



*The Coalition's Mission is to provide leadership and advocacy that builds a community
where all children are prepared for success in school*

Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2011

9:00am to 11:00am

Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region

Northwood Centre, 1940 North Monroe Street, Suite 70, Tallahassee, FL 32303

Committee Members Present:

Bob Gabordi, Chair
Angel Trejo
Carrie Rubenstein
Maureen Daughton
Alisa Ghazvini

Staff Present:

Lauren Faison, Chief Executive Officer
Briant Mertz, Volunteer Coordinator
Megan Gocs, Executive Assistant

Committee Members Absent:

Marlon Hunter
Janice Sumner
Pam Butler
Monesia Brown

Guests Present:

n/a

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Bob Gabordi, Chair, welcomed committee members and staff. Roll call was taken and quorum was established at 9:10am.

2. Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda for this meeting was made by Carrie Rubenstein. This motion was seconded by Alisa Ghazvini. This motion was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes for May 26, 2010

The motion to approve the minutes for the Advocacy and Resource Development Committee Meeting of May 26, 2010 was made by Angel Trejo. This motion was seconded by Alisa G. This motion was approved.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Review

a. Committee's Role

Lauren Faison spoke to the committee about their role as the Advocacy and Resource Development Committee. Their role is to raise awareness of the Early Learning Coalition

of the Big Bend Region (ELC) and the services we provide, to find ways and means to advocate on their behalf and to raise additional funds as necessary.

b. 2010 – 2011 Match Development Plan and Report

Lauren F. presented the 2010 – 2011 Match Development Plan to the committee. She informed the committee that each year the ELC is required to raise six percent in match across our seven counties. If we are unable to raise match for our rural counties, we are able to obtain a waiver from the State based on showing good faith efforts to obtain match. The ELC is able to raise match through in-kind services such as donated; items, professional services, volunteer hours, donated space as well as cash. The committee was informed that we are now able to claim match for the donated space we receive from the Northwood Centre in our Leon County office.

Lauren F. informed the committee that 2009 – 2010 was the first fiscal year we had been able to meet our six percent match. It is projected that we will be able to meet our six percent match for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year too.

Lauren F. also informed the committee, that at the last Association of Early Learning Coalitions Meeting on January 6, 2011, in Orlando, the Executive Director spoke about match, including, how it is raised and the tracking of time and funds.

6. Discussion Items

a. 2010 – 2011 Outreach Plan

The committee discussed the ELC's 2010 – 2011 Outreach Plan.

b. Leon Service Center Open House

Lauren F. discussed the upcoming Leon County Service Center Open House on February 2, 2011 with the committee. Ron Sachs Communications are assisting us with our Open House. The committee was also informed that the ELC will be recognizing the Northwood Centre for their partnership and support during the renovation, construction and design of our new Leon County office.

Staff are currently working with Ron Sachs Communications on an economic impact report which will be handed out during the Open House on February 2, 2011. Bob G. requested a copy of this report once it is complete. Angel T. made the suggestion that we should try and get one of the biggest employers of our families to provide us with a statement or quote. Staff are also working on various other projects with Ron Sachs Communications, including a virtual tour of the Leon County Service Center which will be posted on our website, a blog which will go on our website, and they are organizing a friend raising campaign on Facebook for the ELC.

c. Book Drive

The committee discussed the ELC's current book drive. The Maclay School, Florida High and three other schools have already kicked off their book drives.

d. 2011 Legislative Session

The committee discussed the 2011 legislative session. Alisa G. spoke to the unpredictability of budget cutting.

Lauren F. informed the committee that she is sitting on the Legislative Committee for the Association of Early Learning Coalitions. Being on this committee, and in Tallahassee,

she will be sitting in on various committee meetings during session, and may be asked to speak during session on behalf of the Early Learning Coalitions as a whole.

The committee were informed that there is a possibility that the Early Learning Coalitions could be moving under another State Agency. Currently the Early Learning Coalitions fall under the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

e. 2011 Back to School Dance

The committee discussed whether we should do the Back to School Dance again. The committee supported doing the dance again. Carrie R. suggested going back to a true Sock Hop theme. Lauren F. informed the committee that we will need someone to chair this committee. She also informed the committee that she has a potential host and hostess in mind. She will approach them about potentially being our host and hostess. The committee suggested having the 3rd Annual Sock Hop in either March or April of 2012.

7. Other Business

Bob G. spoke to the unmet needs within the community. Angel T. said that we need to specifically define these unmet needs. Currently the ELC determines their unmet needs as families that do not qualify for services because they either earn too much or they do not work enough hours. Lauren F. informed the committee that when families lose their eligibility for services, staff keep a track of the reasons why. The committee were informed that families are currently required to determine their eligibility for services every six months. Alisa G. suggested that moving to a model of annual eligibility might alleviate some of this issue. Changes to the legislative rule would be required to change the redetermination period from six months to twelve months. This change has a lot of benefits, including more stability for parents and cost savings to the ELC.

The committee discussed the need to generate more funds within the community.

Lauren F. informed the committee of the ELC's recent partnership with Earth Fare. Earth Fare agreed to provide the ELC with free fruit to give to our families. Bob G. told staff to let the Board know about community partners that are supporting the ELC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24am.

Minutes recorded by Megan Gocs, Executive Assistant

Full Committee Approval Date: _____

Committee Chair's Initials: _____

Board Secretary Initials: _____

A digital recording of this meeting is available at the office of the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region.