



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Education**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**EARLY LEARNING WORKGROUP**

**February 5, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Education**

## **Education Sub-Committee**

### **Early Learning Workgroup**

**February 5, 2008**

**12:00 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup taken on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 825 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

#### **Early Learning Workgroup**

**Connie Stophel, Chair**

**Vicki 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

CHERYL GRYMES, Member

DEBORAH HEALD (GIANOULIS), Member

SUSAN MAIN, EARLY LEARNING COALITION, SME/Advisor

### **ABSENTEE MEMBERS:**

COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member

REVEREND PERRY ROBINSON, Member

### **STAFF:**

RENEE BRUST

ALICE CHECORSKI

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Padma Rajan, ELC

Lucretia Williams, Citizen

## **PROCEEDINGS**

February 5, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 12:00 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** The meeting began at approximately 12:10 p.m.

### **1. Purpose of Meeting.**

Discuss the challenges (centered around early childcare and learning) impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - *The Jacksonville Journey*. The workgroup was asked by the Education Sub-Committee Chair, W.C. Gentry, to focus on zip codes in Zone One. Chairman Stophel distributed a draft document resulting from the last meeting, which outlined the Jacksonville Early Literacy Partnership (JELP) Initiative, which is to address two critical priorities - education and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The workgroup reviewed the research information before discussing their draft proposal to the Education Subcommittee.

### **2. Discussion Items**

Chairman Stophel said based on research, a mental health and social worker component should also be included in the proposal with a focus on working with both the children and the parents in high risk areas in order to produce a long-term outcome. An Early Childhood Intervention Specialist could work at the centers to address the causes of the high rate of expulsion from pre-school. Additionally, they recommended modeling a program used in Head Start to expand on violence prevention.

Deborah Heald stated there is a need for greater parent

involvement and home visits by the social worker. Connie Stophel suggested either research or conducting a survey once the centers are selected to determine how many children need this type of mental health assistance.

At this point, Cheryl Grymes and Lucretia Williams joined the meeting.

Susan Main furnished a handout of the Quality Rating System utilized by the Early Learning Coalition, which included data on the provider centers served by ELC, JCC and ECS. Padma Rajan reviewed the Early Learning Coalition's Guiding Stars Provider Roadmap. Ms. Main led a discussion on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) used as an assessment tool for social and emotional evaluation. She stated that the support of Quality Connections isn't enough to move the centers in this zone to keep the Guiding Stars rating in the improvement process for centers with subsidized children.

Cheryl Grymes inquired if the assessment included curriculum. Padma Rajan stated it does not, but it does include the areas of health, safety, program structure, demonstration of positive discipline, etc. The quality rating improvement system (Guiding Stars) at those sights is being done by the State to determine kindergarten readiness.

Ms. Williams inquired if a center is closed in a low-income area, can the children transfer to another center? Ms. Main replied "absolutely". The Early Learning Coalition is committed to the child.

Ms. Stophel discussed adding a tracking component to the draft

proposal in collaboration with the Duval County School Board for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten children. Deborah Heald stated with a student identification number, the School Board will be able to provide the tracking of children enrolled in the coached centers as they transition to kindergarten and through the third grade. A discussion surrounded the capacity to provide funding for the recommendations with the anticipation that there will be a linkage between some of the other subcommittees for leverage dollars. Susan Main said that Healthy Families does home visits and there might be a link to that program.

Ms. Heald suggested that because the workgroup does not have hard data, they recommend that the Early Learning Coalition begins doing the assessment in all of the ELC centers to get a handle on the problem before recommending a solution.

Vicki Burke joined the workgroup at this time.

In summary, Chairman Stophel suggested the workgroup proposal should include a coaching model, a mental health process for all centers that are Guiding Stars and add a tracking component in collaboration with the Duval County School Board.

### **3. Action Items**

Review and revise proposal during breakout session of Education Subcommittee meeting on February 5, 2008 at 1:15 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The workgroup adjourned at 1 p.m., at which time they joined the Education Subcommittee meeting.



