



# EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 5, 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 via phone); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership) **Beth Lobdell** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

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

**Committee Members Absent:** **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Marie Liebensohn Morales** (Lee Memorial); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:02 am and introductions were made.	
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2016</b>	Draft minutes were reviewed for May 13, 2016 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Sherry Shupp, and seconded by Mandy Willis. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page
<b>ELC Update: Susan Block</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State of Florida has moved ahead with the changes required by the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) as outlined by the Federal Government. CCDF is the grant that the state draws down federal funds for subsidized child care (School Readiness).</li> <li>Ms. Block provided an overview of the Future Makers Initiative of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation A cradle to career approach to education in five counties: Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee. The Southwest Florida area has only a 27% rate of high school graduates who are ready to enter the workforce. There are individual county level groups throughout the 5 counties, such as Future Ready Collier. This is a collective impact model, which includes work groups for early learning and college to career.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Professional Development Scholarship: Gayla Thompson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual review of Professional Development Scholarship Procedure EII.QS.D.1. by the Program Committee as required in the procedure. The Committee discussed current scholarship levels, and the possibility of increasing the individual awards to \$775 to keep pace with increasing costs for Southwest Florida STARS participants. The Committee discussed continuation at the current level of \$250 for non-STARS participants.</li> <li>• There was discussion about the large level of funding available from TEACH. Providers are encouraged to apply for TEACH scholarships before requesting funds from the ELC. This is already included on the scholarship application.</li> <li>• The group was reminded that each scholarship is for the teacher. If the teacher leaves a facility, the scholarship goes with her/him. It cannot be transferred to another individual.</li> </ul>	<p>Beth Lobdell moved to increase rate from \$750 per person to up to \$775 for those who participate in SWFL Stars. Seconded by Angela Anderson. Motion carried unanimously. Change will be made to the procedure.</p>
<p><b>Contracted Slots: Gayla Thompson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New to School Readiness this year is Contracted Slots. This is part of the Office of Early Learning work to increase quality care for children.</li> <li>• Slots allotted for School Readiness children provide guaranteed payment for the child in that slot, whether or not the child attends.</li> <li>• The provider will be paid a maximum of 60 consecutive days for a child who either leaves (vacating the slot) or is an absent contracted slots child before the slot must be transferred to another SR child. If no child is found to fill the slot, the slot is transferred elsewhere.</li> <li>• There is funding for about 72 children if paid at the infant rate.</li> <li>• The Coalition asked for volunteers from the Committee to serve as a workgroup to assist with the selection of those School Readiness Providers who would be allocated contracted slots. There was a discussion about how to decide which providers will be considered for the contracted slots if there are numerical ties using the state criteria. Suggestions from Committee: Star Level; USDA Food Program; accredited; most improved; Literacy Buddy participation. Since the committee generated criteria for the ELC to select providers who would receive contracted slots, there was no need to form a work group. Ms. Thompson thanked the group for its input.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Southwest Florida Stars (QRIS) and other quality initiatives: Kristi Biffar</b></p>	<p>STAR ratings this year did not include Toddler CLASS, as requested by the Program Committee. This year's STAR ratings were based on Pre-K CLASS scores only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 STAR ratings went up, 5 ratings went down, 20 stayed the same and 4 are pending. A total of 36 programs were rated. The ratings break down as: 1 – 1 star; 9 – 2 stars; 6 – 3 stars; 7- 4 stars; 9 – 5 stars; 4 pending.</li> <li>• All three CLASS assessments- Pre-K, Toddler, and Infant - will be included in the STAR ratings in the 2016-2017 STARS program. There will be Infant and Toddler overview classes offered to help providers get ready for these CLASS observations.</li> <li>• The Teachstone video library will be made accessible to STARS providers –videos are available in English and Spanish.</li> <li>• In November there will be an Infant CLASS train the trainer which our mentors will attend. Later, this class will be offered to providers.</li> <li>• Making the Most of Classroom Interactions now offers 2.0 CEUs free through TEACHSTONE to those who complete the course. This class is being offered soon in Hendry County and will be available in Lee and Collier as well.</li> <li>• Cheryl will offer a “Pitfalls during CLASS Observations” course in Lee, Hendry and Collier Counties.</li> <li>• SWFL Stars applications for 2016-17 will be out soon</li> <li>• Early Learning Florida classes are starting up again, there will be 60 seats available. Each course is 10 weeks long. For more information contact Cheryl Carpenter. Spanish classes may be available.</li> </ul>	<p>Cheryl can be contacted at <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org">Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org</a></p>
<p><b>School Readiness: Barbara Peck</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 3767 children enrolled in the School Readiness (SR) program.</li> <li>• Working on implementation of the 12 month eligibility for all children.</li> <li>• When a parent loses a job they formerly received 60 days to re-establish themselves in work. Now the period is 90 days.</li> <li>• Parent fees will not increase unless the parents are over income guidelines.</li> <li>• Children are no longer terminated for non-attendance; they may be suspended from care.</li> <li>• At-Risk children can roll over to income eligible and receive 12 months of care.</li> <li>• Providers must give receipts for parent fees. This is part of the SR monitoring of providers.</li> </ul>	

<b>Waitlist and VPK: Delia Buckley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will not be enrollment as often as in the past, due to the 12 month eligibility.</li> <li>• Current waitlist (today) Lee 650, Hendry 72, Glades 3, Collier 388.</li> <li>• Clarification was made that a child has to already be born to be placed on the waitlist.</li> <li>• VPK – vouchers are not coming in as quickly as previous years.</li> <li>• VPK Summer has not changed much in terms of numbers.</li> </ul>	
<b>LiveScan requirements/availability Gayla Thompson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LiveScan screening through the Clearinghouse is up and running at the Coalition.</li> <li>• Clearinghouse Background Screening is due for all child care personnel by November 2017. Only those screened after July 1, 2016 do not have to be re-screened.</li> <li>• Sign up on Clearinghouse first, then with Coalition on our website if you choose to use ELC for the screening. Providers or individuals can call Rosa Serrano at 239-935-6143 for assistance and questions about the actual screening. Go to the DCF website and click on Background Screening for Clearinghouse information.</li> </ul>	Website to sign up for LiveScan by the ELC <a href="http://www.elcofswfl.org">www.elcofswfl.org</a>
<b>Provider Updates – SR/VPK/Provider Portal/Provider Survey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be new SR and VPK contracts in Fiscal Year 2017 (beginning July 1, 2017). VPK Summer 2017 will use the new contract.</li> <li>• Provider Portal coming along toward release. The exact release date has not yet been announced, by the Office of Early Learning, Ms. Thompson reported..</li> <li>• The group looked at the provider survey that the staff recommended to be used; a few changes were recommended and will be included in the survey.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other Discussion/Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherry Shupp advised that Glades Center in Moorehaven has room for both VPK and SR students.</li> <li>• Rebecca McKellar introduced the new year of Islands of Excellence on the topic of STEAM. Readers are needed for this project, and directors who need professional development contributions to renew their credentials are especially invited. If you would like to be a reader, please contact Rebecca.</li> <li>• Laura Delgado, Regional VPK Facilitator for South Florida will be offering VPK Learning Circles and Math training in various locations. These will be listed on our website.</li> </ul>	Rebecca can be contacted at <a href="mailto:Rebecca.Mckellar@elcofswfl.org">Rebecca.Mckellar@elcofswfl.org</a>
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	October 14, 2016, 9-11 am	

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