



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 18, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.
15506 County Line Road, Suite 102
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Committee Members Present: Jayne Goldstein, Chair; Dawn Harvey, Angela Porterfield, Jean Rags

Committee Members Attending Via Phone: None

Committee Members Excused: Ann-Gayl Ellis

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

Guests Present: None

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

Ms. Goldstein called the Program Committee to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed all attendees.

Ms. Goldstein requested a motion to adopt the draft minutes from the December 14, 2011 meeting as presented. Ms. Porterfield so moved and Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

II. Discussion, Centers Below and Above Monitoring Standards

Ms. Borrego informed the Committee that all centers on the first page of the CAP report had met their minimum requirements. The following centers were reviewed:

LS: Follow up is due this week.

MPC: Minimum requirements were met, but the preschool classroom was closed so it was not re-assessed at this time. Staff will stop by periodically to ensure that the classroom has not re-opened without being re-assessed.

FPNPR: Follow up is being conducted this week. A brief discussion followed on this provider being under a CAP previously.

AL: Minimum requirement was not met and is not using a Coalition approved curriculum. CAP was received and approved. Follow up will be due later this month.

VHFCCH: Minimum requirement was not met and is not using a Coalition approved curriculum.

EAA: Minimum requirement was not met. Follow up will be due in February.

Ms. Goldstein informed the Committee that the Director of AL had contacted her regarding input on a curriculum. Ms. Goldstein provided her with some information and offered further assistance. Mr. Farrelly discussed the importance of providers contacting the Provider Reps. Ms. Borrego, with Ms. Goldstein's and Ms. Harvey's approval, will have links to their email addresses placed on the Coalition's weekly email to providers.

Ms. Borrego stated that sixteen (16) providers had scored 87% or above on their assessments. Additionally, a new page has been added to the CAP report that indicates a provider passing their assessment, but not utilizing an approved curriculum. This will also serve as a reminder to send the Curriculum Specialist to this provider to ensure that a curriculum is in place and is being utilized properly.

III. Discussion, Eligibility Redetermination – Ms. Betsy Kier

Ms. Kier stated that additional information had been requested from the state to see what procedures are being followed with regard to Eligibility Redetermination throughout the state. Based on an updated list, this Coalition is the only one performing three (3) month redeterminations. The majority of Coalitions are doing six (6) month redeterminations with some doing a percentage annually or in six (6) months. She explained the Coalition's contract with the state requires redetermination be done annually.

Mr. Farrelly explained three (3) month redetermination puts a significant burden on parents. Some have been threatened with their jobs, but most important is to ensure the educational continuity of their children. When parents do not appear for the three (3) month redetermination, they are dropped from the program and the children removed from school which frequently results in the children being put on the waiting list again.

Ms. Kier stated the latest survey results from parents indicate that the three (3) month redeterminations do create difficulties while another issue for parents is transportation. Ms. Kier stated the Coalition has several options such as doing redeterminations every six (6) months, annually, a certain percentage annually, a certain percentage every six (6) months or doing the redeterminations via mail. Currently, all are done on a face to face basis except for foster parents who are mailed a redetermination.

Discussion followed on the options, on extended hours at the eligibility offices and lower incidences of fraud being perpetrated due to the three (3) month redeterminations.

Ms. Rags recommended doing a trial six (6) month redetermination and the Committee agreed. Mr. Farrelly informed the Committee this recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee and then the final decision will have to be made by the full Board at the March meeting.

IV. Approval, VPK Outreach & Awareness Expenditures

Ms. Borrego stated the Committee had been presented last month with a VPK Outreach and Awareness budget proposal of \$13,761.00 for FY 2012-2013. This proposal consisted of advertising in the now *Tampa Bay Times* with a postcard insert as well as a mailing to selected zip codes and utilizing five (5) billboards. These three (3) proposals were over the allotted budget amount so Ms. Borrego eliminated nine (9) zip codes and the *Times* representative is willing to work within the Coalition's budget.

Ms. Borrego stated that suggested changes had been made last month to the VPK postcard and she distributed the (attached) revised postcard for the Committee to review. The Committee accepted the postcard as presented.

Ms. Goldstein requested a motion to accept the VPK Outreach & Awareness expenditures. Ms. Rags so moved and Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. All were in favor with no abstentions and the motion carried.

V. Briefing, VPK Readiness Rates and Low Performing Providers (LPPs)

Mr. Farrelly explained the Committee is being briefed and a full presentation will be made to the Board once everything has been finalized later this month by the state. Currently, the Coalition has twelve (12) LPPs, but the new rates have that number going to fifty-four (54) because of the new state standards. Ms. Borrego explained the state is looking at changes in how the rate is being calculated. Children have to be in the program 70% of the time while also scoring "ready" on FAIR and ECHOS assessments within thirty (30) days of entering kindergarten.

Ms. Borrego explained that if a provider is deemed an LPP, they will have the opportunity to apply for a Good Cause Exemption if they have a certain percentage of children with special needs or non-English speaking children. Special needs children must have a clear diagnosis or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). If the exemption is granted, the provider may continue to offer VPK. In the past, only the second year LPPs had to purchase a curriculum. The new standards will require first year LPPs to purchase a curriculum which may cost up to \$15,000.

Mr. Farrelly stated this may have a large impact on providers with some centers closing their VPK programs giving parents fewer choices. A presentation will be made to the full Board at the March meeting.

VI. Public Input

None.

VII. Next Meeting Date – February 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

The next Program Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Goldstein adjourned the Program Committee at 9:25 a.m. without further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas,
Administrative Assistant