



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 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); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Beth Lobdell** (CCSWFL); **Marie Liebensohn Morales** (Collier Public Schools and Lee Memorial Hospital); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare); **Alexandra Vaughan** (CCCR); **Staff Members Present:** **Tom Bamrick** (Chief Operating Officer); **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Mentors and Trainers); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Lead Quality Mentor); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Peggy Janitz** (RCMA); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Maggie Stevens** (Lee County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree) ; **Paul Walsh** (Sonrise Academy)

| Agenda Items | Facilitator/Presenter | Comments/Actions |
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| Welcome and Introductions | The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:02 am. Members present were familiar with each other, so introductions were skipped. | |
| Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2015 | Draft minutes were reviewed for November 13, 2015. | Motion to accept minutes made by Sherry Shupp, and seconded by Stephanie Rode. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted the ELC website on the Program Committee page |
| Strategic Plan – Tom Bamrick & Gayla Thompson for Susan Block | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a Strategic Planning meeting of the Early Learning Coalition Board held on January 19th from 4 pm to 7 pm. This meeting is open to the public. Input has been gathered from staff, providers and board members with the assistance of a consultant, to plan the future goals of the Coalition. A link has been sent out to all providers again to solicit more comments, and committee members | |

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| | <p>are encouraged to provide input. Only 22 providers have responded thus far.</p> | |
| <p>Readiness Rate – Gayla Thompson & Bronwyn Gogia</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Work Sampling System, an observational tool, was used as the sole basis for the Readiness Rate. Providers have been pleased with their scores. The Coalition has only 6 providers who continue to be Low Performing Providers (four of whom had less than 4 children assessed). | |
| <p>Teaching Strategies Gold Implementation for VPK – Gayla Thompson</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gayla Thompson solicited concerns related to Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bright Beginnings information seems to be correct, but TSG is not correct in terms of children listed – issues with duplicate children in the system. ▪ Little support from the support desk at TSG. ▪ Responses from OEL assessment helpdesk very slow regarding TSG. ▪ Links not working – trouble running needed reports. • Certificates from the 4 modules of TSG or e-mail verification from the Office of Early Learning approval of modules need to be sent to Bronwyn Gogia. Face to face classes are verified on the teacher’s transcripts. • Training must be taken by Lead VPK teachers before the spring checkpoints are completed in TSG. Checkpoints are due within 15 days of the end of their VPK year. • Reminder: every lead VPK teacher needs to take the TSG Inter-rater reliability by the beginning of the VPK year in fall 2016. They do not have to pass it, but must make the attempt. • If the any of the above three items are not accomplished by a provider, the provider will not be allowed to offer VPK for five years. | <p>Send certificates or verification to Bronwyn Gogia at Bronwyn.gogia@elcofswf.org or fax to her attention at 239-275-6449.</p> |

