



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

EARLY LEARNING WORKGROUP

January 22, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education

Education Sub-Committee

Early Learning Workgroup

January 22, 2008

2:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup taken on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 825 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Early Learning Workgroup

Connie Stophel, Chair

Vick Burke, Member

Cheryl Grymes, Member

Deborah Heald (Gianoulis), Member

Councilman Kevin Hyde, Member

Reverend Perry Robinson, Member

Susan Main, Early Learning Coalition, SME/Advisor

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

CONNIE STOPHEL, Chair

VICKI BURKE, Member

CHERLY GRYMES, Member

DEBORAH HEALD (GIANOULIS), Member

SUSAN MAIN, EARLY LEARNING COALITION, SME/Advisor

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member

REVEREND PERRY ROBINSON, Member

STAFF:

TINA M. BEALS

OTHERS PRESENT:

Barbara Gubbin, City of Jacksonville

Padma Reyes, ELC

Lecretia Williams, Citizen

PROCEEDINGS

January 22, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 2:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. The meeting began at approximately 2:30 p.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the challenges (centered around early childcare and learning) impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey. Chairman Stophel distributed the meeting agenda and explained that the group is tasked with researching and recommending solutions for overcoming and/or addressing issues, specific to early childcare and learning that affect the City's ability to effectively combat and/or prevent crime.

In support of this task, Chair Stophel assigned and distributed several articles which summarized various known issues, to the attendees (in groups of 2 or more)

W. C. Gentry, Chair of the Education Sub-Committee, stopped in and requested that the workgroup coordinate their calendars for future meetings and to research additional resources that may be valuable to this process and recommend them to the entire group (Education Sub-Committee) when everyone meets again after the workgroup ends.

2. Action Items

1. Review distributed articles and discuss among each "group" looking for key ideas within for promoting quality preschool partnerships, in addition to looking for ways to increase the

number of childcare centers currently served (96).

2. Get a consensus on 2-4 key points to focus on and present to the Education Sub-Committee when the entire group reconvenes.

3. Discussion Items

Ms. Main discussed the programs currently in place:

Coaching Model - coaches go into childcare centers and work with teachers of low income children provide better training and build better curriculums. Working with 96 different sites at this time.

Scholarship Program in partnership with United Way - serves 31 children at this time, chosen from between 150% and 200% of the poverty level. The center gets \$7500 for a three (3) year old to attend a two-year program at a five-star center. The program includes a parent contract that outlines what parental involvement is expected and required for participation. In addition, the centers (six at this time) must agree to keep their five-star rating and receive a \$5000 grant to assist with doing so. Ms. Main advised that she can provide a copy of the parent contract if anyone would like further information.

VPK - Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten - there is a disconnect between the program providers and the school system. There were thousands of children that completed the voluntary pre-kindergarten program that

were not tested within the first 30 days of starting kindergarten so it is difficult to analyze the effectiveness of this program. However, from the data that is available, it appears to be working well. There is a definite need for some type of tracking mechanism capture all data.

Ms. Main stated that "behavioral issues in boys are a big problem. Preschool boys are not testing as well as preschool girls on social/emotional issues and have more behavior issues which can and does, worsen as they get older. Maybe the Early Learning Partnership could manage a program that deals with behavioral issues. Right now, we are addressing the education needs but, we are not doing anything for the behavioral issues. No behavioral social workers, etc. are currently working in any of the centers which care for approximately 3500 children."

Ms. Burke agreed with Ms. Main's assessment of the issues regarding tracking the VPK data. She also stated that we need to work with legislators to use lottery money for enhancements only and not fund unlicensed pre-k centers. Licensing and staff education should be mandatory for all childcare centers. The licensing process needs improvement.

**Recommendations for the Education Sub-Committee from this group will include:

1. **Parenting Issues:** provide more/better training for

parents of low-income children. We are not doing enough there and parents must be held responsible.

2. **Social/Emotional Issues:** provide some type of parental/educational training, screening, etc. in this area to address issues and prevent escalation.
3. **Voluntary Pre-K:** devise and implement a tracking system to capture all data for an all-encompassing analysis of the effectiveness of this program.
4. **Work with Legislators:** to enforce using lottery money for enhancements to childcare program only.
5. **Improve Licensing Process:** make licensing and staff education mandatory for all funded childcare centers.

Chair Stophel stated that all handouts, etc. are available for download from the Jacksonville Journey section of the City's website at: www.coj.net.

Adjournment. Meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.