



## EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

**Committee Members Present:** Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care Professional); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path) **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member - Florida SouthWestern State College); **Heather Singleton** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

**Staff Members Present:** **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Leona Adkins** (Chief Quality Officer); **Kimberly Usa** (Chief Operating Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood Specialists); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development)

**Committee Members Absent:** **Amy Adame** (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee); **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center) **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV ); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare ); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree )

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:00 am. Everyone introduced themselves.	

<p><b>Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 28, 2020</b></p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the February 28, 2020 meeting,</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Ashley Houk and seconded by Heather Singleton. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of <a href="http://www.elcofswfl.org">www.elcofswfl.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>Health Report – Danna Breeden Collier County Health Department and ELC nurse</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Breeden reported that last night’s Zoom call for providers had 68 people in attendance and was well received.</li> <li>• Health professionals are 99% sure that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted through noses and mouths. The recommendation is to Promote masks, hand washing and social distancing to prevent the spread of the disease rather than a focus on disinfecting surfaces.</li> <li>• To date, there have been no deaths of children in Florida from COVID-19. 50% of deaths have been in nursing homes. There has been a slight uptick in hospitalizations this past week.</li> <li>• Remain diligent: Immokalee is a hot spot right now, but there are no large centers open at this time. Family Child Care Homes {(FCCH) associated with Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) are opening on Monday, June 1. There are other FCCHs already open in Immokalee.</li> <li>• RCMA large centers are not opening until October.</li> </ul>	<p>Danna Breeden can be reached at <a href="mailto:Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov">Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov</a> (239) 825-5218</p>
<p><b>ELC Report – Susan Block</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Block thanked Ms. Breeden for her work with providers and keeping the Coalition advised of new developments.</li> <li>• The CDC group size recommendations are challenging from a business sense. The small group size recommendation is to limit transmission of COVID-19. Watch the CDC website regularly, as changes occur. Programs that follow CDC guidelines are less apt to have an entire facility closed down, rather than just an effected room. What is healthiest and safest for children has to be the primary consideration?</li> <li>• The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida (ELC) has been telecommuting since March 18th. A plan is in place to return to work</li> </ul>	

in the offices. ELC is available to providers and parents no matter the location.

OEL has authorized additional funding to pay for March and April based on enrollment rather than attendance. April required a survey to get paid. No payment announcement has been made for June, and nothing for the new fiscal year starting in July.

- Parent copayments continue to be paid by ELC through June. Families may be confused by the difference between the copay and differential.
- First Responders and Health Care Workers referrals offer 3 months of free (except differential) child care.
- Funding for mini-grants for SR and VPK providers for infrastructure, health and safety costs and professional development has been allocated. ELC is working on a plan to implement this funding.
- Ms. Block offered an explanation about the challenges with the provider payments for April 2020. Payment from the Coalition is generally dependable. April was an abnormality due to increased payment obligations. The ELC was faced with a choice to delay payment or pay 80%, the decision was made to pay 80%. The rest of the funds will be paid today, May 29. The hope is to pay the bonuses for first responders' children next week.
- Many rule waivers are in place, to assist with the extenuating circumstances attached to COVID-19. More waivers are expected from OEL.
- Extended deadlines for child care redetermination have been set in place.
- Contracts – may be extended for a full year. Providers will be notified as soon as amendment or extension paperwork is available.
- Provider portal – rule waivers must be reflected in the programming, which is currently being put in place.
- 18-19 verification of payment. Anecdotal information states that underpayments have been taken care of. The ELC still needs to recoup overpayments soon. Reconciliation of 2018-19 accounts is in progress.
- Guidance on all rule waivers and other changes to typical contract

	<p>processing from OEL is forthcoming. Providers will be informed as soon as the Coalition receives the information.</p>	
<p><b>Provider numbers, Care packages, Website – Leona Adkins</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Adkins reported that the ELC has contracts with 333 providers. Of those, 143 are open and 190 are closed. More are expected to be opening in the next month or so.</li> <li>• Collier providers who remained open during April received care gift bags of cleaning supplies, masks and gloves from community partners Naples Community Hospital and Ace Hardware at the Salvation Army childcare site..</li> <li>• There are interactive maps on the ELC website – Maps on the COVID-19 page show which providers are open.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>QRIS Cheryl Carpenter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QRIS is on hold for the 19-20 year.</li> <li>• All providers need to ensure that they update their 20-21 profile as soon as possible to allow contracts to be expedited when they are ready.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Literacy Buddies and Professional Development – Gayla Thompson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Thompson reported that the 3<sup>rd</sup> book for Literacy Buddies was cancelled, due to COVID-19 and the closure of the majority of the child care facilities who were involved in the project. The program will be resumed in the fall.</li> <li>• Tallica Tidwell is in charge of the program. For the first time in recent memory, more child buddies had to be found to meet the number of adults in the program.</li> <li>• The ELC is reviewing a variety of ways that professional development can be offered. Online, hybrid, and face to face may all be options in</li> </ul>	<p>Tallica can be reached at <a href="mailto:Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org">Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org</a> or 935-6186 if you would like information about Literacy Buddies</p>

	<p>the coming fiscal year. For now, online is the most likely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terri Konczak reported that regional facilitators are offering Study Buddy sessions with for certain online trainings, including Emergent Literacy and Standards for 4yr. olds to Kindergarten. Some will also be available in Spanish. There are no in-service credits or CEUs offered, however this will help teachers to successfully complete the classes and may qualify for payment to do so.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Teaching Strategies and ASQ Update - Bronwyn Gogia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 53 School Readiness (SR) providers have qualified for the child assessment differential payment.</li> <li>• ELC now has access to the names of children in SR programs who qualify for the payment differential. With child name data in the portal, the ELC will issue, the first payment and is prepared to issue timely payments, here forward..</li> <li>• There are numerous Teaching Strategies courses available free to providers – currently there are 17 taking park. Techers get 10 hours plus one free CEU.</li> <li>• Starting July 1, notices will be sent by mail to remind providers when the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) are due.</li> <li>• For now, if a provider is on a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) they still have to do the VPK assessments.</li> <li>• Ana Neuhauser reported that RCMA is continuing with the birthday ASQs by talking to parents, which has been very productive.</li> <li>• Terri Konczak reported there will be no Readiness Rates for this year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Kim Usa</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Responders and healthcare worker referrals for child care placement included 537 children referred, 398 enrolled, and 278 attending as of May 27, 2020. ELC staff have heard many grateful stories.</li> <li>• SR paid children is 5087</li> <li>• There are 1451 children on the waitlist in all four counties.</li> <li>• The VPK count at the end of April was 7183. This will decrease as the</li> </ul>	

	2019-2020 VPK programs end.	
<b>Other Discussion/Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No discussion or events reported.</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBA</li> </ul>	Outlook calendar appointments with specific meeting information will be sent to all committee members and dates will be posted on the ELC website.

*All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice..*