



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2010**

Meeting: Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Location: Career Central
7361 Forest Oaks Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Board of Director Members Present: Lisa Hammond, Chair; Susan Arnett, Sister Roberta Bailey, Elizabeth Callaghan, Jo Ann Carman, Jayne Goldstein, Sonya Jackson, Dr. Steve Kanakis, David Lambert, Karen Livengood, Joe Mascaro, Dave Meglay, Nicole Miller, Beth Rawls, Mary Beth Wehnes

Board of Director Members Excused: Bonnie Clark, Debora Martoccio

Board of Director Members Via Phone: Pat Mulieri, Teresa Suarez

Board of Director Members Absent: None

Coalition Staff Present: Kim Borrego, Sheila Chambers, Christine Dyal, Pattie Eacobacci, Jim Farrelly, Nicole Gonzalez, Ramute "Jak" Jakubauskas, Betsy Kier, Bill Kleinsorge, Maria Simpson, Debbie Thomas

Guests Present: Lisa Buie, St. Petersburg Times; Cassandra Clayton, Happy Land; James Cook, Component General; Shane Haris, Learning Tree Day Care; Gerry Hudson, LPCD; Mary Hudson, LPCD; Maree Marian, PLACE-DSBPC; Laura Mykel, ABC Academy; Nancy Nairns, Nairns FCCH; C. Peckett, Kids Stuff; Janice Porter, Childrens Nest; Jean Rags, Hernando County; Cynthia Rendeiro-Lontrao, PLACE-DSBPC; Merida Robinson, Ellies Day Care; Salina Smith, DCF; K. Weissiner, HNS; Karen Zavrel, Little Leprehauns

I. Welcome and Call to Order - Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair

Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair, called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Action Items

- **Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Ms. Miller seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-42)**

- **Approval of Minutes, March 25, 2010 Board Meeting**

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 Board Meeting. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Mr. Lambert seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-43)**

- **Approval of Minutes, April 19, 2010 Special Board Meeting**

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Board Meeting. Mr. Lambert moved to accept this motion and Ms. Mulieri seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-44)**

- **Treasurer's Report – Ms. Elizabeth Callaghan, Chair**

Ms. Callaghan presented Financial Reports for February, March and April, 2010 and explained that the top sheet on each report is the summary page for the financials. She stated that February's financials showed an overage in three (3) areas, Dues/ Subscriptions/Fees due to the start up costs of the Foundation; Contract Services due to additional services provided by CDS; and Board Related Expenses due to the cost of fingerprinting. She informed the Board that at the end of the year, the Coalition will not be over budget in these areas.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the February 2010 Financials. Mr. Meglay so moved and Mr. Mascaro seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-45)**

For March's Financials, Ms. Callaghan explained the overage in the same three (3) areas is still shown.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the March, 2010 Financial Statement. Mr. Lambert moved to accept this motion and Dr. Kanakis seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-46)**

For April's Financials, Ms. Callaghan stated in addition to the original three (3) overages, there was an overage in Salaries/Benefits due to the original budget amount was lower than it should have been.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the April, 2010 Financial Statement. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Mr. Mascaro seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-47)**

III. Remarks from the Chair/Executive Committee Report – Ms. Lisa Hammond, Chair

Ms. Hammond announced that Sister Roberta Bailey has been elected Prioress of her Order and will be resigning from the Coalition's Board of Directors. Ms. Hammond and Mr. Farrelly presented Sister Roberta with a plaque commemorating her years of service to the Board.

IV. Program Committee – Mr. Dave Meglay, Chair

Mr. Meglay reported that the Program Committee met in April and May and the majority of discussion centered on the different providers that were above and below the required standards. He reported that the providers that were below have made tremendous strides to reach the required standards.

A. Committee Update

Mr. Meglay reported that Ms. Kier had mentioned one of the providers had brought to her attention the fact there was a licensing issue with a provider. If a provider does not want to be licensed, they could be regarded as a faith-based organization. Being a faith-based organization means they are exempt from many requirements that other providers must adhere to. Mr. Meglay directed the Board to the letter in their packets regarding this issue.

B. Recommend Support for Position of ELC's of SW Florida and Heartland for Adoption of Statewide Licensure for all Child Care Programs.

