



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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

Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2022

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: **Presiding - Michele King** (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Damaris Boone** (Redlands Christian Migrant Association); **Danna Breeden** (Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial System); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Rebecca McKellar** (Creative World School) **Joanne Moran** (Lee County School District); **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools);

Staff Members Present: **Susan Block** (CEO); **Gilda Duran** (COO Program Services); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Director of Early Childhood); **Amanda Devariste** (Managing Director of Naples ELC Office)

Committee Members Absent: **Maria Bettini** (LCPS); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Rita Dellatore** (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); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Tia Knapp** (ABC Academy); **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); **Kelly Roy** (ELC Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **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 9:00 am using the Zoom platform and 3 people were present in person.	

<p>Susan Block – ELC Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Block reported that there are additional grant funds coming in September. This grant will be larger than the last one, the money will be used to build the work force. • There will also be more ARPA Discretionary funds to build stronger systems. 	
<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 3, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft minutes were reviewed for the June 3, 2022 meeting. 	<p>Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Donna Killion. Minutes were unanimously approved. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/.</p>
<p>Bronwyn Gogia – Grants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronwyn Gogia reported that they are still processing the Work Force Innovation grant. Heather Singleton asked about a timeline. Ms. Gogia said that they are having to process each teacher, one at a time and are finding a lot of W-9s that are wrong which are setting them back. This process is a little more tedious than anticipated and it is hard to give a definitive timeline, but they are all actively being processed. • VPK ESSER II Grants have been reopened for providers who did not apply before. 	

<p>Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilda Duran informed the committee that 58 families were contacted this week to come off the waitlist. Every Tuesday funding notifications are going out, there are currently 0 on the waitlist. • Susan Block said that these funds will continue throughout the year. The ELC’s biggest challenge is finding space for the children but we are currently working on increasing capacity. • Ms. Duran spoke about the recent VPK outreach which was very successful. She convened a work group to discuss how to get information out to families faster. The ELC purchased 2 billboards and did a media campaign in Spanish and English utilizing TV, radio, and print ads. They were able to get 1,000 more VPK vouchers to parents than last year. 	
<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID persists, with no change to the procedure for childcare. If testing positive or have symptoms teachers/children must be excluded for 5 days, from the first day of symptoms/test is day 0. Department of Health does not need to be notified but the ELC and DCF still need to know. • Monkey Pox has been identified in our service area, no cases at our childcares as of now. If diagnosed, the patient must be excluded until the sores are completely gone, then their temperature must be taken every day for 21 days. It is different from chicken pox as the sores must be completely healed. • Nurse Town Halls are still held every other month, the attendance and participation are still high and well received. Significant health related topics are reported and there is a new update each meeting on what is trending in childcare for health-related issues. 	

<p>Cheryl Carpenter – VPK CLASS Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryl Carpenter reported that after September 1st SR assessments will be starting up as well as VPK. All VPK programs will be receiving an assessment. She met with all 4 school districts to discuss VPK monitoring and program assessment. The meetings went well, and she expressed her thanks to a great working relationship. • Ms. Carpenter reminded the group to reach out to their ECS for TA purposes. There will also be more training added to the calendar for Effective Interactions. Trainings fill up fast. 	
<p>Bronwyn Gogia – Teaching Strategies and \$15/hour VPK funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronwyn Gogia mentioned that the TSG website had some issues earlier this week, but things have been fixed. Sixty-seven providers have opted to do the child assessment differential. • Ms. Gogia reported that the funding for the 15/hr. payments for VPK staff is for this current school year only. The provider must pay the Lead, assistant, substitute, and director \$15 an hour for VPK hours if they agree to the attestation in the portal. More information from DEL should be released soon. 	
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Carpenter mentioned that the Coalition is actively looking for Early Childhood Specialists to hire. Once this is done, ELC will offer CLASS Observer trainings and providers will be invited also. There will be a cost for these trainings. • VPK FAST- Donna Killion asked if the VPK Assessment timeline would be the same as the previous assessment, 30 calendar days, and if any other providers had started and what experiences were they having. Bronwyn Gogia replied that the new VPK FAST is done in the first 30 VPK Classroom days as opposed to calendar days like before. Heather S. said that her teachers had no issues with the assessment. Michelle S. stated that it is important for the assessment to be done in small groups, and to have someone monitoring who 	

	completed the training to make sure the children are working correctly.	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 21, 2022 from 9-11 am	

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