

# SHARING THE COMMITMENT ESE ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES

## November 11, 2008

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### **Members Present**

Wilbur Hawke, Karen Stelmacki, Peg Sullivan, Adella Spinella, Debbie Tihen, Rosa Martinez, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Barb Southwick, Nancy Ross, Robert Spano, Dr. Beth McBride

### **Members Absent**

Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Myra Shapiro, Ken Fairbanks, Idel Altenburg, Dr. Lynne Wilder

### **Guests**

Joyce Austin, Leah Kaiser, Melissa Peacock, Heather O'Connell, Carolynne Gischel

### **ESE Advisory Vacancies**

1 Principal

### **Introductions**

Members and guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

### **Agenda**

The agenda as presented was approved.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from September 9, 2008 were approved.

### **Guest Presentation:**

#### **Leah Kaiser – Juvenile Assessment Center**

The Collier County Juvenile Assessment Center provides youth ages 7-17 and their families with free mental health assessment, prevention and intervention services. Children may be referred by parents, schools, law enforcement or other parties. Children who can benefit may be truant, unmanageable, possible substance abusers, or at-risk for other reasons. The goal of the Center is to prevent at risk youth from becoming delinquent and/or committing crimes. Services provided by the Center include: suicide risk assessments, mental health assessments, substance abuse assessments, brief treatment, referral services, take-home drug screen kits, follow-up care, and a 24/7 hot line (417-1966). The Center is a collaborative community effort made possible with its partnerships with: David Lawrence Center, Lutheran Services Florida, NCH Healthcare System, The District School Board of Collier County, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Collier County Sheriffs Office. The Center in Naples is located at 3315 East Tamiami Trail and the phone number for more information is 774-3927 or you may wish to visit [www.collierjac.org](http://www.collierjac.org). The Center in Immokalee is located at the David Lawrence Center. Leah will send 40 packets to ESE District for the parent libraries.

#### **Melissa Peacock – SWFL Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has free programs and materials for children, families, schools and healthcare professionals to help manage the return to school. All materials are available in English and Spanish. The Trish Greene Back to School Program for Children with Cancer provides resources and support from LLS to increase communication among healthcare professionals, parents, children with cancer and school personnel so that the child has a smoother transition back to school. The SWFL Chapter offers a specific ½ day communication workshop (free) to school personnel (e.g., school nurses, administrators, ESE staff, and parents) with focus on childhood cancer. Workshop speakers include the pediatric oncologist specialists. If you are interested in sponsoring a collaborative communication workshop or would like further information about the Chapter's services, contact Melissa at 992-5871 at extension 1046 or email her at [Melissa.peacock@lls.org](mailto:Melissa.peacock@lls.org). You may also wish to visit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society online at [www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org). Free materials are available online. Melissa will send 40 information packets to the ESE Office for dissemination to schools with parent libraries however, she did note that cancer information materials more than two years old should be discarded and newer materials ordered for replacement.

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### Old Business:

