



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2019

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Michele King (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); Angela Anderson (Child Care of Southwest Florida); Patricia Dominguez (Challenged Minds Learning Center); Renate Engles (Guadalupe Center); Jamie Eskridge (Little Wonders - Zoom); Jodi Garrett (Child’s Path); Donna Killion (Discovery Day Academy - Zoom); Marie Liebenson (Lee Memorial - Zoom); Heather Singleton (Bright Beginnings); Michelle Starr (Collier County Schools - Zoom); Donna VanTol (Collier County Health Department – ELC - Zoom)

Staff Members Present: Kristi Biffar (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists); Barbara Peck (Director of Family Resources); Gayla Thompson (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: Chair Damaris Boone (Board Member – RCMA); Amy Adame (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee); Stacie Britton (FDLRS); Yara Duchesne (Board Member - RCMA); Rita Delatore (Board Member – Kid City); Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez (Challenged Minds Learning Center); JoAnne Fuciu (Lee Memorial); Kim Gerbasio (LAMP); Ashley Houk – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); Terri Konczak (Office of Early Learning); Julia Kroeker (Florida SouthWestern State College); Sharra Leonard (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); Yalitza Miraflores (FDLRS); Elizabeth McBride (Collier County Public Schools); Rachel McIntyre (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); Ana Neuhauser (RCMA); Penney Norton (Office of Early Learning); Joanne Pachiva (Lee Schools); Stephanie Rode (St. Andrews Catholic School); Kelly Roy (Florida SouthWestern State College- Zoom); Kendra Stamp (Educare); Jesyca Virnig (Learning Tree - Zoom); Paul Welch (Sonrise Academy); Mandy Willis (Faith 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 January 11, 2019	Draft minutes were reviewed for the January meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Angela Anderson and seconded by Renate Engles. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org .

<p>ELC Report — Gayla Thompson for Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thompson reported that the state legislative committees are now meeting. Two bills of note introduced so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senator Mumford has sponsored a bill to further subsidize School Readiness Costs for Foster Care families ○ Baxley SB970/Similar to HB871 Rep. Ausley Pre-K transition to Kindergarten would be facilitated by ELCs. • Thursday 2/21 the ELC held a Shared Learning Experience to ask SR providers to help inform a training plan for other SR providers on processing attendance in the portal. Renate Engles spoke about the meeting, and the ease of using the portal for SR attendance. ELC is using a Shared Services approach – 3 person teams with a person from each service area on each team. Every provider will be assigned to an ELC staff member for orientation and training on the SR attendance portion of the portal. • Save the Date – The ELC Board is sponsoring a community education breakfast on the importance of early learning. Dr. Mike Martin, FGCU President, is the featured speaker. The date is May 10th at the Broadway Palm Theater, at 7 am. Registration will be opened in March. Michele King is on the ELC Board events committee, and explained that a nominal price will be charged. They hope to have an early morning TV spot to promote the event. The goal is to ensure a roomful of people who will support early learning. This is a “friend-raising” event. 	
<p>Provider Portal – SR Attendance: Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Biffar and Jane Hess created a YouTube video which explains how to get into the Staging environment on the provider portal to practice entering SR attendance. • The video was shown during the Shared Learning Experience, and the link will also be sent out to providers. • Statewide testing of the SR attendance continues, until the SR attendance goes live on the provider portal. • Opportunities for learning more about SR attendance will be offered through the ELC starting the first week of March. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-QHL50hm5c

<p>Policy Update EII.C.6.4.SR Provider Contracting Requirements for Approval</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ELC submitted our Coalition Plan to the Office of Early Learning for approval. Revisions were requested, including to the Provider Contracting policy. • The revisions were discussed. There were no additional revisions proposed. 	<p>Motion to accept changes to Policy EII.C.6.4 and move forward to Executive Committee made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Patricia Dominguez. Approved unanimously.</p>
<p>Update on CLASS assessment for SR providers - Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR Assessments are 50% done, including the ones required for the Southwest Florida Stars. • Three contract assessors are currently being used and we will be reaching out to the Children’s Forum to request more CLASS reliable observers. . An increased number of observers will allow more timely feedback to providers. Additional observers should allow ELC staff to provide reports and technical assistance on a timely basis. • Assessments have gone well, getting providers to register in the system is the most difficult element of the process. • The state is working on determining each scoring threshold. Must have a 2.5 composite score to have a contract; 2.5 – 3.0 requires a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP); greater than 3.0 is tiered reimbursement range. • Only one provider will be on a QIP, so far. The majority of providers scored between a 4 and 5.5 out of a possible 7.0. 	
<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Barb Peck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Peck reported that enrollment in the portal continues to be a challenge. • VPK numbers for January: Collier 1903; Glades 71; Hendry 310; Lee 4369; Total 6653 • Waitlist - many parents are showing as over income when they are pulled off the waitlist. Collier 224; Glades 0; Hendry 16; Lee 545; Total 785. • School Readiness 5094 in all four counties, although this number may contain duplicates. 	

Health Report – Donna VanTol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Health Department epidemiologists are reporting Salmonella throughout the state, although not in child care centers. • Hand, Foot and Mouth disease has been showing up in child care facilities. • The flu season has not yet peaked – it is not too late to be vaccinated • Ms. VanTol and Danna Breeden are working on new trainings. 	
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readiness Rates – Ms. Engles brought up the effects of Hurricane Irma and the disruption to children’s lives in the 17-18 school year as a possible mitigating factor for scores. • Ms. Thompson stated that providers in specified zip codes would be offered the opportunity for contract slots – slots for SR children that continue to pay, even if the child misses more days than allowed. The program also pays extra funds for the slots. Providers are recruited individually to be offered this contract slots opportunity. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, April 26, 2019 at 9 am 	

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