PROGRAM POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 27, 2011 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

I.	Welcome & Introductions	David Williams Jr., Co-Chair The Hon. Cindy Lederman, Co-Chair
II.	Approval of Agenda	David Williams Jr., Co-Chair The Hon. Cindy Lederman, Co-Chair
III.	Approval of July 26th Minutes	David Williams Jr., Co-Chair The Hon. Cindy Lederman, Co-Chair
IV.	CEO Update	Evelio Torres
V.	Monroe Performance Report	Mary Williams
VI.	Miami-Dade Performance Report	Jackye Russell
VII.	Feasibility Study	Chris Duggan
VIII.	VPK Low Performing Providers	Jackye Russell
IX.	School Readiness Provider Suspension Policy	Jackye Russell
X.	Change of Ownership	Jackye Russell
XI.	Old Business	
XII.	New Business	
XIII.	Public Comment	
XIV.	Adjourn	

Minutes

Program Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting
July 26 2011; 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board Room
2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Committee Attendees: The Hon. Cindy Lederman; David Williams, Jr. (via conference call); R. Beasley (via conference call); Modesto Abety; Jacqui Colyer; Ramiro Moreno (via conference call); Ann Karen Weller (via conference call)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (CEO); Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (via conference call); Kristina Alonso; Milton Silvera; Leeana Pena; Kerry Allen; Bethany Sands; Pamela Hollingsworth

General Attendees: Linda Carmona (AECE); Evelyn Jordan (Miami-Dade County); Jackie Romillo (Citrus Health Network); Edith Humes-Newbold (Miami-Dade County);

I. Welcome and Introductions

- C. Lederman welcomed the committee, staff and attendees.
- A quorum was established with six (6) voting members.

II. Approval of June 28th Minutes

- J. Colyer moved to approve the June 28, 2011 minutes.
- R. Beasley seconded the motion.
- Motion was unanimously passed.

III. CEO Update

- E. Torres shared the CEO Update.
  - The biggest issue we are dealing with is the school-age children losing care effective September 1st that were able to remain in the program through the summer. We are monitoring attrition very closely since the numbers recently have been higher than expected. We are still looking at all of the children that are six years old and above so that we are able to serve children zero to five. We are a long way from reaching the target number of approximately 22,000 children. We are currently at around 26,000 children enrolled in School Readiness.
  - We are also preparing for the next legislative session starting in January. We expect that there will be a number of bills that will impact early learning. We are working on the Early Learning Challenge Fund application, but we are unsure if the Governor is going to want to apply for those federal dollars. Every indication is that he does not object to it at this point, but he has not submitted a letter of intent to the federal government. This does not preclude us from applying for the Early Learning Challenge Fund dollars. We will know in the next few months

whether or not the state of Florida is going to apply. We are trying to put together a coalition from Florida from a number of different organizations that can help us with advocacy efforts at the federal level, very specific to early learning.

IV. Monroe Performance Report

- M. Williams shared details from the Monroe performance report.
  - E. Torres asked M. Williams to elaborate on the referrals that are made as a result of the health screenings.
  - M. Williams stated that there is an issue in Monroe County with the lack of Medicaid providers. Dental is always the biggest issue in the county, since there is only one pediatric dentist in Monroe who is located in Marathon. There is also currently a problem with more and more pediatricians who are no longer accepting Medicaid patients. There is only one pediatrician in Marathon who is accepting new patients.
  - E. Torres stated that this is a huge issue that needs to be discussed with the mayor.
  - M. Williams added that when the bulk of the patients are Medicaid patients, doctors in the Keys can no longer afford to operate as a sole practitioner.

V. Miami- Dade Performance Report

- J. Russell gave highlights from the Miami-Dade performance report.

VI. Inclusion Program

- B. Sands shared an example of the results letter that is sent to parents when their child receives an Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ.) Every child receives a letter whether there is a concern or not. The results of children displaying concerns are sent directly to Citrus Health Network from FIU. They then begin the follow-up process with the family. We then proceed with strategies in the classroom, but if the case is very serious we try very diligently to have the family come in for a meeting to discuss the concerns and subsequent strategies.
- J. Colyer asked for a description of the ASQ and what the indicators of a concern are.
- B. Sands explained that an ASQ is comprised of 5 sections: Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Personal/Social, Problem-solving and Communication. The ASQ for children under 36 months is conducted every 2-3 months. Older children receive an ASQ every 6 months. When a child scores lower than the national cutoff score, this results in a concern.
- J. Colyer asked what happens to children that end up bouncing from school to school as a result of a behavior issue and if this would be caught by the ASQ.
- B. Sands responded that there is now a Social/Emotional element of the ASQ (ASQ-SE) that would look at these types of concerns. There has not been training for the ASQ—SE as of yet, however providers are receiving their ASQ-SE kits. The mandate right now is to do only the developmental piece of the ASQ. However, the state has provided the ASQ-SE for each center.
- C. Lederman stated that families will have a hard time understanding these results.
- B. Sands responded that eventually it will be available in a simpler form. Currently, there is a narrative, a chart and a table offering three ways to interpret the results. Providers are encouraged to sit down with the families to discuss these concerns so that they are clearer on what the results mean. When we first

