



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 02, 2023

9:00 – 11:00 am

Purpose: The purpose of the Program Committee is to provide professional supports and leadership to advance the quality of early learning programs in Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

Committee Members:

Presiding - Michele King Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital

- Damaris Boone** Redlands Christian Migrant Association
- Danna Breeden** Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse
- Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** Challenged Minds Learning Center
- Patricia Dominguez** Challenged Minds
- Ashley Houk** First Presbyterian Church, Naples
- Heather Singleton** Child’s Path
- Michelle Starr** Collier County Public Schools
- Donna Hernandez** Fort Myers Technical College
- Penney Norton** Division of Early Learning
- Ana Neuhauser** RCMA
- Jodi Garrett** Child’s Path
- Joanne Pachiva** Lee County School District
- Stephanie Rode** St. Andrews Catholic School
- Donna Killion** Discovery Day Academy IV
- Jami Slack** Open Doors Preschool
- Yara Duchesne** RCMA

- Jenn Faber** Children’s Council
- Dr. Carol Frink** Lee County School District
- Tia Knapp** ABC Academy
- Rachel McIntyre** Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero
- Jim Ragusa** Guadalupe Center
- Mary Grace Romo** Lee County School District
- Kelly Roy** ELC Board Member – FSW
- Char-Nequa Smith** Florida Health Department
- Paul Welch** Sonrise Academy
- Angela Anderson** Guadalupe Center
- Rita Dellatore** Kid City
- Marie Liebensohn** Lee Memorial
- Mandy Willis** Faith Academy
- JoAnne Fuciu** Lee Memorial System
- Megan Greeley-Gibson** The Children’s Community Center
- Rebecca McKellar** Creative World
- Danna Breeden** Collier Health Department and ELC Nurse

Staff Members:

- Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz**, CEO
- Gilda Duran**, Chief Programs Officer
- Leona Adkins**, Chief Quality Officer
- Cheryl Carpenter**, Director of Early Childhood
- Bronwyn Gogia**, Director of Assessment and Screening
- Brenda Griffin**, Director of Professional Development

Agenda Items	Facilitator	Discussion and Actions
Welcome	Michele King	Meeting called to order 9:03 a.m. and a quorum was established.
ELC Report / Legislative	Dr. Melanie	A 2023 legislative update provided to include funding

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Update(s)	Stefanowicz	and policy updates.
Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 14, 2023	Michele King	Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton and Jamie Slack seconded. Motion carried.
Grant Updates	Leona Adkins	The ARPA Round 1 and Round 2 Grants closed to all applicants as of May 11, 2022. CRSSA funding, Mental Health funding, Save the Children, and ELC disaster relief have all been processed and distributed to providers.
Enrollments and Waitlist; Program updates	Gilda Duran	Thirty-four households with forty-eight children have been pulled from the waitlist. 6-Collier, 2-Hendry, 0-Glades, 2-Hendry, and 26-Lee County.
Health & Safety updates and concerns	Danna Breeden	Ms. Breeden supplied health and safety updates. Announced the next Nurses' Town Hall meeting for July. A link will be provided prior to the meeting.
CLASS Assessment SR and VPK Provider Contracts	Cheryl Carpenter	All VPK CLASS assessments have been completed. Currently (12) summer VPK classrooms to be assessed, (2) providers lost their exemption. (4) providers will receive TA interviews. Summer TA will be offered during the summer months. Pre-K Training will start in August. (24) sessions of group training coming. 08/01/23 MMCI offered training. Series will take (12) weeks on each Tuesday in August from 6:30p.m.-7:30pm. Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) will provide observer training for Infants and toddlers.
Child Assessment and ASQ updates	Bronwyn Gogia	April has been wrapped up. All children included in May's payments. 34 referrals in May. Parent TA up 49% from April. Provide TA up 61% for children needing extra assistance.
Training updates, Provider Profiles	Brenda Griffin	Providers have been given a 1-year grace period to receive coaching and improve performance if they scored below a (4). Jessica Stone will speak with providers about summer groups. Lee County has a new parent Grant. Lee County Health Planning Council will have a new website: Additional providers suggested for training to conduct child assessments. A link to the Nurses Town Hall was provided.
Open Discussion	Michele King	CEU training will begin in July. Nurse TownHall will discuss Medical Disability
Next Meeting	Michele King	September 08, 2023
Adjournment	Michele King	9:34 a.m.