

**Chicago Department of Children and Youth Services
Children Services Division
Education Advisory Committee
September 17, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

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| Dawn Delgado, Metropolitan Family | Ericka Robinson, St. Paul |
| Cass Wolfe, Carole Robertson Center | Derbert Plaza, Catholic Charities |
| Kim Shelton, LSSI | Ann E. Bunche, Gads Hill Center |
| Barbara O'Laughlin, CCEE | Carrie Clark, CYS |
| Jody Anderson, CYS | Rhonda Gumbel-Thomas CYS//CPS |
| Jill Hoffsted, CYS/CPS | Toccara Taylor, Easter Seals NSS |
| Lacricia Wortham, Easter Seals NSS | Vedia Shaw, Easter Seals NSS |
| Sandra Gonzalez Murray, CYS | Dorothy Coleman, CCC |
| Mary Beltran, Onward House | Marvel Spain, Tiny Town for Tots |
| Martha Figueroa, El Valor | Jacqueline Jordan, Trinity Resources |
| Anndrella Lee, Lee's Cuddles N Care | Leaetta Brumfield, Home of Life |
| Charles Ann Steward, Abraham Lincoln | Debora Walder, South Shore United |
| We Lian Xiam, Chinese American | Tameka Gavin, Easter Seals |
| Dion Rogers, CYC | Verlene Vanderbilt, Onward House |
| Evelyn Richardson, Henry Booth House | Earnestine Thomas, Salvation Army |
| Camille Gant, Westside Holistic | Rosie Macias, El Valor |
| Altermease Hollins, Gads Hill | Terry Woodsor, Mary Crane Center |
| Tiffany Motley, CYS | Jacinta Passamentt, CYS |
| Rhonda Freeman, Metropolitan Family | Danielle James, Salvation Army |
| Mary Kaleta, Harold Washington College | Margaret Jordan, CYS |
| Sue Reynolds (Consultant), El Valor | Sonja Anthony, North Avenue |
| Bonnie Bonnie Kisielewski, Chicago Commons | Ekoi Florence, Trinity United |
| Charla Mosley, Trinity United | Yolanda Harris, Chicago State |
| Doris Brisker White, Douglas Tubman | Allen Rosales, Christopher House |
| Etheal Gore, Ada S. McKinley | Stephenia Koliarakis, Howard Area |

I. Welcome - Better Boys Foundation

Belvon Walker, Site Director – Better Boys Foundation welcomed the members of the Education Advisory Committee to their new home. Ms. Walker detailed the programs and services available to community residents at the Better Boys Foundation (BBF). BBF offers an after-school support program, counseling, teen programming and scholarship opportunities.

II. Welcome

Committee members were welcomed by co-chairs Denise Jordan, CYS and Derbert Plaza, Catholic Charities. Committee members were asked to introduce themselves.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 18th, 2008 Education Advisory Committee Meeting were distributed and reviewed. Cass Wolfe, Carole Robertson Center for Learning, motioned to approve the minutes and Barbara O'Laughlin, Chicago Center for Early Education seconded the motion.

IV. Note Taker

Laura Young was identified as the note taker for the meeting.

V. Presentations

Natalie Bortoli, Chicago Children's Museum, offered information on the upcoming CYS/Chicago Children's Museum training series entitled "Back to Basics". Ms. Bortoli outlined the objectives of the training, which are to enhance teachers' understanding of the play-learning connection, child-initiated learning, intentional/meaningful conversation and building math and science skills. "Back to Basics" will be an eight part series, designed for teachers to attend the entire series. Registration will be available on COPA.

Nancy Plaskett, Chicago Children's Museum, shared information on the community programs available through the Chicago Children's Museum. Ms. Plaskett stated that every Thursday from 5 – 8 pm is Free Family Night. Ms. Plaskett went on to explain the benefits of the Group Pass and Family Pass programs, which are available for 501C3 community based organizations. In addition, Ms. Plaskett went over the Community Family Membership program, which allows 501C3 community based organizations to register families for a full annual membership at a cost of \$10.00. Registration periods are in October and May, with the current deadline being October 31st, 2008. For more information on these and other programs, please contact Nancy Plaskett at 312-464-7651 or email at nancyp@chicagochildrensmuseum.org.

