



ELC Programs Committee Meeting  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 3:00 PM

**Committee Attendees:** Dr. Judy Schaechter and Imran Ali (via conference call), Bob Eadie (via conference call)

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres, Dr. Anabel Espinosa, Dr. Chemika Burkhalter, Kerry Allen, Fiorella Altare, Lisa Sanabria, Lidia Clarke, Wilfredo Ayala, Lucy Schrack, Angelo Parrino

**I. Minutes**

- a. Quorum was not established, minutes were not approved

**II. Quality Counts**

- Discussion around Gold Seal reimbursement which pays accredited providers a 20% differential above normal school readiness rates
  - E. Torres stated that the 20% increase due to accreditation has been questioned “is there a return on our money spent”?
  - J. Schaechter suggested that once the ELC has reached a 60-70% of accredited childcare centers and family homes, the ELC should focus the money in other areas.
  - E. Torres suggested setting tiers within this accreditation and will discuss further at the strategic planning retreat.

**III. Early Head Start**

- Discussion around Jackson Hospital’s role as medical partner to Early Head Start’s 750 children and their families
  - Current referrals stand at more than 700
  - The children are being monitored through the Childplus reporting system. Jackson Hospital nurse navigators monitor immunization, doctors’ visits, etc.
  - J. Schaechter suggested that EHS track children after enrollment so there is no gaps in medical.
  - It was stated that during initial interview for enrollment all medical questions are asked.
  - Jackson hospital has reported having a difficult time getting parents to accept the help offered.
  - Jackson hospital united to show partnership and has created a flyer to place in newborn to go bags.



- The Early Head Start Policy Council is meeting the last Thursday of each month. The February meeting was hosted by Cuban National Council and the March meeting is being hosted by Miami Children's Initiative

#### **IV. Professional Development Institute**

- The PDI main focus continues to be enrollment and attendance at the VPK Core Course trainings and the VPK Teaching Strategies Gold trainings. Teaching Strategies Gold is a formative assessment that is required for all VPK providers for the 2015-2016 school year.
- The PDI has added a new training tract: Learning Language and Loving It The Hanen Program® for Early Childhood Educators. PDI hosted a Train the Trainer course for 13 participants in January, 2016. Learning Language and Loving It provides a three-pronged, comprehensive approach aimed at children birth to three (3):
  - Decreasing the word gap, and increasing access to language development in everyday social routines
  - Prevention of Language Delays for children at risk and second-language learners;
  - Early Language Intervention for children with language delays.

#### **V. Screening/Inclusion/ASQ's/Warm Line**

- Dr. Espinosa reported that implementation of all recommendations from the Inclusion Workgroup is well underway. This includes revision of intake forms, improved data tracking and referral loops. Staff training to complete the implementation process is set for April and May
- J. Schaechter inquired if the intake form is nationally validated. Response: The intake form was retrofitted based on input from CCDH, a local, disabilities focused, agency.
- A. Espinosa stated that past due ASQ's is down dramatically. The Assessment team has been reviewing non-compliance reports and providing telephone and on-site technical assistance to providers.
  - 1 Provider payment was withheld in February
  - 10 Provider payments are projected to be withheld for March

#### **VI. Health Priorities**

- An extensive conversation was conducted around the setting of health priorities
  - Obesity
  - E-Cigarettes
  - Medical Homes
  - Vision/Hearing
  - Dental
  - Safe Sleep
- I. Ali suggested we focus on obesity, hearing & vision and SIDS
- J. Schaechter stated that the E-cigarettes are very dangerous and should be one of the ELC's main focus. She also suggested firearm locks, vision & hearing and safe sleep