



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
15506 County Line Road, Suite 102
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Committee Members Present: Dave Meglay, Chair; Jayne Goldstein, Sonya Jackson, Beth Rawls

Committee Members Attending Via Phone: Mary Beth Wehnes

Committee Members Excused: None

Staff Present: Kim Borrego, Jim Farrelly, Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas, Betsy Kier

I. Welcome and Call to Order - Mr. Dave Meglay, Chair

Mr. Meglay called the Program Committee to order at 8:37 a.m.

Mr. Meglay requested a motion to approve the draft minutes from the April 14, 2010 meeting. Ms. Goldstein so moved and Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

II. Discussion, Centers Below and Above Monitoring Standards – Ms. Betsy Kier

Ms. Kier reviewed the following centers that are currently on a Corrective Action Plan:

FP (Hudson): They are scheduled this week for their follow up assessment.

HD: Has had their assessment after the printing of this report.

LPC: Visits and Technical Assistance continue.

KKC: Exceeded the minimum requirements.

LR: Exceeded the minimum requirements.

NA: Exceeded the minimum requirements.

EC: CAP was received and Technical Assistance has been provided. The center director has met with the church’s board to present the Coalition’s requirements. A decision will be made on Monday, May 24, 2010 on whether the church board will be willing to comply with the assessment’s requirements. Ms. Kier suggested postponing the follow up assessment

until after the church board has made a decision as the board may decide not to meet the minimum requirements. Ms. Kier informed the Committee that this center is very structured and regimented.

As this is the first time this type of situation has arisen, Ms. Kier requested direction from the Committee. Mr. Meglay inquired if the center falls under the religious exempt status and if so, if they decide they do not want to implement the Coalition's requirements, is there anything we can do? This center is religious exempt.

Betsy Kier stated the Coalition's option would be to terminate the payment agreement and remove School Readiness children. Parents would be notified by letter and given ten (10) days to find another center. She stated the issues at this center are programmatic.

Mr. Meglay recommended waiting until the church board met, if they will not follow the Coalition's recommendation, the contract will be cancelled. If they agree to the assessment's minimum requirements, the Coalition will give the center ten (10) days time in which to purchase the necessary materials needed. The follow up assessment would then be performed.

AAK: Exceeded the minimum requirement.

YE: Exceeded the minimum requirement.

YG: Exceeded the minimum requirement.

ROFCCH: Exceeded the minimum requirement.

KS: Ms. Kier informed the Committee this center has improved to 79%, but the preschool classroom did not pass, thus the payment agreement should be terminated. Ms. Borrego stated she had visited this center with an Inclusion Special and witnessed a number of behavioral issues in the preschool classroom. There was no structure, no visible curriculum or schedule was posted and there was no teacher interaction. Ms. Kier inquired if the Coalition should proceed with canceling the payment agreement since the score is so close. Ms. Rawls recommended that the formula may need to be re-evaluated. Ms. Wehnes and Mr. Meglay agreed that procedure should be followed and the Coalition needs to be consistent. Ms. Rawls stated the director has the option to appeal and should go through the process. If there is an appeal, Mr. Farrelly recommends sending two (2) staff members to do the reassessment. Mr. Meglay and the Committee agreed to initiate the termination of the payment agreement.

LL: Due for a follow up assessment.

KUC: Due for a follow up assessment.

LL: Due for a follow up assessment.

AKA: Is receiving Technical Assistance.

SDC: Is receiving Technical Assistance.

ACFCCH: CAP was due on May 17, as of this meeting it has not been received.

FP NPR: Working on their CAP and the follow up will be scheduled for next month.

Ms. Kier stated that a large number of providers and centers have scored in the 90's this month.

Mr. Farrelly informed the Committee that a discussion on increasing the minimum requirement on the assessment tool will begin within the next several months.

HLDC: Mr. Meglay inquired if this is on the agenda for May's Board meeting to discuss the letter from AWI. Mr. Farrelly replied yes and the Board will be receiving a copy of the letter sent by AWI. To date, the Coalition has received no further word from AWI.

III. Letter, Concerns about Religious Exempt Providers

Ms. Kier informed the Committee that during one of the provider meetings, a provider came to her with some concerns regarding a facility that had issues with licensing. To avoid having to deal with licensing, this center became religious exempt. In a case like this, only the Coalition has control, but only for the School Readiness children. Mr. Farrelly stated that several ELC's are trying to do something on a state-wide basis to regulate these centers.

The Committee was informed that complaints by parents only are dealt with by the religious organization that certifies these centers. Ms. Wehnes stated that DCF can do nothing to protect the children in these centers. The Committee was also informed that the local licensing boards in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Sarasota counties have more stringent rules than DCF. There are no exemptions for religious organizations and homes have to be licensed as well.

