



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016

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); **Kim Gerbasio** via phone (LAMP); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Marie Liebensohn Morales** (Lee Memorial); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Alexandra Vaughan** (CCCR); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** via phone (Chief Executive Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Lead Quality Mentor); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Lead Quality Mentor); **Jane Hess** (Community Outreach Coordinator); **Barbara Peck** (Family Resource Director); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **Peggy Janitz** (RCMA); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:00 am and introductions were made.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2016	Draft minutes were reviewed for January 8, 2016.	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
Legislative/ELC Update Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state budget is pending per a three day wait period. Once Governor Scott signs, the budget will be enacted for Fiscal Year 2017. • No increase in the VPK base student allocation • Additional funding for the Performance Funding Project, for the 3rd year. • The Readiness Rate was not finalized for 14-15 and will not be calculated for 15-16. Those who were Providers on Probation in 2012-2013 will remain until new Readiness rates are calculated. Improvement plans must continue to be followed. It was decided that one data source (Work Sampling) was inadequate to determine the Readiness Rate. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) for VPK is not funded in the budget this coming year. As of July 1, 2016 the Office of Early Learning (OEL) will no longer fund TSG. The implementation of TSG throughout the state was very difficult. Funding was needed to support TSG, as well as compensation to providers, and this funding was not provided. Funding only paid for slots. • The spring checkpoint of TSG must still be completed, per the contract. If not completed, the VPK provider may lose their ability to offer VPK for five years. • Susan Block requested that the committee collect questions for a letter to Rodney MacKinnon. • Brainstorm how best to get information out to the community. 	
<p>Thoughts regarding TSG - Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need TSG to document gains for those providers on probation. • Question of funding, should not be an unfunded mandate. • VPK AP 1, 2, 3 does not meet legislative mandates • TSG can be done in Spanish, VPK AP 1, 2, 3 cannot • TSG was a new tool to many providers and it is unlikely the benefits would be seen for a year or more as many providers were using it for the first time. • Providers felt communication from OEL and Teaching Strategies wasn't accurate or timely throughout the process of the implementation of TSG. • Suggest QRIS participants get TSG discounts 	
<p>Communication from OEL regarding TSG - Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In order to be active on TSG, must be active on Bright Beginnings • Teachers are sent an e-mail regarding their log in to TSG, if this was not received contact Teaching Strategies • An e-mail was sent to providers who are: Active users in Bright Beginnings not yet logged into TSG Active users logged into TSG but not completed GOLD basic course Active users log into TSG and completed GOLD basic course receive submission deadlines • For technical glitches contact Teaching Strategies 	<p>Ashley Houk and Gayla Thompson will work on a letter for the committee to send to Rodney MacKinnon for consideration at the April 8 meeting.</p>

Early Learning Florida – Cheryl Carpenter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a summer opportunity for the Early Learning Florida (ELFL) Spanish pilot. It will be on-line only and offer \$100 to providers who complete the training with mastery. • Julie Nelson and Lakeisha Freeman are working on the technical assistance model of ELFL. • Teachers participating in the ELFL project range from high school graduates to PhDs. • There is an upcoming “Quality of Feedback” course being offered this fall. 	
SR and VPK numbers/Waitlist – Barbara Peck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK enrollment numbers have decreased this year • SR enrollment is 4100 children enrolled today. • There are workforce and at risk rollovers that keep the numbers up even when the Coalition is not actively enrolling. • Waitlist is 800 in total for the four counties. • Families have to apply for School Readiness through the Family Portal, which may contribute to the waitlist numbers dropping. • Eligibility will be determined for a full year later in this calendar year, to provide continuity of care. Parents will still have to report changes in income and employment. 	
Meetings discussion – other discussion/events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee decided to have the next meeting as scheduled April 8, 2016. • Training announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 1-5 pm Dr. Annie de Acevedo will present on the topic of Identifying and Addressing Learning Difficulties. She will be presenting at Hodges University, 2647 Professional Circle, Naples, FL. .4 CEUs are available, and a certificate will be given upon completion. ○ Marie Liebenson-Morales will be offering Pre-K CLASS Observation Training on June 21-22. It is \$175 per person and will be offered from 8:30 – 5:00 (both days) at Cape Coral Hospital Training Room. This will be a first come-first serve registration, as numbers are limited. ○ Kristi Biffar and Cheryl Carpenter will be offering Toddler CLASS Observation Training. The date has not yet been confirmed. 	<p>To register go to www.collierchildcare.org. You can reach Alexandra Vaughan at 305-970-8639.</p> <p>Contact Marie at marie.liebenson@leememorial.org for registration information.</p> <p>Contact Kristi or Cheryl at Kristi.biffar@elcofswfl.org or Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org.</p>
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.	
Next Meeting	Friday, April 8, 2016 9 – 11 am	

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