



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2017

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair - **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples; Board Member); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP - phone); **Mia German** (Lee County Public Schools – for Maggie Stevens); **Niccole Howard** (CCCR); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership – on phone); **Marie Liebenson** (Lee Memorial); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Gail Mishler** (CCCR – Little Wonders); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (FSW); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare – phone in) **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Staff Members Present: **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Delia Buckley** (Director of Family Resources); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Maureen Ungarean** (Collier Public Schools);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:06 am. Introductions were made around the room.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2016	Draft minutes were reviewed for December 8, 2016 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Damaris Boone. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page
ELC Report – state and local updates: Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Committees are meeting now; the 2017 Session begins in March. The Governor’s budget proposal for VPK is an additional \$50/student (still below 2005 levels of funding). Current proposal for SR is a \$25 million increase (all federal funds). Agencies have been asked 	

	<p>to cut budgets. It is not known if these funding levels will survive the budget cuts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Makers – This five county group discusses Cradle to College initiative continues to make progress. There are currently two sub groups for early learning: Early Learning Alignment and Communications. The alignment group is working on better transition between early childhood providers and the school districts. The communication group is working to frame information to businesses and families about the importance of Early Childhood Education and support through College. More people are needed from Hendry/Glades to participate in this project. 	
<p>Early Childhood Education Cost Study – Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Larry Miller of Florida Southwestern State College (FSW) initiated the Early Childhood Education cost study to determine the cost of high quality early childhood programs. The study defined an \$8500/child/year disparity between the funding that Florida provides versus what would be needed to fund high quality programs. Ms. Block will make this report available to the committee once it is finalized. 	
<p>Updates on Health and Safety Handbook for SR providers: Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of the new Health and Safety Handbook for School Readiness providers were discussed. • Pre-Service: 24 hours of training, either 4 Department of Children and Families (DCF) classes or Early Learning Florida (ELFL) classes. The option of the ELFL classes has no cost attached and the CEUs are free. If ELFL is used for the pre-service (first 90 days) requirements, then the 45 DCF hours must still be started within the first 90 days and completed in the first year of employment. If the pre-service is not completed within the first 90 days, the staff cannot be with children. • Staff Credential – For all ages, if there is more than one staff needed to meet ratio, at least one of the staff must have a Staff Credential. Additionally, for infants, if there are three staff, two of them must have a Staff Credential. Staff Credential requirements must be in place by October 25, 2018. • Deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3/31/17 Training Requirements as outlined in section 18 of the handbook ○ 6/30/17 All other standards in the handbook, except 	<p>Link to new (Feb. 2017) revision of Health and Safety SR Handbook https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07846</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10/25/18 Staff Credential requirements 	
Articulation Cards: Michelle Starr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collier County Public Schools, in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) is sending out articulation cards to Collier County child care providers who serve pre-kindergarten children. ● Cards give basic information about children’s abilities, as well as notes regarding social/emotional concerns and strategies used to help children ● Both strengths and challenges are noted on the form ● Forms are turned into Naples office of ELC. ● Discussed whether this information is helpful or welcomed by Kindergarten teachers. Collier County has found it to be both welcome and helpful. ● It is important for Pre-kindergarten teachers and Kindergarten teachers to hear each other and share best practices. ● Lee, Hendry and Glades providers were interested in a similar program. ● Currently working with Lee County Public Schools on a similar project to help with Kindergarten transition. 	
SR, VPK Waitlist numbers, Parent Portal: Delia Buckley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Readiness Numbers: Collier 1164; Glades 6; Hendry 322; Lee 3084. ● VPK Numbers: Collier 2054; Glades 68; Hendry 347; Lee 4700 ● Waitlist Numbers: Collier 266; Glades 0; Hendry 66; Lee 519 ● Registration is through the family portal – Parents can click on the “I am a parent” box on the ELC homepage and can click on School Readiness or VPK. This links them to the Early Learning Family Portal. ● Ensure that parents use the same e-mail address every time as the registration is attached to that address. Must be a unique e-mail address for each family, cannot be the child care facility’s e-mail. 	www.elcofswfl.org
Provider Portal – Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soon the provider portal will house all the elements needed to successfully contract with the ELC. ● Currently, we are asking providers to fill out their provider profiles. Much like a Provider Update Form, this information will populate contracts in the future (hopefully beginning in March or April with the School Readiness contract) and eliminate needless repetition of the same information. Please go into the provider portal now and fill out your profiles completely so that we can get ahead of the push at contract 	<p>The provider portal is located at: https://providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com. First-time provider portal users will go to https://providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com/Account/Register and register for a new provider account.</p>

	time.	If a provider has multiple sites, only one account registration is needed.
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaris Boon mentioned that she heard on the Office of Early Learning VPK call that the new assessment for the Readiness Rate is STAR Early Literacy. This is still in the procurement phase. Dr. Mia German from Lee County Public Schools explained that this assessment is given on-line and the children use headphones and the mouse to navigate it. Concerns were expressed by the committee that this is a high-stakes assessment for VPK providers as the Readiness Rate is tied to it. • Ashley Houk was requested to bring before the board the concern of the program committee regarding the STARS testing of Kindergarten children within the first 30 days. Concerns include: use of mouse, use of computer, baseline for Kindergarten teachers is high stakes for VPK, second language learners, and use of fine motor skills that may not yet be well developed. Ms. Houk will focus on the high stakes for VPK providers and the readiness rate to present a letter for the board to sign. • Committee members requested information on how to be on VPK calls with state. • Ms. Houk and Ms. Block met with Byron Donalds, a freshman legislator on the Pre K-12 Education Appropriations Committee. He asked excellent questions about Early Childhood Education and was open to the data presented. • Dr. Kelly Roy from FSW informed the group that CDA classes will be available on-line and matching funds to offset TEACH expenses are also available. Hybrid groups (online + face to face) of a minimum of 15 students can also be set up through Dr. Roy. YMCA in Collier has one set up that will complete a course in 8 weeks. There is still room in this course. Participants can be non-degree seeking students so they do not have to take the TABE test. • Niccole Howard announced that Collier Child Care Resources, Inc. has taken over the Teacher of the Year awards for early childhood education. This year, the event will be held at the Vineyards Country Club. 	<p>This link demonstrates STAR Early Literacy Assessment: http://www.renaissance.com/products/assessment/star-360/star-early-literacy-skills/</p> <p>To be added to the VPK call: Please email your contact information to: Hannah.Boswell@oel.myflorida.com</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, April 13, 2017 9-11 am 	

All meetings will be held at 2675 Winkler Avenue Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901 unless otherwise announced.