



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair - **Damaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **Patricia Hansen** (DPH Collier; ELC Nurse Consultant); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Michele King** (Galvano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors); **Yunitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare – on phone); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree);

Staff Members Present: **Delia Buckley** (Family Services Director); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Lead Early Childhood Specialist); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Gail Mishler** (Wellington); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:02. Introductions were made.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2017	Draft minutes were reviewed for the November 10th meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Ana Neuhauser and seconded by Ashley Houk. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page

**ELC Report –
Provider Survey
and Save the
Children Report
Gayla Thompson**

- Ms. Thompson mentioned the Committee for Grade Level Success attachment that was sent with the agenda for this meeting. Ashley Houk reported that upon reading it she felt it was well done and was good information, but the multi-million dollar price tag would make the implementation very difficult and unlikely.
- Ms. Thompson reported on the results of the ELC Provider Survey. Most of the feedback received in the survey was positive, with some constructive suggestions made. Some of the details were discussed.
- It was suggested that training questions be added to the survey in the future. A discussion ensued regarding training with the following points:
 - There are not the variety of trainings that have been offered in the past by ELC. May need more contract trainers.
 - The trainings offered are not as relevant to seasoned teachers as to new ones.
 - Training flyers were distributed for Lee County Chapter of the Association for the Education of Young Children, Collier Child Care Resources, Collier Public Schools, and Gladiolus (Conscious Discipline)
 - ELC is doing more TA and coaching; Early Childhood Specialists are not training as much, except classes such as MMCI.
 - Hendry/Glades providers would appreciate a trainer in their vicinity
 - Possibility of Zoom trainings
- Ms. Thompson summarized the status of the Save the Children grant that ELC received to help providers recover from Hurricane Irma.
 - ELC was awarded a \$75,000 grant
 - 18 providers have received funding to recover from Irma
 - Rubric of need includes: food replacement, fence repair, sunshades/awnings cubbies and similar furnishings, rugs, mulch.
 - Approximately \$54,000 has been spent at this time and the Coalition is accepting more requests for assistance.

Flyers will be attached to e-mail when minutes are sent out.

<p>Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS) – Stars workgroup – Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Carpenter reported that the workgroup met and made changes to the QRIS requirements. • New School Readiness standards are used for group size • Classroom Assessment System (CLASS) scores will now be composite. Instead of choosing one classroom in each age group, 50% of the number of each age classroom (Infant, Toddler, and Preschool) will be assessed. • The attempt has been made to mirror the state vision of QRIS – focus is on child outcomes and what influences those outcomes. • Professional Development for directors, not just Early Education degrees, but also take business education into consideration. Discussion about pros and cons of eliminating requirement for director of an Early Education degree. • Once the re-write of the QRIS requirements is completed, they will be sent out to the workgroup members. There will also be one more meeting scheduled to discuss the elements of the QRIS. • There are currently 47 providers in this year’s QRIS Stars. 	
<p>Lee County Public Schools Preferred Pre-K Provider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lee County Schools have developed the Preferred Pre-K Provider program in which 4 and 5 star QRIS facilities have been invited to participate. • Pre-K transition, training, discussions with feeder schools, and interactions between pre-k and kindergarten teacher are goals of this program. • The program reinforces the value in relationships building between the private providers and the school district. • Those who participate and complete the program become preferred providers and can advertise their affiliation with the school district. 	

<p>Goal Setting for Program Committee – 2018 – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms, Thompson led the discussion of goal setting for 2018. The following three goals were decided upon by consensus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote awareness of the importance of social emotional development to the Office of Early Learning, parents, school districts and child care providers in support of Prekindergarten school readiness. 2. Promote and identify relevant and accessible trainings that offer variety for a diverse population of child care teachers. 3. Continue to discuss the definition of quality in Early Childhood settings. 																					
<p>SR and VPK Contracting for 18-19 – Provider Portal Update and Discussion – Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carpenter explained that all SR and VPK contracts for 18-19 will be completed within the provider portal. • All contracting facilities must have a provider profile completed in the portal; this will replace the Provider Update Form. • All providers will be contacted by their Early Childhood Specialist to assist with the contracting process. • There is a YouTube video available to help fill out the provider profile. 	<p>Link to You Tube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wy3s9yoRjuw</p> <p>For assistance with the provider portal profile, please contact Janelle at 935-6132 or Sarah at 935-6198.</p>																				
<p>SR, VPK Waitlist numbers: Delia Buckley</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="556 889 1245 1096"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Collier</th> <th>Glades</th> <th>Hendry</th> <th>Lee</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SR Children Served</td> <td>1068</td> <td>6</td> <td>339</td> <td>3090</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VPK</td> <td>1954</td> <td>63</td> <td>313</td> <td>4008</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waitlist</td> <td>463</td> <td>116</td> <td>1</td> <td>978</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Glades County is enrolling as need occurs, a few are being enrolled in Collier County. Enrollment may occur depending on the numbers served.</p>	Category	Collier	Glades	Hendry	Lee	SR Children Served	1068	6	339	3090	VPK	1954	63	313	4008	Waitlist	463	116	1	978	
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Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terri Konczak discussed the VPK readiness rate verification process. Letters were sent by USPS on Monday with all the pertinent information needed to verify children who were in VPK last year. • Marie Liebensohn reported that the Lee Health system is looking for a manager for one of their facilities. The manager at their Cape Coral location is leaving, although the position may be at any one of their three locations. • Patty Hansen discussed Flu H3N2, which is the strain of flu that is so virulent this year. It is in the vaccines, but due to the drift of the virus may well not provide immunity. However, it can lessen the severity and duration of the illness. The vaccine is strongly recommended now if one has not yet received a vaccine. • Ms. Hansen advised that there is legislation being discussed that would require safe sleep certification for all child care facilities. • Ms. Hansen was interviewed on water safety for <u>Lee Pitts Live</u>. While it was filmed in Naples, the outreach is to the five county region. The program will be aired at 8:30 am on February 4. 	<p>Apply at https://jobs.leehealth.org/jobs</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, March 9, 2018 	

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