

# High Quality Early Education for Dependent Youth Collaborative

August 2, 2018

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## I. Introductions

## II. Vision and Mission

- a. **Vision:** All zero- to five-year-old dependent youth in Hillsborough County will receive a high quality early education.
- b. **Mission:** Through strategic collaboration, we will identify the barriers to achieving our vision, design solutions to overcome those barriers, and implement those solutions for our zero- to five-year-old dependent youth.

## III. Announcements

- a. Trauma Symposium with Dr. Felitti of the ACES Study, Naples Grand Beach Resort on 8/6/18 from 1:30pm – 7pm
- b. Dependency Summit, 9/5/18 – 9/17/18 at the JW Marriot Grand Lakes, Orlando
- c. Ebony Miller (USF St. Pete) provided an update on HQEEDY C6. Their project to train child care providers is making progress. They are moving trainings on site at the center and providing food to increase participation. ELC Pinellas will do an 8 week Circle of Security training with the providers. R Club will also be receiving trauma training.
- d. Annalise (Early Steps) reminded us of the new at-risk eligibility criteria for Early Steps. We need to be utilizing the expanded eligibility categories in child welfare and making more referrals.
- e. The First 1000 Days conference is in south Florida in September and will include a celebration of 25 years of the Early Steps program: <http://first1000daysfl.org/2018-first-1000-days-florida-summit/>

## IV. Current Project: Encourage providers serving dependent children to enhance their overall quality with a special focus on meeting the unique needs of our dependent children.

- a. Training Tracker Review
  - i. PBS
    1. PBS did one onsite training with one of our identified centers. Additionally, there's a new opportunity for onsite training with six sites and ten classrooms. They are opening it up to classrooms in case there are individual teachers particularly interested in the model. Applications go out soon on the website and Sandy (School Readiness) will be encouraging our providers to apply.
  - ii. CALM
    1. The program is doing very well. The large trainings are packed with waiting lists. The onsite trainings are focusing on training teachers and administrators to work more with parents. No word on the capacity to expand their onsite work to our other sites at this time. Will follow up in a few months.
  - iii. Trauma-Informed Care Trainings

1. Shabel (ECC) did a training at Promiseland in June and received very positive feedback. She had to reschedule with Simmons. In the fall, will start looking at new sites to train beyond our identified seven – she will get a new list in October from the ELC to see which other providers have high BG1s. ECC’s goal for next year is to follow this training up with IMH consultation.

iv. Child Welfare 101

1. Irvin (Eckerd’s FEI) has trained two additional sites and has had another reschedule a few times. The trainings went well, but he noticed that the staff at the centers seemed unaware of Rilya Wilson and its requirements while he was there. We need to address this.

**V. Rilya Wilson Act Requirements**

- a. Discussed the issue raised by Irvin’s feedback from the CW101 trainings – our child care teachers with a large number of BG1 children don’t seem to know about the history and requirements of Rilya Wilson. We reviewed the flier on Rilya Wilson that Eckerd’s point of contact, Linda B., provided. Sandy (School Readiness) noted that there was definitely a new and improved version. Abby (ELC) will ensure Sandy has this new flier and Sandy will bring it to the regional provider meetings to emphasize the message with providers.
  - i. Discussed that the message to providers should include recognition that the court can order part-time attendance if it’s in the child’s best interest, so they should ask case management to see the court order if they are told this is the case. This will require AGs ensuring this provision is in a written order. Message should also include that if a teacher or director has any doubt about whether they should call to report an absence to Lidna, they should ahead and make that call.
- b. On the case management side, we discussed that case management needs to be trained on the new Rilya Wilson Act requirements which require stability in a child’s early education setting and changes the requirement for child care based on age. We already created the Considerations in Changing a Child Care Placement document. Now, we need to get CMs to use this as part of compliance. Kristen (CLC) will send to Chris (Eckerd).

**VI. ELC Updates and Impact on Child Welfare**

- a. Portal: Abby (ELC) did training with Gulf Coast on new portal on 7/11. She will follow up with Chris (Eckerd) about doing a training with the Hillsborough County Family Partnership Association and touch base with Chris or Genet (Eckerd) to set up trainings with the remaining CMOs. Abby will consider doing a training at the Community Alliance in the next few months. Abby will send Chris the flier on the new portal changes for distribution.
  - i. The portal was rereleased on 7/10 to work out some bugs in the prior version.
  - ii. Right now, referrals are still being faxed to School Readiness by CMs. Key to complete the process through the portal is that each caregiver has their own

unique email address that they can check continuously for updates from School Readiness.

- iii. Kristen will send one-pager to Abby to review for changes that need to be made given changes in Portal access.
- b. Quality Counts for Kids: No longer exists as of 6/30. We need to update our existing resources, including the EEA to the JRSSRs to note the fact that QCFC is gone.
  - i. HB1091 requires now that all school readiness providers be assessed using the CLASS instrument. Not all classrooms will be assessed, but a certain percentage at each site. Whether the CLASS scores that providers will now have can be used as an alternative quality indicator to QCFC is unclear just yet. Sandy noted that a lot of details are still being worked out. Whereas QCFC was more environmental, the CLASS scores are all about interaction between teacher and student. We don't yet know if the scores will be made public or what the scale will be or mean.

#### **VII. Head Start Applications and Child Welfare**

- a. Carlita (Eckerd Early Head Start) has been working to simplify the application for child welfare-involved kids for Head Start, including removing the immunizations requirement for just the application. This has been one of the major barriers to getting case management and caregivers to apply. We have a dismally low number of child-welfare-involved kids in Head Start or Early Head Start, despite them having a priority for enrollment and the programs having the ability to hold a spot for them for sixty days. Carlita will continue to work on this issue along with Irvin (Eckerd FEI), including educating case management about the benefits of Early Head Start/Head Start and encouraging them to enroll the kids. Annalise (Early Steps) reminded us that Early Steps families are also eligible for EHS/Head Start.

#### **VIII. Follow Ups**

- a. Early Education Study
  - i. Irvin (Eckerd FEI) is continuing to follow up with the CMOs every week to ensure they input the data, but we are a ways off from having enough data for a good study. Current deadline for data input is 9/7.

#### **IX. Elections**

- a. We will need new leadership for HQEEDY as Kristen is moving out of state. Statements of interest should be submitted by 8/10 with election thereafter. We discussed having 2 year terms and co-chairs, along with someone to be record keeper.

#### **X. Next meeting dates:**

- a. Thursday, October 4, 2018 from 2-4pm, room 806 at DCF SunCoast
- b. Thursday, December 6, 2018 from 2-4pm, room 806 at DCF SunCoast
- c. Thursday, February 7, 2019 from 2-4pm, room 806 at DCF SunCoast
- d. Thursday, April 4, 2019 from 2-4pm, room 806 at DCF SunCoast
- e. Thursday, June 6, 2019 from 2-4pm, room 806 at DCF SunCoast

