

SHARING THE COMMITMENT

An Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2010

- I. Members Attended – Dr. Victoria Sartorio, Karen Stelmacki, Wilbur Hawke, Rosa Martinez, Debbie Tihen, Allman Todd, Stan Weser, Dan McDonald, Dr. Lynn Wilder, Barb Southwick, Adella Spinella

Members Absent – Ken Fairbanks, Bob Spano, Nancy Ross, Dr. Katrina Nedley, Dr. Elizabeth McBride, Jennifer Smith, Peg Sullivan

- II. Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2010 were approved as presented with corrections as follow:

- Page 2 – PEER parent phone numbers are 776-4104 or 777-0731
- Page 3 – FDLRS phone number is (239) 337-8127

- III. Old Business

- **Universal Education Project** – *Dr. Victoria Sartorio*. Collier School District Exceptional Student Education (ESE) was selected as an exemplar school district by the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council (FDDC) to participate in its Universal Education Project. FDDC would like to schedule a day in June 2010 to explore where Collier is at in inclusive education. We will utilize the universal education instrument, *Best Practices for Inclusive Education: An Assessment and Planning Tool for Systematic Change (BPIE)*, to develop a district-level Strategic Implementation Plan that will address the greatest gaps in universal education at the school and district levels. Dr. Sartorio will attempt to schedule the first meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2010.
- **Collaborative Partners Status**
 - **Family Network on Disabilities (FND)** - The Southern Regional Conference is September 25, 2010 in Sugarloaf Key. 2010-2011 will be the final year for the PEN grant. All PTI competitive grants will come up again next year.
 - **Parent Educator Exceptional Resources (PEER) Parents** – parent training has been completed at:
 - Lake Trafford Elementary by Florida Inclusion Network on Inclusion
 - Everglades School by Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System on Parent Stress
 - Palmetto Ridge High School by Family Network on Disabilities and Independent Financial Partners (IFP) on Wills, Trusts, and Guardianships
 - East Naples Middle School by Family Network on Disabilities on Transition.

There are five libraries remaining to be placed. For 2010-2011, PEERs will focus on training, and parent library distribution, at Lorenzo Walker Technical High, Immokalee High School, Golden Gate Elementary, Golden Gate Middle, and Marco Charter School.

Parents of Alternate Schools may access parent libraries at their child's residence zone school. Wilbur will include a note to this effect on the website. Barb Southwick verified that there are four *Sensitivity Awareness (SAW) Kits* and DVDs that are available, and that they are stored at Corkscrew Elementary School. Lake Park Elementary and Manatee Elementary is scheduled for training in the next few weeks.

- **Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS)** – Jennifer Smith is presently conducting Child Find developmental screenings at Veterans Memorial Elementary. Registration is now open for the 12th Annual Family Café Summit on Disabilities is being held in Orlando on June 18-20, 2010. Link: <http://familycafe.net/>. FDLRS is sponsoring hotel accommodations for five families to attend this Summit. FDLRS is distributing its annual parent newsletter to schools and will also make it available on the Sharing The Commitment website. FDLRS will send 10 Newsletters to each school, attention the ESE Program Specialist, making note to place one copy in the ESE parent library. FDLRS Associate Centers have been given their expected outcomes/goals identified by function including: child find, parent services, human resources development, and technology. FDLRS welcomes all ideas.
- **Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU)** – Dr. Lynne Wilder reported that FGCU is looking at a Personnel Development Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs for the undergraduate program to ensure that staff have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research and experience. Lynne reported that more than half of the special education master's degree students are general education teachers. Financial assistance is available for teachers interested in a Master's Degree in Special Education. For more information, contact Dr. Wilder at 239-590-7787. FGCU is considering hiring a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) so that the university can begin to offer graduate coursework in applied behavior analysis.
- **Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)** – Rosa Martinez reported that the Dia Del Nino on April 10th in Immokalee was a great success, and expressed her appreciation to all members of the Sharing The Commitment for their support (volunteerism and donations). The RCMA migrant centers will be closing in May and will reopen in early November 2010. Rosa stated that the processes this school year for identification and evaluation of migrant children, have been timely and families are leaving with educational data to present to receiving schools in other states.
- **Florida Inclusion Network (FIN)** - Stan Weser reports new modules on differentiated instruction will soon be released. FIN did a Differentiated Instruction overview at Estates Elementary School (EES) and staff would like to continue their professional development via online courses. Stan reports that EES will be collaborating with Lely Elementary School on providing FIN professional development for teachers. Additionally, FIN recently conducted a parent training at Lake Trafford Elementary School. Stan provided copies of books that ESE may want to consider adding to our

parent libraries; some funding would be available from FIN. Stan also disseminated buttons and literature on People First Language.

