



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Presiding - Michele King** (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Damaris Boone** (Redlands Christian Migrant Association); **Danna Breeden** (Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Joanne Moran** (FDLRS); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Mary Grace Romo** (Lee County School District); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial System); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples);

Staff Members Present: **Gilda Duran** (COO Program Services); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood); **Amanda Devariste** (Managing Director of Naples ELC Office); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening);

Committee Members Absent: **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Dr. Carol Frink** (Lee County School District); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Division of Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Kelly Roy** (ELC Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Rita Dellatore** (Kid City); **Marie Liebenson** (Lee Memorial); **Rebecca McKellar** (Creative World School); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Michele King at 9:01 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p>Susan Block – ELC Report</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A special appreciation for the continuing work to support children and families following Hurricane Ian. The hurricane alone would have been enough of a challenge but, on the tail end of 2.5 years of COVID influenced work, these tests have proven no match for the VPK and SR programs in SWFL. Thank you for all you do to care for our community. We literally, couldn't do it without you. 2. A heartfelt thank you to the ELC staff to support providers. Managing COVID and Hurricane relief has added enormously to the workload here at the ELC. Our staff have been remarkable, navigating all the special conditions and ensuring that providers and families are getting what they need. 3. A warm and hearty wish for a “merry and bright” holiday season filled with love, good health and happiness. 	
<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the October 21, 2022, meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Demaris Boon. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.</p>
<p>Grants Update- Cheryl Carpenter and Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce initiative grants- Workforce grants continue to be processed. The last batch will be sent to Business Services by De. 17th. The rest of the grants will be covered in January. • ARPA Round 1 and 2 are being paid out to providers. Round 2 will be paid in one lump sum, unlike Round 1 which was spread into 3 payments. 	
<p>Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero on the wait list. All parents are being called as they apply. 	

<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSV is on the rise as well as the Flu and COVID. • Drowning prevention have free door alarms and swim lessons for children and adults in Lee, Hendry and Glades now. Very exciting. Many providers have called and reached out to Danna in regard to the alarms. Should be thinking of more than pools, any body of water. • Still doing the nurse town halls every other month, 40-50 participants. • Training is still going well. 	<p>Danna Breeden Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov or Phone 239-825-5218</p> <p>www.elcofswfl.org to register for trainings</p>
<p>Cheryl Carpenter – VPK &SR CLASS Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracting approximately 225 assessments • All VPK classrooms and SR that are at 20% enrollment 	

Bronwyn Gogia – Teaching Strategies and ASQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Had about 65 providers and 6 had requested to be removed. We currently have 58 providers that are participating in child assessment.• Fall assessment was pushed back and went well, thank you for your continued participants. Winter Assessments remain due at the end of January.	
Gayla Thompson – Literacy Buddies and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Books were due.	
Open Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heather asked if there was any discussion at the State level of changing the requirements for families to enroll in SR.	

Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michele King adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am.	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 17th, 2023.	