- **Sharing the Commitment Brochure** – Karen Stelmacki announced that the brochures are being printed and will be made available to the schools upon receipt.
- **Parent IEP Surveys** – Karen reported that schools are distributing surveys to parents at the end of each IEP meeting to obtain their input on their experience at their child’s IEP meeting. Parent input is valued and necessary for our continuous improvement of services to students with disabilities. Parents are being asked to complete the survey at the end of the IEP meeting and to return it to Dr. Sartorio in the envelope provided. Survey results will be reported at the May 2009 meeting. Survey questions focus on communication, the meeting, and the parent’s perception of the benefit of special education.
- **Parent Library/Workshop Schedule** – *Wilbur Hawke & PEER parents*  
To date, eight (of the 13 available) libraries have been placed at Collier schools during the 2008-09 school year. Wilbur shared with participants that he has ordered 100 CDs from the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities (NICHY) and will be making these available to all schools. The CD offers a resource collection of various trainings; a great way to store and organize information. When placed on the Web, the database will allow users to search for and retrieve information of their choice. Wilbur will work through Bill Schulte to upload this CD onto the district’s website so that parents and teachers will be able to readily access this information.
- **Sensitivity Awareness Training** – *Debbie Tihen & Barbara Southwick*  
A training was completed on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Lorenzo Walker Technical with after-school teachers, including staff from Sunrise Sunset programs. Additionally, training was conducted on October 10 at Estates Elementary, on October 17 at Palmetto Elementary, and on October 22 at Mike Davis Elementary. Training was conducted with all 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at each of these schools. Plans are underway to conduct training at: Pelican Marsh Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Corkscrew Elementary, Veterans Memorial Elementary, and Golden Terrace Elementary. A total of 10 Sensitivity Awareness Trainings will be offered this school year with a kit provided to each school to ensure program sustainability. Barb Southwick reported that there is some discussion with the principal at Tommie Barfield Elementary as well.
- **Disability History and Awareness Activities** – *Karen Stelmacki*
  - a) **CCPS Board Resolution** – Senate Bill 856 requires school boards to designate “Disability History and Awareness Weeks” during the first two weeks in October each year. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the District School Board of Collier County adopted a Resolution designating the first two weeks in October 2008 as “Disability History and Awareness Weeks” and encouraged our schools to provide instruction on disability history, people with disabilities, and the disability rights movement. Parent, Heather O’Connell, acknowledged that it was individuals with disabilities who worked to bring the needs of persons with developmental disabilities to the attention of the legislators and it was their advocacy efforts that resulted in this new statute.
  - b) **Disability History and Awareness: A Resource Guide to all schools** – The ESE Office distributed a guide including a variety of resources available to assist educators in providing disability history and awareness instruction, integrated within the overall curriculum, for students at all levels (K-12). Schools were encouraged to contact Island Coast Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Center for assistance with disability awareness and sensitivity training for students. Contact information was also given on other local agencies, including but not limited to: Florida Network on Disabilities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Agency for Persons with Disabilities) that may be helpful in accessing guest speakers and resource materials. A variety of resources are available at [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org). Debbie Tihen shared that FDLRS sent teachers an activity on disability etiquette and people first language, as well as an activity on famous individuals with disabilities.

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- c) **Naples Daily News Article** – Karen stated that a News Release was sent to Joe Landon, District Information Officer for release to the Naples Daily News.
- d) **Website Information** – A scrolling message about Disability History and Awareness Week was also posted on the ESE Department website.
- e) **Immokalee Middle School** – Marti Graf-Nagler invited Rachel Whitty from the Center for Independent Living and a sign language interpreter to Immokalee Middle School on October 10, 2008 to provide a sensitivity awareness presentation to approximately 40 Miracle-2 afterschool program participants. The presentation included information about disabilities and several hands-on simulation activities involving: eye glasses and blindfolds to stimulate different visual impairments; crutches and a wheel chair; and stations with mirrors simulating a variety of learning disabilities and brain injuries. The students asked a lot of questions and enjoyed the materials.
- f) **Flash drives and pens**  
During Disability Awareness week, special education educators received flash drives with the words, Exceptional Student Education “Sharing The Commitment to Excellence” inscribed. Pens were given to assistants.

### **New Business:**

#### **Teaming with Heart Southern Regional Conference** – *Wilbur Hawke*

Wilbur stated that the Southern Regional Conference on September 13<sup>th</sup> was a great conference that nearly 80 individuals attended and thanked everyone for their assistance and support in making this conference successful. Wilbur stated that there was a lot of interest in Transition and that he will be suggesting to Collier’s Partners in Transition (PIT) the idea of exploring a collaborative workshop/conference for 2008-09. Wilbur emphasized the need for teacher consultation/participation in Collier PIT. Wilbur reported that the Executive Director of Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Richard LaBelle, presented Dr. Victoria Sartorio with the FND Heart Award on September 13<sup>th</sup> and thanked her for her long standing commitment, professionally and personally, to implementing best practices for the education of students with disabilities, as well as to working tirelessly to make sure that families are heard.