Mr. Farrelly informed the Board that not every child care center in the state must be licensed. Religious exempt is possible and that may put, particularly the children, parents and Coalitions of these contracted centers "on the hook" in terms of liability. The Coalition can go to these centers and evaluate, but DCF cannot. The Coalition does not have the option of being able to refer a significant problem that may be found in terms of health or safety violations to DCF. The ELC of Southwest Florida and ELC of Florida's Heartland have appealed to the statewide organization, ELAC, to attempt to change the requirement that all child care centers be licensed. The Coalition presented this to the Program Committee for their support and now is asking the Board to support an alignment with the two (2) ELC's in pursuing a tact that all child care centers, throughout the state, shall be required to be licensed.

Ms. Arnett inquired why other than faith-based, all child care centers would not be licensed? Mr. Farrelly stated the Florida statutes have read this way and the Coalition believes that 100% of child care centers should be licensed. The three (3) sample exemptions, all refer to faith-based programs, are as follows:

1. Faith-Based - The program is an integral part of a church or parochial school conducting regular services, courses of study or educational programs.
2. Program is accredited by or is a member of an organization that publishes and requires compliance with its own standards for health, safety and sanitation.
3. Program meets background screening requirements in certain Florida statutes.

Sister Roberta stated that not all faith-based programs, parochial or otherwise exercise this exemption.

Mr. Farrelly reported there has not been a problem within our Coalition. Ms. Wehnes stated there have been issues in other Early Learning Coalitions if the facility is Gold Seal accredited and they are religious exempt. If a facility is Gold Seal accredited but are not religious exempt, if they receive a violation, the Gold Seal is removed. This is not the case with religious exempt Gold Seal accredited centers.

Ms. Wehnes explained a center has to be accredited by a religious accrediting agency that is approved by the DCF.

Ms. Hammond inquired of Mr. Farrelly that if a center or program meets all three (3) of these criteria, is the Coalition verifying the exemption to insure they do in fact meet the criteria. Mr. Farrelly stated the exemption is verified, but when the Coalition goes into centers to conduct normal evaluations, if a health or safety violation is found, our normal recourse would be to contact DCF and they would take action immediately. The Coalition's only recourse in this situation with an exempt center would be to file a complaint with the accrediting religious based organization, but they will not accept our complaints.

Ms. Livengood inquired if the accrediting agency or faith-based agency monitors the schools. Mr. Farrelly stated no, this falls on the Coalition's shoulders with no recourse of action. Sister Roberta inquired if the exempt center has a constitutional right to subsidized child care. Mr. Farrelly stated absolutely, subject to our contract and payment agreement. He further explained that if an agency fulfills all the Coalition's contracting requirements, and meets Coalition standards, they are able to contract with the Coalition if they are licensed or licensed exempt.

Mr. Meglay stated that the Coalition is looking at joining the other Coalitions in the state to bring this issue to the legislature. He believes the Board should be proactive so if anything did ever happen in the future, we at least tried to get a change ahead of time. The Coalition is looking out for the children that are involved.

Ms. Callaghan agreed and suggested adding the support of this Coalition in writing. Ms. Arnett moved to write a letter of support and Mr. Meglay seconded this motion. Ms. Hammond called for further discussion.

Ms. Hammond stated that if this is an issue and we do have the opportunity to implement some changes, we can support this proposal. She stated the Coalition should review its contracts. Mr. Farrelly stated that he will have the Coalition's attorney look into this matter.

Ms. Hammond requested a vote. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

C. Report, Age Range Task Force

- **Introduction**

Mr. Meglay stated another issue discussed by the Program Committee was the report from the Age Range Task Force. Mr. Meglay gave a brief history on the age range issue and reminded the Board that staff had been requested to prepare a Plan of Action that would result in the least inconvenience to parents and providers. Mr. Meglay requested Mr. Farrelly present the findings of the Task Force.

- **Presentation, Plan of Action**

Mr. Farrelly distributed the Coalition's final Plan of Action (attached) and stated it has been under development by the Task Force for several weeks as a result of the April, 2010 Special Board Meeting that was convened to discuss age range. He thanked the Task Force members for their input.

