



Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties

Provider Alert #21

Date: April 18, 2008

Subject: Advisory Council meetings – April 2008

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

Upcoming Training Event – The Coalition will host the 2nd annual *Framework for Understanding Poverty* seminar on May 17, 2008 in Chiefland. For information please call the Chiefland office: 877-840-5437

Provider Recruitment/Expansion Requests – All Councils approved action items to assist providers with recruitment/expansion requests. Funds were awarded to All About Kids in Citrus County, Fun-4-Kids 2 in Levy County, and Robinson FCCH in Sumter County.

TIP Program Revisions – An action item was presented to all Advisory Councils requesting a revision to the Teacher Incentive Payment Program based on notification received from an attorney representing the WAGES program. The TIP program implemented by the Coalition is similar to the program implemented by the Children's Forum WAGES program which would result in major revisions to current guidelines. The Administrative Committee expressed concern that program participants serve a minimum number of Coalition-funded children in addition to revising the current stipend scale.

The following recommendations were made by the Advisory Councils to present to the Board in May 2008:

- **Citrus** – amendment was made to implement the program through June 30, 2008, requiring staff to develop and present a revised program for consideration next fiscal year.
- **Sumter** – amendment was made to remove the requirement for a minimum number of Coalition-funded children and implement the program through June 30, 2008, requiring staff to develop and present a revised program for consideration next fiscal year.
- **Tri-County** – amendment was made to remove the requirement for a minimum number of Coalition-funded children.

Re-allocation of Quality Programs Budget – Surplus is anticipated in all counties due to TIP Program revisions that will be presented to the Board. The proposed re-allocation of quality programs budget for all Councils will occur as approved, following the outcome of the May 2008 Board meeting.

Essentials Preschool Curriculum – All Councils approved the Essentials Preschool faith-based curriculum to be added to the Coalition's list of approved curriculum. The recommendation will be presented to the Board in May 2008.

Inclusion Mini-Grant Program – If approved by the Board in May 2008, providers serving children with a diagnosed special need may be eligible to apply for a mini-grant to assist with classroom needs to accommodate the children in care.

Provider Feedback Requested

The Coalition is requesting feedback from providers on the following topics, by April 30, 2008:

- Ideas for materials to re-stock the provider resource room and lending library
- Training topics you are interested in

Citrus/Sumter Counties: bellis@elc-naturecoast.org

Dixie/Gilchrist/Levy Counties: thiers@elc-naturecoast.org