started conducting screenings prior to the ASQ, a representative from Miami-Dade County would go to the center and conduct the screenings on each child. But since we started using the ASQ we have done several trainings so that providers can conduct the screenings themselves and they have become significantly more educated and are much more likely to better deal with children with concerns.

VII. Parent Fees

- E. Humes-Newbold stated that effective August 1st there will be new fees for parents participating in School Readiness. Parents have received their notices explaining the change. Providers and parents are accustomed to a parent fee and to increases in said fees. The difference is that fees are being changed all at the same time. The fee increases range from $0.20 to $10.00 per week.

VIII. Prerequisites to SR Funding

- J. Russell stated that currently providers are required, as of July 1st to have a license with Department of Children and Families (DCF) and are also required to have their license in good standing with no multiple instances of violations occurring. These are currently the only two prerequisites that exist. The other prerequisite that is being considered is the issue of requiring providers to be accredited with an approved accrediting body in order to receive School Readiness (SR) funding. Currently we have approximately 400 providers who are accredited in Miami-Dade County which is roughly 25% of the provider population. One of the issues with this is that we would not have enough providers to serve the SR population so we would have to look at some sort of initiative to ramp up accreditation and to assist providers in becoming accredited. We would need to do a feasibility study to look at the several different variables involved; one of which would be the issue of funding. We currently pay Gold Seal providers 20% more than other providers and this would be a huge funding increase and as a result would impact the number of children we would be able to serve.
- C. Lederman asked if any other coalitions have other prerequisites for participation in SR.
- E. Torres responded that one particular coalition uses the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) and requires the provider to have a score of 3 as a minimum.
- C. Lederman asked the committee if they were on board with having this feasibility study done to which the committee replied that they were in agreement.
- M. Abety added that there are a few areas of concern here. Not all accrediting agencies are created equal. M. Abety stated that he is not sure what we gain by forcing accreditation on providers.

IX. Change of Ownership

- J. Russell shared a policy implemented in Hillsborough County that states that a provider who has been suspended from the SR program for licensing violations cannot transfer ownership to a family member or other relative in order to continue to operate and bypass the suspension. The recent tragedy that occurred took place in a center who had previously operated in one location and basically changed the names of the owners and moved to a new location in order to bypass the suspension.
- E. Torres suggested that the committee members look at the policy and discuss it at the next meeting for consideration of adopting this policy.

- J. Colyer moved to adopt the Change of Ownership policy.
    - D. Williams seconded the motion
    - Motion was unanimously passed.

X. Disenrollment Policy

- J. Russell shared the current Disenrollment Policy. This policy went into effect in 2006 and would need to be cleaned up for consideration by the full board. Most of the changes are cosmetic but there were some issues with the priority classes and the ages of the children that we give priority to. The first priority for childcare services originally said ages zero to twelve for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) children but we currently serve those children until age thirteen. The same applies to the at-risk category. We need the committee to approve this edited policy so that we can ask the board to adopt it at the next board meeting.
- J. Colyer moved to approve the policy.
    - D. Williams seconded the motion.
    - Motion was unanimously passed.