Mr. Farrelly stated that in FY 2010/2011, the Coalition will be operating with \$1.6 million less than this year. During a ten (10) week period of active wait lists, these lists approached 600 children. Early in January, the Coalition began the wait list and had discussions every month on age range issues. A panel of experts who study brain development in children presented at the April Board meeting. The Coalition also began to look at funds. When a staff member left, they were not replaced; a freeze was placed on administrative spending; and the Coalition maximized, through very careful slot spending, our federal stimulus funds.

Mr. Farrelly predicts there will be approximately \$400,000-\$500,000 in ARRA funds carried over to slots next year and the Coalition continues to seek additional grant funds, all of which this Board has committed to spend on slot dollars. Mr. Farrelly stated he is very proud that this Coalition has one of the lowest administrative spending rates in the state; well below 4%.

Mr. Farrelly stated it became apparent that the only way to solve the problem was to reduce the age range for services. He stated that the Board has a choice – accept the decision to reduce the age range or accept a long waiting list.

Mr. Farrelly informed the Board that Pinellas County has over 5,000 children on their waiting list for services. When needy parents of children come in, they are told about the wait list and that they may not be called for several years. This Board has made a commitment that when parents come knocking, the Board wants to be able to serve children. The Coalition is not alone in this; there are thirty-one (31) Early Learning Coalitions in the state, and eighteen (18) have gone in the same direction. In every one of those cases they have had the same discussion and the result has been the same – they have reduced age range. This is a financial issue and at this point, the Coalition has to find a way to deal with the children who are most frequently knocking at our door. 75% of the children who are on the wait list are from birth through eight (8). Statewide there are approximately 90,000 children on a wait list; in Hillsborough County - 7,000, Pinellas County - 5,000, and in Polk County - 1,400.

Mr. Farrelly stated the proposal is based on the numbers, and the selection of the age eight (8). The proposal states that effective July 1, 2010, the Coalition will serve children birth through age eight (8). Children ages 9-12 in the category of protected service, TANF or special needs will continue to be served. Effective July 1, 2010, if a parent of a nine (9) or twelve (12) year old comes to one of our eligibility centers, they will be informed that the Coalition no longer serves children in this age range. The program does state that children who are currently in programs or children that are in programs up until June 30, 2010 and are 9-12, will stay in programs. Mr. Farrelly stated he is recommending they stay in programs until December 31, 2010.

During these seven (7) months, the parents of affected children are to be given individual resource and referral services from Coalition staff to find other low cost opportunities to consider. In terms of aging out in the program which is a very important issue to assure continuity of services; if, for example, a twelve (12) year old ages out when he turns thirteen (13), Mr. Farrelly is proposing that we work with parents, the community and providers to assure continuation of child care services for this child. When a child turns nine (9), they would continue in the program through the earlier of either June 30, or December 31.

The Coalition's secondary goal is to make sure that parents accept the responsibility for a safe program for their children. However, we know that cost is an issue. Currently, parents whose children are part of the subsidized child care program are responsible for parent fees which are dependent on family income and size. The costs range from \$35 per week part-time and \$70 per week full-time.

Mr. Farrelly stated the proposal also contains Community Options which consist of current contracted child care providers, who offer before and after school care in Pasco ranging from \$30-\$130 per week; and in Hernando, the ranges are from \$40-\$105 per week. This is only one option that parents have.

Mr. Farrelly believes that additional community options will surface once this decision is made, if the Board chooses to make that decision. Mr. Farrelly also believes those additional options will come from providers themselves since they are independent

business people and community organizations will also band together and look to develop additional community options.

Mr. Farrelly reported that the Boys and Girls Club of Pasco County has been helpful in offering to assist parents. In meetings with them, Mr. Farrelly stated that a minimum of 150 positions are available at centers in Pasco County to serve children, with rates that are extremely competitive, per semester from \$200-\$300, which is less than \$17 per week for subsidized parents. This includes transportation, snacks and full-day programs on non-school days. In addition, the Boys and Girls Club has a 9-week summer program, which costs from \$150-\$250 on a subsidized basis, which is \$22 per week.

Mr. Farrelly stated the YMCA of the Suncoast currently serves 75 eligible children ages 9-12. The affected parents of these children may apply directly to the YMCA for subsidized services using the YMCA's sliding fee scale.

