

Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, Inc.

ELCFH Ad-hoc Committee Monday, November 16, 2009 at 1:00 PM Conference Call

Members Present: Ed Osborne, Sheila Nobles, Alan Grimes, Bill Weller

Members Absent:

Staff: Anne Bouhebent, Jeanne Griffith, Arvilla Brito

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ed Osborne called the meeting to order at 1:17 P.M. Introductions were made.

2. Upcoming Legislative Delegations

Anne Bouhebent announced the upcoming Legislative Delegations. Ed Osborne will attend the Charlotte Legislative Delegation on December 2, 2009 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM. Anne stated the ELCFH has until November 23rd to submit materials for the agenda. The committee directed staff to contact area Board members to see if one of them would be available to speak at the Highlands Legislative Delegation on December 3, 2009 from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m. The Committee agreed to meet with legislators prior to the delegation meetings. Bill Weller and Anne Bouhebent will be meeting with Representative Ken Roberson at 3:30 PM today. Bill will coordinate meetings with the aides of Senator JD Alexander, Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Representative Denise Grimsley, Representative Paige Kreegel along with Anne Bouhebent and Ed Osborne to discuss the key messages prior to the delegation.

3. ELCFH messages to Legislators

Anne reviewed the key messages to legislators which is the need for full funding to serve all children eligible for services. A letter from the ELCFH has been written reflecting this concern and the dollars it would take to clear the wait list. The AWL-OEL handout entitled "Early Learning- The Key to a Strong Workforce" is also included.

The committee agreed to include the ELCFH FY 08-09 Annual Report Summary for the individual meetings. Anne stated the key message aligns with one of the AELC's legislative priorities for 2010. Alan Grimes stated that the AELC, OEL and AWI agencies are all trying the same approach. In order to make sure the coalition's funds are not diminished any communication or awareness on the legislatures part helps us to avoid losing funding. Alan stated a grass roots approach should be put in place with providers. Alan suggested the ELCFH develop a letter addressing early learning funding issues to send out to providers and parents closer to legislative session which they can send to local legislatures. Doing so at that time would be more beneficial because of the publicity that is generated which enables the grassroots approach to more effective.

4. Open Forum

There was no open forum.

Ed Osborne adjourned the meeting at 1:50 P.M.

The next ELCFH Ad-hoc Committee Meeting: TBA