

Minutes of a Meeting of the Events Committee of Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida 2675 Winkler Ave Suite 300, Fort Myers FL 33901.

November 6, 2024

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Events Committee of Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, a Non-Profit corporation was held on November 6, 2024, commencing at approximately 8:30a.m. ET Oasis Restaurant in person at 2260 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd, Fort Myers FL 33901.

Call to Order

Tara Sherrod called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

A quorum was established and the following Events Committee members were present:

- Tara Sherrod, Events Committee Chair
- Laura R. Bright

ELC Staff Present

- Melanie Stefanowicz, Chief Executive Officer



Hi there. How can we help?



- Gilda Duran, Chief Program Officer
- Monica Gaddy, Administrative Coordinator

Presiding Officer; Secretary

Tara Sherrod presided as Committee Chair of the meeting; Monica Gaddy served Administrative Coordinator and kept the minutes. Tara Sherrod called the meeting to order at approximately 8:47a.m.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Laura R. Bright and seconded by Tara Sherrod, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the Events meeting dated September 4, 2024.

Teacher Appreciation

Tara Sherrod initiated conversation regarding proposed suggestions for Teacher appreciation. A full discussion followed on various ways to show our providers/teachers appreciation. Committee is working on idea's that will be fun, fair and equitable. Discussion on whether it should be on an individual accomplishment or center driven. Committee will be seeking ways to further community engagement that will promote our Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) and School Readiness programs (SR).

Partnership Development

Dr. Melanie provided information on how our Public Awareness and Community engagement media campaigns along with digital outreach has significantly increased our brand.

Events Committee continues efforts to work to maintain community partners and stakeholder relationship.

Community outreach in Hendry and Glades Counties. Plans to connect with the local Chambers of Commerce in the counties we serve for partnership development and ideas that will allow us to reach more families.

New Business

2024-2025 Outreach opportunities: Working with ELC Programs team in scheduled community events. Looking at ways to turn interested moms who maybe currently babysitting into potential providers.

The Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a program designed to support families who chose to care for their children at home. Program is still in the early stages, but the plan will be designed to support and provide training in early education teaching strategies.

Summer Bridge Programs has begun in Lee and Collier Schools. Plans for Hendry and Glades will begin after the New Year.

Establishing outline towards renewing the vision for the ***Business Breakfast***. Efforts being made to visit local Chambers of Commerce in the Lee, Hendry, Glades and Collier to bring awareness to our Coalition and the services we provide to families.

Board Members will have the opportunity to get to know staff by attending the holiday party scheduled for November 21, 2024. Board members are welcome to attend and provide a dessert of their choice for staff to enjoy. Excellent way to get to know everyone. If you plan to attend and are able to assist in serving

staff, please arrive by 12:30 pm. Tara will send out an email for to get names of those who wish to participate.

Next Meeting; Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:32 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 3, 2025, at 9:47a.m.

Respectfully submitted,