V. Public Input

Ms. Hammond asked for public input at this time.

Janice Porter, Director of Children's Nest stated the proposal is a solution. The focus should be on children ages 0-5 because these children need developmental care. She is an advocate for the young child. She stated that the younger children do not have the choices that are offered to the older child. She asked for everyone to support this Plan of Action.

Shane Harris, Learning Tree – requested that services be added if money becomes available to open the age range back up through age twelve (12).

Tammy Brinker, YMCA – is concerned that if the older children are not in a program, they need to learn life skills that can be put in place if they are home alone.

At this time, Ms. Hammond requested a motion to adopt the Plan of Action. Mr. Meglay made a motion to change the age range for eligibility in our program from 0-12 to 0-8 and Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. Ms. Hammond requested discussion.

Ms. Livengood stated the age range has been very controversial, but she is confident that the Age Range Task Force and the Coalition have presented the best case scenario and a solution so we can move forward with this. She is happy to know that some of the largest providers have contingent plans in place. She asked all providers to pull together and support each other and to look for grants to help these children and move forward.

Ms. Miller stated her largest concern is where the children will go. It is a relief to know that the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs are available and parents do not have to make the choice to leave their children home alone.

Ms. Goldstein presented the following statement: “To change the age range for school readiness is not a decision that can be made easily or with clear conscience. With all the

statistics, data, research and support of the Coalition, there is still this cloud that hangs over us. As a quality provider and child advocate for over 20 years, I have come to believe that it is the earliest years, infancy through age 5 or preschool years, that lay the foundation for a child's success in life. By investing financial support, training, equipment, inclusion specialists and the multitude of resources that the Coalition clearly extends to providers, Pasco and Hernando County providers are becoming high quality centers that are dedicated to young children and their development. Our goal to vote today is to change the age range from age 12 to age 8 and the older children will get assistance from other alternatives. The goal will be for the younger children to have opportunities to enroll in one of our quality centers at a most crucial time. This is their chance for future success. Let's hope that this vote will help to lift the cloud and to see clearly to make the right decision for our youngest friends."

Ms. Hammond stated there is a motion and a second. She asked for a vote. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. A roll call by voting members was taken and the record shows that all of the attending voting members voted "aye" for a unanimous vote.

Ms. Hammond thanked the Board and stated that the Coalition will continue to look for funding and would not deny care to any child if funding was available to be spent on that care. She also stated that Ms. Brinker brought up an excellent suggestion and she encouraged Mr. Farrelly to look into sponsoring or conducting a babysitter or safety training.

VI. Policy for Review/Approval, Age Range for School Readiness

Mr. Farrelly stated the Age Range for School Readiness Policy was directly from the Plan of Action. The purpose is to assure adherence to the Coalition's Mission and the Policy Statement is verbatim as taken from the Plan of Action that was presented, effective July 1, 2010. The Coalition will enroll no new children from the ages of 9-12, on or after July 1, 2010, and will work through Resource and Referral to find placements for those children who will begin to age out effective December 31, 2010.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to adopt the Age Range for School Readiness Policy. Dr. Kanakis moved to accept this motion and Mr. Meglay seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-48)**

At this time, Ms. Hammond suggested the Board and guests break for a period of five (5) minutes.

VII. Quality Committee – Dr. Steve Kanakis, Chair

Dr. Kanakis stated that the Board would be voting on taking \$95,000 out of the Quality Budget to transfer to School Readiness slots. He stated last month the Coalition received over \$7,500 in incentive applications for providers. He stated that the Committee is also working on the Quality Budget for next fiscal year. Ms. Borrego is also working on a "green initiative" incentive program for providers to "go green."

VIII. Finance and Audit Committee – Ms. Elizabeth Callaghan, Chair

Mr. Kleinsorge gave the report on behalf of Ms. Callaghan. He reported that the Finance and Audit Committee had met yesterday to discuss the bank account in relation to FDIC insurance, the grant awards and the new accounting software, SAGE.

