



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair – **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree). *Guest speaker:* **Mary Ruth Prouty** (FDOH Hendry/Glades)

Staff Members Present: **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Mentors and Trainers); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Rebecca McKellar** (Quality Mentor); **Barbara Peck** (Family Resource Director); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **Kim Gerbasio** via phone (LAMP); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Marie Liebenson Morales** (Lee Memorial); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:00 am and introductions were made.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2016	Draft minutes were reviewed for April 8, 2016 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton, and seconded by Damaris Boone. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page
Legislative/ELC Update Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Block explained the enrollment changes for School Readiness in the new Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). Once enrolled in the program, most children maintain care for 12 months. • The Coalition will communicate changes brought about by the CCDF to providers as soon as we have the information that comes through rule development. The Coalition understands that these changes impact providers as well as the staff of the Coalition. 	

<p>Let's Move Program – Mary Ruth Prouty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State agencies and non-profits are working together to encourage people to make healthy food choices. • Need to make healthy food an easy and convenient choice – encourage marketing what matters for a healthy choice. • Early habits last, so trying to reach children in Early Childhood Education. Encourage children to try fruits and vegetables. • Families are encouraged to sit down and eat together often, with parents modeling healthy eating for children. • 80% of people in Florida don't eat fruit and vegetables. • Water needs to be visible and available to children at all times. • Ms. Prouty passed out a quiz to determine eligibility to become a Let's Move! Child Care certified center. 	<p>Information about Let's Move! certification can be found at www.letsmove.com</p>
<p>Letter to Rodney MacKinnon re: VPK - Ashley Houk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Houk reported that Gerry Poppe, Chair of the ELC Board, asked that the video she created of a child being assessed using the VPK Assessment tool be sent to all the legislators listed on the letter to Mr. MacKinnon, and the Florida Association of Child Care Management. Mr. Poppe has offered his staff to assist with blocking the child's face, and Ashley will ask about adding sub-titles due to the child's soft voice. • There was some doubt on the part of the executive committee that this letter to Mr. MacKinnon would be the best way to make an argument regarding assessment, since Teaching Strategies Gold has already been eliminated for next year. It will be brought forward to the full board, and if they choose not to endorse it, Ashley will send it as a private provider. 	<p>The board will meet on May 25, and a decision on the letter will be made at that time.</p>
<p>SR and VPK numbers/Waitlist: Barbara Peck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headstart/VPK families were enrolling here at the Coalition office the past four days as part of Lee County Round-ups. Office of Early Learning (OEL) personnel were here, at our request, to assist. It is hoped that they now understand better the challenges faced by these families when using the Family Portal and relay their experiences back at the OEL. • There are approximately 3900 school readiness children enrolled at this time. The waitlist is about 870 for the four counties and has not increased as anticipated. • Barbara Peck reminded committee members about the change in VPK eligibility to allow young fours to wait for VPK until the following year. Fliers were made available. 	<p>The flier can be downloaded at http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/sites/www/Uploads/files/VPK/VPK%20Eligibility%20FAQ_ADA.pdf.</p>

Probation Status for Providers – Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of probation is to allow facilities who are having repeated issues an opportunity to overcome these concerns with TA, training and staff development. • Probation may be for School Readiness or VPK providers and may be for a period of up to 6 months. • Probation comes after repeated attempts to have a provider come into compliance on a recurring issue or issues. • This is totally separate from “Providers on Probation” for VPK. 	
Screening Changes per the Department of Children and Families (DCF) – Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCF requires that anyone working under an exemption for background screening clearance due to a disqualifying offense undergo a rescreening between July 1 and August 1 of 2016. • All child care staff must rescreen between July 1, 2016 and November of 2017. Screening will now include a search of the criminal history records, sexual predator and offender registry and the child abuse and neglect registry of any state in which the applicant resided during the past 5 years. • All child care personnel hired on or after July 1, 2016 must have a 5 year employment history check and must include documented attempts to contact all employers within those years. • OEL will work with DCF to ensure that children are being cared for in quality child care settings. DCF monitoring results will be shared with the Early Learning Coalitions. • There were concerns expressed about the dichotomy between best practice and reality. 	<p>More information and updates will be available at www.myflfamilies.com/childcare under “What’s New” and www.floridaearlylearning.com under “News”.</p>
Provider Portals/ Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) Transition Forms –Gayla Thompson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Provider Portal development continues by OEL. This site will allow providers to complete contracts and provider update information on line. Documents can be uploaded once and repeatedly, as long as they are current. The Coalition will continue to update the development of this new tool for communicating information between providers and Coalitions. • CCPS and the Coalition worked together to send out transition forms to collect information about prekindergarten children. These forms are filled out by the teachers and sent to the principal of their new public school. This provides welcome information from VPK and prekindergarten teachers to help their transition to Kindergarten. Kudos to CCPS for this innovation and their respect for the prekindergarten teachers! 	
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristi Biffar reported that the Quality Rating Improvement System (Southwest Florida STARS) workgroup will meet soon to look at the tools and revisions that may need to be made. Maleeni Singh will 	

	<p>contact the current members of the group and also welcome others to join.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disaster Manual is being presented to the Board at the meeting this month. Accessibility to the manual on the website was requested. Susan Block assured providers that the materials would be disseminated. • The Collier County Sheriff's Office has worked with Child Care providers in the county to set up a system to notify providers in case of emergencies, the need for lockdowns, etc. The providers are each responsible for responding to the inquiry for contact information. • Making the Most of Classroom Instruction will be held in Collier, Hendry and Lee counties in the fall. Information will be sent separately from the other notifications of trainings. • Gayla Thompson reported that she is working with Miami Dade College to try to bring Spanish CDA training to Lee County. More information will be sent when we have it. When asked if there was interest, RCMA and others responded in the affirmative. The goal is to create a survey to discern the level of interest. • A tentative schedule for next year's meetings was given out, pending the board's approval of their schedule. 	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.	
Next Meeting	August 2016 – date TBA	

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