



July 2008

Issue No. 13

Provider News Alert

Our Mission and Vision

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Our Mission

To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

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Our Vision

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Child Care Executive Partnership Program

Congratulations to those providers who have submitted their CCEP agreements to Alina Soto at the Coalition. The next step is to fax the Step One Pre-Screening Form with your employee's information to Sharon Gordon at (305) 514-6152 if you are in Miami-Dade County, and to Kathy Snyder at (305) 292-7156 if you are in Monroe County. Send only the two page form per employee; there is no need to send supporting documentation to Ms. Gordon or Ms. Snyder. Once the Pre-Screening Form is received, someone will be in touch with the employee to arrange an eligibility appointment. For forms and more details on CCEP, visit our website at www.elcmdm.org. If you have any questions about the CCEP program, call Alina Soto at 305-646-7249.

Department of Human Services Child Development Services

REMINDER: Please note the new locations for the CDS Eligibility office, Mail-in Re-determination unit, and Resource Library.

Miami Lakes Eligibility Office moved to:

Miami Gardens Neighborhood Center
 16405 NW 25 Avenue
 Miami Gardens, Florida 33054
 Telephone - (305) 626-7969 Fax - (305) 626-0130

CDS Resource Library will move to two new locations:

Frankie Shannon Rolle Neighborhood Service Center

3750 S. Dixie Hwy.
Coconut Grove, FL 33131
Telephone - (305) 442-7881

and

Edison Little River Neighborhood Service Center
150 NW 79th Street
Miami, FL 33150
Telephone - (305) 756-4176

Mail-in re-determination unit will relocate to:

1251 NW 36th St.
Suite A

Miami, FL 33142

Telephone - (305) 633-1634

Fax - (305) 637-1737; (305) 637-1738; (305) 637-1739; (305) 637-1740

School Age Process

Effective July 1, 2008, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe will implement a new enrollment policy regarding school age children. School readiness services for income eligible families will only be provided to school age children, ages six (6) years to eight (8) years. The termination date is tied to the child's re-determination month. Families of children who are turning 9 years of age and those who are 9 and older, will receive notification 60 days prior to the termination of services and a listing of other child care services available in the community.

Children currently receiving school readiness services who are 9 years of age or older will continue to receive care through the summer months.

In an effort to assist families in identifying alternative options for care, Miami-Dade County Child Development Services staff will provide a listing of before and after school care providers. Families will receive a joint mailing of this resource listing and the 60-day notification letter.

Families may also contact the Child Care Resource and Referral unit at (305-373-3521) to request information regarding child care services.

This policy does not affect children receiving care under the following categories:

- Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP)
- At Risk
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Transitional Child Care (TCC)
- Special Needs Children
- Children Served in Monroe County

Board Committees

In an effort to encourage participation, we are providing you with descriptions of each Board Committee's responsibilities. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings or becoming involved, please refer to the Upcoming Events section of this News Alert or check our website at www.elcmdm.org for upcoming meetings.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is responsible for providing leadership for the Board. This is accomplished by setting policies to encourage effective governance, administration, and legal representation; reviewing and recommending legislative proposals at all levels of government; and resolving conflicts among committees and between the Coalition and other partners.

Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating Officers and Members, and nominating replacement Officers when there are vacancies on the Board.

Program Policy and Strategy Committee:

The Program Policy and Strategy Committee is responsible for evaluating Coalition programs, formulating strategy, and making policy recommendations to improve the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Provider Services Committee: The Provider Services Committee is responsible for addressing the issues and concerns of both School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.

Governance and Bylaws Committee: The Governance and Bylaws Committee periodically reviews the Coalition's Bylaws, policies and procedures. They are responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding policies that provide specific guidance and direction to the Coalition and its leadership concerning all significant aspects of governance.

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee meets to discuss audits carried out by outside independent entities to make sure the Coalition is in accordance with State Statutes and Laws as governed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee is responsible for providing oversight of the Coalition's financial operations, for reviewing compliance with Coalition policies, procedures and applicable laws and regulations

Legislative Advocacy Committee: The Legislative Advocacy Committee is responsible for working with legislators in order to educate and promote funding and support for early care and education.

Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Finance Committee	28-Jul	8:00 AM	ELCMDM Board Room
Board of Directors	4-Aug	8:00 AM	ELCMDM Board Room
Program & Strategy	6-Aug	1:00 PM	ELCMDM Board Room
Spending Plan	18-Aug	10:00 PM	ELCMDM Board Room

ELC Knowledge Center

This section of our News Alert provides parents, educators, and caregivers more information about services in addition to the programs administered by the ELC. You can learn about upcoming trainings, special reports on early education and care, and other issues, like inclusion and special needs services, that are related to early childhood education and care.