XI. Public Comment

- L. Carmona stated that at the last meeting the possibility of sanctioning providers with pre-filled sign-in/out sheets was discussed and requested more information on the subject.
- J. Russell shared that we are involved with the statewide workgroup that is looking at how to sanction providers as part of a risk management policy across the state. We are waiting to see what results from this workgroup to determine if there will be some sort of uniform sanctions applied across the state.
- C. Lederman asked what the time frame for adopting this policy is.
- E. Torres responded that it may take a few months to adopt. Hillsborough County already has a sanctioning policy in place.
- C. Lederman asked that this item be kept in the old business portion of the agenda until it is resolved.
- L. Carmona asked the committee to consider that providers are paid based on the attendance submitted by them, not the sign in/out sheets. While both documents need to concur and need to be accurate, penalizing the provider for something that the parent might do is not necessarily the right idea.
- L. Carmona stated that while it is fair to expect the teachers and directors to have conversations with the parents regarding the results letters of the ASQ's, we must think about the professional development skills of the people that are being charged with this very sensitive task. L. Carmona asked if there was some additional training and/or development that can be given to teachers and directors to assist them with how to have these conversations with parents in an effective and respectful way.
- M. Abety stated that some of the terminology could intimidate parents and we must think about how to better explain these results.
- E. Torres asked B. Sands to arrange a meeting with our partners to gather resources to distribute to parents who need assistance with understanding the results of an ASQ.
- C. Lederman asked that this topic be added to the next agenda for further discussion.
- L. Carmona stated that while she understands the need for accountability and quality in centers, when we are discussing accreditation as a standard, we are not at the point where we can request that now. We should be looking at Quality

Counts or ECERS as an indicator of quality, instead of holding it exclusively to accreditation. It will destabilize the industry because a lot of centers will not be able to do it. Financially, it will burden the coalition with not only the 20% premium that it would have to pay, but also the cost involved with assisting providers to meet the criteria. There would be financial ramifications to the centers as well.

XII. Adjourn.

- C. Lederman adjourned the meeting.

Monroe County: 2011/2012 Performance Report – August 2011

Outcome	*Indicator*	*Target*	*Y-T-D Actual (7/11 – 6/12)*	*% Achieved Y-T-D*	*% Year Elapsed*	*Comments*	*Data Source*
I. Eligible children birth to five with parental consent are screened using the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Questionnaire (ASQ)	Completion of ASQs (based on the child's date of entry and/or birthdate)	600	138	23%	17%		WHFS
	Percent of ASQs completed timely within 45 days of program entry	100%	15/31	48%	N/A	14- Late submittals 2- Terminations	
	Percent of children with "red flags" who receive an Individual Improvement Plan	100%	6/6	100%	N/A		
	Percent of children with valid "red flags" (with parental consent) who receive Battelle screen Disposition of children with valid "red flags" where Battelle screen not completed	100%	1 5	17%	N/A	2- Moved 1- Went to public school 1- Already receiving services 1- Self-referral to Early Steps	
II. Eligible children birth to five years with agreement providers and parental consent are assessed at pre and post using Creative Curriculum Developmental Continuum Assessment (CCDA)	Completion of pre assessments (Sept – Nov)	450	0	0%	N/A	Pre assessment period is Sept – Nov	WHFS
	Completion of post assessments (March – May)	450	0	0%	N/A	Post assessment period is March – May	
III. Eligible children birth to five with parental consent received a comprehensive child health screening conducted by FKAHEC medical team	Completion of health screening results form	450	0	0	N/A	Fall screening period is Oct - Dec	FKAHEC
IV. School Readiness providers have submitted signed Provider Agreements	Percent of Signed Provider Agreement Forms	100%	20 centers 33 fcchs 53	100%	N/A		ELC Monroe Office
V. Agreement providers, including centers and family child care homes, received a Coalition approved environmental assessment	Completion of environmental assessments	70%	19 center 26 fcchs 45	0	N/A		WHFS
VI. Participating Monroe providers received available Coalition mentoring/inclusion services	Number of provider visits	600	114	19%	17%		ELC Monroe Office
	Number of provider trainings (individual, small or large group)	24	6	25%	17%		

Outcome	*Indicator*	*Target*	*Y-T-D Actual (7/11 – 6/12)*	*% Achieved Y-T-D*	*% Year Elapsed*	*Comments* 8	*Data Source*
VII. Participating VPK providers received a monitoring visit to verify enrollment ratios; confirm the teacher of record on the Form 11 is the current teacher, curriculum of record is being utilized, and Florida Standards are being incorporated	Completion of VPK monitoring tool	9 – District Sites 15- Private Providers	0 0	0% 0%	17% 17%		ELC Monroe Office WHFS
VIII. VPK enrollment increased 5% from the previous 10/11 School Year enrollment (447 unduplicated count)	Generation of Enrollment Report from EFS (Aug '11 – June '12)	469	267	57%	17%	VPK School Year began Aug. 22nd	WHFS

School Year 2011-201 VPK Certificates Issued as of 8/31/11- 515
Percent School Year 2011-2012 VPK Children Enrolled as of 8/31/11- 52%

School Readiness Child Enrollment as of 8/31/11- 678
School Readiness Child Wait List as of 8/31/11- 63
CCEP Enrollment as of 8/31/11- 19

