



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2015

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair – **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Peggy Janitz** (RCMA); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Marie Liebensohn Morales** (Collier Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Mabel Ramirez** (Collier Child Care Resources/NCEF); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Maggie Stevens** (Lee County Schools); **Alexandra Vaughan** (CCCR); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree)

Staff Members Present: **Tom Bamrick** (Chief Operating Officer); **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Mentors and Trainers); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Lead Quality Mentor); **Maleeni Singh** (Quality Mentor); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Andy Spalding** (Immokalee Child Care Center); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare); **Paul Walsh** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:05 am and introductions were made. Thanks to Joe Paterno and the Work Force Development Board for allowing us to meet in their facility, due to the lack of air conditioning at ELC.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2015	Draft minutes were reviewed for May 13, 2015.	Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton, and seconded by Angela Anderson. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page
Legislative/ELC Update Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative sessions begin in January 2016. First week of committee work begins September 14, 2015. Ms. Block has been meeting with members of legislature to inform them about early childhood education and issues such as payment rates for providers. • Very busy summer for all three department of ELC: Quality, Family Resources and Business Services • The Southwest Florida Community Foundation is launching a Cradle to Career Initiative for economic development. They will use existing data to document the number of people credentialed as well as those with degrees. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question – is FCCPC sustainable work? Does it pay enough to fit into this category? • Ms. Block thanked all the providers present for their good work as the new school year begins. 	
<p>Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership and Lee District Pre-K Initiative – Maggie Stevens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to her 9/8/15 resignation, Jeannie LaFountain and Maggie Stevens met with Superintendent Graham to discuss the importance of early learning, which Superintendent Graham supports. The School District’s strategic plan highlights early childhood education. • There are strong early learning supporters on the school board including Mary Fischer, Cathleen Morgan and Pamela LaRiviere. • The number of pre-kindergarten age children in Lee County schools is 1200, plus 800 in exceptional student education settings. • The plan is to work with the Coalition to move forward toward hypothetical full time high quality pre-kindergarten (VPK) and have the focus of Head Start on 3 yr. olds. • The Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) grant is still building up in numbers – currently 50 of 72 children are enrolled in 5 community partners’ facilities. The Coalition is offering training and mentoring for this project. • The issue of the length of ELC’s waitlist keeping SR children from getting into EHS-CCP program was discussed. A motion was made to give priority within the economically disadvantaged enrollment priority level in the following order: 1) Infants and toddlers within 100% of poverty level who qualify for EHS-CCP funds, 2) Infants and toddlers in general, 3) Three to five year olds. • A discussion whether there is adequate capacity for more infants and toddlers overall throughout the Coalition occurred. This is a considerable concern for those in Collier County. 	<p>Motion made by Marie Liebensohn Morales and seconded by Heather Singleton. Passed unanimously. Motion will move forward to Executive Committee and ELC Board.</p>
<p>Overview of 14-15 School Readiness Enrollment SR/VPK numbers and waitlist – Thomas Bamrick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bamrick discussed the reimbursement rate and market rate, explaining the importance of true rate reporting by providers on the Provider Update Form (PUF). Rates on the PUF are used to set a new market rate every two years – this is the way that providers will see an increase in their reimbursement rate. • Comparisons are made to other Coalitions with like populations to determine whether the ELC’s rates are in line with others. • The committee discussed the ebb and flow of enrollment over the past four years. It is hoped that the enrollment of school readiness children will stabilize this year. • Numbers for July 2015: SR – 4,050; VPK – 3,419; Wait List – 1,933. • Numbers for VPK expected to jump appreciably in August. 	<p>Letters should be sent asap to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mabel Ramirez reported that the Naples Alliance for Children is sponsoring a bus tour for members of Congress and the Legislature, and their aides, to demonstrate what early childhood education looks like. Will visit four Collier facilities. Letters being sought from members of the committee to present to the participants defining changes needed in the child care system. Tweets will occur live time during the tour @elcswfl 	Mabelr@collierchildcare.org .
Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) – Maleeni Singh/Kristi Biffar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 providers were in the QRIS this year. Ratings broke down as follows: Nine 5 star; Seven 4 star; Eight 3 star; Four 2 star; Three 1 star. The QRIS workgroup met and removed ITERS and ECERS from the tool. CLASS will be used (Infant, Toddler and Pre-School), as well as FCCERS for family child care. The QRIS tool will be up on the website next week. 	
VPK Pre and Post Assessment – Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Thompson explained the procedures to follow if providers are missing VPK Assessment kits. Bronwyn Gogia informed the group that almost all of the VPK providers have already ordered and received the Assessment kits. Questions about VPK Pre and Post Assessments may be sent to VPKquestions@oel.myflorida.com. Discussion about VPK assessments – especially issues with Teaching Strategies Gold and the bridge between Bright Beginnings and Teaching Strategies Gold. Possibility of writing another letter to the Office of Early Learning on behalf of the ELC Board, about implementation issues and concerns. 	Send comments about Teaching Strategies Gold, the bridge and the implementation for VPK to either Susan.Block@elcofswfl.org or Gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org .
Office of Early Learning Accountability – Gayla Thompson/Tom Bamrick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of Early Learning audit was discussed and shared that by the end of the audit there were no remaining audits. The Management Addendum to the Accountability Report listed a few areas that were observed as increasing the Coalition’s risk of potential non-compliance in the future. The staff is working to rectify these areas immediately. 	
Meetings discussion – other discussion/events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Committee meeting will return to the Board room at the Ft. Myers ELC office in November. November 7th there will be a Conscious Discipline Training at the United Way building off of Gladiolus. Heather Singleton will send more information. October 24th is the CCCR Early Childhood Education Symposium with Karen Nemeth, author of <i>Many Languages, One Classroom</i>. Alexandra Vaughn is the contact for this event. Information will go out with the Program Committee Minutes. 	To register go to www.collierchildcare.org .
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.	

Next Meeting	Friday, September 11, 2015 9 – 11 am	
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All meetings will be held at 2675 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901 unless otherwise announced.