



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 31, 2019

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department/ELC - Zoom); **Rita Delatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Susan Driscoll** (Family Resources Ctr. at FGCU); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP – Zoom); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership- Zoom); **Marie Liebenson** (Lee Memorial); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA - Zoom); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Heather Singleton** (Bright Beginnings); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools – Zoom)

Staff Members Present: **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists - Zoom); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Supervisor of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer); **Kimberly Usa** (Chief Operating Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Amy Adame** (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Cindy Whetsell** (Collier County Health Department); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:02 am. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, our web-based meeting space.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2019</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the April meeting. Amendments were submitted by Jenn Faber, Jesyca Virnig and Donna Killian.</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Kelly Roy and seconded by Ashley Houk. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>ELC Report - Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff is working on strategic plans to build sufficient capacity to serve children and families in the School Readiness (SR) program. • Infant Toddler capacity is especially of concern throughout the Coalition's four counties. It is hoped that the differential payment based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) scores will help entice new providers to contract with the Coalition and current providers to accept more SR children. • Every two years a market rate study is completed by averaging the private pay rates of all providers by county. Rates need to be updated and private (non-contracted) providers need to be encouraged to create profiles to add their rates to the data for the study. • The Preschool Development Grant is a small local grant to help providers implement child assessments. In response to Ms. Block's question of how the Coalition can support providers, training for staff; specifically training on checkpoints, was discussed. • Penny Norton discussed the new SR registration system which is called QPS (Quality Performance System). This is where providers enter their information about teachers and classrooms and upload their Teaching Strategies reliability certificates. They can be uploaded now to the old system and on July 1 they will transfer to the new system. • Ms. Block thanked participants for their continued patience regarding VPK and SR payment and reconciliation. 	

<p>Health Report – Danna Breeden, RN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that there have been two cases of measles in Florida – one in Pinellas County and one in Broward County. • Religious exemption procedures for vaccinations are changing – the hope is to better educate parents about the safety of vaccinations. • Health trainings this past year were not well attended – 70% of those in Naples and 30% of those in Lee County were cancelled. Ms. Breeden is looking at different ways to provide training with better results. • Safe Sleep Certification was discussed. DCF is still requiring their own training. 	
<p>Compliance Policy Discussion – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thompson discussed policy #220.10 School Readiness and VPK Providers Compliance. Additions were made to the language at the request of the Office of Early Learning for the purpose of use in our Coalition plan. • The policy needs to be approved by the program committee to be moved forward to the executive committee. 	<p>Heather Singleton made the motion for approval of the policy to move on to the executive committee and Marie Liebenson seconded. Approved unanimously.</p>
<p>Contracts and Assessment Update – Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 19-20 profiles are being created in the provider portal and the SR and VPK contracts and VPK applications are in process. The SR contracts include differentiated rates on the basis of the CLASS score the facility received, as well as an extra 5% for assessment, if the provider chooses to participate. • None of the facilities assessed have scored too low on CLASS to be denied an SR contract, 3 are on a Quality Improvement Plan. The average score was 4.5. Family Child Care Homes did very well. • CLASS training will be offered in the coming year – Making the Most of Classroom Interactions, and other in depth trainings. There are other supports available including My Teachstone online classes and Early Learning Florida (ELFL) classes. • Kelly Roy explained that Florida Southwestern College (FSW) is working with the University of Florida to allow articulation of the ELFL classes toward an associate’s degree. At this time a CDA can give 	

	<p>the student 9 credits once they earn 12 credits at FSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Performance Funding Project (PFP) sunsets this year at the end of June. House Bill 1091 will be like PFP in many of its requirements. Differential payments will be as follows: Scores of 4 receive 4%, Scores of 5 receive 7% and scores of 6-7 receive 10%. There are no benchmarks and the professional development offerings are not required. 	
<p>Readiness Rates – Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Readiness Rates were released. No new providers on probation were created as a result of the scores. Next year, there will be new providers on probation (POP) listed. • Providers with scores below 60 are considered Low Performing Providers. • Providers who are still on the POP list from previous years will review their improvement plans and verify them before they will be granted VPK contracts. Our Coalition has 48 POPs, down from 53 as 5 changed owners or closed. • In the proposed rule, AP1, 2, 3 scores will be added to the Star results to create a score. The AP 1, 2, 3 is proposed to be 10% of the total score. Workshops for the rule about the Readiness Rate are on June 6. • Ms. Gogia discussed the new VPK curricula list. The link is attached here. 	<p>Workshop information will be sent to all committee members. A copy of the notice and proposed rule language is available at the link below:</p> <p>http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/Content/Uploads/floridaearlylearning.com/files/6M-8.601%20Revised%205-9-2019_ADA.pdf</p> <p>http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/vpk-providers/vpk-curriculum</p>
<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Kim Usa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In April, 5490 School Readiness (SR) children were paid – this is the most the Coalition has ever served • The waitlist for April was 800 in all four counties • Currently enrolling at risk children and Glades county children • Staff is working on capacity issues for children, sometimes children have to wait for others to age up before a slot opens. 	

Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Roy informed the group FSW is enrolling for Fall. There are money available through the Schulz Scholarship, • Renate Engels announced that in January their new center in Immokalee, which is for infants, toddlers and twos only, will open. There are about 60 spots for this age group. • Gayla Thompson announced that the dates for program committee meetings in the next fiscal year will be shared as soon as all the board, executive and finance meetings are on the schedule. Outlook appointments with Zoom links will be sent to everyone on the program committee mailing list. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	

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