Inclusion and Special Needs

Miami-Dade County

For more about inclusion programs and services for children with special needs, the Coalition and Miami-Dade County Child Development Services have partnered together to create a warm-line telephone number. You can call this number for provider information on special needs and referral services:

Warm line: (305) 953-5166

Monroe County

For assistance in Monroe County, providers can contact the local number for special needs:

Warm line: (305) 292-7150 ext. 273 or toll free at 1-877-595-5437 ext. 273

Call with your questions regarding finding early care and education for your child or visit our website, www.elcmdm.org, and click on the Knowledge Center link on our homepage. You will be guided to a page that includes a link titled Inclusion and Special Needs, which provides more information that can help you and your children.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to answer your requests through this new column. Let us celebrate the uniqueness of every child!

VPK Standards Training

The following dates are for VPK Standards Training. All sessions will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the Coalition. The sessions are limited to 30 participants, so it is necessary to RSVP by calling 305-646-7220 ext. 229 and registering with Simona Beltran. **Training will begin promptly at 1:00pm.** If you have already taken this training, there is no need to enroll.

The parking garage for the Coalition can be accessed on Andalusia, but validation will not be available. There is also metered parking on the street.

Dates

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Monday, August 4, 2008

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Miami-Dade County News Briefs**VPK Updates**

We have reached over 15,000 registered children for the VPK School Year Program!

If you have not submitted your application, you must do so as soon as possible in order to start on time for the 2008-2009 School Year program. Reminder: Providers must reapply each school year in order to provide the VPK program. You will receive a letter with a certificate from our office once you have been certified. It is not necessary to call to follow-up on an application you have submitted. **Only new VPK providers will be seen to review the VPK application package. Please remember you must make an appointment if you need to see a Certification Specialist.**

2008-2009 VPK Provider Rates

- Effective July 1, 2008, the new VPK provider rate for the School Year Program is \$2,666.11 (or \$4.93 per hour) for the 540 hour program.
- The new rates affect the 2008 Summer Program as of July 1st, with the new VPK provider rate of \$2,666.11 (or \$8.88 per hour) for the 300 hour program. Providers will be paid \$9.05 per hour for programs operating in May and June, and \$8.88 per hour for the months of July and August. The VPK provider rates were reduced during the recent legislative session.

Staff Credential Verification Form (#5206)

If your staff has "Formal Education " listed on their verification form from DCF but the

form does not list the specific degree, we are asking for the back-up documents, such as a copy of the evaluation of the degree (if from another country) or a copy of the actual degree (if issued in the U.S).

VPK Director Endorsement

You must have all of the following in order for the VPK Director Endorsement to be valid:

- A DCF Director Credential certificate
- A VPK Standards certificate
- A VPK Emergent Literacy certificate
- A VPK Director Endorsement course certificate

The VPK Director Endorsement course certificate is different from the VPK Director Endorsement.

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

The Keys Children's Task Force will meet on Friday, July 25th at 9:00 am at Wesley House Family Services, 1304 Truman Ave., Key West. The taskforce was formed over a year ago to address the needs of our community's children and to seek long term solutions to sustainable funding and service delivery. The task force's vision is: "To embrace a community culture of awareness, commitment and generosity so that every child in the Florida Keys will receive the quality care, education, support and encouragement needed to be successful in life." For additional information, please contact Doug Blomberg at 809-5000 or Mary Williams at 296-5557.

Monroe ELC Mentoring Program Update

Monroe center directors will be invited to attend a brief orientation meeting to include an overview of the program and to sign their Letter of Commitment for the new 2008-2009 program year. For the 2007-2008 program year, a total of 17 School Readiness centers Keys-wide participated in the program, which provides classroom mentoring and inclusion services. Initially, mentors meet with directors and teachers to develop a mutually agreed upon plan of action to address the individual needs of their centers. Interested directors may contact Mary Williams in the Monroe ELC office for additional information at 296-5557.

New AS Degree Program in Early Childhood Education Available in the Keys

We are happy to announce that Florida Keys Community College is now offering the long awaited AS degree program in Early Childhood Education for the upcoming Fall semester. For course information, times, schedules and fees, please visit <http://www.fkcc.edu/>, or contact Nicole Gerrard at (305) 809-3262 or email nicole_gerrard@firn.edu.

Quality Counts

Quality Counts Quality Rating Improvement System Training Hotline

The Training Hotline is a recorded message with information on all offered trainings both in English and Spanish. To learn more about upcoming trainings, please feel free to call The Training Hotline at 305 631-7658 or 1-888-506-9898.

Not involved with Quality Counts yet? It's never too late to make a difference! A simple two step process can get you on your way to giving the quality care that makes the difference in the lives of the children and families of Miami-Dade/Monroe County.

1. Attend a Quality Counts Overview Training

2. Submit a Quality Counts application

For more information or to download an application please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe website:
<http://www.elcmdm.org/qualitycounts/index.htm>

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