



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Substitute Chair Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Amy Adame** (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee – Zoom); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Delatore** (Kid City- Board Member); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Patricia Hansen** (DOH Collier; ELC Nurse Consultant); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy - Zoom); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FLDRS); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Bright Beginnings); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Staff Members Present: **Kristi Biffar** (Early Childhood Specialist Supervisor); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer) **Cheryl Carpenter** (Lead Early Childhood Specialist); **Barbara Peck** (Director of Family Resources) **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Michele King at 9:03 am. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, our web-based meeting space.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2018	Draft minutes were reviewed for the May meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Kim Gerbasio and seconded by Michelle Starr. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org .

<p>ELC Report – State Update & Funding – Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coalition has been allocated an additional \$2.268 million for fiscal year 2018-19, to enroll School Readiness (SR) children. These are non-recurring funds. • Ms. Block thanked the attendees for their patience with the new provider portal, and advised the group of a new release version for the portal uploaded last night. The Coalition is involved in ongoing and open conversations with the Office of Early Learning (OEL) regarding the portal and its continued development. • The Readiness Rates are being addressed by a statewide group of ELC board members who are provider representatives. • The Coalition policies are being added back onto the ELC website so they will be available to all those who are interested. 	
<p>Update on CLASS assessment for SR providers - Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In preparation for HB 1091 requirements, the Coalition will assess SR providers using the Classroom Assessment System (CLASS) tools. 50% of the classrooms per age groups will be assessed. There will be some exceptions to the requirements, however we will not know what they are until the rule is developed. • A cut score on the CLASS composite will allow a facility to contract but they will be on an improvement plan for a year. After the year, their CLASS score must improve above the cut score or they will not be allowed to contract. This cut score has not yet been defined. • Ms. Biffar reported that the ELC will probably not lose many providers due to the requirements. Supports are being given to those unfamiliar with CLASS through My Teachstone subscriptions. These subscriptions allow providers and teachers to become familiar with the assessment. They will be available mid-October. Our Early Childhood Specialists will begin assessing providers in November, as will contractors. • The assessments do not impact current contracts; they will be used for contracting for 2019-2020. Trainings will be added as possible to support program quality improvement. 	

<p>Live Scan – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs for Live Scan are increasing as of January 1, 2019. Federal costs have increased \$1.50 per screening and the annual cost for the ACHS system has increased by \$200. As of January 1, the Coalition will increase Live Scan to \$70 (from \$67) for our contracted providers. Non-contracted individuals will be charged \$78 (from \$75). This will allow the Coalition to cover costs, still offer savings on screenings to providers, and continue to support teacher scholarships. • CDA Survey – a survey was sent out to determine the readiness of SR providers for the new CDA requirements that start in October. AS of this reporting, there were 42 respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the rule requiring CDA teachers were in effect now, would your facility be in compliance? 57% ready, 43% not ready ○ If your center would not be in compliance, how many CDA teachers do you need before October? Anywhere from 1-6 ○ What is your current plan to increase the number of CDA teachers? TEACH, hiring CDA teachers, scholarships, encourage current employees to take CDA classes, training, bonuses, incentives ○ What kind of support do you need to comply? More competitive pay, tolerance, more time, more PD specialists to observe, computers, scholarships, increase SR money. ○ Survey done previously in November 2017 – 33% were ready, 66% were not ready • Per DCF, lack of a CDA teacher as required will be a Class 3 violation for SR providers. 	
<p>Attendance and Payment; Portal and SharePoint– Gayla Thompson and Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an update to the provider portal, however the attendance function is still not visible. • Once again this month, attendance and payment documents for SR and VPK will need to be uploaded to the ELC SharePoint. • There will continue to be information sent to update the attendance and payment situation. Please read the emails that ELC sends to stay informed. 	

<p>Provider Funding Project (PFP) update – Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 providers are participating in PFP this year. Breakdown of tiers: 16 tier 4; 13 tier 3; 7 tier 2; 1 tier 1. There were no tier 5 providers. • Strategies for improvement: MMCI Pre-K (20 hrs.) and Infant/Toddler (24 hrs.); IACET trainings (10 hrs. Conscious Discipline, 10 hrs. Effective Communication); SR classes (to be announced); Coaching. Not everyone has to choose a strategy, depending on their tier. • Offers tiered reimbursement depending on the CLASS score. 	
<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Barbara Peck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK enrollments as of August 31 – 5530. By county: Lee – 4850; Collier – 522; Hendry – 158. Working on the reports in the new Tableau report system. • Waitlist –Current numbers: Collier – 365; Hendry – 127; Lee 1137; Glades 0. • Eligibility staff are working with the portal challenges to ensure families are served. 	
<p>Other Discussion/Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry Konczak, our regional VPK facilitator, will offer classes on the Star tool. Right now the three scheduled are full, although more capacity will be added to the LaBelle training. More classes will be added soon. • Marie Liebensohn reported that Lee Memorial Child Development Center has a new director, Marie is now a part time trainer and CLASS assessor for all three centers. Lee Memorial site is hiring a program lead for that site. • Patty Hansen, RN encouraged people to sign up for classes. The Center for Disease Control is recommending to wait until mid – late October to get the flu shot so the efficacy remains strong. Promote flu vaccinations! • Michele King discussed that Golisano Children’s Hospital is becoming a Baby Friendly Hospital, by emphasizing safe sleep and breastfeeding. • A group discussion of the Department of Children and Families’ requirement of the Look before You Lock information offered ways to ensure the requirements are being met for all parents. • Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) will offer trainings in October and November in English and Spanish. More information will be shared with Gayla Thompson to be disseminated at a later date. 	

Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am. 	Motion to adjourn made by Heather Singleton, seconded by Marie Liebenson. Approved unanimously.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday, November 9, 2018 9 am – 11 am 	

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