



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.
15506 County Line Road, Suite 102
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Committee Members Present: Dave Meglay, Chair; Jayne Goldstein, Dawn Haas, Sonya Jackson, Mary Beth Wehnes

Committee Members Attending Via Phone: None

Committee Members Excused: None

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

Guests Present: None

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 November 10, 2010 meeting as written. Ms. Wehnes so moved and Ms. Haas seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

II. Discussion, Centers Below and Above Monitoring Standards

HLDC: Ms. Borrego informed the Committee that a letter had been sent advising HLDC that an assessment would be performed by another Early Learning Coalition. This recommendation was accepted by HLDC and this Coalition’s staff spent approximately eight (8) hours preparing the Provider Specialist from ELC of Pinellas on this Coalition’s assessment tools. When the Provider Specialist arrived at HLDC, there was only one (1) child present and they were to be combined with the VPK program that began at 9 a.m.

Ms. Borrego stated that a suggestion was made to HLDC to have staff bring in their children or invite neighborhood children into the center or the Coalition would do the assessment on a non-instructional VPK day. The new time frame for the assessment is between December 20-30, 2010.

Mr. Farrelly explained that utilizing another ELC had been pre-arranged with AWI/OEL and the Coalition is on record as going over and above. He stated that HLDC has already been

in contact with AWI/OEL because they did not participate in the process of choosing who would assess their center.

JFA: Ms. Borrego reminded the Committee that this provider was placed on a 90-day probationary period by the Ad Hoc Committee and monthly visits are required. Their second visit occurred on November 29, 2010 and again, minimal improvements were noted. There is still no evidence of current lesson plans or developmentally appropriate activities. The follow up assessment is scheduled to occur in January.

RN: F/U assessment was performed and minimum requirement was met.

AH: Still no enrollment; CAP continues to be on hold.

FUMC: F/U assessment was performed and minimum requirement was met.

LCA: F/U assessment was performed and minimum requirement was met.

Ms. Borrego explained that the following are new providers being added to the CAP:

KSNP: The 2's and 3's classrooms did not meet the minimum; CAP was approved and TA assistance was requested from both the Training and Curriculum Specialists. The first visit by the Training Specialist was cancelled because a teacher was not in the center.

FKLC: The toddler and preschool classrooms did not meet the minimum; CAP was approved and TA assistance was requested from both the Training and Curriculum Specialists. Health and safety concerns were noted by the Curriculum Specialist on her follow up visit.

LRDC: The 2's and 3's classrooms did not meet the minimum; CAP was received and approved. TA assistance from the Curriculum Specialist has been requested.

WCC: The preschool classroom did not meet the minimum due to a lack of interaction with children as well as developmentally appropriate activities. CAP is due on December 16, 2010.

MBDC: The toddler classroom did not meet the minimum; CAP was approved and TA assistance was requested and provided by the Training Specialist. Follow up assessment will occur in January.

A brief discussion followed on KRK and the recent visit made by Mr. Farrelly and Ms. Goldstein after the receipt of a letter from the owner who asked for a re-evaluation of specific disagreements with the monitoring. Mr. Farrelly stated their evaluation was rescored and some of the objections made by the owner were valid; the center passed the assessment based on the rescoring.

Discussion followed on how staff could do a better job of evaluating centers, including more involvement during the exit interview by the owner/director of the center. Ms. Borrego stated there needs to be more dialogue during the exit interview because the information being obtained from the teacher may not be fully complete or accurate.

Ms. Borrego stated she is working on some modifications for the evaluation tool and Ms. Goldstein suggested a standard form for the provider to sign if they are not happy with the assessment.

Ms. Borrego stated that KRK did pass the rescoring of the assessment except for two (2) classrooms and a CAP will be submitted.

III. Discussion, Religious Exempt Centers & Registered FCCH

Ms. Borrego summarized the letter of November 2010 from the Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC) recommending the removal of child care licensing exemptions. Currently the Coalition contracts with thirteen (13) religious exempt centers and four (4) registered FCCHs. Because they are not licensed, there is no recourse by DCF if there should be a health or safety issue. Ms. Haas stated that some religious centers do have inspections by an accrediting agency and Ms. Wehnes stated that these agencies must be approved by DCF.

Ms. Wehnes informed the Committee that the DCF Secretary had put together a Task Force on this topic with a recommendation that all programs, except for summer camps, be licensed. She stated that the Manatee Coalition had a local ordinance passed by the local county commission to have all centers licensed in Manatee.

Mr. Meglay inquired if this Coalition should look at this issue from a local level or would the State act on passing state-wide legislation. Mr. Farrelly stated the AELC is moving toward a state-wide solution.

Ms. Wehnes explained the difference between a registered and a licensed center to the Committee.

Mr. Farrelly stated he would discuss this issue with representatives from the local county commissions and bring information back to the January meeting.

IV. Next Meeting Date – January 19, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Farrelly stated he had another commitment on this date and Mr. Meglay suggested having the next meeting of the Program Committee on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. immediately following the Executive Committee meeting. The Committee agreed.

V. Public Input

None

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Meglay requested a motion to adjourn the Program Committee meeting. Ms. Goldstein so moved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. with no further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas,
Administrative Assistant