



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Lacy Glidden Appeal Hearing Minutes
June 16, 2021
4:00 pm

Purpose: Review the Coalition’s decision to recoup childcare payments made by the ELC for Lacey Glidden’s children from November 26, 2019 through November 25, 2020 due to false household information submitted by Ms. Glidden.

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Selina Jefferson (committee chair) Board Secretary**, *Mount Hermon Ministries/Dew of Hermon Early Learning Center*
- Jim Palmer (via Zoom)**, *Child Care Regulations Supervisor, Department of Children and Families*
- Shay Smith**, *Executive Community Health Nursing Director, Designee-Florida Department of Health Lee County*

Appellant (s) Present: Lacy Glidden

Coalition Staff Present: Susan Block, *CEO*; Gilda Duran, *Director of Risk Management*; Ginger McHale, *Executive Coordinator*

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson, Selina Jefferson led introductions. 	
Review of Hearing Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson reviewed the appeal hearing procedure, referring to the agenda provided to all participants. She clarified that the purpose of the hearing was consider the ELC decision to recoup childcare payments and report to the Florida Department of Financial Services. It is not related to the termination of child care support by the ELC. • Ms. McHale, Notary Republic, administered the swearing in. 	

Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilda Duran, Director of Risk Management reviewed the background of the Coalition’s Decision to recoup funds for terminated childcare services. • Ms. Smith was required to sign a Rights and Responsibilities document upon enrollment in School Readiness in 2016. So, she was aware of her responsibilities to receive the funding. • Ms. Duran emphasized that reporting to the state is part of our required responsibilities to the state. 	
Presentation of Appeal by Lacey Glidden (Smith)	<p>Ms. Smith (she told us she does not go by Glidden) presented her appeal. The key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was advised by ELC staff that it was ok to exclude John Smith from the household income calculation. • She willing to pay back the amount owed to the ELC. 	
Conclusion of Appeal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee considered the documentation and presentations by both the ELC. Ms. Jefferson noted that Ms. Smith had an opportunity to address this issue when ELC staff requested documentation of John Smith’s income and that she did not take that opportunity to respond. 	
Committee Decision	<p>The Committee agreed to support the ELC decision as is. They instituted this decision based on the following rationale The Committee specifically stated these reasons in support of its decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate documentation to support household income was not submitted during the appeal or previously, as requested by Risk Management. • Ms. Smith had the opportunity to submit this documentation and failed to comply • The Parent Rights and Responsibilities clearly compel the parent to submit this documentation as part of the agreement to receive School Readiness Funding. 	<p>Motion to support the ELC decision to recoup childcare funds and report to the state Department of Financial Services.</p> <p>The ELC decision made by Jim Palmer. Second by Shay Smith Motion approved.</p>
Preparation of Appeals Hearing Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee charge staff to prepare a final draft of the minutes of the appeals hearing. 	<p>Motion to accept the minutes by Jim Palmer.</p>

Minutes		<p>Second by Shay Smith Motion Approved.</p> <p>The Committee charged Ms. Block with typing of the minutes, as written. Ms. Block will present the approved minutes to the ELC Board meeting on September 29, 2021.</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairperson thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm. 	