



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Chair Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Maria Bettini** (LCPS); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department and ELC RN); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Dr. Carol Frink** (Lee County School District); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Terri Konczak** (Division of Early Learning); **Penney Norton** (Division of Early Learning); **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy).

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** (CEO); **Brenda Griffin** (Early Childhood Coordinator); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development).

Committee Members Absent: **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Michele King at 9:02 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the September 10th meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Donna Hernandez and seconded by Jodi Garrett. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.</p>
<p>Susan Block - ELC Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan. Block reported that the Phase VI grant funding will be available soon. This grant will assist with workforce issues such as recruitment, training, and retention as well as outreach to families to sign up for VPK and School Readiness (SR). • The Legislative session begins in January, with Early Childhood Education as an important topic. Representative Roach will be taking a tour of childcare facilities in his district next week. If other legislators would like to tour, please let Ms. Block know. • Heather Singleton had suggested a site to memorialize those who have died or served Early Childhood Education in some notable way. Ms. Block followed up with the idea of creating a site open to all on the ELC website through which to offer memorials and donate funds for scholarships for teachers and centers. ELC would send notes to donors acknowledging their donation. A possible name for the site: Champions for Children. 	<p>Send name suggestions for the fund/page to heathers@childspath.org</p>
<p>Gayla Thompson-Enrollments and Waitlist, Grant updates, TSG numbers, Provider Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SR waitlist is 90 – 5 Collier, 2 Glades, 83 Lee County • Number of VPK children 6640 • Number of SR children 5044 enrolled (additional 100 eligible but not enrolled) • Grants – As Ms Block reported, they are expected to be released soon and ELC will notify providers as quickly as possible. • 50 providers completed the Teaching Strategies Gold checkpoints for the child Assessment Differential. • A survey was sent out to providers to gather information regarding a pay increase for SR. So far, 95% are in favor of an increase in the SR reimbursement rates, even though this means that private pay rates must meet or exceed the same level as the ELC rates to 	

	<p>receive that level of payment. SR and private pay parents must be charged the same rate before the SR subsidy.</p>	
<p>Danna Breeden, RN - Health Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID is no longer being reported at previous levels, due to families' choices regarding quarantine and masking. • There have been many reports of shigella, salmonella and Kawasaki disease in the centers. • The Nurse Town Hall calls will now be every other month. They will cover current, trending medical concerns in childcare facilities. The next meeting will be on Thursday December 9th at 1:30 pm. These meetings will continue to be virtual to allow providers in all four counties to attend. • Classes on health and safety topics continue the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. These classes offer CEUs and are virtual. 	<p>Ms. Breeden can be reached at 239-825-5218 or at Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov. She requests that this number not be shared with parents.</p> <p>To register for classes, go to www.elcofswfl.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and click on "Click here to register for training".</p>
<p>Brenda Griffin – Assessments for CLASS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK will be assessed starting next year using the CLASS tool. It is in the best interest of teachers and administrators to prepare by taking classes to become familiar with the process of assessing communication in the classroom. Classes are listed on the ELC website as Effective Interactions for Toddlers/Pre-K and How to Expand Activities in a Pre-K Classroom. • If a VPK classroom was already assessed as part of the SR assessment, it will not be assessed again. All VPK classrooms will be assessed. 	<p>To register for classes, go to www.elcofswfl.org, scroll to the bottom of the homepage, and click on "Click here to register for training".</p>

<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directors who are exempt from VPK endorsement due to earning their Director’s Credential before 2006, now must earn their VPK endorsement. • VPK Lead teachers are required to take 15 hours of Emergent Literacy training classes before July 1, 2022. Terri Konczak, our regional VPK consultant, explained the available classes. All lead VPK teachers must take these classes, including certified teachers in the public schools and those with degrees who work in childcare. If a teacher is new, the classes must be completed before becoming a lead in the VPK classroom. Classes are not required for substitutes, however, are recommended as best practice so they may step into the lead position if necessary. Concerns were expressed that not enough time is allowed for new hires to take these classes to meet the needs of providers. Ms. Konczak will take these concerns back to the Division of Early Learning. • Damaris Boone discussed that RCMA has 100 open positions throughout the state including support and teaching positions. • Angela Anderson reported that a career fair will be held in Immokalee November 18th. 	<p>A flier which outlines this endorsement will be attached to the email for the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Fliers explaining these classes and FAQs regarding them were sent to the Program Committee members today, 11/5/2021.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 7, 2022 	

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.