



Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties

Provider Alert #14

Date: February 18, 2008

Subject: Advisory Council meetings – February 2008

All three Advisory Councils met during the month of February 2008. Below is a summary of items discussed that pertain to early learning programs throughout the ELC of the Nature Coast.

CDS' Quarterly Management Reports, 2nd Quarter – All councils reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter management report supplied by CDS for each county served.

Contract Compliance Report, CDS 2nd Quarter – All councils reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter contract compliance report submitted by the Coalition's Contract Coordinator. Strengths and weaknesses were discussed, and the CDS response was accepted.

Internal Audit Report, 2nd Quarter – All councils reviewed and approved the 2nd quarter internal audit report, which reviews activities conducted by Coalition staff. Issues were noted with regard to the disconnect in the school readiness provider contracting process, which resulted in a recommendation to the Board that the Coalition execute early learning (school readiness) contracts beginning July 1, 2008. This action item will move forward to the Board at their next scheduled meeting.

Provider Recruitment/Expansion Requests – The Citrus and Sumter County councils approved requests to assist providers with recruitment/expansion requests. Funds were awarded to Ark Angels Christian Preschool in Crystal River, Rijos Family Child Care in Citrus Springs/Dunnellon, Ram in the Bush in Bushnell, and Galaxy of Learning in Oxford.

Framework for Understanding Poverty Training – All councils approved the expenditure of the remaining training/conference budget to offer a Framework for Understanding Poverty training, to be held in the Tri-County region prior to the end of the fiscal year. Further information will be shared when the specifics are finalized.

Authorization to Utilize Surplus Funds – All councils reviewed and approved priorities for utilization of any surplus funds that may be assigned to Quality Initiatives by the Administrative Committee prior to the end of the fiscal year. In the event that funds are allocated, the priorities will assist Coalition staff in developing a spending plan to meet the priorities of the local Advisory Councils. This action item will move forward to the Board at their next scheduled meeting.

The next Advisory Council meetings will be held in the month of April 2008.

- Citrus Advisory Council – April 14, 2008
- Sumter Advisory Council – April 9, 2008
- Tri-County Advisory Council – April 11, 2008