- **Collier Partners in Transition (PIT)** – The last Collier Partners in Transition (PIT) meeting for this school year will be held on May 19, 2010 from 1-3 PM in Room 4-167 at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administration Building. Allie Todd reported that the Project 10 Transition Wheel was just released which speaks to multi-agency collaboration; this will be an agenda item at the May 19th meeting. Each PIT meeting has time devoted to discussion about Agency for Disabilities (APD) funding. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has begun an initiative for earlier referral/recruitment of students with disabilities. They are now encouraging student/parent referral in the student's junior year, with hopes of evaluation and Individual Plan of Employment (IPE) completion prior to student graduation.
- **Sheriff's Department** – Sergeant Dan McDonald reports that his assignment again allows for participation in the Sharing The Commitment Advisory. The Advisory members are pleased to have Dan back. Sergeant McDonald reported that he is staying active with presentations on autism, and talking with various public safety agencies about the special needs of these students.

IV. New Business

- **Collier's LEA Profile** – *Dr. Victoria Sartorio*. Collier County currently has 82% of our students with disabilities **ages 6-21** included in regular class. This is a 6% increase from the prior school year. We are the highest in the state, although shared with four other counties. We are the largest of these counties. We have approximately 270 ESE teachers providing instruction to students with disabilities in inclusive classrooms. About half of our ESE teachers are dual certified (basic education and special education). Presently, teachers are being reimbursed for passing certification tests when they add on certification areas e.g., elementary education, middle schools integrated, exceptional student education.

Additionally, the number of students with disabilities **ages 3-5** attending a regular early childhood program at least 80% of the time increased. 54% of the students in the Preschool Disabilities Program are provided specially designed instruction in a regular early childhood program (i.e., Head Start, VPK). This is a 11% increase from the prior school year.

Dr. Sartorio highlighted other components of the 2010 LEA Profile which can be found at <http://www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/2010lea/Collier.pdf>.

- **IDEA, Part B and IDEA, Part B Preschool Entitlement Distribution** – Dr. Sartorio reported that the Florida Department of Education Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services recently sent the 2010-2011 Preliminary Entitlement Distributions: \$8,755,958 IDEA Part B allocation (approximately 50,000 less), and \$252,792 IDEA Part B Preschool. These funds support: salaries and benefits, substitutes, mileage reimbursements, indirect costs for projects,

and the proportionate share to be expended for eligible parentally placed private school students with disabilities attending schools in our jurisdiction. The remaining funds support some instructional materials and supplies. Although no longer required, \$50,000 will be set-aside during 2010-2011 to be expended for parent involvement and participation activities. The American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding continues to fund professional development, proportionate share, salaries and benefits for some inclusion teachers, job coaches, hearing impaired teachers, as well as, a percentage of reading coaches, and Response to Intervention (RtI) facilitators. The IDEA Part B Preschool funding supports the salaries and benefits for the Prekindergarten Assessment Team diagnosticians.

Advisory members discussed the priorities for parent involvement and participation activities and agreed upon the following for 2010-2011:

- Contract with FND to provide services to STC
 - Parent Liaison (1) and PEER parent (2) services in Collier County
 - Dissemination of information, technical assistance, and training to parents
- Purchase 4 additional parent libraries.
 - Current inventory includes one library; we will need four more library sets for next school year.
 - Any new funds will focus on updates to existing libraries.
- Stipends for Sensitivity Awareness Training
 - \$200 per trainer, 2 trainers per session
 - FDLRS agrees to continue to contribute \$2,000 toward trainer stipends

Wilbur Hawke expressed the need for STC to move in the direction of identifying a parent-teacher “volunteer” team in each school as a resource to other parents. This PEER team would be responsible for dissemination of information and training of other parents. Wilbur and Dr. Sartorio are continuing their search for grant opportunities to support the concept of providing a stipend for the parent and teacher PEER team.