Gayle Mindes, DePaul University, presented information on the DePaul Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education (BAECE). The program is a partnership between the School for New Learning (SNL) and the School of Education at DePaul. The program is designed to assist adults working in early childhood education to obtain a Bachelors degree (BA) and state certification. The program is hoping to enroll a cohort of CYS teachers to begin in January of 2009. The BAECE will be geared to adult learners, with extensive support including free workshops for the basic skills test. DePaul is currently working on a credit transfer agreement with City Colleges. There will be two upcoming information sessions at the DePaul Loop Campus on October 22nd @ 6:30 p.m. and on October 25th @ 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Mindes also distributed information on the DePaul School of Education's Teaching and Learning program which is designed to enable college graduates with a bachelor's degree in a field other than education to complete an M.Ed or M.A. in Education.

VI. CYS Administrative Update – Denise Jordan

Committee members were informed that CYS has not yet received a formal report on the Federal Review.

The National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL) is launching an initiative for Super Grantees to train Education Coordinators on promoting family literacy using research-based practices; a flyer was distributed. The initiative is being planned for January 2009 and will include five sessions over a course of fifteen weeks.

Commissioner Mary Ellen Caron would like for the members of the Education Committee to recommend teachers who they feel would be a good candidate to participate on an advisory committee. Please contact Denise Jordan with your recommendations and she may be reached at 312-743-1750, djordan@cityofchicago.org.

Through a partnership with Emerald City Theatre, CYS is developing an initiative intended to incorporate drama and fine arts into the classroom. Ten selected classrooms will have the opportunity to take a field trip to see the Emerald City Theatre production of *If You Take a Mouse to School*. They will also receive 6-8 classroom support sessions where Emerald City teaching artists will assist the teacher and children in putting on a dramatic performance for parents. A larger audience, including teachers participating in the initiative, will take part in two professional development sessions with teaching artists from the theatre company.

A focus group was formed to develop the selection criteria to be used for the CYS/Emerald City initiative. Focus group members include Dorothy Coleman, Jackie Jordan and Alan Rosales.

Participants were briefed on the now completed CYS Safe Summer Program. CYS received a portion of a five million dollar grant from the State of Illinois to develop and/or implement a program in hopes that it would keep the children ages 6 to 12 and teen workers, ages 16 and older, engaged in a positive activity during the summer. The teachers and teen workers received training on a Peace Curriculum (developed by CYS) which was implemented throughout the program. CYS Support Services Coordinators gave comments on their impressions of the program. The teen workers were not only encouraged to assist in conducting the lessons in the Peace Curriculum, but to incorporate them into their own lives.

Committee members were encouraged to nominate outstanding teachers from their agencies for the Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award. Applications were distributed to individuals interested in nominating teachers.

A Dual Language Institute will be offered at the end of October 2008 for pre-selected delegate agencies. Delegate agencies that have at least sixty percent of their children as English language learners were targeted.

CYS Support Services Coordinator Carrie Clark will be taking emails from committee members with suggestions for the Education Advisory Committee Meeting agenda. Those interested in suggesting agenda items may reach Ms. Clark at 312/743-3635 or by email carriec Clark@cityofchicago.org.

VII. Committee Vote

Committee members voted to move the starting time for the Education Advisory Committee Meetings from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The meeting will now take place from 9:00 – 11:00a.m. Members were informed that the new location of the Better Boys Foundation at 1512 S. Pulaski will remain as the regular meeting location.

VIII. Training – Deb Zapalik

Participants were reminded that Education Cluster meetings were starting. Education Coordinators should check with their CYS Support Services Coordinator for their designated date and time.

For the '08-'09 program year, staff credentials and transportation and pedestrian safety will be focused on and strengthened. An important aspect, bus evacuation drills, must take place before the program's first field trip. CYS is compiling a list of vendors willing to allow the drills to take place on their buses. A completed list will be posted on COPA.

