Fiscal Review / Loss Prevention

Presented by
Ana Rodriguez

Fiscal Review / Loss Prevention Manager
Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes

Each early learning coalition shall adopt an anti-fraud plan addressing the detection and prevention of overpayments, abuse, and fraud relating to the provision of and payment for school readiness program and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program services and submit the plan to the office [of Early Learning] for approval.
The term “fraud” means an intentional deception, omission, or misrepresentation made by a person with knowledge that the deception, omission, or misrepresentation may result in unauthorized benefit to that person or another person, or any aiding and abetting of the commission of such an act. The term includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law.
Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes

An early learning coalition may **suspend or terminate** a provider from participation in the school readiness program or the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program when it has **reasonable cause** to believe that the provider has committed fraud.

If suspended, the provider shall **remain suspended until the completion of any investigation** by the office, the Department of Financial Services, or any other state or federal agency, and any subsequent prosecution or other legal proceeding.
Section 1002.91, Florida Statutes

The early learning coalition may not contract with a school readiness program provider or a Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program provider who is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List.

In addition, the coalition may not contract with any provider that shares an officer or director with a provider that is on the United States Department of Agriculture National Disqualified List.
Reporting

Anyone can report suspected fraud to the Loss Prevention unit.

Cases are tracked from referral to resolution.

Upon receiving the referral, a designated specialist reviews the case and discusses the recommended course of action with the manager.

If the case is accepted for preliminary investigation, the fraud specialist gathers all appropriate and substantial information to conclude whether or not the case warrants a more in-depth investigation.
Investigations Include

Parents
- Household Composition
- Employment
- Residence
- Income Verification

Providers
- Accuracy of information submitted by provider on the contracts.
- Provider capacity versus attendance records.
- Accuracy of sign in/out sheets and attendance verification forms.
- Presigned attendance records.
- Health and safety violations reporting.
Provider Fraud Overpayment Can Occur If:

- Overpayment is caused by an intentional act on the part of the provider in an attempt to receive additional payments or reimbursement to which they were not entitled to.
- There was an intent to defraud that may result in an overpayment.
- Information is concealed to obtain School Readiness payments.
- Attendance records are falsified or altered.
- Assisting or aiding any person in committing any of the above acts.
- Operating or attempting to operate a child care facility without having procured a license.
- Operating or attempting to operate a child care facility or family day care home under a license that is suspended, revoked, or terminated.

Any person who commits an act of Fraud is subject to the penalties provided in Florida Statute Section 414.39 and Section 1002.91.
Partners

Department of Children and Families

Department of Financial Services/Division of Public Assistance Fraud

Florida Dept. of Health, Bureau of Child Care Food Program

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Quality Materials Fair
Quality Materials Fair

• The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe hosted a Quality Materials Fair
• This three day event gave providers serving school readiness children an opportunity to select quality, developmentally appropriate materials to improve their programs
• Over 1000 providers in Miami-Dade County were eligible to select from 16 packages designed to fulfill identified needs throughout the community
• Vendors attended the fair in order to answer any questions providers may have about their Infant/toddler and Preschool packages
Quality Materials Fair

- This event greatly benefited the community and give our children access to materials that will enhance their educational and developmental experiences.
- There were 49 eligible programs from Monroe County served electronically due to challenges with geographic location.
Quality Materials Fair

• The number of packages each provider received was based on the number of school readiness children paid in the month February. For example:
  ▫ If programs served 1-50 children they were eligible to receive 3 packages
  ▫ If programs served 51-100 children they were eligible to receive 4 packages

• 681 programs attended the fair and placed their orders
  ▫ We will attempt to reach programs via phone today to allow them one last opportunity to place an order. The announcement was clear that this event was for a limited time.

• Most popular package was Preschool Math (271 packages)

• Least popular package was Toddler Cots (34 packages)
• Providers were excited about the variety of materials and the number of packages available.
• Overall they were very appreciative. Some laughed with joy others cried tears of joy.

“Packages were very well put together.”

“You all outdid yourselves.”

“It is amazing how organized you guys are.”

“I cant believe this, I actually have cribs for my children.”

“Wow! I couldn’t afford cots for our children especially when their parents can’t afford it, this is a great gift.”

“This is such a great gift for the children in our community.”

“God bless you, this is amazing!”
Quality Counts
Participants: Who is part of QC?

490 early care and education programs as of March 31, 2015

- 340, 70% Centers
- 53, 11% Family Homes
- 85, 17% Head Start
- 6, 1% RCMA
- 6, 1% MDCPS
Priority Programs: Who are we serving?

n = 490 as of March 31, 2015

Priority Program = those serving 30% or more children receiving subsidized care or located in a low-income census tract.
Participants: Who is Accredited?

Percentage of QC Gold Seal Accredited Programs as of March 31, 2015

- Centers: 62%
- Family Homes: 58%
- Head Start: 35%
- RCMA: 83%

Gold Seal Accredited
Gold Seal Accreditations

Note: Some sites are accredited by more than one accrediting body.