Miami- Dade County: 11/12 Performance Report – August 2011

Outcome	*Indicator*	*Target*	*Y- T- D Actual*	*Percentage/ Difference*	*Comments*	*Data Source*
I. Eligible children birth to five with parental consent are screened using the Ages and Stages Developmental Screening Questionnaire (ASQ)	Completion of ASQs (based on the child's date of entry and/or birth date)	17,500 (annual estimate)	19,671	112%%	On target to meet goal, year-end calculation of actual number enrolled during 2010-11. This contract has been extended until September 30, 2011.	CDS monthly reports
	Number of children with "red flags" who receive an Individual Improvement Plan	100% up to *1700 is reference # (Contract)	Confirmed: • 456 IIPs • 360 were provided follow up services • 200 ILSP • 98 declined by parent **Total 1114** Unconfirmed: 203	65%	1700 is the number of children contracted to provide inclusion services. The number of children needing services is not a fixed number.	
	Number of referrals		188	On-going		
II. Random sample of children with parental consent are assessed at pre and post using Learning Accomplishment Profile-Diagnostic (LAP-D) or the Early Learning Accomplishment Profile (E-LAP) depending on the age of the child.	Completion of pre assessments (Sept – Nov)	450	479	106%	Exceeded goal	CDS monthly reports
	Completion of post assessments (March – May)	450	424	94%	Meets mandate parameters for assessment	

Outcome	*Indicator*	*Target*	*Y- T- D Actual*	*Percentage/ Difference*	*Comments*	*Data Source*
III. Eligible children enrolled in services during managed open enrollment to meet enrollment target.	Number of children enrolled in care.	TBD	24,310		Currently all 6 year olds remain in care until their 7th Birthday.	ELC Weekly Report
IV. Eligible children enrolled in CCEP billing category.	Number of children enrolled in CCEP	900	963	102%	There is currently a waitlist for CCEP enrollment.	ELC Weekly Report
V. School Readiness Providers have submitted signed Provider Agreements	Signed Provider Agreement form	100%	1567/1648	95%		ELC Provider Database
VI Participating Quality Counts providers have completed Performance Improvement Plans	Baseline Rating awarded and QIP entered into WELs system	100%	479 Total Providers 411 Baseline(All Rating types included) 407 QIP	99% of providers rated have a QIP		WELs system
VII Participating VPK providers who received a monitoring visit.	Completion of VPK monitoring tool	496	44 Private 6 MDCPS 50 Total	10%		ELC Monitoring Report
VIII. VPK enrollment	EFS Enrollment Report from EFS	22000	12,413 SY 253 summer	57%		EFS Enrollment Report

School Readiness Child Wait List as of 9/26/2011 - 15,639

School Readiness Child Wait List- Ages Birth to 8 - 13,338 (85%)
Ages Birth to 5 11,442 (73%)

Policies, Procedures, & Forms

Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County

2009-2010-02 Termination of School Readiness Program Provider Certificate

Purpose:
The Early Learning Coalition is required to implement the School Readiness Program standards established by Florida Statute 411.01. The Coalition is committed to ensuring that programs receiving School Readiness Program funds operate in a manner consistent with the intent of the Legislature.

Scope:
This policy applies to each Facility and/or Out-of-School Program that provides child care and/or out-of-school time services to children who receive or are eligible to receive financial assistance from the School Readiness Program. The policy is site specific.

Definitions:

Appeals Committee shall mean a committee consisting of the members of the Coalition Executive Committee and the Coalition Executive Director.

Facility shall mean all centers, family child care homes, license-exempt centers, faith-based, etc. that provide child care services.

Out-of-School Time Programs shall mean all programs that typically serve elementary school age children before and/or after school and during school inter-sessions.

School Readiness Provider Certificate shall mean a document signed annually by all owners/operators of any Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program necessary to be eligible to receive School Readiness Program funds. Such certificate stipulates the requirements a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program must meet in order to maintain its eligibility to receive School Readiness Program funds.

Family Member shall mean any child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and any person sharing the household of any owner and/or operator of a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program.

Related Party shall mean any (i) owner and/or operator of a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program; (ii) beneficial owner of any percentage of a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program; (iii) Family Member of an owner and/or operator of a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program; (iv) an entity which is owned or controlled by someone who falls within the categories listed above in (i), (ii) or (iii); or (v) an entity in which someone listed above in (i), (ii) or (iii) has an ownership interest or controls.

Policy:
It is the policy of the Early Learning Coalition to ensure that all children have access to high-quality early learning and out-of-school time services that promote their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. In order to safeguard children receiving financial assistance from the School Readiness Program any specific location that is found to be in noncompliance with the requirements of the School Readiness Provider Certificate may be ineligible to receive School Readiness funds.