Committee members were asked to save the dates August 20th and 21st, 2009 for next year's Back to School Kickoff. CYS is looking into designing a conference style format with differing workshop tracks for the Kickoff.

The CYS training calendar for education has been completed through December 2008. The next calendar which will include January – August, 2009 will be available this November.

Committee members were asked to be sure when registering for training on COPA to check the intended audience. There have been some issues with COPA in regards to the registration of participants not "closing" when registration has met its maximum; another issue being staff registering for trainings that may not necessarily fit their needs.

The upcoming CYS/Chicago Children's Museum training series entitled "Back to Basics" will be offered for sixty teachers. There will be West and South side locations with space for thirty teachers each. The specific locations are to be announced, however the first and last session will be at the Chicago Children's Museum; parking will be complimentary. The training series will be focused for preschool teachers and will be at an intermediate level of subject matter. Teachers who register will be expected to attend all sessions as they will be progressive and build on previous material. Agencies are asked not to "rotate" teachers throughout the series as the training series should be viewed like a course, delving deeper than a one-time workshop. More information on "Back to Basics" will be shared in cluster sessions.

IX. Early Head Start – Jacinta Passamentt

The second half of the four day training, The Creative Curriculum for Infants, Toddlers and Two's for Program Administrators will be held on October 2nd and 3rd, 2008.

Participants are asked to bring their assessment kits to the training which will be held from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at CYS Central Office.

CYS is currently exploring an online CDA program which will be geared to Infant-Toddler teachers. There will be more information to come.

X. School Age – Margaret Jordan

The School Age committee met on October 16th, 2008. Luis Rios, CYS attended the meeting to explain the fiscal audit process and to advise the committee on developing management plans as well as risk management plans. Mr. Rios also challenged the group to come together to develop/adopt a curriculum approach. CYS Support Services Coordinators shared their new monitoring tool for school age programs with the group.

Hartgrove Hospital trainings will resume on a monthly basis beginning on October 24th, 2008.

The School Age committee will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at the Better Boys Foundation, 1512 S. Pulaski.

XI. Disabilities – Rhonda Gumbel-Thomas

There have been changes to the delegate agency assignments on the CYS Disabilities Team. If you have any questions about who is assigned to your agency, you may call Rhonda Gumbel-Thomas at 312-743-0771.

The Disabilities Services Policies and Procedures Manual is being updated and will be available on COPA by September 19th, 2008.

The Disabilities Services Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for December 12th, 2008 at Malcolm X College will include a tutorial on entering disabilities information into COPA.

The ESI-R order has been placed. The CYS Disabilities Team will contact sites when the kits are ready for pick-up at CYS.

All Agencies must re-apply to participate in the paraprofessional project in order to ensure that paraprofessionals are distributed efficiently. There is an application form available on COPA and the deadline for an application is September 30th, 2008. Application forms may be faxed to Rhonda Gumbel-Thomas at 312-743-1685.

Training on the role of the Disabilities Coordinator will be held on October 23rd, 2008 at King Center.

StarNet will be holding training on Modification and Individualization on November 21st, 2008 at West Side Tech. This training is geared to teachers with children with an IEP.

XII. Professional Development Advocacy Council (PDAC) – Cass Wolfe

Illinois Gateways to Opportunity is now offering two statewide credentials, the ECE/Core and Infant Toddler. Those interested can access ilgateways.com for more information on the credentials, a state-wide training registry and for other resources such as a job board.

The TEACH program has been replaced by Gateways to Opportunity scholarships. These scholarships are available for teachers, assistant teachers, directors and assistant directors. There is a 9-15 credit hour commitment with bonuses issued for those reaching the credit hour commitment and upon degree completion. These scholarships are not available with all colleges.

XIII. Harold Washington College – Mary Kaleta

Harold Washington College is working with Illinois Gateways to Opportunity to become an approved credentialing program.

Harold Washington College has enrolled its largest CDA cohort ever.

For more information on applying for the CDA program and to access a course catalog on CD, Mary Kaleta may be reached via email at mkaleta@ccc.edu.