



## EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 5, 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); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Renate Engels** (Guadalupe Center); **Carol Frink** (Lee County Schools) **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools);

**Staff Members Present:** **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Kimberly Usa** (Chief Program Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood Specialists); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development)

**Committee Members Absent:** **Angela Anderson** (Child’s Path); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Jamie Eskridge** (Childs Path); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **Suzanne March** (Childs Path); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Kelly Roy** (Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
<b>Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:02 am using the Zoom platform.	

<p><b>ELC Report – Susan Block</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Block spoke about the Florida Legislative session which started this week. HB419 and SB1282 are essentially the same bill that stalled last year. They include VPK accountability: Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) thresholds, Pre and Post assessment gains, Readiness Rates, and requirements. VPK completers criteria is to be changed to 85%. There would also be differential payments up to 15% for quality performance.</li> <li>• Gold Seal would be changed from Department of Children and Families to the Office of Early Learning. Our ELC board has approved the increase of the Gold Seal rate for our Coalition from 15% to 20% as of July 1, 2021.</li> <li>• The Office of Early Learning is being changed from a division to a department under the Department of Education.</li> <li>• The State Board of Education is reviewing the state contracts for both School Readiness and VPK.</li> <li>• All providers are encouraged to fill out the survey on how ELC did in 2020. The link will be sent out again to all providers.</li> </ul>	<p>There are currently CLASS contracting thresholds for the School Readiness Program. This is now being proposed for VPK as well.</p> <p><a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NT39D3">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8NT39D3</a>.</p>
<p><b>Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft minutes were reviewed for the January meeting. Susan Block requested a change in the ELC report in the minutes.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to accept minutes as amended made by Michele King and seconded by Renate Engels. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of <a href="http://www.elcofswfl.org">www.elcofswfl.org</a>.</p>
<p><b>Danna Breeden, RN – Health Update</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Breeden reported that anyone who works in childcare can register for an appointment at CVS, Walmart, and Publix for the COVID Vaccine.</li> <li>• Hospitalizations for COVID have decreased and the hospitals are now open to visitation.</li> <li>• Continue to wear masks and social distance as much as possible. DCF has not changed their recommendation about masks.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In February, Ms. Breeden had 200 consults regarding COVID, which is down from 300 in January.</li> </ul>	
<b>Kim Usa – ESS, enrollment and waitlist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Usa reported that 512 children were still being served in February under the Emergency Status System (ESS) program. This program is ending.</li> <li>In January 4604 School Readiness children were paid; this is an increase from 4581 in December.</li> <li>Program Services is currently enrolling off the waitlist. The high number on the waitlist was 1800 children and is now 1137. By the county numbers: Collier 310; Glades 0; Hendry 4; Lee 800.</li> <li>VPK numbers – January was 5780 and now there are 5869</li> </ul>	
<b>Cheryl Carpenter - QRIS (SWFL Stars) workgroup</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Carpenter reported that the QRIS workgroup decided to align the performance standards of the QRIS with the school readiness CLASS threshold.</li> <li>March 11 there will be another meeting to discuss teacher requirements.</li> </ul>	<p>If you would like to participate in this meeting, please contact Ms. Carpenter at <a href="mailto:Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org">Cheryl.Carpenter@elcofswfl.org</a></p>
<b>Bronwyn Gogia – Infant/Toddler Mental Health Grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Gogia reported that the total amount of the Mental Health grant is \$129,185 and has been extended to two years 20-21 and 21-22. The first training for 46 participants was held last week through the Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH).</li> <li>Next week: 3-day training on Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). Slots are purchased for DECA child screening in social emotional: Deveraux for Resilience training.</li> <li>Conscious Discipline – Power of Resiliency – managing adult mental health, 100 slots. This will be opened to all providers once the Infant/Toddler mental health participants are registered. There will also be a training entitled Building Resilience and Healing for Trauma in Childcare settings.</li> <li>Materials are being purchased to support training.</li> </ul>	<p>If you have questions about the trainings, please contact Ms. Gogia at <a href="mailto:Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org">Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org</a>.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) will be rolled out in the Provider Portal possibly by Friday March 12.</li> <li>• If the parent does the ASQ, the provider does not have to do the screening. If the parent does not screen their children, the provider is responsible to do so. The link to the screening will be through the portal instead of directly to Brooks.</li> </ul>	
<b>Gayla Thompson – Professional Development &amp; Literacy Buddies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Thompson reported that there is a new Preschool Development Grant in conjunction with Florida State University. It focuses on Infant/Toddler teachers, early screening, and autism. Gold Seal providers have been invited to recommend teachers to participate. 20 can come from our Coalition.</li> <li>• Virtual classes are going very well. The average registration is 25. The ELC is working with The University of Florida extension office of offer Healthy Kids, Healthy Future, a 6-part training for providers to earn their Florida’s Heros designation over a 12 week period.</li> <li>• The ELC is working with Future Ready Collier to offer teachers in Collier County who have 120 hours of training toward the CDA to work on their portfolios and toward their observations. The goal is to also offer this program to Lee, Glades and Hendry county providers once the Collier project is complete.</li> <li>• Literacy Buddies are ready for their third book in April.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cheryl Carpenter for Leona Adkins – Grants and Rates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Carpenter gave an overview of the grants on which the ELC is currently working: Curriculum, Infant/Toddler Mental Health, and the Infant/Toddler Autism project with FSU.</li> <li>• The rates have been changed in the portal to reflect the higher ELC max rate.</li> </ul>	The new rates can be viewed by county at this link <a href="#">School Readiness Information – Early Learning Coalition of SouthWest Florida (elcofswfl.org)</a>
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 23, 2021 at 9 am.</li> </ul>	

*All meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.*