



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
APPEALS COMMITTEE – Carol Bloom
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020
10:00 am

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: **Nate Halligan, Chair** *Small Business Portfolio Manager, Busey Bank (Private Sector); Selina Jefferson, Board Secretary, Director, Mount Hermon Ministries/Dew of Hermon Early Learning Center* and **Brooke Delmotte, Provider Liaison/Operations Manager, Early Steps, SWFL Health Planning Council;**

For the Appellant: Carol Bloom and Jessica Forpones

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 Jessica Forpones. • Ms. McHale administered the oath; swearing in the staff and appellant. • Mr. Halligan 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 which raised questions about the household composition and the withholding of information. Ms. Bloom claims she is the only parent in the household. 	
Complainant Appeal of ELC Staff Decision to Terminate Child Care Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bloom presented her argument in disputed of the ELC decision to terminate childcare services. She highlighted the background related to Peter Lance, father of three of Ms. Bloom’s children, reiterating that they never lived together. • .Ms. Bloom explained the Social Media posts as misleading, that Mr. 	

	<p>Lance is a good father but not a good boyfriend.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Bloom claimed that WINK News did not accurately report their living situation at the time of the fire. • Mr. Lance is having issues with his social security number and has a suspended license, and no vehicle registration. He is unable to obtain proof of residence. • Mr. Lance is not working while currently living with his mother. 	
<p>Appeal Committee Deliberation and Decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following deliberation of the facts presented, the Appeals Committee agreed to overturn, the decision of the ELC staff to terminate childcare services on the condition that. MS. Bloom produces a current, government issued document, with Mr. Lance’s address. If Ms. Bloom is unable to produce such documentation by November 8, 2020, child care will be ended November, 22, 2020. • Ms. Bloom expressed concerns about her ability to do so under the circumstances and was encouraged to submit documentation, which shows the she, or Mr. Lance, had attempted to produce appropriate documentation. The rationale for the decision was: 1.The complexity of the case makes the appeal decision difficult. 2. Insufficient information to provide concrete support of Mr. Lance’s current address was presented to dispute the ELC’s claim that Mr. Lance is living in the same household as Ms. Bloom. • Mr. Halligan asked for a motion to approve the Committee’s Decision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selina Jefferson moved to approve the decision, as presented. Brooke Delmotte approved. 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 November 8, 2020.
<p>Motion to Accept the Hearing Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Halligan asked for a motion to accept the hearing minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooke Delmotte moved to approve the minutes of the Appeals Hearing. Selina Jefferson seconded. Motion approved. • The minutes of the Appeal Hearing will be posted to the ELC website, following approval by the committee members.