

Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services
Children's Services Division
Education Advisory Committee
March 21, 2007
Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Leah Shapiro	Barbara O'Laughlin	Linda Coping
Maria Gonzalez	Fessie McChristian	Veronica Jackson
Octavia Durham	Elysia Aufmuth	Cass Wolfe
Stephania Koliarakis	Bonnie Kisielewski	Ekoi Florence
Allen Rosales	Duane Kirksey	Laura Barnes
Earnestine Carr-Thomas	Jacinta Passamentt	Mandal Nailer
Sandra Gonzalez-Murray	Jennifer Alexander	Stacy Peterson
Jody Anderson	Carrie Clark	Tiffany Montley
Denise Jordan	Camille Gant	Sandra Rumbler
Wei Lian Xian	G. Clear	Anya Robinson
V. Taylor		

I. Welcome

Members of the Education Advisory Committee were welcomed by acting Co-Chair Jennifer Diamond, for Co-Chair Derbert Plaza who was unable to attend the meeting. Co-Chair, Janet Williamson, CYS, was also unable to attend and Jody Anderson, Support Services Coordinator for CYS was asked to act as Co-Chair in her behalf. Committee members then introduced themselves. Laura Barnes and Carrie Clark, CYS Support Services Coordinators were identified as note takers.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 21, 2007 Education Advisory Committee meeting were distributed and reviewed. Camille Gant motioned to approve the minutes with no corrections and Allen Rosales seconded the motion.

III. CYS/CSD Report

There will be a satellite broadcast of the results from the Fall 2006 NRS assessment including the new Social Emotional component on March 22, 2007. Delegate agencies who have access to satellite are encouraged to tune in. The entire broadcast may be posted on the Head Start Information website within the next week. There are many legislators who have made a recommendation to suspend the NRS as part of federal Head Start Reauthorization, however there has been no final decision. There are approximately 2,700 Head Start programs and 410,000 4 and 5 year-olds expected to take the NRS this year. The CYS city-wide reports indicate that our Head Start children are performing at the national average.

In preparation for the 2008 Head Start Federal Review, CYS Support Services Coordinators will be utilizing the PRISM on site visits to help ensure programs are operating in compliance with Head Start Performance standards.

A flyer was available for distribution to Committee member from National Louis University who will be holding a Town Hall Event on Sexual Orientation and Gender in Early Childhood on March 11th from 5 pm to 7 pm at 122 S. Michigan Ave.

CYS staff attended a follow up training with CPS Education Managers on a new Early Childhood program that includes a curriculum called Blueprint and a literacy initiative called Message Time Plus (MTP). MTP is a modeled writing and shared reading instructional program for pre-kindergarten through second grade. The program is currently being piloted in three of CPS's early childhood programs. CYS is exploring the possibility of utilizing the program as a resource.

The National Head Start Family Literacy Center has initiated a new family literacy program called SPARC (Strengthening Partnerships and Resources in Communities). This new initiative is funded by a grant from the Office of Head Start through the Department of Health and Human Services. CYS was selected to participate from the Region V area. The CYS SPARC team consist of CYS staff, a community partner and a parent. Additional information will be provided as we learn more.

CYS provided copies of a video by Judy Helms on Authentic Assessment Training. CYS has additional copies and will bring more to the next meeting. Copies of a book by Bev Bos entitled *Tumbling Over The Edge* were also available; it is not clear if additional copies will be available.

Committee members were encouraged to register for "From Good to Great" a follow-up workshop for participants who attended the ECER-S training last year. This training will provide participants with an understanding of the ECER-S tool and how programs can use it to improve program quality.

IV. Presentations

Allen Rosales of Christopher House held a discussion on teacher-child interaction as an integral part of NAEYC accreditation. He explained his approach to encouraging reading skills in children by identifying the characteristics of good readers including the ability to question the material, visualize the story, and make connections between background knowledge and new material. In addition he outlined the stages of inquiry by teachers which are, closed questioning, questions on new content with background knowledge, and questions on new content with no background knowledge. He also showed video clips of teacher-child interaction from some of Christopher House's classrooms showcasing these techniques.

Caroline Sanchez Crozier of CSC Learning presented information on the Headsprout Early Reading system, a research-based online reading program for kindergarten through eighth grade. Materials were distributed and Ms. Crozier provided business cards.

V. Announcements

Sandra Gonzalez-Murray, CYS Support Services Coordinator informed the committee of the upcoming Parent Involvement training for School-Age Programs training on March 28th, from 10am to 1pm at St. John of God, 1514 S. Elizabeth.

Maria Gonzalez stated that COPA registration is open for the upcoming Math and Science trainings, as well as the Step (advanced) training.

Ernestine Carr-Thomas addressed her concern over the difficulty in conducting home visits with working parents. Committee members were asked to share any helpful techniques.

CYS Children Services staff currently working at the Garfield and King sites will all soon be working at the 1615 West Chicago central office. The Education staff will be relocated to the west side of the floor (Receptionist area) from the east side (computer lab area).

VI. Next Meeting Date

The next Education Advisory Committee meeting will be on April 18, 2007 at the Center for Early Education from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.