



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 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);); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy)); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member - Florida SouthWestern State College); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **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: **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS)); **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:02 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2020</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the May 29, 2020 meeting,</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Danna Breeden and seconded by Heather Singleton. 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"> • Ms. Block started with a moment of silent reflection for 9/11. • The Governor extended the executive order to pay parent co-pays and pay by enrollment for School Readiness and VPK through September. • Millions of dollars of grants have been made available to provide support to child care during the pandemic. Two grants are complete, a third round is beginning for those who didn't qualify previously. • The Coalition is anticipating more funding to enroll more children into the School Readiness program. • The 18-19 reconciliation of payment continues. Communication to those underpaid and overpaid will be forthcoming – payment plans will be set up with those who were overpaid. • Many different payments have been issued in the past month. For clarification of payments, please contact reimbursement. • VPK Flex is a program to extend the VPK classroom virtually through December 31, 2020. Application must be made through the provider portal. Approval is necessary to offer this program. 	
<p>Health Report – Danna Breeden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that the hospitalization rate is the same now as it was before COVID-19. An uptick in numbers is to be expected in January/February. • The number of calls to Ms. Breeden, mostly about COVID, have been much higher than last year. From July 1 to today she has received 510 calls, last year in the same time period she received 60 calls. • For the most part, people feel better and more secure about COVID-19. • Ms. Breeden shared information about temperature risks – 10-2 is the hottest part of the day, children should not be out in temperatures over 	<p>Danna Breeden can be reached at Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov (239) 825-5218</p>

	<p>90 degrees and high humidity. She also showed a chart to help compute the heat index. It shows cold temperatures, as well, since this too can be a concern. To determine humidity Google “humidity” and enter your zip code, or if high it will be on the Health department website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The air index can also be a concern this time of year when there are fires. 	<p>The Weather Watch chart will be sent out to committee members.</p> <p>For the air index, you can check www.airnow.gov and enter your zip code.</p>
<p>Grants: Provider Updates and Provider Outreach Plan - Leona Adkins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Adkins expanded on the grant information presented by Ms. Block. The grants that have been completed were Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) money and were for Health and Safety and Infrastructure. CARES phases one and two were funded at a level of \$72 million and about 8800 providers received them. • Funding has also been disbursed for registration fees, professional development and assessment • School Readiness and VPK payment will continue to be paid by enrollment rather than attendance. Also, parent co-pays will be paid by the Coalition. • Ms Adkins spoke about the SR and VPK recruitment plan and stated she would email the plan to the committee afterward. 	
<p>ESS; Enrollments – Kim Usa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Usa reported on First Responders and Essential Health Care workers. As of July 1, there were no new scholarships offered. Some of those on the program have been updated to BG8, others have had the scholarship renewed, and some left the program. • There were 951 children referred in the four counties. 722 children are still enrolled as of the end of August. About 506 are currently attending. • 5602 School Readiness children were paid in July. This is the highest number ELC has paid in a given month. • Waitlist for school readiness children for all four counties is 1600. • VPK for August is 4000. This is lower than last year. 	

Provider Visits; Program Assessments and Monitoring – Cheryl Carpenter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carpenter reported that there is now one Early Childhood Specialist assigned per facility. • VPK monitoring will begin after VPK has been in session for a month. It will start in approximately two weeks. • CLASS assessment still needs to be reevaluated as to when it will begin. 	
Teaching Strategies and Child Assessment - Bronwyn Gogia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Gogia reported that in 19-20 there were 53 providers who were eligible for the differential payment for child assessment. In 20-21 there are 77 providers who qualify for the differential payment. The Teaching Strategies checkpoints for 20-21 are due 10/1, 1/31, and 4/30. • Ms. Penney Norton stated that ELC of SWFL has the second highest number of providers who qualify for the differential payment. • There are still credits available to take Teaching Strategies classes free. If interested, send Ms. Gogia the teacher's name. Both school readiness and VPK teachers qualify. 	Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org
Professional Development and Literacy Buddies – Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thompson reported that all professional development offerings will be available virtually through January of 2021. They are listed on our website, and offer both in-service hours and CEUs. • Literacy Buddies has resumed. Currently, there are 672 adult Literacy Buddies signed up, but only 6 facilities of children. Ms. Tidwell will be going out with books and paperwork to encourage providers to sign up for the program. Literacy Buddies is a touch free way to assist children with literacy. If interested in being an adult buddy or signing up your preschool classrooms, please contact Ms. Tidwell. 	Gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org Tallica can be reached at Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org or 935-6186 if you would like information about Literacy Buddies
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No discussion or events reported. 	

Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 6, 2020	Zoom information has been sent with a calendar invitation. It will also be available on the agenda for the meeting.

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.