



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

15506 County Line Road, Suite 102

Spring Hill, FL 34610

Committee Members Present: Jayne Goldstein, Chair; Marsha Carpenter, Dawn Harvey

Committee Members Attending Via Phone: Angela Porterfield, Jean Rags

Committee Members Excused: Ann-Gayl Ellis

Staff Present: Kim Borrego, Jim Farrelly, Jak Jakubauskas

Guests Present: Susie Blanchard, DCF Hernando

I. Welcome and Call to Order - Ms. Jayne Goldstein, Chair

Ms. Goldstein called the Program Committee to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. Review/Adoption of Draft Minutes from February 20, 2013 Meeting

Ms. Goldstein requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2013 meeting as presented. Ms. Harvey so moved and Ms. Carpenter seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

III. Discussion, Centers Below and Above Monitoring Standards

Ms. Borrego reviewed the following center:

LBE: Ms. Borrego explained the Coalition has been working with this provider since December on both curriculum and meeting the minimum School Readiness Provider Assessment score, as they are currently on a second CAP. The provider met with Mr. Farrelly and Ms. Borrego regarding implementation of a Coalition approved curriculum and Ms. Borrego then visited the center with the Curriculum Specialist. There was no evidence a curriculum is being utilized.

Ms. Goldstein stated with no evidence of a curriculum in place, the next course of action would be to terminate the provider's contract as the provider has been given ample opportunities to make the necessary changes. Ms. Borrego explained a staff recommendation is being brought before the Committee to vote on contract termination.

Mr. Farrelly gave a brief review of the provider's history to the Committee and the Committee agreed with staffs' recommendation. Ms. Rags moved for staff recommendation and Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

Ms. Borrego explained a letter will be sent to the provider today advising of the Committee's decision. She continued reviewing the remaining providers under CAP and finished with the twenty-one (21) providers who had scored 88% or above.

Mr. Farrelly explained this is the core of this Committee's responsibilities. The Coalition's Provider Specialists visit centers and conduct the assessments which have a minimum passing score of 85%. Those centers which fall under the 85% are placed on a CAP. He explained staff aggressively pursue and encourage quality among providers. The minimum score of 85% was raised from 80% and may continue to be increased. He also explained that the state allows for few reasons to cancel a provider's contract and one of them is lack of a curriculum.

IV. Age Range for School Readiness Services Policy

Mr. Farrelly explained the proposed policy being reviewed is the result of a special meeting held a few weeks ago (February 27, 2013) at River Ridge High School to discuss and receive input from the community and providers on age range. The Coalition's current age range is birth-8 years of age. Several years ago, the Coalition served birth-12, but the age range was brought in line to keep children in the program through the third grade.

But, with an ever increasing waitlist, currently down to about 250 children from a record high of nearly 2,000; the Board is discussing reducing the wait list to birth-kindergarten age to be more in line with the Coalition's mission. He explained the new policy would take effect on July 1st with the enrollment of children aged birth-kindergarten age as Priority 1. If additional funds are available, Priority 2 would be 6-year old children; Priority 3 would be 7-year old children and Priority 4 would be 8-year old children. Children aged 6, 7 and 8-years old that are enrolled as of June 1, 2013 would remain in the program until December 31, 2013 allowing their parents ample time to find alternative placement. As of January 1, 2014, only children birth-kindergarten age would be enrolled in the School Readiness program. Mr. Farrelly stated this would impact the wait list by allowing for immediate services.

Ms. Porterfield inquired about a provision for siblings and children with disabilities. Mr. Farrelly replied that the Board made no provision for siblings in the initial policy and the enrollment policy will not be changed for children with special needs who have a valid IEP.

Mr. Farrelly stated the Age Range for School Readiness Services Policy will be presented at the March Board meeting for a first reading.

V. Public Input

None.

Mr. Farrelly congratulated Ms. Goldstein for completing her 2-year term as Chair and thanked her for her service.

VI. Next Meeting Date – April 17, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

The next Program Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Goldstein adjourned the Program Committee at 8:47 a.m. without further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas,
Administrative Assistant