



2017-18 Academy of Leaders
Grace Place for Children and Families
Campus: 4300 21st Ave. SW, Golden Gate City
Mail: PO Box 990531, Naples, FL 34116
Phone: 239.234-2400
Website: www.graceplacenaples.org



**Grace Place for Children and Families / 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Advisory Board**

Elementary Program

Wednesday January 10, 2018 at Grace Place from 5:15 to 6:15pm

Board Consists of:

Staff: Megan Cashour, Site Coordinator, Tom Powers, Director of School Age Programs, Dr. Tim Ferguson, CEO, Michelle Fonte, Homework Room Teacher

Schools/Teachers: Kelly Bergey, Principal (GGE); Steven Brown, Assistant Principal (GGE); Michelle Williams, Teacher (GGE); and Terri Lonneman, Principal (GTE); or designees

Students: Giovanni H, Esmerelda S, Lizmary C

Parents: Lolita Manco; Angel Hernandez; Adrien and Marie Staco; Stangiamae Staco, Marissa Galvan; Henry Martinez, Rocio Antonio; Juleymi Guillen, Sandra Rivas; Amy and Daylin Donis

Community Partners: Jessica Cullen, David Lawrence Center; Janice Paine, United Arts Council

Attending:

Giovanni H, student

Esmerelda S, student

Lizmary C, student

Coral Vargas, Prevention Specialist, David Lawrence Center

Elena Ruiz, Media Specialist, Golden Gate Elementary

Janice Paine, Program Manager, United Arts Council

Lolita Manzo, parent

Sandra Rivas, parent

Rocio Antonio, parent

Marissa Galvan, parent

Michelle Fonte, Homework Room Teacher

Megan Cashour, Site Coordinator

Minutes:

- Review of 21st CCLC goals/objectives

The Coordinator talked about the purpose of the meeting and we reviewed the goals and objectives of the grant proposal. Introductions were completed. The entire meeting was translated for our Spanish speaking parents by Michelle Fonte.

- How we are serving students that really need extra support.

We are providing prevention services and activities through a partnership with David Lawrence Center that helps with student behaviors in the program, at school and at



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home. Students benefit from having homework support from certified teachers and volunteers. Some students are on a good track academically, and this program keeps them on track. The program provides a safe place where students can socialize and practice healthy communication with adults and their peers. There is trusted staff here that help students reach their potential. In addition, we are in constant communication with the principals of both schools, Golden Gate and Golden Terrace Elementary regarding student needs. For our Homework Room, we have grouped students by need, and those students work with adult volunteers accordingly. Our Homework Room Toolbox contains academic games and flash cards, such as Scrabble, Zingo, and Banana-grams to keep students on track in reading and math.

- How we can improve activities: academic and enrichment.

It is easy for partners to work with staff here. There is good communication between staff and the youth. We should consider more reward systems to support students who struggle with participation during activities and presentations. We should do more to orient partners and students to programming; it is important to frame the activities in a good way from the start so there is buy-in from all parties. We need to make sure that each and every student gets supported. We must make sure that staff and volunteers, especially the teen volunteers, stay on-task. Supervision and safety are paramount. The arts and personal enrichment are so important; these services are often pushed aside in favor of academics during the school day. We need to ensure that character development and arts enrichment continue to be strong in after school programming here. Academics are integrated into this special learning.

- How we can improve communicating with partners and families.

We should make sure that partners are aware of resources. Leadership must be sure to communicate any schedule changes that happen during the year. Usually families and partners know schedule changes in advance with ample warning. Grace Place has done a good job with communicating with the schools—especially regarding logistics and scheduling. Parent communication has been solid; it is the responsibility of the parents to stay informed by asking questions and checking in with staff.

- Community needs we should be aware of.

Staff should be sensitive to responding to news stories and media. Staff have witnessed younger students trying to sort out stories heard through media recently and may need help interpreting issues. For example, medicinal marijuana could still be harmful if it is abused. We need to be responsive and listening to our students. We may have an opportunity to offer prevention information. Our staff from David Lawrence Center has been a huge help in speaking with students and parents about these topics, with age-appropriate language. Parents have expressed their appreciation for the workshops that have been held regarding these issues.



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- Program Strengths and Suggestions

Students shared their favorite parts about coming to the Grace Place Afterschool Program, which included: Zumba (PBL), music classes (PBL) and the computer room (PBL). Parents shared that the strengths that they see for the program include: their children are happy to come to Grace Place, it is a free program, free transportation to and from the elementary schools, and adequate parent communication. Community Partners shared their thoughts on the program, which included: the program is organized, the use of Leader in Me and the 7 Habits, the high school and college students are a big help in the classrooms, campus is beautiful, and the schedule gives a break to kids from the structured school day. They also mentioned that Grace Place supports the entire family, not just the students, and that we are flexible with partners as far as scheduling, materials, etc.

Parents and community partners gave fantastic suggestions for the program which included: providing a dinner menu to parents so they know what students are eating (right now it is posted in the cafeteria), and possibly smaller class sizes.

- Conclusion

Megan wrapped up the meeting by sharing that a main goal of hers is to hold training sessions for staff members (AP Leaders and LPAs) to improve the quality of instruction and supervision during the afterschool program. Megan also expressed that we are so thankful for the partnerships with community partners and supportive parents. Because of our teamwork, we are able to provide children with quality afterschool programming.