



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.
15506 County Line Road, Suite 102
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Committee Members Present: Jayne Goldstein, Chair; Ann-Gayl Ellis, Angela Porterfield, Jean Rags

Committee Members Attending Via Phone: Dawn Harvey

Committee Members Excused: Rene Akins

Staff Present: Kim Borrego, Jim Farrelly, Jak Jakubauskas, Janine Palkovics

Guests Present: None

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

Ms. Goldstein called the Program Committee to order at 8:34 a.m. and welcomed all attendees. Mr. Farrelly introduced Ms. Palkovics to the Committee and introductions were made.

Ms. Goldstein requested a motion to approve the draft minutes from the January 18, 2012 meeting as presented. Ms. Rags so moved and Ms. Ellis 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 the first three (3) providers on the first page of the CAP report had met their minimum requirements. The following centers were reviewed:

VHFCCH: Follow up is due next week and the Curriculum Specialist will visit to assess their use of a curriculum.

EAA: Minimum requirement was met.

KRKB: Four (4) classrooms did not meet the minimum requirements; their CAP has been approved.

FUMCIC: Three (3) classrooms did not meet the minimum requirements; their CAP has been approved.

Ms. Rags inquired if the providers were receptive to the CAP and Ms. Borrego informed her they were very receptive and willingly discussed planned improvements for their classrooms.

TT: three (3) classrooms did not meet the minimum requirements; their CAP has been approved.

CK: Three (3) classrooms did not meet the minimum requirements; their CAP is due this week.

SPP: Two (2) classrooms did not meet the minimum requirements; their CAP has been received and approved.

Ms. Borrego stated that twenty-three (23) providers had scored 88% or above on their assessments. Additionally, the Curriculum Specialist will be visiting SAP within the next week regarding their use of Coalition approved curriculum and the Committee will be updated next month.

Ms. Goldstein commented that the large number of providers achieving good scores is based on the amount of training being offered by the Coalition. Mr. Farrelly informed the Committee that Ms. Christine Dyal will be moving from her Training Specialist position to the open VPK Specialist position, at her request.

III. Update, VPK Providers on Probation (formerly Low Performing Providers)

Ms. Borrego informed the Committee that the new term for Low Performing Providers will now be Providers on Probation (POP) and providers will obtain this title the first year they do not meet the required readiness rate assessment. February 28, 2012 is the date the new readiness scoring rate will be revealed. The Coalition believes the worst case scenario would be the new score could increase the POPs from twelve (12) to possibly as many as fifty-five (55) this year.

Mr. Farrelly explained that VPK providers will not want to be labeled as a POP and may decide to no longer provide VPK services. The Coalition does not frequently sign up new VPK providers; instead it is losing several providers a month due to the economy. Losing additional providers could limit the overall number of 4-year olds in the VPK program.

A brief discussion followed on how long the provider would be listed as a POP and first year POP providers having alternative options such as purchasing a costly curriculum and creating a staff development plan. Ms. Borrego informed the Committee that in the past a provider was listed as an LPP for two (2) years before they had to purchase a curriculum which could range in price from \$4,000 to \$15,000 as the publisher is required to train center staff on-site.

Ms. Rags inquired if the Coalition could be proactive in reducing the number of POPs. Ms. Borrego explained that the testing to determine the scores is performed on 5-year olds within the first thirty (3) days of entering kindergarten and Ms. Porterfield explained the testing process further. Mr. Farrelly reminded the Committee that training of providers on important VPK program issues continued on a year-round basis and at the Annual Conference.

Mr. Farrelly stated the Committee will be updated at the March meeting should the state make a decision on the required readiness rate on February 28, 2012.

IV. Discussion, Process of Provider Assessment

Mr. Farrelly explained that the state is in the process of putting together a revised state-wide contract. Additionally, the state hopes to require pre and post assessments in School Readiness to show the impact of School Readiness funds. Additionally, to combat issues with POP's and readiness tests, the state hopes to require VPK providers to have pre and post tests to measure growth.

He explained PHELC's School Readiness assessment tool will not be approved by the state and our current evaluation tools, which are based on ERS, may no longer be used for "high stakes" assessments. The state will likely require Coalitions to use the CLASS assessment tool or a similar evaluation instrument. Ms. Borrego explained the new CLASS assessment could take as long as a week to complete for large centers with multiple classrooms.

Ms. Borrego explained that nine (9) of the Coalition's staff will be undergoing a training with Pasco Schools at the end of the month on what a CLASS assessment is and what it will entail. Mr. Farrelly explained with the move to CLASS, the Coalition may have to hire as many as twelve (12) additional staff members which could reduce School Readiness slot dollars by as much as \$250,000 annually. Program evaluation and staffing options will be presented over the next few months.

Ms. Borrego explained Coalition staff is beginning to prepare annual contract applications for the new fiscal year to be sent out to providers, but with the state in the process of creating a statewide "agreement" (no longer referred to as a contract); an extension of the current contract will have to be sent to all providers. The new staggered year program was to begin with the upcoming fiscal year, but now all centers and homes will be receiving the extension which will be for six (6) months through the end of December.

A brief discussion followed on the current contract having a modification clause that could have new verbiage added to it. Mr. Farrelly explained that due to the complexity of the 16-page contract application, it would be simpler for the providers to sign the 1-page extension. Ms. Borrego stated that if the new state agreement is ready by July, it will be sent to center-based providers.

V. Public Input

Ms. Borrego distributed the (attached) copy of the VPK billboard mock up to the Committee members. Ms. Rags suggested adding the word "NOW" to register children. Ms. Ellis suggested somehow incorporating "kindergarten" or "preschool," a suggestion which was responded to by other Committee members and staff.

VI. Next Meeting Date – March 14, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

The next Program Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Goldstein adjourned the Program Committee at 9:30 a.m. without further discussion.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ramute “Jak” Jakubauskas,
Administrative Assistant