Mr. Farrelly would like the Program Committee to consider joining the ELC of Florida's Heartland and Southwest Florida in their cause to advocate for statewide adoption of licensure for all programs providing child care services. The Committee agreed and Mr. Farrelly will bring the Committee recommendation to the full Board at the May meeting for approval and will then present at the next ELAC meeting.

IV. QRIS Discussion

Ms. Kier informed that recently the Coalition updated our status to the State, informing them that we are exploring QRIS. With the stimulus funds the State received, a portion was earmarked for Quality. The bulk of Quality dollars are being retained by AWI to work toward a statewide, state mandated QRIS system (Quality Rating Improvement Systems). Ms. Kier stated the Coalition has been receiving information on general designs and stated the Coalition has been hesitant to do any detailed planning to try and implement this new process if AWI will be making a decision on minimum guidelines. She stated it would be a

challenge to move to QRIS. The Coalition's tool contains a great deal of the same information but a number of providers will not meet the minimum QRIS scores because of the more detailed requirements and the way QRIS is scored. The Coalition may also require additional staff as it will take between 6-8 hours for a staff person to assess one (1) provider. Currently, staff are doing two (2) assessments per day.

Ms. Kier stated that the Coalition has \$27,000 in ARRA funds for Quality which will be carried over into next fiscal year. She recommends a joint Quality/ Program committee meeting be held in the near future for further discussion on using these funds toward the implementation of QRIS. Ms. Kier will provide additional information at upcoming meetings.

Mr. Farrelly reminded the Committee that this topic had been discussed earlier this year with QRIS being a multi-year implementation. He explained the State is looking to standardize contracts, QRIS and possibly funding.

Mr. Farrelly stated the Coalition has \$27,000 in ARRA funds which is required to be spent on Quality initiatives. It cannot be spent on slots. Fifteen percent (15%) of the Coalition's ARRA funds may be spent on administration, but all the ARRA funds received have been dedicated to slots. Mr. Farrelly stated there are funds in the Quality Budget that could be spent on slots and recommended holding this \$27,000 and using it by June 30, 2011.

Ms. Kier stated other coalitions were able to pilot with a group of providers and the State may direct us to implement the QRIS on all our providers or only a certain percentage the first year. Mr. Farrelly informed the Committee that the ELC of Jacksonville was taken to court by a provider over the new rating system and that the ELC of Pinellas was having challenges in their second year. Mr. Farrelly informed the Committee that different coalitions have different types of QRIS programs which is why the State is looking to a state-wide format.

Mr. Farrelly stated that with funding significantly reduced; the Coalition would not be adding new staff.

V. School Readiness Program Assessment Procedure, Review Results

Ms. Kier informed the Committee that a staff member from the ELC of Pinellas reviewed our procedures, interviewed the Provider Specialists, and reviewed 75 client files. She noted there were some weaknesses as far as inconsistent documentation of all communications with providers. For example, the Curriculum Specialist may not be communicating with the Training Specialist when Technical Assistance is done and information is not being recorded in the provider files. Ms. Kier and Ms. Borrego will meet with staff and complete internal procedures for staff.

A discussion followed on the assessment tool and the scoring system as far as making point value scores the same across all categories

VI. Notification Letter to VPK 4th Year Low Performing Providers (LPP)

Ms. Kier stated this will be the first time that any fourth year LPPs are removed from offering VPK, as per AWI's Program Guidance office. Ms. Kier will obtain clarification from AWI that the Coalition has only one (1) provider in the fourth year in a public program. She informed the Committee that AWI has removed the Coalition from the process if a public school program is involved. The DOE would send the letter to the program and advise the parents.

Ms. Rawls informed the Committee, that at a public school program which is considered to be an LPP, 60% of the children whose scores count are non-English speaking and at the 100% poverty level.

Ms. Rawls stated that if VPK funding is lost for a fourth year LPP, the funding is lost forever.

VII. Provider Award

Ms. Kier informed the Committee that a family child care home provider, Nancy Nairns, has been awarded the National Child Care Teacher Award and won a trip to Washington, D.C. She will be recognized at the May Board meeting. Ms. Nairns has also been asked to speak at future provider meetings.

VIII. Next Meeting Date – June 16, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Rawls will not be available for this meeting.

IX. Public Input

Ms. Borrego informed the Committee that Chili's Restaurant will be hosting a fund raiser for the Coalition on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at its Spring Hill location. She distributed a flyer and stated that when the flyer is presented, the Coalition will receive a donation of 10% of the bill.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramute "Jak" Jakubauskas,
Administrative Assistant