2009-2010-02 Termination of School Readiness Program Provider Certificate

Upon ten (10) days prior written notice from the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County, a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program may lose their eligibility to participate in the School Readiness Program for up to twelve (12) months after the termination of the School Readiness Provider Certificate is ultimately determined.

If the termination occurs due to the imposition of administrative actions initiated by the Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing program, the Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program (including the owner/operator of such Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program) shall not be eligible to apply for participation in the School Readiness Program or receive any funds from such program until such Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program has been free of any administrative actions for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months as determined by the Appeals Committee.

Facilities and/or Out-of-School Time Programs (including the owners/operators of such facilities and programs) that do not adhere to School Readiness Program requirements that are not specifically related to children's health and safety (e.g. Child Care Licensing Regulations) will be required to submit a corrective action plan to the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County. Failure to implement the corrective action plan within the agreed upon time frame may result in the site's loss of eligibility to participate in the School Readiness Program for up to twelve (12) consecutive months.

Transfer of the Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program in any manner to a Related Party shall not be considered a sufficient remedy to avoid termination of the School Readiness Provider Certificate for such Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program. For example, if a specific Facility loses its eligibility to participate in the School Readiness Program for twelve (12) months and the Facility owner attempts to transfer such Facility to a Family Member, such Family Member and the new or old Facility (as the case may be) shall not be eligible to participate in the School Readiness program for the same period of time as the original Facility (twelve (12) months after the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County takes action resulting in the termination of the School Readiness Provider Certificate).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Early Learning Coalition maintains broad discretion with respect to the determination of whether or not a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program is eligible for funding and such determination will be on an individual facts and circumstances basis. For example, the Early Leaning Coalition may determine the transfer of a Facility is still an end-around the penalties described above even if such transfer does not specifically fit the definition of a Related Party transaction.

APPROVED 6/28/2010

Purpose:

The Early Learning Coalition is required to implement the School Readiness Program standards established by Florida Statute 411.01. The Coalition is committed to ensuring that programs receiving School Readiness Program funds operate in a manner consistent with the intent of the Legislature.

Scope:

This policy applies to each Program that provides child care and/or out-of-school time services to children who receive or are eligible to receive financial assistance from the School Readiness Program. The policy is site specific.

Definitions:

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Policy:

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Upon ten (10) days prior written notice from the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program may lose their eligibility to participate in the School Readiness Program for up to twelve (12) months after the termination of the School Readiness Provider Contract is ultimately determined.

If the termination occurs due to the imposition of administrative actions initiated by the Department of Child and Families Care Licensing program, the Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program (including the owner/operator of such Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program) shall not be eligible to apply for participation in the School Readiness Program or receive any funds from such program for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months as determined by the Appeals Committee.

Transfer of the Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program in any manner to a Related Party shall not be considered a sufficient remedy to avoid termination of the School Readiness Provider Certificate for such Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program. For example, if a specific Facility loses its eligibility to participate in the School Readiness Program for twelve (12) months and the Facility owner attempts to transfer such Facility to a Family Member, such Family Member and the new or old Facility (as the case may be) shall not be eligible to participate in the School Readiness program for the same period of time as the original Facility (twelve (12) months after the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe takes action resulting in the termination of the School Readiness Provider Contract).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Early Learning Coalition maintains broad discretion with respect to the determination of whether or not a Facility and/or Out-of-School Time Program is eligible for funding and such determination will be on an individual facts and circumstances basis. For example, the Early Leaning Coalition may determine the transfer of a Facility is still an end-around the penalties described above even if such transfer does not specifically fit the definition of a Related Party transaction.

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties

- Presentation to Program Policy and Strategy Committee– September 27, 2011

- Issue- Feasibility of requiring specified quality level for contracted School Readiness providers

