



Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2015
2:00-3:00 PM

Summary: The Strategic Planning Committee met to review pertinent information related to the ELC's current Strategic Plan. The Executive Director shared background information on how the current Strategic Plan was centered on its priority of placing children first. The Executive Director then proceeded to provide an update of progress of the ELC's first and second priorities establish in the 2013-2014 to give board members an understanding of work efforts.

The Executive Director followed up with information regarding reducing the waitlist for the School Readiness program and that for the first time since 2009 would be able to request a payment increase to providers.

Information was then shared regarding current capacity for the School Readiness program and based on current data from the University of Florida, both Miami and Monroe counties had more available child care slots than children so capacity is not an issue.

Information was also shared showing the ELC's Payment Rates compared to the rest of the country including DC. It highlighted how depressed the market is due to the low payment rates and that it is difficult to be able to afford quality on the School Readiness Provider Payment Rate alone.

The Executive Director then shared that many times when payment rate increases have come up with providers have chosen to serve more children instead. This led to more information being shared regarding the breakout of where School Readiness children are attending and the actual cost of their care. This data shows that many parents are having to pay beyond the required co-payment to make up the difference between what the ELC reimburses and the provider's private pay rate. Discussions also took place regarding how at this time there are no barriers to entry for providers which makes it difficult for the ELC to direct parents to quality child care settings.

The Executive Director than shared information regarding funding sources and then a breakout of ELC spending. Of note was the fact that the coalition spends 85% of funding in child care slots, while the state mandate is 78%. This allows the ELC to consider potentially reducing the percentage funded in child care slots to utilize money in other areas such as quality or outreach and awareness. The Executive Director shared that he has had two occasions in the community that the ELC was

not recognizable as a substantial community presence in the work that it does and that outreach in the community may be a good investment, especially if the ELC wants to reinvigorate the ELC Foundation and collect private funding.

This information created a discussion about how the ELC can promote quality with parents and how the ELC can support providers through technical assistance. Topics included helping providers identify other funding through grants, creating provider budgeting tools, completing needs assessments by zip codes, creating a mentor/mentee system and conducting grant-writing workshops for providers.

In order to accomplish this and determine other potential priorities it was asked that Angelo Parrino prepare information for the Strategic Planning Committee that outlines how much money a reduction in child care slot percentages could free up to prioritize some of these other activities.

The Strategic Planning Committee then requested that staff put together an agenda for the April 27th conference call to continue discussing the ELC's Strategic Planning efforts.