



Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast

Serving Citrus – Dixie – Gilchrist – Levy – Sumter Counties

Provider Alert #7 December 21, 2007

This month, the local Advisory Councils met as follows:

- Citrus County Advisory Council – December 10, 2007
- Sumter County Advisory Council – December 12, 2007
- Tri-County Advisory Council – December 14, 2007 meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum

Following is a summary of activity, action, and discussion conducted during the December Advisory Councils that directly impacts early learning programs.

1. Council members voted unanimously to accept the following:
 - a. Revisions to the Professional Development Reimbursement Program – revisions provide additional detail to applicants about the requirement to seek other scholarship opportunities where applicable and/or available
 - b. Revisions to the Early Learning Program Operating Procedures – revisions provide additional clarification regarding the transfer of services from CDS to the Coalition (training, technical assistance, and provider observation), further detail regarding the procedures that must be followed if a school readiness provider is not in compliance with Coalition policies or contract requirements, and minor language changes to documentation of residency

Note: items listed above will go to the Board for final approval in January 2008
2. A brief budget update was provided, alerting the council members that the Administrative Committee is recommending the reallocation of quality initiative funds. It is anticipated that the actual reallocations will be approved at the January 2008 Board meeting. During the February 2008 meetings, the council members will have an opportunity to review the reallocation of funds in each specific quality initiative program.
3. Council members reviewed results of the child assessments conducted on school readiness children during the period of August – November 2007. Concerns were noted in Fine Motor Writing, Cognitive Counting, and Language Naming. These are the same three areas that have been the lowest for the past several years. Additionally, it was noted that children scored lower in a variety of areas in most of the counties served by the ELCNC. Coalition staff will be conducting a survey of school readiness providers to study a variety of data surrounding the school readiness programs offered to attempt to discover possible reasons for the changes in student performance.
4. The Sumter County Advisory Council is developing a Cultural Ambassadors program in conjunction with many of the clubs in The Villages. A presentation of the concept will be presented to the Sumter County providers at a provider meeting soon. The council hopes to implement a pilot program during the second half of FY 07-08.

The next Advisory Council meetings are scheduled for:

- Tri-County Advisory Council – February 8, 2008
- Citrus County Advisory Council – February 11, 2008
- Sumter County Advisory Council – February 13, 2008

Meeting times, locations, and agendas will be posted on the Coalition's website at www.elc-naturecoast.org approximately one week prior to each meeting.