



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2021

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree)

Staff Members Present: **Kimberly Usa** (Chief Program Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood Specialists); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development)

Committee Members Absent: **Angela Anderson** (Child’s Path); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds); **Jamie Eskridge** (Childs Path); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Carol Frink** (Lee County Schools); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:00 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 23, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the April 23 meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Renate Engels. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Susan Block - (reported by Gayla Thompson) ELC Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details about the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and American Rescue Plan Grants will be forthcoming. • HB 419 will be implemented as of July 1, 2021 – details will be shared as we have them. • The legislative change removed the Central Agency seat (RCMA) which means Damaris Boone will be stepping down off the ELC board effective 6/30/21. She will also be leaving the position of Chairperson of the Program Committee. • The new Chairperson of the Program Committee will be Michele King. Thank you to Ms. King for accepting this position. • This fall the ELC will accept applications for two provider seats on the Board, terms beginning 1/1/22: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Private for-Profit Child Care – Lee County ○ Faith Based Child Care – Hendry/Glades • If anyone knows a businessperson that would be interested in serving on the board of directors as a gubernatorial appointee, please refer them to the application on the ELC website. Susan is happy to talk with any interested individuals about this role. • Thanks to the Program Committee for a great year and continuing service to the children and families of SWFL! Special thanks to Ms.Boone for her leadership! 	
<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that there has been a huge decline in COVID testing, positive cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and childcare closures in the past three weeks. • Parents should not be back in the centers; the CDC has not changed the recommendations for Childcare COVID precautions. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDC is waiting for the fall out of the holidays, Memorial Day and possibly 4th of July, to assess changes to the Childcare recommendations. • Danna is on vacation. Training will resume in July, virtually. • Cheryl Carpenter added that DCF no longer requires that their staff wear masks when visiting centers, but if requested must put them on. ELC staff visiting centers are wearing masks. 	<p>Go to www.elcofswfl.org to sign up for trainings. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on “Click here to register for trainings”</p>
<p>Leona Adkins (reported by Gayla Thompson) – Grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider Appreciation mini grants were released to contracted SR/VPK providers in May. • Phase V – CRRSA Support Grants for Early Learning/Child Care Providers (Contracted and Non-contracted Providers) were released to providers in May. • Provider Appreciation mini-grants were released to VPK-Only providers in June. • The new meeting schedule for the Program Committee will be available soon. • Thank you to Damaris Boone for her commitment and time spent serving as Program Committee Chair. 	<p>If anyone has questions about grants (past and current) please contact Leona Adkins at Leona.adkins@elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>Kim Usa – ESS, enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first responder program (ESS) was completed as of the end of April; many of the children rolled over into other categories to continue assistance with paying for childcare. • In March, 4800 children were served in School Readiness (SR), in April 5044 children were served. The waitlist was cleared numerous times and currently stands at 50. • VPK participants in May was 3851, as many of the VPK programs have already closed. Summer VPK will start soon. As COVID concerns recede, it is hoped that VPK enrollment will pick up in the fall, as well as other children returning to childcare. 	
<p>Cheryl Carpenter - Contracts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carpenter reported that SR contracts must be 100% certified, by next Friday, or parents will be notified that children will have to be moved. VPK contracts for advanced payment must be completed today to be guaranteed advanced payment for August. We are also 	

	<p>asking that VPK contracts be completed by July 1 to help with the enrollment process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training – the Early Childhood Specialists will be offering Effective Interactions for Pre-K later in August to prepare VPK providers for assessment. Infant-Toddler MMCI will be offered in September. • Regarding HB419 and assessment of VPK classrooms, the following timetable will be followed: 21-22 is the training year; 22-23 is the year to begin assessments which take place in private, public and RCMA VPK classrooms. 23-24 the assessments will be used to create readiness rates along with the VPK Assessment gains scores and learning gains. • The last to be assessed will be VPK only centers and the VPK./SR so they have time to receive training. 	
<p>Gayla Thompson – Training and HB 419</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden mentioned the trainings for health topics, they have been posted for enrollment on our website for the months of August through December. • Training will continue virtually through December, with some possible exceptions such as CLASS observer trainings. • The Office of Early Learning will now be designated as the Division of Early Learning under the Department of Education. • The previous K-20 education system is now known as the Birth -20 system. • Many changes are pending in VPK, as Ms. Carpenter explained. By 23-24 there will be differential payments for VPK providers who meet the high end of assessment scores. More information will be shared as we compile it. 	<p>The link to the HB 419 bill https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/419 Click on CS/CS/HB 419 Enrolled (current Bill Version) Bill Text: PDF (blue button)</p>
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Singleton is interested in creating a small group to discuss child trauma issues, especially related to COVID. She would like to include representatives from ABLE and TATS. Sarah Bedard would be the best representative from the ELC, per Cheryl Carpenter. Anyone interested in participating in the group, please email Ms. Singleton 	<p>Please contact her at heathers@childspath.org.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am. 	

Next Meeting	• TBA	
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All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.