

**Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.**  
**CD/ED Task Force Meeting Notes**

**April 3, 2009**

**Members Present**

Jill McElyea            Judy Owen            Selina O'Shannon        Sandra Osborn  
Renee Valletutti        Kathy Henderson

**Members attending by Phone**

Enrique Escallon        Jacky Needelman        Michele Polland        Susan Gold

**Members absent**

Lillian Sigler

**Staff Present**

Allison Cruz-Mitchell            April Katine

**I. Call To Order & Welcome**

Quorum was established and Kathy Henderson called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am.

- II. Minutes of the 1/23/09, CD/ED Task Force Meeting notes and the 3/6/09 interim conference call notes were reviewed.

**MOTION: Sandy Osborn motioned to approve the task force minutes from 1/23/09 and Renee Valletutti seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jill McElyea motioned to approve the interim conference call minutes from 3/6/09 and Renee Valletutti seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**III. BUDGET REVIEW**

Allison Cruz-Mitchell provided an overview of the task force budget. Allison indicated we are in good shape with our budget. Task force members asked about if there is word from NCADD about any possible budget cuts. Allison indicated that we did not have any indication at this time one way or another. Allison provided a projected budget chart for the next three years and Kathy Henderson liked this very much and would like it provided at each task force meeting. Allison indicated that the task force may want to consider reducing some of the funding for multi-year

projects and increasing the sustainability for these projects. There were not action items under the budget category.

IV. **AGENCY FOR WORKFORCE INNOVATION (AWI – Partners in Planning)**

Jill McElyea made a presentation to the CD/ED about the Partners in Planning Meeting. Ms. McElyea reported that they are trying to increase early care and education that will accept children with special needs and her work in this group helped ensure that accepting children with disabilities in early care and education would stay as one of their focus points.

V. **STATE PLAN GOALS**

Allison Cruz-Mitchell reviewed the progress towards CD/ED's state plan goals. Early Intervention goal 1, objective 1.3 was discussed. The task force discussed rewording objective 1.3.

**MOTION: Sandy Osborn moved to change the language of objective 1.3 to “Facilitate the elimination and reduction of barriers to inclusive opportunities in early care and early education setting for children with developmental disabilities in Florida.” and Judy Owen seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Education Goal 1 was discussed. The task force felt that we could not impact university and college programs that had already adopted programs for teacher education, however the suggestion was made by Michele Polland that we could possible collaborate with teacher education programs that have not yet gotten approval for their program or with programs who are asking for changes to their program for re-certification.

Also, Michele indicated that some community colleges are starting to have four year teacher education programs and this may be a good time to collaborate with them to ensure general education teachers are required to take some special education classes to be certified. Judy indicated that USF-St. Petersburg campus is currently going through this process and this may be an opportunity to collaborate with them.

**Motion: Enrique Escallon moved to reward Goal 1 objective 1.1 to “Collaborate with teacher education programs throughout Florida who are either newly applying for or reapplying for teacher certification programs to encourage these programs to include teaching students with special needs in their required course**

**work for general educators.” Selina O’Shannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

The task force discussed the need to reword Education Goal 2, objective 2.3.

**MOTION: Jill McElyea moved that Goal 2, objective 2.3 be reworded to read “Collaborate with Florida Department of Education and other state agency representatives to develop and implement a plan to increase post secondary opportunities for students with disabilities”. Renee Valletutti seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Kathy Henderson indicated she liked the chart indicating CD/ED’s progress towards meeting the state plan goals and she would like this chart in the packet for review at every other task force meeting.

#### **VI. RULE REVISION WORKGROUP**

April Katine reported on the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services (BEESS) Diploma Option Workgroup. The diploma option workgroup met and recommended language for rule revision. The new rule has been through the Bureau Leadership Team (BLT) and Michele Polland indicated that Sheryl Sandvoss, Program Specialist has some suggestions from BLT. April indicated we will need to look at the rule carefully once it is out for public comment. Task force members indicated that a curriculum to go along with the new rule was important and that if the curriculum indicated that not every student who was getting a standard diploma wants to go to college, this would be helpful to students with disabilities. **Sandy Osborn, Renee Valletutti and Michele Polland volunteered to work on a committee with April Katine to review the rule revision information once it is made available for public comment.**

April Katine reported on the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services (BEESS), Statewide Assessment Workgroup. It has not gone before the Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEESS), Bureau Leadership Team for review yet, however it should soon. April shared that the rule revision workgroup felt strongly that the four questions (bulleted below) that have been suggestions from the Bureau (BEESS) be included in the rule so that it would have the force of law.

- Is the student unable to master the grade-level general state standards, even with appropriate and allowable instructional accommodations, assistive technology and accessible instructional materials?
- Is the student's intellectual ability the primary reason for the inability to master grade-level general state standards?
- Is the student participating in a modified curriculum based on competencies in the general state standards Access Points for all academic areas?
- Does the student require direct instruction in academics based on alternate academic achievement standards in order to acquire, generalize, and transfer skills across settings?

