



## EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2017

9:00 – 11:00 am

**Committee Members Present:** Chair - **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples; Board Member); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member - phone); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP - phone); **Patricia Hansen** (Nurse Consultant - phone); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Gail Mishler** (Wellington); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

**Staff Members Present:** **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Jill Corbett** (Supervisor of Screening and Assessment); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

**Committee Members Absent:** **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
<b>Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:02 am. Introductions were made.	
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2017</b>	Draft minutes were reviewed for May 12 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Gail Mishler and seconded by Yara Duchesne. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page

<p><b>ELC Report – state and local updates: Susan Block</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently vacancies on the ELC board: Lee Faith Based provider and Hendry/Glades Private, For Profit, Provider. Anyone interested is asked to submit an application.</li> <li>• October 13<sup>th</sup> is the Second Annual Regional ELC Meeting with Southwest Florida, Sarasota and Heartlands Coalitions. The main speaker will be Dr. Larry Miller, who will discuss the Early Childhood Education Cost Study.</li> <li>• The Alignment Assessment committee is being built. Rodney McKinnon (Executive Director of the Office of Early Learning) has been appointed to the committee. Both Susan Block and Ashley Houk have applied to be on the committee.</li> <li>• Ms. Block is representing Early Learning at the Leadership in Education meetings. Early Learning is not on the minds of most participants who represent other levels of education and affiliated agencies.</li> </ul>	<p>The board Application can be found at  <a href="https://elcofswfl.org/index.php/early-learning-coalition-board-membership-application/">https://elcofswfl.org/index.php/early-learning-coalition-board-membership-application/</a></p> <p>The ECE Cost Study can be found at:  <a href="https://www.fsw.edu/assets/pdf/soe/dean/FloridaECECostingOutStudyReport.pdf">https://www.fsw.edu/assets/pdf/soe/dean/FloridaECECostingOutStudyReport.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Performance Funding Project – Kristi Biffar</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Performance Funding Project (PFP) is aligning more with a possible statewide Quality Rating Improvement System.</li> <li>• PFP is less restrictive with more flexibility and choice for providers than in previous years.</li> <li>• There are currently 12 providers under consideration for inclusion in PFP.</li> <li>• CLASS observations, “Making the Most of Classroom” instruction for both Pre-K and Toddler teachers, Coaching and Early Learning Florida or trainings through the Coalition in 10 hr. blocks will be featured this year.</li> <li>• The project will kick off on November 1, 2017.</li> </ul>	

**Future Makers –  
Gayla Thompson**

- Highlights from the Futuremakers Report – Futuremakers is a regional initiative with a goal to transform the workforce by increasing the number of SWFL residents with high quality credentials by the year 2025.
- Regional action teams are used to address this cradle to career initiative.
- The aspiration/preparation committee includes members of the Early Childhood Community to address quality pre-school education.
- Goals for this committee include: increase percentage of students ready to enter kindergarten; target of 62% of children in third grade public school will met or exceed reading proficiency; increase high school graduation rates in SWFL toward 90%
- Equity is a priority for Futuremakers at all levels of education. Economically disadvantaged students have a lower graduation rate. It is important for young children who are economically disadvantaged to be in a quality environment for their pre-school experience.
- Understanding employment gaps helps point to education and career planning for jobs in SWFL. Childcare is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest area of employment gaps. One way to address this is through encouraging technical college education to acquire the required CDA.
- Living wages are also an element of better education. The average SWFL wage in 2015 was \$19.03 which is 14-15% lower than the Florida average of \$22.23. Most child care workers are not paid anywhere near this wage.
- Further challenges to be addressed: poverty; percent of high school graduate; graduation levels lower for Black an Hispanic students; home language diversity, foreign born populations.
- The commitment of all stakeholders along the cradle to career pathway is needed to meet the shared goal of transforming the workforce by improving and aligning the system together while doing what they do best in their own organizations.
- Rodrigo Gamboa- Dominguez reported that he is working with Futuremakers and Orange Grove Elementary to create a relationship with the school to ease transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten and encourages others to do the same.

