



**EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
APPEALS COMMITTEE- Tia Snowden
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020
4:00 pm**

Purpose: The Appeals Committee is composed of members described in the appeal’s due process. The Appeals Committee is responsible for hearing the appeal of the complainant and determining whether to uphold the staff decision.

Committee Members: **Douglas Szabo, Esq., Committee Chair & Board Treasurer**, *Henderson, Franklin, Starnes and Holt P.A*; **Nate Halligan, Vice Chair**, *Small Business Portfolio Manager, Busey Bank (Private Sector) via Zoom*; and **Dr. Kelly Roy, Chair-Nomination & By-Laws Committee**, *Professor/Coordinator of Early Childhood Education, Florida Southwestern State College via Zoom*

For the Appellant present via Zoom: **Tia Snowden** and **Sam Bennett**

ELC Staff: **Susan Block**, Chief Executive Officer; **Gilda Duran**, Director of Risk Management; **Ginger McHale**, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director

(*) *Materials included in Appeals Committee Packet.*

(**) *Materials posted in the ELC SharePoint for Committee Members.*

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Action Required
Introductions and Overview of Appeals Hearing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the committee, and staff were introduced. Ms. Bloom introduced herself and attorney, Sam Bennett. • Ms. McHale administered the oath; swearing in the staff and appellant. • Mr. Szabo reviewed the Appeal Hearing Agenda and process. 	
Staff Presentation of Rational for Decision to Terminate Child Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Duran presented information on behalf of the Early Learning Coalition. • The basis for terminating child care services was the misrepresentation of household size and misinformation provided to the Coalition. 	
Complainant Appeal of ELC Staff Decision to Terminate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Snowden presented her argument in dispute of the ELC decision to terminate child care services. 	

Child Care Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She affirmed that she and her four children live at the same address as the business of Jeff Gordon however, he does not live there. 	
Appeal Committee Deliberation and Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following deliberation of the facts presented, the Appeals Committee agreed to overturn the decision to terminate child care, on the condition that Ms. Snowden is able to produce the following documentation by October 22: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A sworn statement (notarized) from Mr. Gordon that affirms his current residence and that he hasn't resided at the NW 16th residence with Ms. Snowden for all of 2018, 2019 and through October 2020 for thirty days or more. 2. Personal bank statements from Suncoast Federal Credit Union 3. (redacting sensitive information) to show finance state for the past two months, including the current status showing a negative bank balance. <p>If Ms. Snowden is unable to produce this documentation by October 22, childcare termination will end November 5, 2020.</p> <p>The rationale for the decision was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient information to uphold or fully overturn the Coalition's decision to terminate childcare. • Mr. Szabo asked for a motion to approve the Committee's Decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Halligan moved to approve the decision, as presented. Dr. Roy seconded. Motion approved. • A copy of the committee decision will be sent to Ms. Bloom • The decision of the Appeals Committee will be shared with the full ELC Board. • If needed, a second committee meeting will be scheduled to provide the final decision in this case on or before October 22, 2020
Motion to Accept the Hearing Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Szabo asked for a motion to accept the hearing minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Halligan moved to approve the minutes of the Appeals Hearing. Dr. Roy seconded. Motion approved. • The minutes of the Appeal Hearing will be posted to the ELC website, following approval by the committee members.