



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Substitute Chair Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care Professional); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Childs Path); **Carol Frink** (Lee County Schools) **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools);

Staff Members Present: 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: **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Alyssa Bryant** (Open Doors Preschool); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **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); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member – FSW) **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Michele King at 9:03 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2020</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the September 11, 2020 meeting,</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Renate Engels. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Health Report – Danna Breeden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danna Breeden reported an increase in calls about COVID and in childcare facilities that have had to close individual rooms. • The CDC has reported that COVID can be airborne but 90% of cases are droplet based. It is not a good idea to be in a small space with other people, in case someone is infected. Even masks and 6 feet of distance may not be enough to keep people safe. • Clarification of CDC guidelines – the Infection period for COVID is 10 days. The 14 days of quarantine starts from the last day of exposure to a person with COVID. If the person in quarantine is a child being cared for by the infected person, they must wait the 10 days that person is infectious to start counting the 14 days. This has always been the case but was misinterpreted. • Ms. Breeden advised to be sure to continue cleaning – on the playground wipe down equipment between groups of children. The sun will not disinfect sufficiently as It does not get hot enough in the time between groups to do that. • There have been 23 pediatric hospitalizations in the Naples Healthcare System since March. Hospitalizations overall are increasing, but deaths are not. 	<p>Danna Breeden can be reached at Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov (239) 825-5218</p>
<p>Bronwyn Gogia – Mental Health Grant, Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$129,185 has been awarded to ELC for a Mental Health grant. Currently ELC and partners are working on a needs assessment. • The goal is to find the centers with children at the highest risk for mental health issues to participate in the grant activities to support infant and early childhood mental health. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gogia reported that 55 providers are set to receive the assessment differential for child assessment on Teaching Strategies Gold. • The Coalition has 60 days to enter the information into the portal and to pay providers. 	
Cheryl Carpenter – Curriculum Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carpenter reported that the curriculum grant is in the amount of about \$80,000. The money is to be used for Creative Curriculum, Beyond Cribs and Rattles and Beyond Centers and Circle time as well as supporting supplies. The Office of Early Learning is clarifying some aspects of the grant before it begins. • Currently ELC has 349 active providers. 	
ELC Report – Notes from Susan Block read by Kim Usa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block mentioned the mental health and curriculum grants, already explained by Ms. Gogia and Ms. Carpenter. • The Office of Early Learning (OEL) is discussing the release of another CARES grant. They are evaluating funding currently. • A survey has been sent out to providers about operations and the risk of closing. • The School Readiness parent co-pay will continue to be paid through November by the Coalition. • Ms. Block reminds everyone to please open and read their email received from the Coalition and from OEL to keep up with changes as they occur. 	
Enrollments – Kim Usa	<p>Ms. Usa reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR for September 5241 • Waitlist at end of September 1245 – at least 260 joined the list in October • VPK for September 5100 – these numbers should increase in October as some VPK programs start in October. The numbers are low for this time of year, mostly because parents are not comfortable with site based VPK. 	

Bronwyn Gogia – VPK Progress Monitoring Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Gogia reported that this project brings the Star Early Literacy into VPK classrooms. All VPK providers may apply. The application is still open until November 11 through the Bright Beginnings website. So far, 75 providers in our Coalition have applied. Miss Gogia will verify them, then OEL will check their DCF records to ensure that they do not have a Class 1 violation. Each classroom chosen will be provided a touchscreen device and headphones. The project starts in January of 20-21 and will continue through 21-22. 	
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, and probably into the Spring. They are listed on our website and offer both in-service hours and CEUs. Literacy Buddies has resumed. Over 1000 children are being reached by more than 700 volunteers. 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. Currently, there are also corporate sponsors for the Literacy Buddy program including Humana. 	<p>Gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org</p> <p>Tallica can be reached at Tallica.Tidwell@elcofswfl.org or 935-6186 if you would like information about Literacy Buddies</p>
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terri Konzak reported that she and Sherry Shupp will be meeting with the POPs providers next Thursday by Zoom to support them in what they must do as a POPs provider 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 am. 	<p>Motion to adjourn made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Michelle Starr.</p>
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 8, 2021 	

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.