- Chris Duggan- Consultant
- c.dugganconsulting@gmail.com

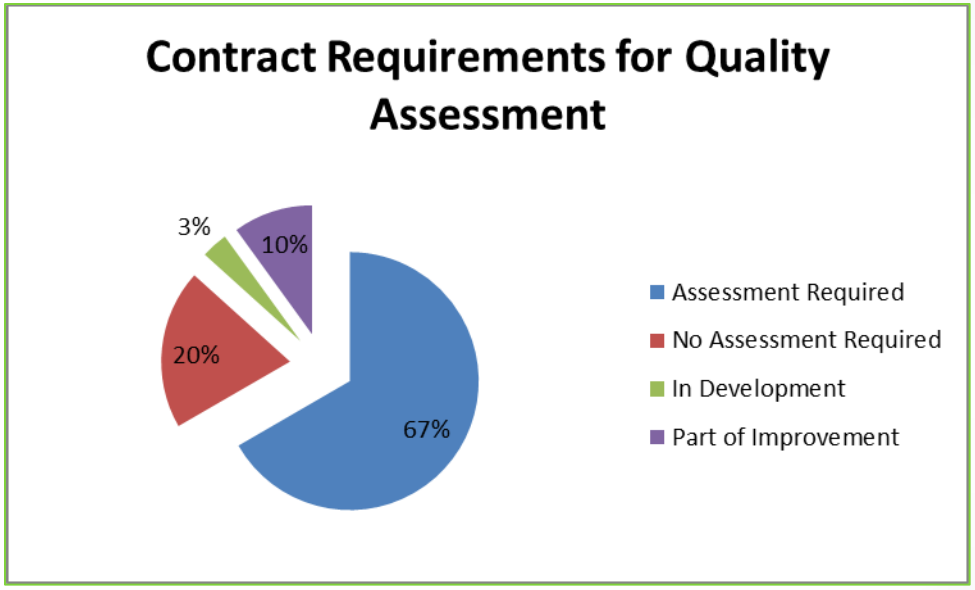
Coalition Survey

70% of the Coalitions are now requiring a standard level of quality for contracting purposes. The actual numbers are listed below:

Assessment Required--20
No Assessment Required--6
Improvement Process-- 3
In Development—1

Currently, the minimum scores required range from 3 to 5 on the Environmental Rating Scale with several of the Coalitions now considering increasing the current score by a percentage point or at least one -half a point.

Three of the Coalitions use a different tool than the ERS and the score required for each of these particular tools range from 85% to 100%.



Review of Other Coalition Models

Sampled Coalitions:

- Early Learning Coalition of Duval County
- Early Learning Coalition of Flagler and Volusia Counties
- Early Learning Coalition of Orange County
- Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend (Leon, Gadsden, Liberty, Wakulla, Taylor, Jefferson and Madison).

While the models are very different in the implementation process, the overall goals were consistent.

- *Each Coalition has an expectation that if a child care program is going to serve SR children, the provider must be willing to ensure a level of quality that is established by the Coalition.*
- *This standard level of quality helps ensure that the children participating in the program are well taken care of and that the program offers developmentally appropriate programming.*

Lessons Learned

Flagler- Volusia:

- Board Chair and members' leadership is critical to success.
- Another critical factor is buy-in by the providers.
- This Coalition used a system of phasing in a couple of sub scales at a time for all the providers rather than phasing in a group of providers at a time.

Orange:

- Plan ahead!
- Contact other coalitions and use their lessons.

Big Bend

- Important to promote the whole quality system as a parent education tool rather than only a provider accountability system.
- Need to have adequate funding to implement well.
- Hard work for staff that do assessments so you need to focus on team development and training.
- Use innovative technology to speed up the record keeping and improvement plan process.

Lessons Learned, cont.

Duval:

- To implement a Quality Assessment correctly is a very expensive process especially if you do it universally.
- Be sure to take the time to do it well, developing provider and community buy-in and Board support.
- To maintain well trained staff with inter-rater reliability is challenging.
- A great deal of time is spent on team building between the assessment staff and the technical assistance staff.
- Be sure to establish effective communication systems and protocols.
- The providers, parents and community need to be educated about importance of improving quality and the Board needs to be informed about the results of the assessments and the efforts to improve.
- Be prepared for challenges and lawsuits. One of the best ways to be prepared for this is to have the Board Attorney involved from the beginning.

Florida's State CCDF* Plan Part- 5.1, 6

Monitoring of Compliance with Licensing & Regulatory Requirements

The AWI Office of Early Learning, early learning coalitions, and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) use Child Care and Development Fund resources to support quality activities that relate to monitoring and compliance with licensing and regulatory requirements.

Activities:

Early learning coalitions develop evaluation plans and monitor early learning programs. Many use Environment Rating Scales to assess programs, plan technical assistance and training, and evaluate improvements. In addition, local Early Learning Coalition Plans require the development of outcome measures for each plan element.

*** CCDF (658D(b)(1)(D), 658E(c)(3)(B), §§98.13(a), 98.16(h))**

Quality Care & Parental Choice

ACF has issued a Policy Interpretation Question (PIQ) document*, providing clarification on the issue of School Readiness agencies requiring child care providers meet a designated level of quality services .

