



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Presiding - Michele King** (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Damaris Boone** (Redlands Christian Migrant Association); **Danna Breeden** (Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Kid City); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Rebecca McKellar** (Creative World School); **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)

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** (CEO); **Gilda Duran** (COO Program Services); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood); **Amanda Devariste** (Managing Director of Naples ELC Office); **Bronwyn Gogja** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development)

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); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial System); **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); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **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).

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Block reported that this week the Association of Early Learning Coalitions and the University of Florida, partnered through United Way to help many providers with clean up. There was a very targeted goods drive for those providers who were in great need. • Save the Children – the organization is doing fund-raising for SWFL to assist providers. • The business breakfast had been rescheduled, but with Hurricane Ian a 2nd reschedule is necessary. Looking at possibly postponing until 2023. • Grants – ARPA and Workforce grants have been a priority. This week was SR and VPK payment. The 2nd round of ARPA will be available in late 2022 or 2023. 	
<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the August 26, 2022, meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Donna Killian and seconded by Heather Singleton. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.</p>
<p>Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilda Duran informed the committee that 43 families were contacted this week to come off the waitlist. Every Tuesday funding notifications are going out, there are currently 0 on the waitlist. • VPK enrollment is winding down, just waiting on certificates from providers. 	

<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Nurse Town Hall was held yesterday, the next one will be December 8. Discussed COVID, immunizations for flu and COVID, seeing more hand, foot, and mouth disease. Nurse Town Halls continue to be held every other month. Significant health related topics are reported and there is a new update each meeting on what is trending in childcare for health-related issues. • Pack and plays are available for those under the age of one who need a safe place to sleep, as well as infant and toddler car seats. These are available through a group of agencies in all our counties for those who were impacted or displaced by Hurricane Ian and are in need. Reach out to Ms. Breeden. • Stay away from water on the playground. There is no way to know if it is brackish unless you have it tested. Could be very dangerous. • A chart comparing colds, flu and COVID was sent to all providers today, in response to requests from the Nurse Town Hall. • Health and safety trainings are offered every 3rd Thursday of the month. See the ELC website for specific information. 	<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"> • Program assessments started again this week. Adjustments in the assessment window are made on a case-by-case basis. • ELC will be offering Pre-K class observer training beginning in December, Toddler, and Infant class training after that. • Playgrounds were destroyed at many facilities. Per DCF providers should put in place their rainy-day gross motor activities. The ECSs have compiled an 18 page handbook of activities. This will be discussed on the Hurricane update call on Tuesday and soon be sent out to providers. 	

<p>Bronwyn Gogia – Teaching Strategies and ASQ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59 providers are doing assessments to earn the differential rate. The due date has been extended by 14 calendar days according to a memo from Chancellor Mears. Ms. Gogia has updated the due date in Teaching Strategies so that the system stays in fall to enter the data. The Winter checkpoint is due January 31. • Angela Anderson asked if the winter documentation must be entered after November 15? It is ok to enter it earlier, but teachers would have to change the checkpoint period. • For child screenings, the due date has been extended 14 calendar days after facilities re-open. By November, all screenings should be back on track and non-compliances will once again be issued for screenings that are not completed timely. 	
<p>Gayla Thompson – Literacy Buddies and Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first due date for Literacy Buddies to deliver books has been pushed back to November 11. The centers that have committed to participate in the program have all re-opened. There is still a need for adult buddies to be matched to children. Matches will occur and letters will go out this next week. • Training – at this point, all training is still being offered virtually. 	
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block asked for feedback about how the Coalition responds to providers in emergencies, in particular to Hurricane Ian. • Heather Singleton expressed that the survey was a very beneficial way to get information about who was open. However, it would be helpful to seek information by text message. Ms. Block explained that ELC of Lake County did the survey for us. The text option is a great idea. • Marie Liebenson expressed gratitude for the goods distribution that occurred. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Block announced that she just received a notice that ARPA payments were deposited today.	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 am	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 8 from 9-11 am	