
Agenda:
- Welcome and Introductions
- Report on current potential resources
- Presentation from the Literacy Center
- Report for city-wide committee representatives
- Orientation and contract agreement update
- Quality review process
- Committee breakout
- FY03 Planning, 1st step.

Monique brought the meeting to order at 9:45 with introductions.

The Report on current potential resources was moved up till Tonya arrived.

**Presentation from The Literacy Center**
Kate Bueler and Laura Root were introduced as Vista workers who are assigned to the Dorchester Cluster Literacy Center. They gave a presentation on their work recently at the Literacy Resource Center, located at the UMASS Early Learning Center. They emphasized the Center’s goal of spreading the materials throughout the Cluster and asked for suggestions from the membership regarding how materials would be best used. Examples were distributed as well as sign up sheets for the Literacy staff to come out to programs.

Laura Root and Linda Camp also reported on the ReadBoston Recipe for Literacy Program in order to extend it to more childcare centers in Dorchester.

**Reports from citywide committees representatives.**
- Monique Public Policy & Education Committee outlined some upcoming workshops available.

Community Partnerships Recognition Day was held at the State House on Monday, March 4, 2002. It raised an awareness of the Boston Legislative Association and who the Dorchester’s representatives are, at the same time it also increased the awareness of the congressmen for federal/state funding for childcare programs. There were about 150

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people lobbying for funding and community partnerships programs. It is important to spread the good reputation of the Dorchester Cluster. We need to rally around the cause with the sheer size of the Cluster.

- Susan McDonald – 0-8 Family Child Care Committee
  Handed out a meeting schedule and summary of happenings.
  Fliers are available for Family Childcare Providers.

- Diego Briceno – Access and Affordability
  Report on the Living Wage Ordinance there were no conclusions as of now.
  Meetings are scheduled in order to move ahead with the wager process.

- Haji Shearer – Program and Services Committee
  Vendors have been doing presentations on the programs and services that they have been providing. The funding priorities exercise they were asked to do by the steering committee was not done because the committee felt they did not have the evaluative information to answer the questions.

- Eileen Bisson – Workforce and Professional Development
  Accreditation and CDA support—there will be 7 centers that have been receiving support, and 15 family childcare supporters who will have to be dropped because of the budget cuts. The concern is that services taken away will sacrifice quality. The committee did complete the priorities questionnaire but felt also that the information was not there to make an informed decision.
  Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month, in the morning.

- Monique – Information from the 0-8 Steering Committee
  Each cluster was asked about the current CPC formula and about lag funds utilization. It asked how much of a percent should go toward direct service and how much should go toward quality (Indirect services). The Dorchester Cluster suggested 71% for direct services, the remainder for indirect. Monique explained that it is important to have a representative on each of the committees at 0-8 and that there should be a backup. We went to have a list of people that could serve as backup to attend 0-8 committees.

There will be Elections at 0-8 for a Treasurer and a Vice President at end of June. Nominations are by April 20th and should be submitted to 0-8. The Current Vice President is Leonard Lee and the current Treasurer is Katherine McDonough.
**Orientation and contract agreement update**

Diego explained that there should be a process to refresher how to maintain community partnership slots. It is important to cover all bases; this will make the work easier for the continuation application. The Cluster will ask for all the documentation of direct providers with slots and, this should be a priority. Diego is preparing an orientation packet with all the expectations and regulations to help providers keep abreast of the process.

**Citywide resources**

Tonya Harrison explained the License Place Grant possibility? She was unsure of process. Also there is a citywide grant to Invest In Quality – The Application is available March 1st and is due by April 30th. Children’s Trust Fund Application is starting this month. The information will be collected and distributed to Cluster members as soon as we have it.

**Quality Review**

A sub-committee has been established and has set up their first meeting to look at usage, quality progress thru the accreditation/CDA certification and Cluster participation for the contracted providers. The intent of the exercise is to insure that the Cluster is supporting quality care and to identify needs that may not be meet.