



Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

Executive Director's Report for Coalition Board Meeting— 1/25/06

TAB 2: Office of Early Learning Updates

- **Board Chair and Executive Director Meeting:** Barbara and Sabra attended the 2nd Early Learning Advisory Board and Executive Director meeting on Dec. 1st and 2nd in Orlando with Lt. Gov. Toni Jennings and Susan Paregis. Updates on VPK and SR services were given and input was heard from all Coalition Chairpersons.
- **Rural Match Requirement Waiver Approved—**The Coalition office received written confirmation that OEL reviewed and approved our request, and supporting documentation, for waiver of the required FY2005-2006 six percent match requirement for Hendry and Glades Counties. (See Coalition Request, Back-up letters, and Approval letter from AWI, **pp. 76-80**)
- **Final approval of Early Learning Plan—**AWI sent their letter of confirmation this week that our plan, with requested corrections, was approved for a period of 2 years. Again, special thanks to Nancy Starr for guiding the work of the Early Learning Plan committee and to the staff from the Coalition, CCSWFL, RCMA and School District who contributed their partnership efforts. (**p. 81**)
- **AWI Selects New Quality Initiative Provider—**AWI announced the award of the Quality Initiative Contract to the Western Kentucky University Research Foundation, Training & Technical Assistance Services (TTAS). A calendar of training for January to June 2006 was released by the TTAS group and it was circulated in our community through our website, www.elcofswfl.org, in the professional development section. Staff from the Coalition, CCSWFL and RCMA will be attending the Community Needs Assessment training; the EFS and Fiscal training; and the Early Learning Plan Review at the end of January.
- **AWI Press Release on Family Satisfaction with VPK—**On January 10, AWI released a press statement indicating a high level of parent satisfaction with Florida's VPK Program. View the full report and survey results at www.floridajobs.org/earlylearning/index.html. (See Press Release on pp. ; survey questions on pp. ; and survey results and new VPK Parent application on **pp. 82-83**)
- **DOE VPK School District Survey—**The DOE released a survey of School Districts to assess their progress in determining their number of hours/days and other VPK planning issues. See survey summary and detail report on **pp. 84-104**)

- **AWI Press Release Family Tax Credits**—On Jan. 17th, AWI released a press release encouraging families to take advantage of Tax Credits. In addition to sending to Resource and Referral, we posted a series of documents helping families understand the tax breaks for their families and other pertinent tax information on our Coalition website. See “The Daily Parent” tax information documents on **pp. 109-113**)
- **Early Learning Association of Coalitions (ELAC)**—Barbara met with the Executive Directors and AWI staff on December 1st to review latest information from AWI, DOE and DCF. The Coalitions met afterward for their ELAC following the AWI meeting. The topic of discussion was developing a statewide quality rating system. The new ELAC newsletter is attached on **p. 114**)

TAB 3: Coalition Updates

- **ELC of SWF Staff Job Descriptions**—As directed by the board at the November Coalition meeting, job descriptions of all staff are listed on **pp.115-140**; Consultant contracts are on **pp. 141-145**)
- **Meeting with Naples Children’s Education Foundation Board**—Barbara was invited to provide information to the NCEF Board on January 11th for quality improvement of the Collier child care centers as well as a plan to increase enrollment of eligible Collier Children. Barbara invited Elaine Schaeffer (Edison College), Shirley Losch (Health Services) and Donna Philp (Enrollment and Eligibility) to be at the meeting as well. Barbara sent information to the Board on costs for TEACH scholarships; WAGE\$ incentive program; Accreditation; Quality Rating Systems and Tiered Reimbursement Systems, to enhance the quality of programs. In addition, Barbara gave the Board information on the Child Care Executive Partnership and Child Care Purchasing Pool to increase capacity of eligible children in Collier. Another follow-up meeting is forthcoming.
- **School Readiness Program Evaluator**—Shelley Robertson, from the Robertson Consulting Group, began work for the Coalition on Dec. to be the School Readiness Program Evaluator. Shelley will report on her progress to obtain data, analyze and report on indicators as identified in the Coalition’s early learning program at the January meeting.
- **School Readiness Contract Monitoring**—Peter Escayg, our Director of Operations, assisted by ELC staff, conducted the Early Learning Contract Monitoring with Child Care of SW Florida on January 10-19. Peter will report the results of the monitoring at the March Coalition meeting.
- **School Readiness Monthly Reports**—(See School Readiness Component Reports on **pp. 71a-i**).