Source: United Way of Miami as of 4/27/15 Via WELS
## Accredited Individual Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>Family</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Center</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>497</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: United Way of Miami as of 4/27/15 Via WELS
2015-16 VPK Child Assessment
2015-16 VPK Child Assessment

Florida Statute 1002.67(3) directs each private or public VPK provider in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program to implement an evidence-based pre- and post-assessment that has been approved by rule of the State Board of Education.

There are 2 rules that pertain to VPK pre- and post-assessment:

- Rule 6A-1.09433 F.A.C. identifies the instruments to be used for pre- and post-assessment, who can administer the instruments and training assessors must have.
- Rule 6M-8.620 F.A.C. outlines how to order materials, reporting results, deadlines, responsibilities of each Early Learning Coalition, and consequences for non-compliance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who is it for?</th>
<th>All 4-year-olds enrolled in the Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) education program.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the benefit for using these instruments?</td>
<td>The two instruments together provide complimentary, more complete picture about each child’s knowledge, skills, and development. VPK Assessment looks at specific pre-academic skills linked to children’s future educational success while Teaching Strategies Gold provides a well-rounded view of all domains of the child’s development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it required?</td>
<td>Yes. All private and public VPK providers are required to administer the Florida VPK Assessment and Teaching Strategies Gold as the pre- and post-assessment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the purpose?</td>
<td>To provide VPK Instructors with information about each child’s knowledge, skills, and development, at specified time periods during the VPK classroom’s schedule during the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Who gives the assessment? | The VPK instructor or other paid staff member who:  
- Meet the minimum qualifications to be a VPK instructor during the school-year program AND  
- Participate in appropriate professional development for each instrument. |
| Are there deadlines for administering and submitting data? | Yes. Please see page 3 of this At-A-Glance document for more information. Administration and submission deadlines are based on the VPK classroom’s start and end dates. |
| Is there a consequence for not administering or submitting data by deadlines? | Yes. Section 1002.67(4)(b), Florida Statutes and Rule 6M-8.620 F.A.C. indicate that if a VPK provider fails or refuses to comply or engages in misconduct, OEL will require the early learning coalition to remove the VPK provider from eligibility to deliver the VPK education program for a period of 5 years. |
| What are the professional development requirements and availability? | Prior to Fall 2015 administration, each person administering the VPK Assessment is required to successfully complete professional development via:  
- How to Administer the Florida VPK Assessment (instructor-led registration on DCF provider portal, available since 2010) OR  
- VPK Assessment Instructional DVD (available in each VPK Assessment kit) |
| | Prior to Fall 2015 administration, each person administering Teaching Strategies Gold must successfully complete in professional development via:  
- GOLD Basic Course, online availability through GOLD online system (available late April 2015) OR  
- GOLD Basic Course for Florida VPK, instructor-led registration on DCF provider portal (available late May 2015)  
More information about these professional development opportunities will be available in April 2015. |
VPK Readiness Rate
VPK Readiness Rates

- February 26 to March 31, 2015 VPK providers were given access to the Florida Readiness Rate website to verify and/or dispute the attendance of the children who attended their 2013-14 VPK programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Total Submissions</th>
<th>Total Submissions with No Changes</th>
<th>Total Submission with Changes</th>
<th>Non-Submissions</th>
<th>Total VPK Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Year</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the Florida VPK Readiness Rate website the release dates of the 2013-14 VPK preliminary and/or final rates are still to be determined.
Early Head Start

The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start
EHS - Update

- All childcare partnership agreements have been fully executed except for YMCA.
- The EHS team has facilitated 15 family orientation meetings with childcare partnership sites.
- There are 139 EHS children in the enrollment queue: 84 SR and 55 EHS.
- The EHS team attended the statewide Head Start conference in April.
- An ELC delegation, including all departments and executive leadership will attend Regional Orientation in Atlanta in May.
Amendment and Update to the Coalition Plan for Miami-Dade/Monroe
ELC Plan Amendment

Amendment and Update to the Coalition Plan for Miami-Dade/Monroe

• Board Membership: Part 3 Coalition Governance Section 01.1 and 01.1A (Attachment)
  ▫ Update the roster for the Board of Directors to reflect the current and most recent appointments.
ELC Board of Directors

Officers

- Adrian Alfonso, Board Chair
  Perez-Abreu, Agerrebere, Sueiro & Torres, P.L.
- Gilda Ferradaz, Vice Chair
  Department of Children and Families
- Robert Eadie, Treasurer
  Monroe County Health Department
- Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq., Secretary
  Lucy C. Piñeiro and Associates

Required Members

- Theresa Axford
  Monroe County School District
- Roderick E. Beasley
  South Florida Workforce
- Commissioner Heather Carruthers
  Monroe County Board of County Commissioners
- Shaleen Fagundo
  Interamerican Learning Center, Child Care Provider Representative
- Helene J. Good
  CCDH, Inc.
- Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez, Ph.D.
  Centro Mater Child Care Services, Faith-Based Provider Representative
- Dr. Mara Zapata
  School of Education, MDC InterAmerican Campus

Private Sector Business Members

- Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott
  South Miami Children's Clinic
- Alan Eckstein P.A.
  Alan Eckstein P.A.
- Philip Gassman
  Marquis Bank
- David Lawrence Jr.
  The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation
- Gladys Montes
  United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education
- Dr. Judy Schaechter
  University of Miami
- Gerald K. Schwartz
  Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.
- Alexander Soto
  Sabadell Bank

Optional Member

- Russell Benford
  Miami-Dade County

Conditional Member

- Charles Auslander
  The Children’s Trust

Ex-Officio Member

- Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.
  Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Legislative Update

Source: Florida Children’s Council
Capitol Connection, Week 9, May 3, 2015
2015 Legislative Session

• The 2015 legislative session officially ended this past Friday with the Florida House of Representatives leaving 3 days early as a result of an impasse with the Senate over Medicaid expansion.

