



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

April 23, 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); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **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); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital); **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); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

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

Committee Members Absent: **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Jamie Eskridge** (Childs Path); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **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); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **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.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 5, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the March 5 meeting. Gayla Thompson stated that the date of the next meeting was incorrect in the draft minutes, it will be changed to April 23, 2021 before they are posted on the website. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as amended 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>Susan Block - (reported by Leona Adkins) ELC Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 419, a transformative early learning bill focusing on increased VPK accountability, and ELC Accountability has passed the House floor. SB 1282, the companion bill, is scheduled to be heard next week. Differences between the two bills would need to be negotiated for both houses of the legislature to approve. At the final Program Committee meeting, June 4, we will provide a full legislative wrap-up. • We expect that additional assistance grants for both VPK and SR providers will be approved and allocated to the ELC for distribution within the coming weeks. • Thank you all for your continued service to the children and families of Southwest Florida, especially during this historic period. 	
<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that the providers are calling the health departments directly, rather than calling Danna, so they need to also advise ELC of their closures. • During a pandemic, it is usual to have a drop and then have the statistics rise again, as is happening with COVID now. • Parents should not be back in the centers. • Calls are now also coming in about salmonella and bedbugs 	
<p>Leona Adkins – Grants, Provider Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Adkins thanked Danna for her continuing support of the childcare community. • More grant funding will be coming soon; these additional funds will be given out to childcare providers. Currently, we are waiting on guidance regarding the funding. • Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act program (CARES), First Responders (ESS), and paying for 	

	<p>enrollment instead of attendance, the ELC distributed 10.6 million dollars. These funds included non-contracted providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the provider survey were mostly positive, but certain areas of customer service need improvement. Ms. Adkins asked for volunteers to be on a workgroup to discuss concerns of providers. Heather Singleton volunteered for the group. 	<p>If you would like to volunteer for this workgroup, please send an email to Leona.Adkins@elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Kim Usa – ESS, enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 31, essential workers’ authorization for childcare expired. Over 200 essential workers rolled over to other payable categories. • \$60 million dollars was allocated statewide to clear waitlists. As of the end of March, 237 children were on the waitlist in Lee County and 1 in Collier County. In April, no one was on the waitlist. There are now 17 in Lee County and 15 in Collier (Hendry and Glades are at 0) • VPK numbers are not as high as usual (related to COVID-19), and are starting to drop at the end of the VPK year as is usual. 	
<p>Cheryl Carpenter - QRIS (SWFL Stars) workgroup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Early Childhood Specialists are working to ensure all the 2021-2022 profiles are ready for contracting. • The contracts are not yet out, although they are expected by the end of the month of April. • Ms. Carpenter reported that the QRIS workgroup decided to align the performance standards of the QRIS with the school readiness CLASS threshold to mirror the new 6M rule. 3.5 is the minimum score that is necessary for contracting. The QRIS workgroup added in inter-rater reliability for Teaching Strategies Gold as well as relevant in-service training. Class 2 violations receive a 5-point deduction. • Heather Singleton pointed out that the group tried to be fair and equitable to all sizes and types of childcare facilities. 	<p>If you would like to participate in these meetings, please contact Ms. Carpenter at Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org</p>
<p>Bronwyn Gogia – ASQ3 and ASQSE2, Teaching Strategies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gogia reported on new directions from the Office of Early Learning (OEL) regarding screening through the provider portal. • Materials are being purchased to support training. • Starting next fiscal year (July1, 2021) the ELC may have to pay for ASQ3 and ASQSE2. Providers are asked to do both screenings as of 	

	<p>now. If scores are low on ASQSE2 then providers will be asked to screen using the DECA tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Strategies – child differential scores are due on the 30th of April. 11 providers are already done and about 50 providers who receive the differential will receive payment for February 1 through June 30, if they finish their differentials. • If the parent does the ASQ, the provider does not have to do the screening. If the parent does not screen their children, the provider is responsible to do so. The link to the screening will be through the portal instead of directly to Brooks. 	<p>If you have questions about the trainings, please contact Ms. Gogia at Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Gayla Thompson – Summer VPK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPK hours for summer VPK may range from 200-300 hours, the funding for which is prorated per OEL. • School districts must offer Summer VPK, which can be through Charter schools. • There will be no virtual VPK this summer. • The 80/20 rule continues in summer. • Summer ratio for VPK classes is 1:12. • There is no waiver of assessments, whether 200 hrs. or 300 hrs. • Credentials are as usual for the summer VPK. • Reimbursement for VPK closures from January through June 30, 2021 and summer providers May through June 2021 for closures due to COVID that exceed the 5 allowable days, will be paid during that time. 	
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carpenter gave an overview of the Superintendent’s Forum to be held on Thursday April 29, 2021 from 6 pm to 7 pm. Kindergarten teachers, Pre-kindergarten teachers and administrators will join Dr. Adkins for a discussion about the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten. • Pre-registration is not required. 	<p>Join Zoom Meeting https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fleeschools.zoom.us%2Fj%2F91859402962%3Fpwd%3DZzBsOTBLb3p4WIBUR1NiUFhZc2tZZz09&data=04%7C01%7CGayla.Thompson%40elcofswfl.org%7Cc4f0a1a3f65541996e9808d8e5921296%7Cb0dc715e605849b3988a657075e0c554%7C0%7C0%7C6375117628</p>

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Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 4, 2021 at 9 am. 	

All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Topic: Program Committee

Time: Jun 4, 2021 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81957761356?pwd=RUZhdkV3UnZQbHZzSjFQQXI5SFhGZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 5776 1356

Passcode: 977737

Or by phone

1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 819 5776 1356