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**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**February 5, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Education**

## **Education Sub-Committee**

### **Early Learning Workgroup - Breakout Session**

**February 5, 2008**

**1:15 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup taken on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 1:15 p.m.

#### **Early Learning Workgroup**

**Connie Stophel, Chair**

**Vicki 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:**

W.C. GENTRY, Education Sub-Committee Chair

CONNIE STOPHEL, Workgroup Chair

VICKI BURKE, Member

CHERYL GRYMES, Member

DEBORAH HEALD (GIANOULIS), Member

SUSAN MAIN, EARLY LEARNING COALITION, SME/Advisor

### **ABSENTEE MEMBERS:**

COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member

REVEREND PERRY ROBINSON, Member

### **STAFF:**

MELISSA ROSS, PR

ALICE CHECORSKI

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Padma Rajan, ELC

Lucretia Williams, Citizen

## **PROCEEDINGS**

February 5, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 1:15 p.m.

### Breakout Session

**Call to Order and Comments.** The meeting began at approximately 1:15 p.m.

#### **1. Purpose of Meeting.**

Discuss the challenges (centered around early childcare and learning) impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - *The Jacksonville Journey*. The workgroup was asked by the Education Sub-Committee Chair, W.C. Gentry, to present their preliminary recommendations to the Sub-Committee at today's meeting.

#### **2. Discussion Items**

In keeping with Reverend Rivers' 10-Point Plan, Mr. Gentry recommended that the workgroup select four areas and meet with the ministers in order to create community awareness of the Pre-Volunteer Kindergarten Program (VPK) and the Guiding Stars Quality rating system. Susan Main stated all of the centers they are working with in Guiding Stars have a VPK Program. To train additional child development associate teachers, an additional 120 hours of training is needed in the VPK Program.

Vicki Burke inquired as to who pays for the child development certification? Ms. Main replied that some scholarships are available.

Connie Stophel said that United Way has a program "Success for Six", which addresses scholarship eligibility based on 151-200% of

the poverty guidelines. The Jacksonville Children's Commission Early Learning Program assists families up to 150% of the poverty guidelines. Ms. Heald stated there is a waiting list to get into these programs. Ms. Main reported that VPK is an entitlement program.

Susan Main recommended that the workgroup select 25 of the Quality Connection sites based on enrollment of high levels of low-income children. Padma Rajan said we should reinforce how easy it is to get into Guiding Stars and the tremendous amount of support given to the centers. Cheryl Grymes asked if they have determined why centers decline to participate in the Guiding Stars Program. Padma Rajan said that when a center is referred, they follow up to determine why they declined, which is usually due to the hard work required on the part of the directors, teachers and staff to maintain the level of quality expected.

Mr. Gentry invited Melissa Ross, Public Relations staff to join the workgroup at this time.

Susan Main said that Guiding Stars was just launched in November 2007. Connie Stophel recommended that Ms. Ross assist in marketing the program stating that "*the Jacksonville Journey* recognizes Guiding Stars of Duval as the preferred site as part of the anti-crime initiative." The committee also suggested using testimonials from current participants. The message should be about the youngest children. Chairman Stophel asked Ms. Ross to work with the committee and perhaps issuing an official proclamation that part of the crime problem can be solved if you are a Guiding Star participant.

Ms. Ross inquired about the challenge of getting the word out to parents who do not use the internet. Ms. Main stated that the Jacksonville Children's Commission provides childcare referrals. Information was mailed to 8,000 school-ready families.

Mr. Gentry asked the committee to identify Zone 1 zip codes.

Ms. Stophel ended the meeting stating that a draft of the public relations piece will be given to Ms. Ross.

### **3. Action Items**

Provide a draft public relations piece to Melissa Ross.

**Adjournment:** The workgroup adjourned at 1:45 p.m., at which time they joined the Education Subcommittee meeting.