

SHARING THE COMMITMENT

An Exceptional Student Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2010



Members: Wilbur Hawke, Adella Spinella, Karen Stelmacki, Dr. Beth McBride, Jennifer Smith, Debbie Tihen, Debby Ramassini, Rosa Martinez, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Barb Southwick,

Members Absent: Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Ken Fairbanks, Bob Spano, Stan Weser

- Karen Stelmacki announced that Sgt. Dan McDonald, a recently appointed member, resigned due to a transfer to a new position within the Sheriff's Office. Two of the community/business representatives on the Sharing The Commitment Board Membership are now vacant.

Guests: Dr. Doug Carothers, Stacy Hamburger, Dr. Pam Bruening, Jeanne Annunziata, Peg Sullivan, Teri Teresinski

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

A consensus agreement was reached to approve the agenda as presented, as well as, the meeting minutes from November 16, 2009 with one correction. Advisory Board member, Rosa Martinez, was added to members absent on the minutes.

Old Business

1. **2009-2010 ESE Parent Survey** – Karen Stelmacki reported that copies of our District Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent Survey were distributed to ESE Program Specialists on December 8th. She emphasized that obtaining feedback from parents after IEP meetings fosters communication and strengthens our educational services to students with disabilities. It is our expectation that every parent that attends his/her child's IEP meeting will be given a Parent Survey. The parent has the option to complete an online survey, or if preferred, a paper (scantron) survey. For parents opting to complete an online survey, a label with the website address will be affixed to the cover page of their child's IEP. A copy of the Parent Survey was distributed to meeting participants. The District ESE 2008-2009 survey results were reported previously to this committee and to the School Board. Karen stated that under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), states are also required to collect information annually from parents of children receiving special education services. The Florida Department of Education (DOE) 2009-10 survey will be open to all parents of children with an individual educational plan in PreK through grade 12 starting February 1 and will close July 1, 2010. Previous survey results from the state can be found in Florida's Annual Performance Report (APR) located at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/> or results for Collier can be found in the local education agency (LEA) profiles at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/datapage.asp>.
2. **Parent/Guardian Workshop** – Karen Stelmacki reported that approximately 25 parents and clients attended a workshop, *Parents and Guardians of Students with Disabilities Preparing for Your Child's Future*, at Gulf Coast High School on Nov 18, 2009 from 7 – 9 PM. Tom Nurse with Independent Financial Partners, and Richard La Belle with Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. (FND) conducted a webinar with focus on personal financial planning and Trusts for persons with disabilities of all ages. Planning is underway for a Part

2 session to take place in 2010. A special thanks is extended to Nancy Ross and Greg Maniscalco for coordinating this outstanding workshop for parents.

3. **Collaborative Partner Updates**

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc. – Wilbur Hawke reported that he and other Florida Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) directors will soon be traveling to Washington, DC for a training with the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). He also shared that the 4th Annual Heart & Hope Statewide Family Conference is scheduled to take place in Orlando on February 20, 2010 from 8 AM – 4 PM at Southwest Middle School. Registration is now open for this full day conference. For more information, call (727) 523-1130 or (800) 825-5736. FND is sponsoring...

- Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) workshop for parents on January 19, 2010 at 6 PM at Manatee Middle School. This workshop explains what a behavior is, how to assess the behavior and how to develop and implement a plan to provide a positive learning environment. PBS is about teaching “new” replacement skills to a child in order to access positive outcomes. For more information, please contact one of the FND PEER Parents, Barb Southwick at barb@fndfl.org or 239-777-0731, or Adella Spinella at Adella@fndfl.org or 239-774-2080.
- Response to Intervention (RtI) workshop for parents with Dr. Pam Bruening, Coordinator RtI and PBS, and Dr. Beth McBride, ESE Coordinator/Elementary on February 3, 2010 at 6 PM at Corkscrew Elementary School Media Center.

Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) – Debbie Tihen reported that FDLRS is working in collaboration with the District ESE Department and Human Resources on providing staff development to paraprofessional substitutes. The first of three trainings is scheduled for January 14, 2010. This training will also include school/classroom visitations. Debbie reported that Child Find in Collier is being covered by two part-time Child Find Specialist substitutes while the full-time Specialist is out on medical leave. It was also reported that Jennifer Smith, FDLRS Parent Specialist/Trainer will be attending a SIB Shop Train-the-Trainer in July and will discuss training options for Collier at a future Sharing The Commitment meeting.

