Diane Trister Dodge, President of Teaching Strategies, for donating over \$5,000 of CC.Net Assessment Portfolios for children from the devastated areas of Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties.
- **Ft. Myers Beach Rotary Club Presentation**—Thanks to Board Member, Mary Lou Campbell, for inviting Barbara Saunders to speak at the Ft. Myers Beach Rotary Club on the Voluntary Prekindergarten initiative in Southwest Florida. The Rotarians are interested in supporting the Coalition's family literacy projects to low-income families.
- **Child Care of SW Florida "Silent Auction" Fundraiser at the Naples Dinner Theatre**—The Naples office of CCSWFL, in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of SWF, will host their annual fundraiser on January 21, 2006 at the Naples Dinner Theatre. The show is "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying". Funds raised in this event will go to support the Coalition's required local Match for School Readiness programs in Collier County. ***We urge all Board Members to contact possible businesses for contributions to the Silent Auction!*** Donations or baskets of goodies can be brought to the November 30th Coalition Board Meeting or delivered to the

Collier County Child Care of SW Florida office at 269 South Airport Road, Naples, FL. Buffet begins at 5:30pm and show starts at 8pm. Tickets are \$75 each. Contact Donna Philp for more information at (239) 643-3908.

- **Dorothy Strickland to Speak at 2nd Early Learning Symposium**--Save the Date for Dr. Dorothy Strickland-February 4, 2006! Dr. Dorothy Strickland, world renowned author, researcher and early literacy specialist will be the guest speaker at the 2nd Early Learning Symposium, sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of SW Florida, in partnership with Edison College, Barry University and FGCU. The event will be held at Bishop Verot High School from 8:30am to Noon. More information will be forthcoming! Thank you to Melanie Hollaway, our Director of Professional Development, for coordinating these important PD events. (See Save the Date Flyer on p. 114).
- **New School Readiness 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. Thank you also to CCSWFL staff for their outstanding work in getting this data to Peter Escayg who will compile the reports and track progress of the contract management. (See School Readiness Component Reports on pp. 108-112).
- **US DOE Professional Development Grant Updates**—We welcome the addition of Ms. Jean Smith who is the new Technical Assistance Specialist for 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. Jean's 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.

Thank you also to Terri Konczak who was the program assessor; Maggie Pointelin who was the Child Assessor for all the programs and Elaine Schaeffer who coordinated 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.

- **Coalition Scrap Book!!!**—Please take time to see the beautiful job that Cheryl Droomgoole has done, with artistic suggestions from Jean Rice, with our Coalition Scrap Book! It is such a tribute to the wonderful partnerships that have occurred as a result of the Coalition's efforts to build communities in collaboration for children and families! We are proud to share the memories, milestones and marvels of this partnership! Thanks Cheryl and Jean for documenting and telling our Coalition story so artistically!!

- **Coalition Directory and Bylaws**—The latest Coalition Directory with term limits is on pp. 117-121, along with the current copy of the bylaws on p. 122-130. Laura Stacell will chair the bylaws committee and update the bylaws as needed.

- **VPK HIGHLIGHTS include:**
 1. **VPK 2006!**—We're off to a great start on VPK 2006 to recruit providers and enroll families. At the Oct. 19th Strategic Planning meeting we identified a full marketing strategy and strategic plan for rolling our VPK 2006! See Strategic Plan on p. 131-132; VPK brochure, Coalition website, "Round-Up" dates on pp. 133-134, and promotional materials are in the final stages of development. VPK parent registration will commence in January. New VPK Provider meetings have been scheduled early in December at all Edison College sites in Lee, Collier, and Hendry/Glades communities to recruit new VPK providers and re-enlist our seasoned existing providers.

 2. **New VPK Standards** for 4 year old children have been released from the Dept. of Education and Terri Konczak has worked with Coalition staff to schedule training sessions in all our Coalition communities. (See Terri's October Schedule and VPK Standards Training on p. 143-145).

 3. **VPK Update Presentation**--Additional VPK presentation and update materials are on pp. 138-142. VPK Data statistics on pp. 146-148.

 4. **VPK Panel Presentation to SWF Public Relations Association**—On December 12, Barbara Saunders will join Jeanne LaFountain (Lee School District), Nancy Coker (CCR&R) and Barbara Peck, VPK Manager, CCSWFL, in a panel presentation to the SWF Public Relations Association for a luncheon speaking engagement at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater on *The Implementation of Voluntary PreKindergarten Education in Southwest Florida*. (See Florida Public Relations Newsletter announcement on p. 149).

- **Coalition Sponsored Community Events**
 - 8th Annual Jaycees Fall Kids Festival**, October 29th, Maggie Pointelin and Melanie Hollaway gave out Growing Up With Books packets to the families in attendance. (See flyer on p. 150)

 - Southwest Florida Communities in Collaboration**—The Coalition co-sponsored this regional summit on children's emotional, behavioral and mental health conference, sponsored by Florida Gulf Coast University CSPD Project. (See flyer on p. 151)

- **UPCOMING EVENTS in SWF**
 - 2nd Early Learning Symposium**—Feb. 4th, from 9am to Noon, Dorothy Strickland, Emergent Literacy, Bishop Verot High School. P. 114.

Wanted: Future Teachers of Math, Biology, and Special Education—See p. 152 for this exciting scholarship opportunity from FGCU.

- **School Readiness Contracted Early Learning Services Reports—
Summary: July through October 2005 (pp.)**

Child Assessment Report (Creative Curriculum.Net Assessment Tool)
Child Developmental Screening Report (Ages and Stages Screening Tool)
Enrollment and Eligibility Report
Vision & Hearing Screening Report
Inclusion Services Report
Infant & Toddler Services Report
Provider Recruitment & Support Report
Resource and Referral Report

- **Committee Reports—**

Quality Committee—See report on November 7th Quality Meeting on p. 153-154. Next Quality Meeting is February 6th, from 1pm to 3pm, All Children's Specialty Clinic

Health Service Advisory Board Meeting—December 16th, from 9am to 11am, All Children's Specialty Clinic.