The PIQ states that a top priority of the federal child care agency is to ensure that:

> *Parents receiving subsidies have access to high quality child care arrangements across different types of providers that foster healthy development and learning for children. In order to be meaningful, the parental choice requirement should give parents high quality child care options.*

**CCDF-ACF-PIQ-2011-01*

Quality Care & Parental Choice, cont.

Child care agencies should collect and disseminate to parents and the general public consumer education information that will promote informed child care choices across a range of providers. To the extent that quality improvement systems assess and rate the quality of child care settings, these systems provide an important mechanism for meeting this requirement

The PIQ goes on to state that an *additional requirement is that the quality requirements may not have the effect of limiting parent choice for the families receiving child care subsidy.*

The child care agency may utilize capacity studies to analyze the need for child care as a way ensuring adequate child care options across all types of care, including: different categories of care (center, group, family, and in-home) and types of providers (non-profit, for-profit, sectarian, and relatives.

School Readiness Act

The Coalition operates within the statutory authority that is established in F.S. 411.01- the School Readiness Act and the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten legislation (s. 1002.52-1002.79, F.S.). The broad scope of responsibilities includes the oversight and delivery of local early education services including School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs. The specific statutory language follows:

F.S. 411.01 (5) (c) 2

Each Early Learning Coalition must implement a comprehensive program of school readiness services in accordance with the rules adopted by the office which enhance the cognitive, social, and physical development of children to achieve the performance standards and outcome measures.

School Readiness Act, cont.

At a minimum, these programs must contain the following system support service elements:

- *Developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to enhance the age-appropriate progress of children in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Office of Early Learning under subparagraph (4)(d)8.*
- *Character development program to develop basic values.*
- *Age-appropriate screening of each child's development Age-appropriate assessment administered to children when they leave the program.*
- *Appropriate staff-to-children ratio, pursuant to s. 402.305(4) or s. 402.302(8) or (11), as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311.*
- *Healthy and safe environment pursuant to s. 401.305(5), (6), and (7), as applicable, and as verified pursuant to s. 402.311.*
- *Resource and referral network established under s. 411.0101 to assist parents in making an informed choice and a regional Warm-Line under s. 411.01015*

Child Care Licensing

The local agency that provides this service is the Child Care Licensing office of DCF serving Miami- Dade County.

Currently, the Coalition monitors the Class I and Class II licensing violations, because the policy requires the Coalition to suspend a SR provider if they receive at least 1 Class I or three or more Class II's (in the same substandard).

This policy went into effect July 1, so the first suspensions are now being addressed. The Policy is not retroactive, but is effective going forward from July 1, 2011.

School Readiness Contract

The School Readiness contract that is currently utilized by the Coalition is modeled after the statewide SR contract that the Association of Early Learning Coalitions approved this past year. In fact, elements of the Miami-Dade contract were incorporated into the statewide contract.

The current contract already has elements that would enable the Coalition to perform quality assessments as a requirement of the contracting process.

The authority to establish quality standards is provided to the Coalition through the F.S. 411. 02 and the Coalition has the responsibility to ensure quality standards as stated in the contract.

Relevant Contract Items

I (3)

Provider certifies that each location at which Provider offers the SR program meets all of the qualifications and requirements for offering the SR program established by statute, rule, and this Contract at all times Provider offers the SR program.

Provider agrees that failure to comply with all of the qualifications and requirements for offering the SR program at all times at any location at which Provider offers the SR program may result in ineligibility to offer the SR program at that location and termination of this Contract in whole or in part.

Relevant Contract Items, cont.

III (7)

The Coalition will ensure that all requirements of this Contract are met, providing information and assistance as specified in this Contract and monitoring the Provider for compliance.

The Coalition, its designee and its Contracted Service Provider will monitor the Provider for compliance with all federal, and state laws, federal regulations, Agency rules, regulations and policies, and Coalition policies and procedures.

Relevant Contract Items, cont.

III (9)

The Provider agrees to permit the Coalition, its designee, and AWI to enter the Provider's facility during hours of operation to verify the Provider's compliance with this contract, School Readiness procedures as set forth in federal and state law, and AWI policies and procedures. This paragraph does not authorize the Coalition to enforce licensing requirements under section 402.302-402.319 F.S. or impose any requirement beyond this contract

IV (20)

The Provider agrees to utilize an approved developmentally appropriate curriculum and an approved character development program that support the implementation of the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards.

Relevant Contract Item, cont.

