



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee (Face to Face and Virtual
Meeting via TEAMS) Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Presiding - Michele King (Committee Chair, ELC Board, Golisano Children’s Hospital); **Damaris Boone** (Redlands Christian Migrant Association); **Danna Breeden** (Collier Health Dept and ELC Nurse); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); Patricia **Dominguez** (Challenged Minds); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples); **Rebecca McKellar** (Creative World); **Heather Singleton** (Child’s Path); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Public Schools); **Ashley Houk** (First Presbyterian Church, Naples);

Staff Members Present: Susan Block (CEO); **Gilda Duran** (COO Program Services); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Director of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Director of Professional Development)

Committee Members Absent: 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); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Penney Norton** (Division of Early Learning); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Jim Ragusa** (Guadalupe Center); **Mary Grace Romo** (Lee County School District); **Kelly Roy** (ELC Board Member – FSW); **Char-Nequa Smith** (Florida Health Department); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy). **Angela Anderson** (Guadalupe Center); **Rita Dellatore** (Kid City); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy IV); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial System); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (The Children’s Community Center);

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Michele King at 9:03 am using the TEAMS platform and face to face.	

Michele King – Important Announcement	Announced that a new CEO has been chosen. Her name is Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz. She will be starting at the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) around the end of March.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2022	Draft minutes were reviewed for the December 16, 2022, meeting.	Motion to accept minutes as presented made by Michelle Starr and seconded. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page at https://elcofswfl.org/program-committee/ .

<p>Susan Block – ELC Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are headed into legislative session – it begins March 1 and lasts 60 days • House Bill 0193 is being watched closely. It would require 8 hours of VPK for both summer and school year. The bill would be very expensive, and it is doubtful that it will get traction. Talk to your legislators about your opinions regarding the bill. • There is also proposed refinement to the SR methodology of allocating funds to Coalitions. These allocation methods have varied over time. ELC has been historically underfunded. • This year the ELC had a 60% increase in funding and has returned some of it to the state as it has not been spent. • The focus in the legislature is on early literacy, yet we all know that social emotional needs are a priority for young children. 	
<p>Gayla Thompson for Leona Adkins – Grants Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently ELC is still working on the completion of ARPA Round 1 (Payments 2 and 3) • Also working on ARPA Round 2 payments • Closing out on the Workforce Initiatives Grant • Processing the Lee BOCC ARP Grant for Lee Providers Only <p>Grants coming in the upcoming week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELC Emergency Disaster Grant • Save the Children Grant • ARPA World Class Workforce Grant (WCW) • The two disaster related grants are only open to those who responded to situation reports after Hurricane Ian. 	
<p>Gilda Duran – Enrollment and waitlist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR: We have 6,669 children enrolled in School Readiness (SR) • Waiting list: we pulled 30 children from 19 households, 16 of them come from Lee, 2 from Collier and one from Hendry. The letters went out on Tuesday. Currently, we have no children on our waiting list. • As of today, we have 241 SR providers • VPK Providers: 285 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collier: 94 - Glades: 3 - Hendry: 19 - Lee: 169 • VPK Currently Enrolled: 6,685 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collier: 1,764 - Glades: 75 - Hendry: 340 - Lee: 4,506 	
<p>Danna Breeden, RN – Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norovirus and Hand, Foot and Mouth disease are prevalent currently in child care centers. • Nurse Town Halls continue every other month to highlight what illnesses and health issues are being experienced in the child care facilities. The next Nurse Town Hall is in April. • CEU trainings are offered on the third Thursday of each month. They are listed on our website where you can sign up for the training. • Ms Breeden is available by phone and email to help providers with health and safety questions. • We are the only ELC in the state to have a nurse. 	<p>The next Nurse Town Hall meeting is April 13</p> <p>Danna Breeden Danna.Breeden@flhealth.gov or Phone 239-825-5218</p>

<p>Gayla Thompson reporting for Cheryl Carpenter – VPK & SR CLASS Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLASS assessments continue for both VPK and SR classes. • The Early Childhood Specialists spend most of their time in the field observing classes for the CLASS assessment. • Damaris Boone reported that Redlands Christian Migrant Association needs assessors in various parts of the state. Please contact her if you know of someone who can perform assessments. 	<p>Damaris@rcma.org</p>
<p>Bronwyn Gogia – Child Assessments and ASQ updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 58 providers who are still working on differentials for child assessment. Once the January payment is complete, the winter child assessments will be entered for payment. • ASQ – Brooks has been having issues. Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez reported that they have not been able to enter ASQs as the website was down. Ms. Gogia advised that providers use paper copies to do the ASQs timely. However, ELC will not hold providers responsible for the inability to enter the ASQs due to the status of the website. • Healthy Start and Help Me Grow have provided two tablets to ELC for the lobby to allow parents to screen their children on the ASQ while they are at ELC. • High numbers of young children, birth through 3, are showing mental health issues due to the COVID lockdown. Jessica Stone is helping with technical assistance and coaching with young children in classrooms. The ELC is providing books and materials to assist, as well. The goal is to help the youngest and most vulnerable children. 	

<p>Gayla Thompson – Literacy Buddies and Training</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second Literacy Buddies book was due in January. At this time we have close to 450 volunteers, working with 18 providers. The next book is due on April 21. • Training is now being offered through the use of TEAMS rather than Zoom. Also, some of the trainers plan to start training face to face again. • The 23-24 provider profiles are now ready to be filled out. Many of the grants require a current profile to qualify for the grant. If anyone needs help, they can contact Angelica Zavala. 	<p>Angelica.Zavala@elcofswfl.org</p>
<p>Open Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gogia reported that Renaissance still has VPK providers unable to get into their accounts. Reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than one person using the same email ○ Names need to be consistent to process ○ Admin account access denied if extra space in email, or middle initial in one place and not in another. ○ Hope that carefully creating 23-24 profiles will fix the issues 	

Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michele King adjourned the meeting at 9:25 am.	Heather Singleton made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Michelle Starr seconded the motion.
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 7, 2023.	