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| <p>Changes to SR Monitoring – Kristi Biffar</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristi Biffar distributed copies of the new School Readiness Monitoring tool based on the statewide school readiness contract. There are two tiers of monitoring, one of which is primarily a desk review and one which requires more on-site information. 144 of the SR providers will be monitored with the second tier of monitoring. The numbers are prescribed by the office of Early Learning. • The model for monitoring will be different, in that the compliance for tier two will be monitored by the Coalition’s Business Services Department. Over a five year period everyone will be monitored using the entire tool. • Areas of the monitoring were pointed out to raise awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unusual Incidents – reporting verbally by next day as well as in writing within three days ▪ Proof of Worker’s Compensation insurance, if required. ▪ Copy of curriculum on site and indicators evident to show alignment with standards ▪ Availability of child and staff files for five years • Monitoring may be announced or un-announced. | <p>The SR Monitoring tool may be downloaded from http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/sites/www/Uploads/files/Providers/SR_Contract_Monitoring_Tool_Form_OEL-SR_20M_v2_9-10-15%20ADA.pdf.</p> |
| <p>Waitlist and VPK/SR numbers - Tom Bamrick</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients on food stamps (SNAP) must contact Career Source to be able to continue on the program. Please pass the word to anyone in this program. • Numbers – School Readiness 3832, waitlist 1595, VPK 7220 (which is down from the previous month) • Total enrollments by percentage: Collier 23%, Glades 1%, Hendry 3%, Lee 73% • Enrolling Birth – 5 in SR. 100 letters per week are being sent out. The at-risk referrals are very high, have doubled or tripled. • Immokalee has no room for more children. It costs RCMA about \$10,000 to get a family child care home provider set up and functioning. • There is a Collier model of Champions for Learning which is looking at gaps in the system of care; children 0-2 yrs. of age, as well as overnight care. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual report of the Office of Early Learning for the 2014-15 year reported that of the number of children eligible for school readiness funding only 13% in Collier and 14% in Lee are actually receiving services. It would take approximately 95 million dollars to cover all the eligible children in our four counties. • Ashlee Houk stated that the board has continued to have discussions about quality vs. quantity, and it was also discussed at the National Association for the Education of Young Children. | <p>The Office of Early Learning 14-15 Annual report may be viewed and downloaded at http://www.floridaearlylearning.com/sites/www/Uploads/files/Oel%20Resources/Publications/2015%20Annual%20Report%20Final_ADA.pdf</p> |
| <p>Early Learning Florida and Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership update – Kristi Biffar</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Florida and the Office of Learning are promoting classes which pay teachers to learn. There are three learning models: Online only; online with communities of practice; online with coaching. • The Pre K class currently has 24 enrolled and the Infant Toddler class has 19 enrolled. There is room for 6 more in the infant toddler class. • This will be a continuing project. Cheryl Carpenter is the point person. • Early Head Start – Laura Pais and Julie Allen are providing TA. The grant serves 72 children, 20 of whom are in LAMP, per Kim Gerbasio. There are three rooms at LAMP which include both Early Head Start and fee based children. Still looking for a Family Child Care Home to participate in the grant, must be part of Southwest Florida Stars (Quality Rating Improvement System). • Hendry County Education Community task force has two goals for VPK, increasing enrollment and increasing the Readiness Rates. They are currently working with high school students to create volunteer relationships between high school students and child care centers, as well as to promote ACT and SAT test taking. | |
| <p>Meetings discussion – other discussion/events</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two tracts of symposia/classes are available through CCCR. One is the advanced Symposium with Dr. Julia Harper – “Meeting the Motor Needs of ALL Children” on Feb. 2 from 6—8 pm at Hodges University. The other is “Customer Service and Profitability” presented by | <p>To register go to www.collierchildcare.org. You can reach Alexandra Vaughan at 305-970-8639.</p> |

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| | <p>Alexandra Vaughn on Jan. 25, from 7-9 am, which if focused in information for directors and held at the NCEF center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Liebensohn Morales announced Jan.15 is her last day with Collier Public Schools. She will be the Manager of Child Development at Lee Memorial Hospital starting Jan.18. • VPK Provider Meeting Dates: 1/12 6-8 pm at Naples ELC office; 1/21 6-8 pm at ELC Ft. Myers; 1/26 6-8 pm at First Baptist in Labelle; 2/1 1-3 pm at ELC Ft. Myers; 2/4 6-8 pm at Beardsley Room Clewiston. • Beth Lobdell reported that the Florida Reggio Collaborative is hosting an exhibit “The Wonder of Learning – 100 Languages of Children” in Miami from January 15 – May 15 at The Shops at Sunset Place – 2nd floor. | <p>To register for meetings go to www.elcofswfl.org and click on “Training Events”</p> <p>For more information about the exhibit please go to http://www.flreggiocollaborative.org/heexhibit.html</p> |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am. | |
| Next Meeting | Friday, March 11, 2015 9 – 11 am | |

All meetings will be held at 2675 Winkler Avenue Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901 unless otherwise annou