A. Approval of Estimate of Audit Fees, FY 2010-11

Mr. Kleinsorge reported that the Finance and Audit Committee has approved the estimate of audit fees. He has contacted the auditors from last year and they have agreed to continue the audit for this year, with the same fees as last year.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the estimate of audit fees not to exceed \$15,000 plus travel and out of pocket expenses. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Mr. Mascaro seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-49)**

B. Review/Approval Fiscal and Accounting Policies

Mr. Kleinsorge stated that the policies have not been changed from the Board's first review.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to adopt the Fiscal and Accounting Policies. Ms. Wehnes moved to accept this motion and Mr. Meglay seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

IX. Executive Director Report – Mr. Jim Farrelly, Executive Director

A. Coalition Update

Mr. Farrelly reported that the Tampa Bay Business Journal, for the second year, has nominated the Coalition for the best Tampa Bay Non-Profit Agency. The Coalition was nominated for this award last year, but did not win. The Coalition was nominated and won the WEDU award as the best Non-Profit in Tampa Bay. He thanked Ms. Gonzalez, Communication Specialist, for her work in this regard.

Mr. Farrelly stated that in regards to funding for the coming year in School Readiness, the Coalition will be "held harmless." It will not receive any additional funds, but will not receive any less. He thanked Senator Fasano who worked very hard on this issue. Mr. Farrelly stated that VPK reimbursement dropped one-half of one percent. He assured everyone that the Coalition will have quality VPK programs for next year. He also stated that the Coalition is pursuing every bit of additional funding possible.

Mr. Farrelly stated that the wait list, as of last Friday, was 114, down from 600. He reported upcoming staff changes: Ms. Pattie Eacobacci, Office Manager, is having a baby

next Friday and will be gone for three (3) months, Ms. “Jak” Jakubauskas will be moving into her position as acting Office Manager on a part-time basis.

Mr. Farrelly reported that the Coalition’s “Back to School” event this year will have a new theme entitled “Eat Smart for a Healthy Start.” This event will feature some exciting giveaways in August, 2010. The Coalition will be providing lunch boxes with healthy snacks for children.

Chili’s of Spring Hill hosted a Coalition night promotion with the potential for the Coalition to earn up to \$900. All the money earned will go toward match, which goes toward slots. The Coalition plans on doing this promotion with Chili’s or another Pasco-Hernando area restaurant every quarter.

Mr. Farrelly reported that the IBM Smart Kids Program has awarded seven (7) computers valued at \$2,600 each to the Coalition. A Coalition competition will be held to award these computers to providers.

B. Report of Honor to Provider Nancy Nairns (Nairns Family Day Care Home)

Mr. Farrelly introduced Ms. Nancy Nairns who is the recipient of the Children’s Tylenol National Child Care Teacher of the Year for 2010 award.

Ms. Nairns explained the national award process and her project which was “Making Senses of the Five (5) Senses for Special Needs Children.” Ms. Nairns was awarded project funds which will be used for special needs children. She received assistance on this project from the Coalition’s Inclusion Specialist, Ms. Anne McHugh.

C. Review of March 15, 2010 Correspondence from Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) to Ms. Cassandra Clayton on behalf of Happy Land Daycare, Inc.

Mr. Farrelly stated that at the Board of Directors meeting in March, it was requested that this correspondence be placed on the Agenda for the next scheduled Board meeting. He explained that Ms. Clayton had been a contracted School Readiness provider with the Coalition. Her contract was closed because she was below standard on four (4) assessments. Ms. Clayton asked for an opinion from the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) as to whether the Coalition had authority to use the monitoring tool employed for assessment. She stated at the March meeting that “she received a letter from the legal department on March 12, 2010 stating the Coalition’s School Readiness provider monitoring tool is an unauthorized document and is illegal.”

Mr. Farrelly directed the Board to the letter from the Assistant Director of the Office of Early Learning (attached) which indicates that he is unable to provide assurance that the tool measures only the minimum requirements. The Director also indicated that without further information, AWI cannot assure her that the Coalition had the authority to use the tool.

Mr. Farrelly stated that the Coalition has provided the Office of Early Learning with all the information they would need to make that assessment. Mr. Farrelly stated that the Coalition believes that the assessment tool complies with all the standards and is developed and approved on an annual basis with provider input. The Coalition provided the Office of Early Learning with all the information to make the determination that Ms. Clayton requested, but as of yet, have not received a response. Mr. Farrelly will advise the Board of Directors when a response is received.

