

**Provider Meeting Notes
September 17, 2009
Manatee United Methodist Church**

Ange Harber welcomed the attendees.

Provider Advisory Group 12:00 noon – 12:30 pm then continuing 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm

- Some providers feel that questions need to be asked of classroom staff before ELC leaves after an ERS observation, and some preliminary comments be given to directors prior to ELC scoring the observation. Can questions be asked about missing equipment, missing diversity or safety issues for example before ending the assessment? This has already been discussed with Pam Parmenter and Susan Crowley. It was reported that the VPK monitor, Cari Whiddon, does conduct exit interviews. All providers felt that at least safety issues should be discussed. Please notify ELC (Pam Parmenter) in a timely manner if you do not feel ELC staff asked you enough questions.
- Ange announced that there is a Public Meeting being held in Clearwater on Monday, September 21, to discuss proposed changes to the **VPK Readiness Rates**. There are seats available on the ELC van for those who wish to attend but not drive on their own.
- The kindergarten testing process was discussed.
 - Most providers felt that:
 - 30 days in to kindergarten is not enough time for children to fully adjust to this new environment AND to score well on the tests.
 - a test should be done while child is still in VPK class, to compare with those attained in the kindergarten testing, (a pre and post test type system).
 - It was reported that some facilities around the state are turning children away from their VPK class, so they don't get a "bad score."
 - Some providers run their VPK program through January, so this time, added to the summer months, makes retention difficult for some of the children.
- Ange stated that she had some on-site training recently. A discussion of needing training that provides CEUs for credential renewal followed. The ELC needs a minimum of 5 participants for onsite training. Contact Lissa Ledbetter of ELC for more information. Facilities located near each other can combine for this. Are CEUs actually required, or is the formula used with by TIPS program, 10 hours equals one CEU, acceptable for renewal?
- Ange requests that providers email her with suggestions for Provider Meeting training topics. aharber@elc-manatee.org
- A provider reported that for the Introductory 40 plus 5 training, SCTI is incorporating the tests into a short timeframe after the course was completed. Could we not set this up here? A question was asked as to how providers handle the cost, do they have staff pay? Some do, via written agreement in advance by employees.
- Ange was contacted by the Bradenton Herald regarding Swine flu, (H1N1 Virus). Pam Parmenter pulled information from the CDC web-site. There is also an "Influenza Information Sheet" on the DCF web-site, in English and Spanish. Your parents must sign that they have received this and you must retain their signatures in their child's file.
- The "Know Your Child Care Center" brochure can be found on the web-site, and printed as needed.
- Issues were given to Pam Parmenter to take back to ELC for responses:
 1. Is there a new form from Jobs, Etc.? It is a form that the parents have filled out, and it does not have a list of referrals. It was presented to A Child's Galaxy.
 2. Faxes are not arriving consistently.
 3. From what date is the ELC now enrolling off the wait list?
 4. If a parent (whose recertification date is 5 months away) is not attending, and a provider notifies ELC of the non-attendance and no contact, is that parent supposed to be terminated off the SR funding? One provider stated that she did notify ELC about a

parent not attending, and the child's name appeared on the attendance forms for the next two months. She claimed that the ELC staff told her the parent was eligible to receive funds until the recertification date.

5. If a parent is terminated from the funding, how long does it take to allocate those termed funds to a new family?
6. Training / information on writing grants was requested.

Provider Meeting Training 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

ELC Education Team (Cheryl Francis, Lissa Ledbetter, and Erin Sutton) presented "Responding To Families Under Stress." A Power Point presentation and some role playing exercises were featured. Discussions included:

- Avoid being overly critical, belittling or judgmental. We do not want to add to a family's stress.
- Be clear about what you need or want, and why. Use a variety of reminders to communicate needs to parents, newsletters, and notes, verbally in person and through phone calls.
- Be a good role model.
- Above all remember this-----
Let it be **O.V.E.R.:**
(use) **O**pen ended Questions
 Validate feelings
(listen to) **E**xplanations
 Reassure
- Some of Becky Bailey's approaches were mentioned. She emphasizes positive physical touch to help send messages to the brain. ELC has developed a training on this subject and can offer it on-site.
- ELC Education Team is planning to send out a survey soon, and could hold trainings on Saturdays if desired by enough providers.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2009
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Manatee United Methodist Church
315 15th Street East
Bradenton, FL 34208
RSVP to aharber@elc-manatee.org