Collier Partners in Transition (Collier PIT)- Karen announced that the next Collier Partners in Transition meeting is January 20, 2010. Discussion focus at this meeting will be on Project 10 Training ArtThread; the Summary of Performance; and Collier PIT goals for the year. The mission of Project 10 transition education network is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Dr. Nedley shared information about the Work of Art Program, an innovative technology and training program from Project 10 and ARTthread that combines creative expression, social networking, 21st Century skill-building, school-based enterprise, and self-determination for transition aged students with disabilities (14-22 years). It fosters creative expression, teaches technology and graphics, builds community and connections, offers positive therapeutic activity to help counteract negative behavior, and leads to student empowerment and sense of accomplishment. More information:

<http://project10.artthread.org/>

SEDNET, Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional Disabilities – Dr. Nedley explained that SEDNET is focused on enhancing the system of care for families and children by taking a systematic approach, addressing the system of care through initiatives such as, direct services, grants and funding, interagency collaboration and linkage, and staff development. Dr. Nedley services Collier, Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Charlotte Counties. Katrina announced that Mike Sedgewick will be the new regional director for Voc Rehab.

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) – Rosa Martinez announced that five RCMA centers are up and running in Bonita, Immokalee, and Naples and developmental screenings have been conducted with all children enrolled in the centers. Approximately 25

children have been identified at-risk and potentially in need of special services. Rosa also stated that RCMA is working collaboratively with FND to provide support groups for parents. Upcoming RCMA Event: April 10, 2010 Dia del Nino.

Personnel Development Partners (PDP) at FGCU - Peg Sullivan announced that the Partnership put closure to its Positive Beginnings Initiative (grant) in December 2009. Upcoming Event: April 10, 2010 Promising Pathways.

Sensitivity Awareness Committee— Barb Southwick stated that Florida Inclusion Network (FIN) purchased all materials for an additional 10 Sensitivity Awareness kits. A special thanks to FIN! Barb indicated that the principal at Manatee Middle School has confirmed the school's interest in the Sharing The Commitment Sensitivity Awareness training for its 6th grade students. Karen shared information about the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) making sets of disability awareness books for children and youth (pre-k to grade 12) available to school districts, groups of schools, or individual schools at no cost. The FDDC plans to offer these books to districts or schools that will use them in unique and positive ways to help students better understand inclusion. Proposals submitted by January 29th will be used to select the recipients of the books. Karen stated that ESE, on behalf of the school district, will be submitting a proposal and will be asking for a number of sets of books for elementary and middle school level. If the proposal is selected by FDDC, Sharing The Commitment will provide a set of books to each school who has (and will be) receiving the Sensitivity Awareness training.

New Business

1. **ESE Community Forum** – Parents of Collier County students with special needs are cordially invited to attend an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Student Services Community Forum on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM in the School Board Meeting Room of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Center. The meeting will feature a roundtable discussion regarding the IEP facilitated process in use in our schools. The conversation will begin with an overview of the services provided by the District, while focusing on the individualized programs that are available and on the ways parents are invited to offer input on the ESE programs and services provided. Parents attending the meeting will gain a better understanding of what IEP meetings are all about, and learn how to make them more meaningful for themselves and for their child.
2. **Universal Education Project** – The Universal Education Project, funded by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, informed Collier that it was one of three selected to participate in the pilot phase of the grant for 2009-10 school year. The three districts are Collier, Pinellas, and St. Lucie. Dr. Connie Berquist, President of Evaluation Systems Design, Inc. (ESDI) will be working with our District to further the implementation of universal education, working together to increase opportunities for students in our district.
3. **Response to Intervention (RtI)** –Dr. Pam Bruening provided an in-depth look at RtI and facilitated a discussion focusing on: instruction/interventions, problem-solving, universal screening, progress monitoring, data analysis and interpretation, support and professional development. All new...Monday through Saturday, an all-new edition of the *Parent Connection* TV show on the Education Channel (Cable 99) with Chief Instructional Officer, Martha Hayes, and the district's RtI Coordinator, Dr. Pam Bruening.

OPEN

- Barb Southwick is the now the Regional Coordinator for VSA arts of Florida. <http://www.vsafl.org/> VSA Florida's mission is to create a society in which people with disabilities can learn through, participate in and enjoy the arts. Headquartered at the University of Florida, VSA arts of Florida is a member of the international network of

VSA arts, an affiliate of the John F Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. View their DVD on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uow4Kta7ezY>. Barb reported that Manatee Middle School has just completed their artist in residency program and will be having a showcase of their pieces on Thursday Jan 21st at 5:30 PM. Please contact Barb for more information at 239-777-0731 or barbsouth@comcast.net.

- Barb shared information about a conference for families and professionals on February 27-28, 2010 at the University of Florida, Gainesville on Behavior and Learning in Children with the 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome. For complete details and registration information, visit online at www.elwyngenetics.org/22qhome.htm or call 610-891-2313.

Next Meeting – NOTE Change in Location

Date: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Time: 10 AM – 12 PM

Location:

Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)
402 W Main Street
Immokalee, FL. 34142
(239) 658-3600

Directions from I-75 and Immokalee Road: Go Immokalee Road/CR-846 E, Left onto FL-29 N/W Main St, end at 402 W Main Street (bldg. on the right). (Approximately 30 miles)