



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2019

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center) **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders - Zoom); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center) **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA - Zoom); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member - Florida SouthWestern State College); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree)

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Lead Early Childhood Specialist); **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); **Rita Delatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Susan Driscoll** (Family Resources Ctr. at FGCU); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **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 May 31, 2019</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the May meeting.</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Kelly Roy and seconded by Michele King. 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"> • Coalition staff is working to complete the reconciliation process and close out the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The goal is to ensure that everyone receives accurate payment and accounting of their VPK and School Readiness (SR) payments. If it is necessary, as in the case of overpayment, the Coalition will work with providers to establish reasonable repayment schedules. • The VPK Readiness Rate rule was approved by the state board of education in their meeting last month. This rule includes adding a 10% weight of VPK assessment to the calculation of the readiness rate. • The 2020 legislative session is early, running from January through March. The Department of Education approved a 2% increase for VPK, but this has to be approved by legislation. Legislators need to be informed that this increase is important and why. Ms. Block proposed an evening meeting, perhaps in October, to create an education process for legislators to help them understand the requirements of VPK. She would like to build a group of providers who are interested in educating legislators. • Regional collective impact is important in support of the cradle to career learning initiative. Future Makers and the Community Foundation of Southwest Florida have been working with the Coalition and other partners to create a book for potential VPK families. The funding came from the Schulze Family Foundation. The book is entitled "The Power of Pre-K". The book was previewed by those present. It will be made available digitally, as well as physically with a limited print run. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign – 20 Florida counties are currently involved. The campaign aligns quality early learning programs with the development of an appropriate 3rd grade level reading. Jenn Faber is the state facilitator and is working with Lee and Collier counties to establish the program in these counties. 	
<p>Health Report – Donna VanTol, Collier County Health Department and ELC nurse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. VanTol reported that a case of salmonella and one of varicella (chicken pox) has been reported in Collier County. A number of cases of hand, foot and mouth disease have also been reported in southwest Florida. Flu vaccinations for children and child care staff are encouraged. Lee and Collier counties are high impact counties for Hepatitis A. High impact populations include the homeless and those in prisons. The Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended. Training – On Saturday November 16 there will be a 9-3 Health and Safety conference at Golisano Children’s Hospital in Ft. Myers. Some of the topics will be: Active Shooter, Everyday Stress, Trauma in Children after a Storm, Poison and Children, Injury Prevention. Classes will be simultaneous so participants can choose the ones in which they want to participate. There will also be drawings – a \$100 Wal-Mart card and a complete collection of the Worry Woos. CEUs will be available. 	
<p>Southwest Florida Stars discussion – Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Carpenter initiated a discussion of whether the Coalition Stars (local quality rating improvement system – QRIS) should be continued. The question of parent education, as to whether they ask about Star ratings, or know about how Star ratings demonstrate quality was considered. Due to the low number of providers participating – less than 50, it was addressed that the program may be considered disposable. Florida is one of only a few states without a statewide QRIS. SR providers (with a few exemptions) must be assessed using the Classroom Assessment System (CLASS) so these ratings are already allowed to be shared with parents and can be used as quality indicators. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a concern about the VPK only providers who participate in Stars, as there is not another venue for them to be assessed with CLASS unless they request it and pay for it. There has been some discussion at the state level regarding assessing VPK with CLASS as well as SR. • The Coalition has to meet contractual requirements first, and use resources efficiently. • The suggestion was made and agreed to, that Stars be put on pause for a year. Current participants will continue at their star level from last year. This will allow a work group to meet and discuss the pros and cons of the program. • The following people are interested in participating in the workgroup: Rachel McIntyre, Alyssa Bryant, Jesyca Virnig, Angela Anderson, Elizabeth McBride, Marie Liebenson and Kim Gerbasio. 	
<p>Assessment Update – Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coalition is currently working with Teachstone to contract for CLASS assessments. • A few providers will be exempt from the assessments due to either their low enrollment of SR children or their high score on CLASS this past year. • Previously exempt providers who are now serving enough SR children are being assessed by staff. 	
<p>Child Assessment – Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child assessment differential payment is 5%. To be paid this amount, 75% of staff must be certified as reliable in either Teaching Strategies, Galileo or COR. • Currently, 59 SR providers have met the reliability criteria for payment through Teaching Strategies. They will also have to submit their assessments timely three times during the year. • Some providers have had issues submitting their certificates of reliability in the Quality Performance System. If that is the case, they can submit them to Jill Zaborowski or Bronwyn Gogia who will certify that they were done on time. • Assessments are due October 31, January 31 and April 30th. 	

SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Kim Usa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, only at risk children are being enrolled – no children are being pulled off the waitlist which is at 1400. • VPK enrollment was 1800 in the summer and about 5400 as of August. This is expected to increase with those programs that begin in October. • SR enrollment is about 5200 per month. • The Coalition is hoping for an easier and better way to track this data in the new updates to the portal system. 	
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Roy informed the group that there are still scholarships available for most Early Childhood students through the Schulz Foundation at Florida SouthWestern College (FSW). • Dr. Roy will offer a Human Growth and Development Course in the summer which will include a 2 week trip to Italy to visit Reggio Emilio. Only FSW students can sign up for the course and trip. Students can use Pell grants and TEACH to help pay for the trip, as it is part of the course. • FSW is currently offering certificates for every 12 credits in Early Childhood earned, for example the Preschool Certificate. Additionally, students can articulate 9 credits toward a certificate or an AS degree. • Courses cost about \$400 and the AS degree from FSW can articulate toward a bachelor’s degree at State College of Florida. 	<p>For more information on any of these topics, please contact Dr. Roy at kroy@fsw.edu</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 1, 2019 	

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