



Inclusion Work Group
August 25th, 2015; 1:30 PM
Early Learning Coalition Board Room

Board Attendees: Helene Good, Mara Zapata, Abilio Rodriguez, Dr. Tina Carroll-Scott

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Christine Hughes, Anabel Espinosa, Angelo Parrino, Lisa Sanabria

General Attendees: Alexandre Lopes (MDCPS), Jackie Romillo (Citrus)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Evelio Torres & Helene Good

- a. H. Good stated that the purpose of the Inclusion Workgroup is to develop recommendations to the Board regarding how best to align ELC activities with Strategic Plan goals.
- b. E. Torres stated these meetings give us the opportunity to be creative in looking at how we can best serve the needs of children with special needs.

II. Warm-Line & Inclusion Services

Christine Hughes

- a. C. Hughes stated that the warm-line is a state mandated (Chapter 1002, F.S.) phone number that connects parents and providers to supports for children, particularly those with developmental concerns or special needs. For children using School Readiness subsidies, the ELC contracts with Citrus Health Network to provide follow-up services to those children with ASQ results indicating concerns. For other children, support is provided by the ELC Warm-Line/Inclusion team. This support is typically generated by a phone call from a family or a provider seeking assistance meeting a child's health, development, or behavioral needs
- b. In response to a question from a Workgroup member, C. Hughes stated that assessments are conducted by teachers, and that the ELC Team provides referrals for hearing, vision, speech etc. OEL mandates that the ELC cannot serve children who have Medicaid.
- c. J. Romillo stated that the Citrus program sees approximately 280 School Readiness children a month, and that after verifying the ASQ responses, 43% show no concerns. Most of those whose concerns are validated are provided with 8 weeks of intervention



using individualized strategies before the ASQ is re-administered. Each month, approximately 15-20 of the original 280 require specialized services.

- d. C. Hughes noted that School Readiness children have the benefit of a Citrus follow-up, but that private pay children are not mandated by OEL to be screened. Quality Counts will begin to require that all children to be screened.
- e. C. Hughes reported during the past year or so, the Warm Line received 734 initial contacts (calls), 1505 total contacts (calls, emails, visits). Provider initiated 304 initial contacts (41%); 196 programs had questions on a variety of topics including the ASQ, SR, referrals, community referrals, and requests for assistance with a child. A. Lopes noted the importance of families understanding the use of McKay Scholarship funding, and that a child does not have to spend one year in public school before being eligible for McKay.
- f. In response to a question H. Good asked about training, C. Hughes stated that professional development training is conducted by the ELC and Citrus, but that additional training on conducting ASQ's is needed to insure better accuracy of initial results.

III. Adjourn

Helene Good