

**Early Learning Coalition of Pasco
and Hernando Counties, Inc.**

**Executive Director's Report
October 19, 2006**

• **INTERNAL OPERATIONS**

- **Progress Report** –

- Board Meeting Calendar - A meeting survey instrument was emailed to all Board Members on August 29, 2006 to submit their availability to Coalition staff by noon on September 29, 2006. As of today, five surveys were received reflecting the availability for next year's meetings to be held on either the third Tuesday of the month or the third Wednesday of the month. All Board Members are required to email the Administrative Assistant their preferred above mentioned day by November 3, 2006. Further discussion regarding the time of day the meeting will be held.
- The Department of Children and Families has appointed Lourdes Benedict as the new Regional Operations Manager for Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Ms. Benedict will serve as the DCF representative on our Board replacing Ben Shirley, Jr. effective September 11, 2006.
- The Coalition has submitted their Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 on October 2, 2006 to OEL/AWI. Please see the attached copy of this report. Staff is currently receiving bids for professional copies to be made for distribution.
- The Coalition's Cost Allocation Plan has been approved on October 4, 2006. Amendments may be submitted as deemed necessary.
- The Coalition's Program Manager will begin the quarterly monitoring of CDS' contract this month.

- **Outreach** –

- The Coalition has printed Board Member Recruitment Application pamphlets which will be distributed to all Board Members at the Board Meeting.

- The Coalition continues to be in collaboration with the Children's Forum on updating and redesigning the Coalition's website, VPK/School Readiness brochures, print media, and Power Point presentations.
- The Coalition staff is working with Western Kentucky University T/TAS to create a survey to assess the needs of parents and children in our communities.
- Coalition and CDS staff collaborated on a provider survey regarding the training needs of the Creative Curriculum Continuum tool (pre/post test). Approximately 50% responded. On October 28, 2006, Teaching Strategies has been hired to provide the "Train the Trainers" session to fifteen CDS, Coalition and the two child care provider Board Members. This will include birth through five year-old with an emphasis on all four and five year-old School Readiness and VPK children. The total amount to access this web-based program is \$54,308.58 per year, providing 4,158 children's portfolios (\$13.06 unit cost per child).
- Coalition staff will be distributing a Provider Satisfaction Survey to evaluate services that have been provided. Based on this survey, procedures will be implemented to improve the quality of services.
- The Coalition's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for December 14, 2006. The West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors will be in attendance from 11:30-12:00 p.m. We will be having an open house for the remainder of the day. Kaplan will be arranging a classroom learning center. A representation of children from childcare centers will be participating in this open door event. All Board Members are encouraged to be in attendance for the ribbon cutting.
- Inventory for the Mobile Resource van has been updated. New Emergent Literacy materials have been ordered. These materials will be modeled/loaned to family childcare providers and will be utilized within the community.

- **AD-HOC Committee Meetings –**
 - The Recruitment AD-HOC Committee will be presenting Dr. Steven Kanakis to the Board to be voted as a new private sector representative.

- **Budget Update –**
 - Purvis Gray and Company continues the single audit services field work for the Coalition. A representative is scheduled to audit the Coalition the week of December 18, 2006.

 - A budget workshop was presented on September 15, 2006. Four Board Members were in attendance along with Coalition staff.

- **VPK UPDATES**

- Voluntary PreKindergarten 2007 calendars are being printed to distribute to all VPK parents. This calendar will include the following information:
 - Concept development
 - Social and emotional development
 - Math and science development
 - Physical development, language, writing, reading, health and safety tips
 - School enrollment
 - Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)
 - School preparation

- Voluntary PreKindergarten Article release from AWI:

LT. GOVERNOR JENNINGS ANNOUNCES ENROLLMENT GAINS IN VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN'S SECOND YEAR

Enrollment in first two months exceeds last school year's total

TALLAHASSEE— Lt. Governor Toni Jennings today announced that only two months into the program's second year, enrollment in Florida's Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) program has surpassed last year's total enrollment. Currently, more than 97,000 students are enrolled statewide. Parents may enroll their child in Florida's early learning program at any time during the school year.

"We are very encouraged by the tremendous increase in enrollment in Florida's second year of offering a free and voluntary pre-kindergarten program," said Lt. Governor Jennings. "This dramatic increase confirms that parents recognize the important role a quality early education plays in future student achievement."

Approximately 50 percent of Florida’s eligible four-year-olds are currently receiving free early learning education through the VPK program. The number is expected to continue to increase as parents enroll their children throughout the year. More encouraging, it is anticipated more than 100,000 four-year-olds will be enrolled before January, the next heavy enrollment period. Another boost will come as parents enroll their children in the summer 2007 program. The total school year enrollment last year, from August 2005 – June 2006, was 96,295 students.

“Florida’s VPK program is a great asset to parents in preparing their children for success in school and in life,” says Linda H. South, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation. “It is important Florida parents and families know that they can still enroll their children in this successful program.”

VPK is a free statewide program that prepares four year-olds for kindergarten, focusing on high literacy standards, strict accountability, appropriate curricula, substantial instruction periods, manageable class sizes and qualified instructors. Children who are four years old on or before September 1, 2006, are eligible to receive free VPK instruction. Although classes have already started, parents can still enroll their children in the program. Parents interested in enrolling their children should visit their local Early Learning Coalition, bringing proof of the child’s age and proof of residency in the state of Florida. To locate a local Coalition, please visit www.vpkflorida.org.

The Agency for Workforce Innovation is the lead state workforce agency and directly administers the state’s Labor Market Statistics program, Unemployment Compensation, Early Learning and various workforce development programs. The Office of Early Learning, a division within the agency, provides oversight of Florida’s school readiness programs and is the lead entity for implementing the state’s Voluntary Pre-kindergarten program.

Workforce development policy and guidance in Florida are provided by Workforce Florida, Inc. Workforce Florida and the Agency for Workforce Innovation are partners in the Employ Florida network which includes 24 Regional Workforce Boards who deliver services through nearly 100 One-Stop Career Centers around the state. For more information, please visit www.floridajobs.org.

• **FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

- School Readiness Enrollment – The chart below provides the number of children enrolled in the School Readiness Program as of September 2006, the number of children on the waitlist, and the number of pending files for placement of school readiness services.

County	No. of Children Enrolled	No. of Pending Files	Total No. of Children Served	No. of Children on Waitlist
Hernando	1280	0	1280	100
Pasco	2896	0	2896	192

- Voluntary PreKindergarten Enrollment – The chart below provides the number of children enrolled in the VPK Program as of September 2006.

County	Actual Enrolled	Eligible Not Enrolled	Anticipated
Hernando	875	170	60%/1449
Pasco	2224	298	48%/4599

- School Readiness and VPK Utilization reports to be provided by CDS.

- **CURRENT BUDGET STATUS**

- Monthly Statement of Financials – August (Action Item #0607-11)
- Fiscal year 2006-2007 proposed budget (Action Item #0607-4)

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