• No solution to the CCEP allocation challenge, but OEL Director states that a solution will be announced soon.

• Next year’s budget and special projects remain uncertain.
Early Learning Bills

• A bill to increase health and safety standards at early learning facilities, HB 7017 passed in the House and was awaiting Senate action. However, the Senate did not take up the bill as Senators selected priority bills to take up and pass on April 29, before adjourning. The Senate version of the bill, SB 7006 was placed on second reading on April 30. Though the bills were substantially similar, without the Senate in session to vote on it and more importantly, without the House in session to receive the bill, the bill did not pass for the second year in a row.

• The bill contained important provisions related to the health and safety of children in publicly funded School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten Education programs.
Early Learning Bills

• Specifically, the bills would have:
  ▫ Required licensure or, if the provider is a license-exempt faith-based provider or nonpublic school, a certificate of substantial compliance with specified child care licensing standards and submission to inspections by the Department of Children and Families (DCF);
  ▫ Required providers of child care and VPK instructional services to notify parents of and conspicuously post Class I violation citations and inspection reports that result in disciplinary action on the premises;
  ▫ Denied initial eligibility for programs to certain providers that had a Class I violation within the preceding 12 months prior to seeking eligibility and, if cited for a Class I violation, prevents an existing provider from renewing its eligibility for 12 months;
  ▫ Required certain personnel to be at least 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma by January 1, 2017;
  ▫ Provided requirements for certain employees to be trained in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
  ▫ Required the Office of Early Learning (OEL) to develop online training regarding School Readiness performance standards and provider personnel to complete the training;
  ▫ Required the office to conduct a pilot project assessing the early literacy skills of VPK participants who are English Language Learners;
Early Learning Bills

- Provided failure to report child abuse as a disqualifying offense for child care employment;
- Prohibited an operator of a program, who has been disciplined for serious licensing violations, from transferring ownership of a program to relatives;
- Authorized Early Learning Coalitions (ELCs) to allow private providers to accept applications and determine child eligibility for the VPK program;
- Expanded the Department of Children and Families' authority to conduct abbreviated inspections to include family day care homes and large family child care homes; and
- Required the Division of Law Revision and Information to change the terms "family day care" to "family child care" and "family day care home" to "family child care home."
Literacy Jump Start Pilot Project

HB 153 by Rep. Lee (D-St.Lucie) passed the Legislature on April 29 and heads to the Governor for final approval. This bill establishes a pilot project in St. Lucie County to assist low-income, at-risk children in developing emergent literacy skills.
Licensing of Facilities that Offer Health and Human Services

SB 210 by Sen. Audrey Gibson (D-Duval) and its House companion bill, HB 119, by Rep. Lori Berman (D-Palm Beach) died in the committee process. The bills would have revised the regulation of child care services and the settings for those services, including family day care homes. The bills revised the definition of "family day care home" and required that family child care homes must provide proof of a written plan to identify a competent adult who has met statutory screening and training requirements, and to serve as a designated substitute for the operator of the home in an emergency. Additionally, family day care homes, subject to registration, must provide proof of screening and background checks for the operator, household members, and the designated substitute.
Pre- and Post-Assessment for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program

SB 518 by Sen. Audrey Gibson (D-Jacksonville) and identical House companion, HB 483 by Rep. Mia Jones (D-Jacksonville) did not pass this session. The bills revised provisions relating to calculation of the kindergarten readiness rate for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program providers and schools. It also required the administration of a pre- and post-assessment of students based upon adopted performance standard, and required the Office of Early Learning to annually report student growth data to the Board of Education.
Care of Children “Boys and Girls Club Bill”

**HB 11** by Rep. Ray Pilon (R-Sarasota) failed to receive a committee hearing and **SB 250** by Sen. Chris Smith (D-Ft. Lauderdale) died in committee. However, Sen. Eleanor Sobel (D-Hollywood) amended SB 7078, a committee bill of Children, Families, and Elder Affairs to include a background screening requirement for employees of organizations that provide school-age care. The bill was heard on the floor of the House and Senate and passed. However, to address the fears of several members and child advocates, no changes to exempt certain national groups from licensure for facilities providing after school programs for school age children were made. Similar efforts to pass an exemption in the House failed.

Nonetheless, the bills fostered a healthy debate about the possible need to review the Florida Administrative Code rules for Child Care Licensing in order to more accurately define the needs and differences in rules for birth-to-five child care and afterschool programming for 6-12 year olds.