Also, the workgroup felt strongly that the rule should include an exemption from FCAT for students who did not have the ability to access the FCAT due to their disability. Specifically student who were physically impaired or newly blinded were at a great disadvantage and should not be placed on a special diploma just because the state had not developed a computerized form of the FCAT. **Jill McElyea, Sandy Osborn, Michele Polland and Selina O'Shannon volunteered to work on a committee with April Katine to review the rule when it is posted for public comment.**

#### **VII. PROJECT UPDATES**

April Katine reviewed the status of the current projects with the task force.

#### **VIII. PROJECT SOURCE PRESENTATION**

Debbie Reed and Debra Duran did a presentation outlining Project Source. A power point that was used in the presentation is attached to the minutes.

#### **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Margaret Hooper provided the task force with a legislative update on the following topics:

- Safe Guidelines for Restraint and Seclusion – This has not moved this session. Hopefully laying the groundwork for more progress next session.
- McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities – This has not been well received. Margaret shared that unless John McKay or others push for students on partial day status or children in voluntary pre-k to be included in this program it probably will not pass.

- HB 745 Prepaid services for Parents of Children with Developmental Disabilities – Margaret reported that this bill has been favorably received and has a chance of passing.

X. **UPDATE ON NEW PROJECTS**

- Survey of Preschoolers with disabilities in inclusive settings. **April Katine indicated that the call to discuss this initiative is set for April 17, 2009 at 10 am and Sandy Osborn, Judy Owen and Enrique Escallon are scheduled to be on that committee.**
- April Katine gave an update to the task force on the Early Childhood Development Forums project idea that would provide training to families of young children on Early Childhood Developmental Milestones. April participated in a conference call on March 31, 2009 with other agencies which included: Kim Galant from Technical Assistance and Training System (TATS), Amanda Moore from Agency for Workforce Innovation, Marilyn Hibbard from The Florida Department of Education, BEESS, and Mary Ann Ahearn and Gwen Lipscomb from The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource Systems (FDLRS) Associate Centers. These participants work in the field of early childhood education and Ms. Ahearn and Ms. Lipscomb represent FDLRS/Child Find. These experts encouraged April to develop a survey to find out what services, materials and supports are already being provided by (FDLRS) so as not to duplicate efforts. April has already begun working on the survey. Task force members wanted to ensure that children who are homeless and in foster care will be targeted for this resource. Susan Gold indicated we should be looking at using the Grow to 5 series in some way.
- April reported that the request for proposals draft for Implementing Universal Educational Practices is complete and the RFP will be released on April 24, 2009. April provided a copy of the statement of work and outcomes for the task force's input. The task force wanted to ensure that collaborating with the Florida Inclusion Network was part of the statement of work. Allison reported that it was.
- Susan Gold indicated that the Health Care Task Force had discussed early childhood screening for developmental delays. Susan asked for an update on the Early Childhood Screening. The task force wanted to ensure that if the

Health Care Task force was not taking up this initiative that we would bring it back to CD/ED. April Katine will get the “Developmental Screening Report” from Debra Dowds. Susan Gold and April Katine agreed to be part of the discussions on the Early Childhood screening instrument working with the Health Care Task Force.

#### **XI. RESOURCE MEMBERSHIP**

The task force discussed the areas of need for the two vacant resource member positions. Susan Gold encouraged the task force to consider adding someone from Early Steps, Dept. of Health. The task force agreed to send their recommendations along with reasons for each recommendation to April Katine by June 1, 2009 and April will compile a list to provide to Kathy Henderson, Task Force Chair. Kathy asked April to get in touch with Debra Erupu to see if she is interested in coming back on the task force.

Life Experience scholarship opportunity – The task force agreed to use the private donation of \$4,200 towards four partial scholarships for the Life Experience program through the ARC of Jacksonville. The Life Experience program is an independent living program run by the ARC of Jacksonville, Florida. Their mission is to allow parents and individuals with developmental disabilities to discover the possibilities of living independently. The program includes a 1:5 staff ratio, customized independent living training, an opportunity for young adults with disabilities to develop friendships with both disabled and non-disabled peers, and the opportunity for 18-25 year olds with disabilities to enhance their decision making skills. **Jill McElyea volunteered to help review the applications and assist in choosing the recipients.** They would like to put the following four stipulations on the money.

- The recipients should be Florida Residents
- The scholarship should be based on need
- The recipients will share their experience with the task force, preferably come tell the task force about their experience with the program at the Oct. 9, 2009 task force meeting.
- A maximum of \$1,050 per scholarship

#### **XII. ACCOMMODATION AND MODIFICATIONS, WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**

April Katine shared that there were many key terms changing that have to do with statewide assessment and it would be prudent to wait to revise the Accommodations book until the state changed the terms so we did not have to reprint the book twice.

Without further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50.