



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2016

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Substitute Chair- Demaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member); **Jennifer Boocock** (Bear’s Den Childcare Services); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP – via phone); **Julia Kroecker** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership – via phone); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Kelly Roy** (FSW); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development); **Anne Snyder** (FDLRS, Lee Schools); **Kendra Stamp** (EduCare – via phone); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Staff Members Present: **Leona Adkins** (Family Resource Director); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Delia Buckley** (Family Resource Director); **Maleeni Singh** (Early Childhood Specialist); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer); **Kim Usa** (Chief Operations Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Ivette Aponte-Torres** (CCCR); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Beth Lobdell** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Preschool); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:04 am and introductions were made.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2016	Draft minutes were reviewed for August 8, 2016 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Marie Liebensohn. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page
ELC Report – state and local updates: Susan Block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State of Florida has moved ahead with the changes required by the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) as outlined by the Federal Government. CCDBG is the grant that the state draws down federal funds for subsidized child care (School 	

	<p>Readiness - SR). The Office of Early Learning (OEL) has put forward a basic framework to meet the federal requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Block discussed the Florida Southwestern College (FSW) Early Childhood Education Cost Study. Those present who participated in panels discussed their understanding of what they heard in workgroups concerning best practices improve the quality of child care. 	<p>The ECE Cost Study information will be emailed to the committee.</p>
<p>Health and Safety Changes: Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of the new Health and Safety Handbook for School Readiness Facilities were discussed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group Size ○ Pre-Service Timeframe and training courses ○ Break in Service ○ General Requirements • Discussion ensued and the following questions were raised to be submitted to OEL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the deadlines to have the requirements in place? ○ How does the 90 day requirement for training work – does the person just have to be supervised if they do not complete training in 90 days or are they unable to work at an SR center? ○ Why is the first teacher in an age group not required to be certified, but additional teachers are? ○ If someone returns to childcare, having never completed their DCF required hours, do they start over with the 40 hours in 90 days for the SR requirements, or can they continue where they left off in the DCF one year requirement? 	<p>The final of the Health and Safety Handbook may be found at this link: https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-07457</p> <p>Gayla Thompson will share the Committee's questions with OEL and follow-up with the committee.</p>
<p>Southwest Florida STARS: Maleeni Singh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Infant and Toddler Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) will be used where appropriate this year for STARS. • Cut scores for star levels have been changed to reflect the recommendations for a statewide system in Florida. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maleeni Singh will investigate and report at the next meeting about infant ratios.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was discussed that the ratio for Star level 5 infants should be no higher than NAEYC requirements. Infant and Toddler CLASS trainings will be offered soon. 	
<p>Collier County Public Schools – Training for Pre-K providers: Michelle Starr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collier County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering professional learning sessions to community and district pre-k teachers. The classes will be taught by CCPS professionals including a Kindergarten teacher and social worker. These sessions are on the topics social-emotional well-being (October), literacy (January) and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) (March). • The trainings are a joint venture between CCPS and ELC. They will be held in Naples and Immokalee. CEUs will be offered through the Early Learning Coalition. • A request was made for a repeated session in Immokalee since school hasn't started yet. 	<p>Registration is through the Early Learning Coalition at www.elcofswfl.org/calendar.php</p> <p>Michelle Starr will look into an additional class in Immokalee.</p>
<p>SR, VPK Waitlist numbers, Enrollment Status: Leona Adkins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In August, it was reported that 3767 SR children were enrolled. The current enrollment of SR children is now up to 4333. The majority of these children have a 12 month enrollment. Enrollment is continuing at this time. • VPK enrollment is now 7042.. • The current waitlist for the four counties – Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee – is 850. 	
<p>Provider Survey Results: Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of the survey were shared with the program committee. • 94 of the approximately 350 providers responded to the survey. The demographics of the respondents appear to correspond to the demographics of the providers on a whole. • Highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 85% of providers prefer e-mail communication from ELC ○ 70% of providers prefer e-mail to communicate to ELC ○ The most contacted areas of ELC are VPK child enrollment, VPK providers, reimbursement, provider services/Mentors. ○ Challenges include: unanswered phone calls/emails, reimbursement concerns, redetermination notices • There was a discussion of how to improve communication with 	

	<p>parents about fees: give examples, have parent repeat back information, they need to see it not just hear it, providers should go over information about fees and have them sign it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELC will work on strategies to deal with the challenges identified. • Suggestions to improve the survey were noted, and questions for next year solicited. 	<p>Suggestions on how to improve the survey may be sent to Gayla Thompson - gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org</p>
Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Liebenson reported that the Early Learning Florida class she leads is under-enrolled 20 students are required for each class. • Jesyca Virnig followed up on interest in working with Sheriff's office to advise child care providers of safety and security issues in the community. Susan Block reported that she met with Sheriff Scott, who advised that child care providers should get to know their local agencies. Jesyca has a contact in the sheriff's office and will pursue further advice. She also advised of an active shooter training on October 25th from 8:30 – 12:30 sponsored by the Sheriff's office. She will pass on more information when she has it. • Kelly Roy announced that the PELL grant and TEACH can be used together. She has a great deal of information about scholarships. • Julia Kroeker announced that FSW will sponsor a play event on Saturday November 19. There will be boxes, spare parts, recycled materials and other fun free play for children ages 1-10. She will make the fliers available once they are ready. • Contracted slots add value to the SR slot, but does not add additional children. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, December 8, 2016 9-11 am 	

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