



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Education**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

**EARLY LEARNING WORKGROUP**

**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**February 19, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Education**

## **Education Sub-Committee**

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

**February 19, 2008**

**1:35 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup taken on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 1:35 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

SUSAN MAIN, EARLY LEARNING COALITION, SME/Advisor

### **ABSENTEE MEMBERS:**

COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member

DEBORAH HEALD (GIANOULIS), Member

REVEREND PERRY ROBINSON, Member

### **STAFF:**

LINDA LANIER

ALICE CHECORSKI

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Maria Coppola, P.R.

Dr. Cheryl Fountain, FIE/UNF

Lucretia Williams, Citizen

## **PROCEEDINGS**

February 19, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 1:35 p.m.

Breakout Session

**Call to Order and Comments.** The meeting began at approximately 1:35 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 draft recommendations to the Sub-Committee at today's meeting.

### **2. Discussion Items**

Connie Stophel, Chair, lead the workgroup in a review of their draft proposal of recommendations to the Education Sub-committee. Proposal #1 recommends adding 25 additional centers in Zone 1. Currently, only 2% meet "Gold Seal" quality standards. Susan Main stated we use the "Guiding Star" system for accreditation and only 34 of the 96 centers are accredited. Maria Coppola asked how many centers are in that zone. Connie Stophel replied there are approximately 175. Susan Main stated the additional 25 centers will be selected from Zone 1 which we are not serving and are the most needy. The workgroup decided to re-word the outcome regarding quality support teams. Dr. Cheryl Fountain said that if we are going to improve the quality of the center, at the end of two years their status should raise two stars. In terms of

outcomes for students, the group probably wants to think about a significant and meaningful improvement over the two year-period. Chairman Stophel reminded the group that Zone 1 was selected as a focus due to the high crime in these zip codes.

Maria Coppola asked how the group was going to select the 25 new centers. Susan Main stated the criteria is that they are already involved in the Quality Connections program because they have subsidized children and are high risk. In other words, the centers which have the highest number of low-income children.

Cheryl Grymes asked why we are using the "Gold Seal" terminology. Susan Main said we are using the Guiding Star system as "Gold Seal" is an old standard.

Dr. Fountain directed her comments to the current number of 6,800 children served and the recommendation to add 1,700 children. The outcome should be to measure the increased quality of the centers, improve school readiness of targeted children; reduce grade retention of participating children.

Sub-committee Chair W.C. Gentry asked if the workgroup is recommending that there be an assessment in the center. Dr. Fountain suggested that one piece of the assessment be pre and post and design a sampling system. The second piece is looking at the "FLKRS" data to build a trend. Mr. Gentry said the report has to speak to the critical necessity of the school district working with the Early Learning Coalition because we have to have the data.

Maria Coppola asked if a survey has been conducted with first-grade teachers in Zone 1. Connie Stophel said the group discussed

this at their last meeting. There is a drop in numbers because the teachers are working with new children each year and the data does not flow with the child. Linda Lanier stated this is due to not having common identifiers for children. One possibility is to suggest to Mayor Peyton that he ask the Secretary of Education to assign their FCAT number at birth. Susan Main recommended assigning a student number from VPK forward. Ms. Lanier suggested the assigned number recommendation be a pilot program in Duval County. Cheryl Grymes agreed that the *Jacksonville Journey* is a vehicle to make this happen since there is no cost attached. The workgroup will review and revise their short and long term outcomes with the assistance of Maria Coppola. The case statement should include day care centers vs. learning centers.

### **3. Action Items**

Schedule a follow-up meeting for Friday, February 22, 2008.

**Adjournment:** The workgroup adjourned at 2:10 p.m., at which time they joined the Education Subcommittee meeting.