EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Program Committee (Face to face and Virtual Meeting via Zoom)
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2022
9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Presiding - Michele King (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children's Hospital); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); Patricia **Dominguez** (Challenged Minds); **Jodi Garrett** (Child's Path); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples) ; **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child's Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools);

Staff Members Present: Leona Adkins (CQO); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development).

Committee Members Absent: Angela Anderson (Guadalupe Center); **Maria Bettini** (LCPS); **Danna Breeden** (Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse) **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA): **Jenn Faber** (Children's Council); **Dr. Carol Frink** (Lee County School District); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children's Community Center); **Donna Hernandez** (Fort Myers Technical College); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy) **Terri Konczak** (Division of Early Learning); **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); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District): **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Kelly Roy** (ELC Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **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 9:03 am using the Zoom platform and 3 people were present in person.	

Susan Block – ELC Reported by Gayla Thompson	• Governor DeSantis has received the legislative budget and has 14 days to approve. This includes the increases for VPK and SR. • Based on this budget, SWFL has requested a rate increase for School Readiness (SR) rates. ELC is awaiting approval from the Division of Early Learning and will communicate the outcome of this decision when appropriate. • Leona Adkins reported that she received word this morning that the budget was signed.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 29, 2022	• Draft minutes were reviewed for the April 29, 2022 meeting.	Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Donna Killion seconded by Heather Singleton. Minutes were unanimously approved. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.
Leona Adkins – Grants	• The application for ARPA funds is still available There have been weekly payments going out for the ARPA funds. • The ECCERS grant was extended. This is a VPK grant for technology that offers $295 per VPK classroom. • The BOCC grant for $3 million is for Lee County Providers only and will be headed by Cheryl Carpenter. • The Work Force Initiative Grant is accepting applications currently.	

Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist reported by Gayla Thompson	• Waitlist numbers: Collier 13 children from 10 families; Glades 0; Hendry 1 child from one family; Lee 12 children from 5 families. • VPK numbers: Collier 352 children enrolled at 15 providers; Lee 2408 children enrolled at 78 providers; Hendry and Glades – 0 enrollment as they are between VPK sessions. • SR – 51 new families enrolled in May (79 unique children); 5081 children are enrolled at providers with an additional 55 children eligible but not enrolled at this time.	
Cheryl Carpenter – STARS	• STARS reviews will be starting soon. Two have been done so far, and the Early Childhood Specialists are training to administer the review.	
Bronwyn Gogia – Final report on Assessment and report on Workforce Innovation Grant	• Ms. Gogia reported that Child Assessment ended with 46 providers for the final checkpoint. Several Family Child Care Homes lost children so were unable to complete the assessment. • 77 SR providers want to be part of assessment for the differential payment for 22-23. They must have their teachers become Interrater Reliable on Teaching Strategies. • Workforce Initiative Grant – so far 41 have been received out of 364 contracted providers. Applications must be in before the end of June. The payment of the grant has been extended to 22-23. • Workforce Initiative Grant can pay for background screening, 45 hours of training, CDA or FCCPC, renewals to director Credential and CDA, VPK classes and retention for teachers who have been with a provider more than 6 months.	

Gayla Thompson – VPK teacher and Director requirements, VPK rate changes,	• VPK Directors and teachers continue to work on their classes required for the new fiscal year. They must be completed before VPK APPs can be certified. Due date for the classes is 7/1/22. • Since the governor has signed the budget, the VPK rate changes will go through. See the attached document for amounts. • Processing of VPK Contracts and VPK APPS continues.	
Open Discussion	• A question was raised about when the next meeting will be. We must schedule the Program Committee meetings around the ELC Board meetings, so will be doing that once those meetings are on the calendar. As soon as we know, calendar appointments and a list will be sent out.	
Adjournment	• The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am	
Next Meeting	• TBA	

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