#### **Collaborative Partners Updates**

##### Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) – *Debbie Tihen*

FDLRS has been busy these past few months providing information, training, and support to schools and families in order to promote effective parent participation in the education of children who are exceptional and/or have special or unique needs. FDLRS / Island Coast Parent Services department recently provided a The Professional Parent workshop at First Choice Therapy, formerly Therapeutic Integration Services. In addition, other parent trainings that have been offered at schools included: Managing Behavior and the Introduction to Pre-K & Transition from Early Steps. Parent registration is being taken for More Than Words and It Takes Two to Talk (The Hanen Program for Parents) workshops. The Managing Behavior – Positive Behavior Supports training at the Teaming with Heart Conference had 15 individuals participate.

##### **Personnel Development Partnership (PDP)** – *Peg Sullivan*

Peg announced that funds supporting the Family-as-Faculty, Mentoring and Induction Program and the Speakers Bureau end as of December 21<sup>st</sup>. Tuition assistance continues to be available for the Para-to-Teacher Program, and the Autism and Severe/Profound Endorsements Support Program. Peg stated that the Preschool Endorsement courses are no longer being offered as special education teachers may add this endorsement by taking a FL DOE test. For more information on Florida’s Personnel Development Website supporting Exceptional Student Education, visit [www.florida-ese.org/personneldevelopment](http://www.florida-ese.org/personneldevelopment). The website provides information for teachers, related service personnel, and administrators working with

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exceptional students on: Highly Qualified Teacher Information; University Coursework Opportunities; and Professional Development Opportunities. Peg stated that November 2008 has been recognized as Florida Parental Involvement in Education Week – a proclamation was signed by Governor Charlie Crist on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

### **Florida Gulf Coast University** – *Dr. Carolynne Gischel for Dr. Linda Ray*

For information on FGCU's virtual class offerings for the Autism and Severe/Profound Endorsements, contact Dr. Gischel at 590-7795 or [cgischel@fgcu.edu](mailto:cgischel@fgcu.edu). Class space is limited. Tuition assistance is provided through PDP. FGCU continues to recruit both general and special education teachers for their Masters in Special Ed Program.

### **Collier's Positive Behavior Support Project** – *Karen Stelmacki for Dr. Sheryl Alvies*

Michelle White, Florida's Positive Behavior Support Project with the University of South Florida recently advised Collier that it has 20 public schools (2 middle school and 18 elementary schools) who received PBS Model School status. The specific award status (i.e., Gold, Silver or Bronze) will be known in a short time. The list of schools include: Big Cypress Elementary, Calusa Park Elementary, Cypress Palm Middle, Estates Elementary, Golden Gate Elementary, Golden Gate Middle, Golden Terrace Elementary, Lake Park Elementary, Lake Trafford Elementary, Laurel Oak Elementary, Lely Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Parkside Elementary, Pelican Marsh Elementary, Pinecrest Elementary, Sabal Palm Elementary, Shadowlawn Elementary, Tommie Barfield Elementary, Veterans Memorial Elementary, and Vineyards Elementary.

### **Redlands Christian Migrant Association** – *Rosa Martinez*

Rosa stated that RCMA is opening its Migrant Head Start Centers on November 17<sup>th</sup> as families have started to return to Immokalee. RCMA is working in collaboration with FDLRS Child Find to conduct staff training and developmental screenings for migrant children and families. RCMA is seeking donations for families for Christmas, especially toys for children. For more information, contact Rosa at 658-3600.

### **Open**

**Barb Southwick** disseminated a pamphlet about the **Corkscrew Community's Boundless Playground**, a \$350,000 project to benefit children in our community with and without disabilities. To make monetary donations or to donate services or materials, please contact: All Kids Play Foundation of Corkscrew Community, Inc. (AKPF) at [allkidsplayfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:allkidsplayfoundation@yahoo.com).

**Inclusive Schools Week** – Free publicity materials for inclusive schools week can be downloaded from: <http://www.inclusiveschools.org/content/celebration-and-awareness-materials>. Dr. Sartorio plans to distribute a copy of these materials to each principal prior to Inclusive Schools Week December 3-7. Inclusive Schools Week is a great opportunity to raise awareness around the benefits of inclusive education for ALL children.

### **2008-2009 Meeting Schedule**

Time: 10 AM – 12 PM

January 13, 2009 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center, Room 4-167

March 10, 2009 – Redlands Christian Migrant Association, 402 West Main Street, Immokalee

May 12, 2009 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center, Room 4-167