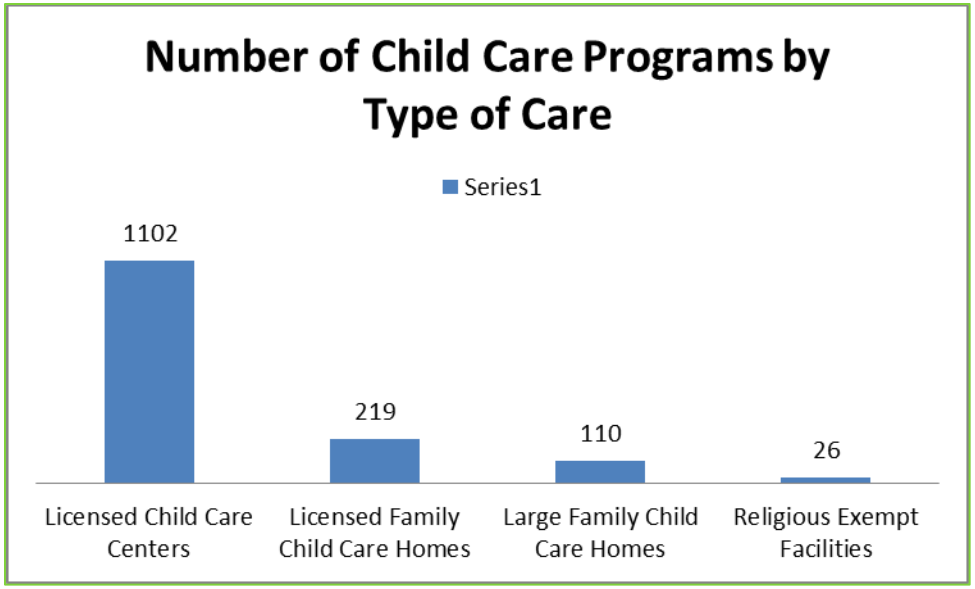
VIII (50)

The Provider agrees that the Coalition may require corrective action if the Provider fails to comply with all federal and state laws, federal regulations, Agency rules, regulations, and policies, or this Contract.

The Coalition will notify the Provider in writing of the failure to comply with the preceding requirements, prior to requiring corrective action. The notice shall state the manner in which the Provider failed to comply with said requirements and state a date by which the corrective action must be completed. The Coalition may temporarily withhold funds until the Provider completes the corrective action.

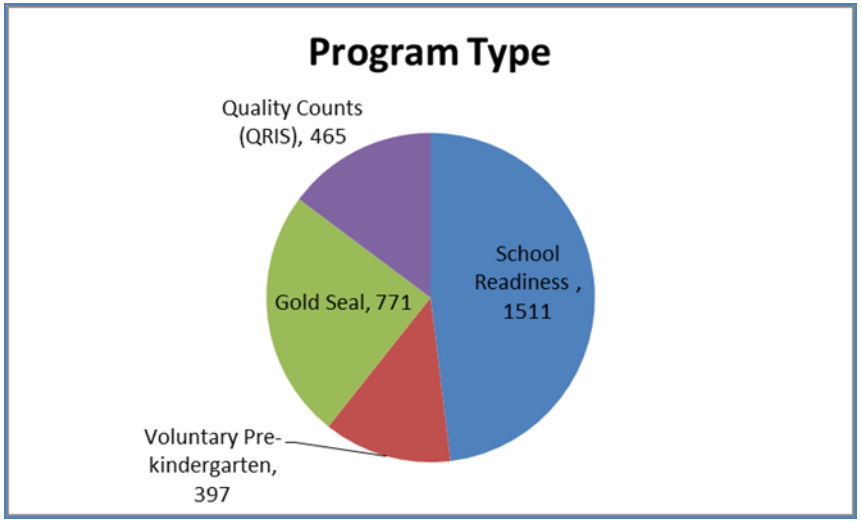
If the Provider fails to complete the corrective action by the completion date, the Coalition may terminate this Contract or permanently withhold funds for the period the Provider was not in compliance, after notifying the Provider in writing by certified mail with return receipt requested at least 14 calendar days before the funds are withheld or before terminating this Contract. If the Provider refuses delivery of the notification, the Coalition shall document it and may terminate this Contract. Actions taken under this paragraph are subject to dispute resolution as described in the Contract.

Child Care by Care Type



Number of informal providers: 16

Child Care by Program Type



Next Steps

- Form Quality Assessment Process Workgroup and hold initial planning meetings.
- Develop recommendation for assessment processes.
- Provide estimated cost of recommended process.
- Provide proposed project schedule, inclusive of pilot project period, evaluation of results and implementation schedule.