- **Congratulations to the Collier Office of 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, hosted their annual fundraiser on January 21, 2006 at the Naples Dinner Theatre. The event was a great success. Funds raised in this event will go to support the Coalition's required local Match for School Readiness programs in Collier County.
- **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. This event is being advertised on our website as well as the Florida Parenting News, colleges, universities, and local newspapers. (See Flyer on **p. 166**)

- **VPK 2006!**—

Totals—Were off to a great start on VPK 2006 to recruit providers and enroll families. We are in full swing with our Coalition plans for our January Kickoff for VPK 2006. As of January 10th, we have 4,318 four-year olds enrolled in the VPK programs in our Southwest Florida communities. This is 66% of our projected enrollment total for the 05-06 year and we have Summer and January Sessions to go!

Public Awareness Campaign—On December 27th, our Coalition's VPK newspaper tabloid was mailed to 5,443 families of 3 and 4 year olds in our 4 counties. We're getting lots of calls! An additional 7,500 tabloids were purchased in English and in Spanish and distributed to all the School Districts, Libraries, and local family services offices. We have already held 4 out of 15 VPK Round Up events in and we will be signing up new families at the Lee District School Choice office in the next few weeks! Radio and television interviews will be coming up in February as well as ads in Florida Parenting News and other local newspapers. **(See the Coalition's VPK Parent tabloid and VPK brochure in the Board notebook pocket).**

School District VPK Information—We have a list of all VPK sites for the Summer and Fall VPK sessions in our Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry school districts. All documents are posted on the website in English, Spanish and Creole. (See list of District VPK sites on **pp.146-148** ; Collier School District VPK information on **pp. 149-150** ; and Lee School District VPK information on **pp. 151-153**)

- **Early Learning Coalition of SWFL Website!**—If you haven't already checked out our Coalition's website, please do! It is www.elcofswfl.org. We are adding new information every day. All meetings of the board and all committees, as well as special events, will be posted on the website and

- updated regularly. Of special note are the sections on VPK, Professional Development and Health Services! Check it out!
(See Home Page on **p. 154**)
- **VPK Panel Presentation to SWF Public Relations Association**—On December 12, Barbara Saunders, Jeanne LaFountain (Lee School District), Nancy Coker (CCR&R) and Barbara Peck, VPK Manager, CCSWFL, gave a panel presentation to the SWF Public Relations Association at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater on *The Implementation of Voluntary PreKindergarten Education in Southwest Florida*. (See Florida Public Relations Newsletter announcement on **p. 155**).
- **FRPA Media Directory**—The Coalition purchased a directory of Media contacts from the SWF Public Relations Association. The digital Directory CD contains more than 860 members of the media in our counties. (See description of directory on **p. 156**)
- **DOE Regional VPK Facilitator Meetings**—See VPK Regional Facilitator Meeting calendar on **p. 157-161**)
- **UPCOMING Professional Development EVENTS in SWF**
 - 2nd Early Learning Symposium**—Feb. 4th, from 9am to Noon, Dorothy Strickland, Emergent Literacy, Bishop Verot High School. P. 114.
 - CIRCLES of CARE Early Learning Conference**—April 29th, 2006 at Ft. Myers High School, from 8am to 5pm. If you are interested in becoming a presenter, contact CCSWLF at (239) 278-0160. (See Presenter letter and Request for Presenters application on **pp. 162-164**)
- **School Readiness Contracted Early Learning Services Reports—Summary: July through October 2005 (pp. 71a-i)**
 - 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; Health Consult and Training Report
 - Inclusion Services Report
 - Infant & Toddler Services Report
 - Provider Recruitment & Support Report
 - Resource and Referral Report
- **Committee Reports—**
 - Executive Committee**— (See minutes from Jan. 21st meeting on **pp. 189-190**)
 - Quality Committee**—
(See Coalition sponsored training on **pp. 166-167**)
 - Health Service Advisory Board Meeting**—Friday, February 10th, from 9am to 11am, All Children’s Specialty Clinic. (See minutes from December and January meetings on **pp. 181-188**)