



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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); Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez (Challenged Minds Learning Center); Renate Engles (Guadalupe Center); Kim Gerbasio (LAMP); Donna Killion (Discovery Day Academy IV - Zoom); Marie Liebenson (Lee Memorial); Suzanne March (Collier Child Care Resources); Rachel McIntyre (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); Penney Norton (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); Stephanie Rode (St. Andrews Catholic School); Jami Slack (Open Doors); Kendra Stamp (Educare - Zoom); Michelle Starr (Collier County Schools); Jesyca Virnig (Learning Tree)

Staff Members Present: Susan Block (Chief Executive Officer); Kristi Biffar (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists); Cheryl Carpenter (Lead Early Childhood Specialist - 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); Alyssa Bryant (Open Doors Preschool); Rita Delatore (Board Member – Kid City); Patricia Dominguez (Challenged Minds Learning Center); Susan Driscoll (Family Resources Ctr. at FGCU); Yara Duchesne (Board Member - RCMA); Jamie Eskridge (Little Wonders); Jenn Faber (Children’s Council); JoAnne Fuciu (Lee Memorial); Jodi Garrett (Child’s Path); Megan Greeley-Gibson (The Children’s Community Center) Ashley Houk – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); Michele King (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); Terri Konczak (Office of Early Learning); Sharra Leonard (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); Elizabeth McBride (Collier County Public Schools); Yalitz Miraflores (FDLRS); Ana Neuhauser (RCMA); Joanne Pachiva (Lee County School District); Kelly Roy (Board Member - Florida SouthWestern State College); Donna VanTol (Collier County Health Department – ELC); 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 9:03 am. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, our web-based meeting space.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2019</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the September 6, 2019 meeting.</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Jessyca Virnig and seconded by Marie Liebensohn. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Health Report – Danna Breeden Collier County Health Department and ELC nurse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that the flu is increasing in frequency. The Department of Health is recommending flu shots. • The Health and Safety Conference has 78 people signed up at this time – there are still a few more spots available. • Salmonella, Shigella and lice are prevalent in child care facilities right now. 	
<p>ELC Report – Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block reported that the Office of Early Learning (OEL) has sent out their first provider outreach newsletter. Most of those present did not receive the newsletter. An opt-in is available on the OEL website to receive the newsletter. • The legislative session this year is from January through March. Early Learning is a big topic this year and there is discussion across the state to improve VPK. There is a possible 2% increase in the base VPK allocation, although with a deficit forecast that may not be the case. There is also discussion of adding CLASS for VPK providers and possible tiered reimbursement. However, funding is a factor. • The state is applying for year two of the Preschool Development Grant (PDG) – which is a five year federally funded grant. The goal of the grant is to align systems within early childhood education. • The cost of quality is being discussed, including looking at the impact of tiered reimbursement vs. the Gold Seal differential. • The state is looking into a system of funding allocation for Coalitions. There was a mandated report from OEL that addressed a variety of ways to make funding decisions. • The state is looking at creating a strategic 5 year plan. 	<p>The newsletter will be sent out through Constant Contact to all of our providers. http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/provider-resources/provider-outreach-newsletter is the link to sign up for the newsletter</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally, the Coalition is working to make EFS Mod work. The issues have been deep and difficult, however, progress is being made. • The question was raised about the FLKRS and whether it will remain the STAR assessment in the coming year. No new procurement is in process for the next year. There is a possibility of renewal of the current contract for the STAR assessment. 	
<p>Discussion of Return on Investment for Livescan – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thompson presented data on money spent and income received from Livescan. • There is an approximately \$6900 net income/year from Livescan, • A discussion of the service included concerns that rules were too harsh regarding arriving late or re-scheduling. Waits were too long in the past. This has been addressed, as the system has been re-worked to be more customer friendly. • The consensus was that the program committee would like to see the service continue, as well as the revenues from the service continue to be used toward scholarships. It is a matter of convenience for contracted providers and tends to cost less than other fingerprint services. 	
<p>Program Assessment in 19-20, 20-21, 21-22 – Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Biffar discussed a hand out which reflected where ELC of SWFL stands with CLASS assessment in relation to the rest of the state, and what effect the proposed changes in rule would have. • The current rule for 2019-2020 is: 2.5 to contract, 2.5 – 2.99 for Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), 4.0 and above, no QIP, possible differential • Proposed 2020-2021: 3.5 to contract, 3.5-3.99 for QIP, 4.0 and above no QIP, possible differential • Proposed 2021 – 2022: 4.0 to contract, impression is no QIP offered anymore, possible differential • Training made available to providers – cohort naptime training to bring the training to teachers. 	<p>Document attached to email with draft minutes are sent.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training suggestion from Michelle Starr – Teachstone professional development circuit with more systematic study of the Dimensions 1-10. Each dimension takes about an hour. Suggest “launch party” event to get people going on the training – give a prize to the first person to complete. • Other training options – videos through Teachstone, Early Learning Florida courses, more MMCI with coaching. • If infant CLASS is included in the composite score, the composite score increases. • CLASS Pre-K observer training December 11-12 through the Coalition in Ft. Myers. Toddler observer training will be in the Spring. Cost is \$175 per participant. Spaces are available. 	<p>If interested in CLASS training, please contact Ms. Biffar at Kristi.Biffar@elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Literacy Buddies – Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tallica Tidwell is the new Early Literacy Advisor in charge of Literacy Buddies. There are 1154 children with buddies now, 122 do not have buddies. A number of volunteer events are coming up at which buddies will be solicited. The first book date is November 15, 2019. 	<p>For questions about Literacy Buddies please contact Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org</p>
<p>Child Assessment – Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill Zaborowski, Quality Assessment Specialist, is working on confirming the accuracy of Teaching Strategies for the first checkpoint due date. • Currently, 57 SR providers have met the reliability criteria for differential payment through Teaching Strategies including timely submission of their checkpoints. • Ms. Gogia reported that we are still waiting on information regarding how the child ID will be generated into the data system from the Teaching Strategies system. • Ms. Zaborowski will be offering training in system support and observations. • Training on the use of Teaching Strategies will be available 	

	<p>through the Preschool Development grant. Credits will be purchased from Teaching Strategies and distributed to providers with preference being given to those who qualify for the assessment differential payment. The purpose is to improve outcomes in child assessment. There are also several free courses available.</p>	
<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Kim Usa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR paid children is 5316. • The waitlist is growing – there are 1588 on the list in all four counties. • In October the VPK number increased to 7471. • The Coalition is hoping for an easier and better way to track this data in the new updates to the portal system. • The Coalition continues to work with providers and families to smooth the use of the data system. 	
<p>Other Discussion/Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2020 Florida Gulf Coast University and Child Care of SWFL will offer a presentation by the Ooey Gooey lady, free of charge, to all child care providers. This is funded by a joint grant. • “The Power of Pre-K” book will soon be an advertisement on a fully wrapped Lee Tran Bus. • The QRIS workgroup will meet directly after this meeting. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am. 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 3, 2020 	

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