



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Face to face and Virtual Meeting via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Presiding - Michele King** (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Amy Amon**; **Damaris Boone** (RCMA); **Danna Breeden** (Collier County Health Department and ELC RN); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples) ; **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Penney Norton** (Division of Early Learning; **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Shay Smith** (Florida Dept. of Health); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools);

Staff Members Present: **Leona Adkins** (CQO); **Gilda Duran** (CPO); **Amanda DeVariste** (Managing Director); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development).

Committee Members Absent: **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Maria Bettini** (LCPS); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Dr. Carol Frink** (Lee County School District); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy) **Terri Konczak** (Division of Early Learning); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero); **Marissa Mona** (EduCare Academy); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Division of Early Learning); **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Kelly Roy** (ELC Board Member – FSW); **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 Michele King at 9:05 am using the Zoom platform and 3 people were present in person.	

<p>Susan Block – ELC Reported by Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of Florida Legislature approved funding increases for the VPK program, starting with the 2022-2023 school year. • The School Year Base Student Allocation (BSA) will increase by \$317 per student • The Summer BSA will increase by \$271 per student • An additional increase of \$618 will be available for VPK Providers that are already paying their VPK staff \$15/hour, OR for those who agree to increase their VPK staff wages to \$15/hour within 30 days of receiving the funding. • The required \$15/hr wage is for VPK time only. 	<p>A chart with this information will be sent to all members of the Program Committee after the meeting.</p>
<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the February 25, 2022 meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Donna Killion seconded by Michelle Starr. Minutes were unanimously approved. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.</p>
<p>Leona Adkins – Grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a blast sent out soon listing all the grants and who oversees each one. • The application for ARPA funds is still available once the portal is back up. There have been weekly payments going out for the ARPA funds, however with the portals offline there was no payment this week. • Within 5-6 weeks, there have been \$7 million dollars paid toward the ARPA grants. • The BOCC grant for \$3 million is for Lee County Providers only and will be headed by Cheryl Carpenter. • The Work Force Initiative Grant will be coming out next week. Bronwyn Gogia will head that grant. 	

<p>Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently no families on the SR waiting list. • Enrollment numbers for School Readiness 5159: 1704 Collier, 328 Hendry, 54 Glades and 4370 in Lee. VPK enrolment is 6456 children. • The ELC is trying to recruit providers. Infant and Toddler slots are the most difficult to find. Encouraging providers to open classrooms is another way to increase capacity. • Ms. Duran currently has 5 openings on her staff. • Since the portal is down, many functions are being done on paper. 	<p>Please contact Brenda.Griffin@elcofswfl.org if you have any recommendations for new SR providers.</p>
<p>Danna Breeden – COVID 19 and other Health Concerns reported by Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Breeden reported that calls resumed last week regarding COVID. The recommendations are still the same. If someone has had close contact but not showing symptoms, they do not need to be quarantined. • The new COVID 19 variant does not seem to cause as many hospitalizations as the previous ones. Recommendation keep kids out 10 days if they are positive for COVID. • Trainings and town halls have been planned for the next year by Ms. Breeden and Ms. Thompson. Nurse town hall meetings will be every other month, more often if situations warrant them. 	
<p>Cheryl Carpenter – Assessments for CLASS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ELC is contracting with Teachstone to assist with the CLASS assessments. This will allow all the SR CLASS assessments to be completed timely for the purposes of contracting. Also, the VPK CLASS assessments will be done in 22-23 on 100% of the classes. • Be sure to respond to the 2 week notice emails and let the Teachstone assessors into your facility. Assessment is a requirement for School Readiness providers to allow for contracting for the coming year. • The differential for some assessments has been changed: 4.0 – 4.49 there will be no differential 4.5 – 4.99 is a 4% differential • Damaris Boone raised the question of who would be responsible for the assessments of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association centers. Penney Norton from DEL was asked to field this question. They will be assessed by the Coalition with whom they contract, in this case ELC of SWFL. RCMA will not be observing their own sites. 	

Gayla Thompson – VPK teacher and Director requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Florida statutes and rules require that all VPK directors have a VPK Director Credential with VPK endorsement or hold a valid certificate in education leadership issues by the Florida Department of Education. • VPK Lead teachers are required to take 15 hours of Emergent Literacy training classes in addition to Implementing the Florida Standards in Preschool Classrooms: 3 VPK Years Old to Kindergarten (online VFSP) before the VPK Application can be certified and children added to classes. 	
Open Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Devariste requested that VPK Vouchers be uploaded to Sharepoint as soon as providers have 4 vouchers for a class. • If a child does not attend a VPK class, mark them as never attended rather than terminated, to make it easier on the parents. 	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am 	Moved by Michelle Starr, seconded by Damaris Boone.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 3, 2022 at 9 am 	

The next meeting will be available both face to face and by Zoom.

Zoom meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87201027500>

Meeting ID: 872 0102 7500 or by phone 1 312 626 6799

Physical meeting place 2695 Winkler Ave, Ste 300 Ft. Myers, FL 33901