D. Transfer of \$95,000 to School Readiness Slots from Quality Budget

Mr. Farrelly stated the Quality Committee has recommended transfer of \$95,000 from the 2009-2010 Quality Budget to School Readiness slots. The Executive Committee has approved this transfer into slots and by doing so, the wait list has declined. The Coalition is now requesting approval from the Board.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approved the transfer of \$95,000 from the Quality Budget to School Readiness slots. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Mr. Mascaro seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

(Action Item #0910-50)

E. Policy for Review/Approval, Data Security

Mr. Farrelly reported that there are three (3) policies related to Data Security. These policies were written as a result of an AWI monitoring in the past, with a need to develop a policy on:

- Acceptable User Agreement for internet and other electronic resources
- Workstation Security Policy
- Email Use Policy

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the Data Security Policies. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Ms. Wehnes seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item # 0910-51)**

F. Policy for Review/Approval, Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board, Inc.

Mr. Farrelly requested the Board approve the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board, Inc. He stated the Early Learning Coalition and the Workforce Board have a good working relationship.

Ms. Hammond requested a motion to approve the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Pasco-Hernando Workforce Board, Inc. Mr. Meglay moved to accept this motion and Ms. Miller seconded. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried. **(Action Item #0910-52)**

X. Utilization Reports – Ms. Betsy Kier, Assistant Executive Director

Ms. Kier reported the Utilization Report from April, 2010 shows that between Hernando County School Readiness and ARRA, a total of 1,336 children were served, which is twenty-three (23) less than last year. Hernando County VPK served fifty-two (52) children less than April of last year. Preparing for the 2010-2011 VPK year, the number of applications appears to have increased. In Pasco County School Readiness and ARRA, a total of 3,562 children were served in April, an increase of 260 from last year. In Pasco County VPK, an additional twenty-seven (27) children were served over last year.

Mr. Farrelly reported that as the Coalition comes to the end of the fiscal year, Hernando County is showing an excess of \$25,000 for School Readiness as of June 30, 2010. The Coalition has been fortunate in being able to move children back and forth between School Readiness and ARRA funds. The necessary changes have been made and there will be a \$0 balance in Hernando County School Readiness. Hernando County ARRA funds will have \$192,000 in surplus at the end of the year, which will be used for slots next year. Hernando County should finish the year with about \$220,000 in available funds for the year.

Mr. Farrelly reported that Pasco County is showing a projected deficit in School Readiness funding. This will not be in the red at the end of the fiscal year; the balance will be \$0. The Coalition will use \$250,000 in surplus ARRA funds to apply to School Readiness. The Coalition will carry over approximately \$400,000 in ARRA money to be used for slots.

XI. Public Input

Ms. Hammond inquired if there was any public comment.

Ms. Clayton stated "...that you all have been forgiven for the consequences that were brought. You know that your orders that came from AWI that your tools were not authorized and you're submitting those documentations to them and they know that you were going to do this. You have not proved that you are putting an extra burden on child care providers by having them go beyond what AWI requires as child care providers to do in that letter. I think that if you were fully aware of your responsibility as a Coalition that you are to ensure that child care providers meet the minimum standards. Not to go after child care providers that don't but your job is to ensure that they do. Not to come after them and pull their funding because they are not meeting it. So if you clearly understand your roles as a Coalition you would do so by helping child care providers meet those standards and not saying we are going to go after them to be impressive again. And that's all I have to say and then we will address this again because this is not the end of it because this is God's battle and no man is stronger than God so don't think you are. But you are forgiven as far as I'm concerned, but the consequences will be God's."

Ms. Rachel Gavin stated that other child care providers scored less than Happy Land Daycare and at one center four (4) assessments were given. How many daycare providers that scored lower, had their funding removed? She stated that she knew that

other centers had more errors on their assessments and had scored in the 30's. She stated that Happy Land has been in business for twelve (12) years and has received the Gold Seal the last three (3) years. She stated it seems unfair.

Ms. Tammy Brinker thanked the Coalition for working hard to come up with a compromise and for working well with child care providers.

XII. New/Unfinished Business

None

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn this meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties, Inc. Board of Directors was requested by Ms. Hammond. Mr. Meglay so moved. Without further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Ramute "Jak" Jakubauskas
Administrative Assistant