The full report may be viewed at <http://www.futuremakerscoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/FM-Baseline-Report.pdf>

<b>Islands of Excellence – Kristi Biffar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .The theme this year is Sensory Processing. There are two groups, both of which will read three books, create 10 take-aways, an activity which they do with their class, and evaluate their activities. Early Childhood professionals will read their submissions and return a rubric before the next assignment is due.</li> <li>• The first group has already begun, the second will begin in November.</li> <li>• This will be part of the PFP as a possible 1.0 CEU activity (10 hours).</li> </ul>	
<b>SR, VPK Waitlist numbers: Kim Usa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VPK numbers: 1616</li> <li>• Waitlist numbers: 1438</li> <li>• School Readiness: 4710</li> </ul>	
<b>Provider Portal – Kristi Biffar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 230 providers have their profile information in the portal, in some stage of completion</li> <li>• Questions about the portal should be addressed to Kristi Biffar or Janelle Almonte</li> <li>• All new school readiness contracts are being submitted through the portal.</li> <li>• Next contracting year, all school readiness and VPK contracts will be required to be submitted through the portal</li> <li>• Updated information needs to be submitted in the profile on the portal (insurance, license, W-9 etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>The provider portal is located at:  <a href="https://providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com">https://providerservices.floridaearlylearning.com</a>  SharePoint video  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vBBS045ogM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vBBS045ogM</a>  <a href="mailto:Kristi.Biffar@elcofswfl.org">Kristi.Biffar@elcofswfl.org</a>  <a href="mailto:Janelle.Almonte@elcofswfl.org">Janelle.Almonte@elcofswfl.org</a></p>
<b>Other Discussion/Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Singleton explained that no potential subs attended an introductory meeting to set up the sub pool. Directors may be contacted directly by those interested in subbing and information can be shared between those facilities in the substitute pool group. Screening will be done by the original center and shared using the other OCA (Controlling Agency Identifier) number. There is no additional cost to change the OCA. If interested in joining the substitute pool provider group, contact Ms. Singleton at the substitute</li> </ul>	<p>E-mail contact for the substitute group  <a href="mailto:ecesubstitutepool@gmail.com">ecesubstitutepool@gmail.com</a></p>

group e-mail.

- Julia Kroeker announced the next Pop Up Play event at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4. E-mail to register or for information. The flier was distributed and sent to the Program Committee members.
- Kelly Roy announced the Family Math night sponsored by FSW School of Education on Thursday, October 19 from 5:45 – 7:30 pm.
- Dr. Roy also discussed the Early Childhood Education CDA courses at FSW for Spring of 2018. Students are encouraged to apply for Pell grants through FASA. FSW is looking at providing 6 weeks of portfolio support for National CDA at a proposed cost of about \$100. More information was given on fliers which have been sent to the Program Committee members. CDA reviewers are available through FSW. More information is available on the FSW Facebook page.
- Jill Corbett discussed the change from Teaching Strategies Gold to My Teaching Strategies. Her staff is diligently working with a representative from Teaching Strategies (TS) on administrative issues in the new format of the website. There have also been lesson planning issues. On Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> Kathryn Schram from TS will present at the Coalition to TS demonstration sites and staff. By January, the system should be much more user friendly and capable of the functions that providers expect. If providers need to contact TS for assistance, please copy Jill Corbett or Donna Schehr, and request in the e-mail to elevate the customer service to Tier 2 for the quickest response.
- Kim Usa and Kristi Biffar asked for resources for a deaf interpreter. Suggestions: Florida School for the Deaf and Blind, FSW – Deaf Services, Deaf Services (on Boy Scout) and Lighthouse.
- Gayla Thompson announced that the class size for VPK is being increased this year to accommodate those displaced by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. One lead teacher with an aide can now teach 22 children, 1 lead teacher can teach 12 children. These changes are for the 17-18 year only. Also, children can be registered without age or residency documentation if they are displaced by the hurricanes. Parents should contact ELC for assistance with how to register in the

[Popupplay.fsw@gmail.com](mailto:Popupplay.fsw@gmail.com)

Call Kelly Roy at 239-985-3423 or David Koehler at 239-489-9369 for assistance regarding courses

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	portal.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 am.</li></ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 am</li></ul>	

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