



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Denson Family Child Care Home

APPEAL HEARING MINUTES

August 16, 2017

3:30-4:30 pm

Purpose: We are here to conduct an appeal hearing on twelve (12) month suspension of the School Readiness Contract with Denson Family Child Care Home.

Executive Committee Members Present:

Dr. Denis Wright, Chair-Nominations and Bylaws Committee

Peter Seif, Interim Board Chair, President, Synergy Networks

Damaris Boone, Early Education Outcome Analyst, Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA), Provider Representative

For the Appellant, Present: Ms. Barbara Denson, Ms. Katie Hinton, Attorney.

Staff Present: Susan Block, CEO; Peter Escayg, Director, Risk Management; Michelle Izirarry, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Ginger McHale, Executive Admin. Asst. to CEO, Cara Baumann, Quality Assurance Coordinator (Via Phone)

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Wright asked all those present to introduce themselves. 	
Review of Hearing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Wright explained the appeal process. 	
Swearing in of all attendees testifying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Ginger McHale, Notary Public, asked, all ELC Staff, and those present on behalf of Ms. Denson to swear to tell the truth during the appeal hearing. 	

Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Escayg, Director of Risk Management, presented the Coalition’s rationale for the suspension of Ms. Denson’s School Readiness Contract beginning with the original suspension from December 2016. • Ms. Block further clarified that the relationship between Denson Family Child Care Home was contractual not an employment relationship. 	
Presentation of Appeal on behalf of Denson Family Child Care Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hinton presented information on behalf of Denson Family Child Care Home. 	
Conclusion of Appeal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Wright indicated that the committee was ready to deliberate. He noted that the Sunshine Law allowed the appellant to remain present during deliberations, if they chose to do so • All in attendance remained in the room. • The committee members deliberated and came to a determination. 	<p>Motion to approve the committee determination by Denis Wright. Seconded by Damaris Boone Motion was approved.</p> <p>The committee drafted minutes for the appeal hearing. Motion to approve by Peter Seif Seconded by Damaris. Motion was approved.</p> <p>The original draft was signed by all three members of the committee.</p>
Committee Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee decided to overturn the decision to suspend the contract for a twelve month period. Instead <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A six (6) month probationary period was imposed. During this time, the provider may not exceed the group size of twelve (12) children in care at a given time; may not submit sloppy (inaccurate) records for payment. 	<p>The i</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Ms. Denson will work with the Coalition to develop and implement a Corrective Action Plan to improve her business practices.3. Recoupment of funds, remaining \$2,226.12, are to be repaid to the Coalition. <p>Reasons for decision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The ELC failed to provide fourteen (14) days' notice of suspension, per the approved Anti-Fraud plan;2. The imperative need for 24-hour care in Collier County is met by Ms. Denson;3. A Corrective Action Plan was provided to the Appeals Hearing Committee.	
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