



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child’s Path); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Child’s Path); **Carol Frink** (Lee County Schools) **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **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); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

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

Committee Members Absent: **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Jamie Eskridge** (Childs Path); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Suzanne March** (Childs Path); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member – FSW); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **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 9:03 am using the Zoom platform.	

Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2020	Draft minutes were reviewed for the November 6, 2020 meeting,	Motion to accept minutes made by Renate Engels and seconded by Heather Singleton. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org .
ELC Report – Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block spoke about the Office of Early Learning Phase IV grant and encouraged those who have not yet applied for one to do so. • The legislative session starts in March (committee meetings start in January) and will be a challenging one, budget wise. There is an Early Learning bill that will be presented for consideration. It is hoped that there will be enough support to pass the Early Learning legislation. • The ELC staff has been going out for short monitoring visits, and some CLASS observations as conditions allow. 	
Leona Adkins - Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Adkins expanded on Ms. Block’s report regarding Phase IV grants. Two batches of grants have been paid and a third is in process. About 300 providers in all four counties have received funds. The providers have expressed their gratitude in phone calls and emails. There may yet be another grant. 	
Kim Usa – Local Priorities and School Aged Child Care; ESS; Enrollments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Usa reviewed the decisions regarding local priorities made by the Early Learning Coalition board prior to COVID. The decision was to serve ages 0-5 and phase out school age care in the summer of 2021. However, this plan was put on hold due to the BG1ESS funding during COVID which effected many school age children. As this funding ends 3/31/21, the local priorities need to be revisited for a decision by the board. • The waitlist exceeds available dollars to pay for the slots needed. Ms. Usa asked for input from those in the meeting. Ms. Boone 	

	<p>spoke of Rita Dellatore’s (Kid City) concern that if school age children no longer receive school readiness funding, she would have to close her childcare facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other committee members serve school age children and did not comment on the proposal. 	
Cheryl Carpenter - QRIS (SWFL Stars) workgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Carpenter reported that the QRIS workgroup met shortly before the winter break. The group decided to move forward with QRIS for the year 2021-2022. It was decided to meet on January 22 at 11 am to discuss how the current contract and standards are reflected in the QRIS requirements. The appointment for the meeting was sent to those who had responded to the Doodle poll. The following people expressed their desire to be included in the meeting: Renate Engels, Jodi Garrett, Mandy Willis, Damaris Boone and Kendra Stamp. 	<p>If you would like to participate in this meeting, please contact Ms. Carpenter at Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org</p>
Bronwyn Gogia – Infant/Toddler Mental Health Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Gogia reported that the infant toddler mental health grant will include Conscious Discipline and Devereaux training. However, many of those who said they were interested in participating need the training in Spanish. Ms. Gogia asked for suggestions from the group where to find this type of training in Spanish. Michelle Starr mentioned the possibility of Spanish translation of Conscious Discipline training through the Collier County School District. Damaris Boone also mentioned Spanish training on trauma through Teachstone. Both will contact Ms. Gogia with more information. 	<p>If you have information about classes in Spanish that deal with Infant/Toddler mental health, please contact Ms. Gogia at Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org.</p>
Gayla Thompson – Professional Development & Literacy Buddies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Thompson reported that there are currently 16 virtual classes on schedule for childcare teachers. Registration is available through the coalition website. Additionally, she is currently working with the University of Florida extension service to schedule a series of classes. The virtual classes are going well and are well attended. Literacy Buddies is currently serving 1039 children. Humana donated 202 books and worked with Tallica Tidwell to create a Drive by Parade at The Children’s Learning Center, highlighting favorite characters (such as Fancy Nancy) from children’s books to replace in-person reading this year. 	<p>Tallica can be reached at Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org or 935-6186 if you would like information about Literacy Buddies</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several Literacy Buddies expressed disappointment that they could not deliver their books in person. Ms. Tidwell set up a contest for participating centers to create a drop box where their buddies could drop off books with no contact. The winner of the contest was Nicaea Academy in Naples. They received educational materials as their prize. • The second Literacy Buddy books are due on January 17th and the third books are due April 16th. 	
Danna Breeden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that she is receiving 300 calls per month and has had 1200 consultations since July 1. This number is much greater than in a usual year. • Regarding vaccinations for COVID, Ms. Breeden stated that it is very difficult to get signed up to receive them. This morning, 1200 spots were available online and were gone within 15 minutes. It is up to the governors to decide on priorities; Governor DeSantis has prioritized those 65 and older. • It will be up to the governor to decide when essential workers such as childcare workers, food purveyors, and pharmacy workers, will be allowed to receive vaccinations. Then, it will be a matter of numbers. • Cases of COVID are up, but hospitalizations and deaths have stabilized in all our counties. • There have already been more people trained in the online health and safety classes this year than in face to face classes in all of 19-20. 	Danna Breeden can be reached at Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov (239) 825-5218
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Singleton expressed her appreciation for all that Ms. Breeden has done for the Childcare community. This was reflected by others in the chat box. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 5th, 2021 at 9 am. 	

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.