



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee Meeting
Friday, January 12, 2024
9:00 – 11:00 am

Purpose: The purpose of the Program Committee is to provide professional supports and leadership to advance the quality of early learning programs in Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

Committee Members:

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
Heather Singleton, Child’s Path
Michelle Starr, CCPS
Donna Hernandez, Fort Myers Technical College
Penney Norton, Division of Early Learning
Ana Neuhauser, RCMA
Jodi Garrett, Child’s Path
Joanne Pachiva, Lee County School District
Stephanie Rode, St. Andrews Catholic School
Donna Killion, Discovery Day Academy IV
Jami Slack, Open Doors Preschool
Yara Duchesne, RCMA

Jenn Faber, Children’s Council
Dr. Carol Frink, Lee County School District
Tia Knapp, ABC Academy
Rachel McIntyre, Open Doors Lehigh Acres and Estero
Jim Ragusa, Guadalupe Center
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
Mandy Willis, Faith Academy
JoAnne Fuciu, Lee Health
Megan Greeley-Gibson, The Children’s Community Center
Rebecca McKellar, Creative World
Joann Moran, FDLRS
Stacie Britton, FDLRS
Patricia Dominguez, Challenged Minds LC
Demaris Boone, RCMA
Jim Ragusa, Guadalupe Center

Staff Members:

Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz, CEO
Gilda Duran, Chief Programs Officer
Leona Adkins, Chief Quality Officer
Cheryl Carpenter, Director of Early Childhood
Bronwyn Gogia, Director of Assessment and Screening
Brenda Griffin, Director of Professional Development
Monica Gaddy, Administrative Coordinator

| Agenda Items | Facilitator | Discussion and Actions |
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| 01. Welcome | Michele King | Meeting began at 9:10 with welcome by Michele King |

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| 02. Approve: Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2023 | Michele King | Michele King made motion to approve October 27, 2023, meeting minutes and Jamie Slack seconded motion. None opposed motion carried. |
| 03. Quality and Grant Updates | Leona Adkins | Leona introduced the different grants that are now available to providers through ARPA Discretionary funding. Informed group that all providers have the opportunity to have Procure software installed at their centers for 3 years paid for by grant funding with no cost to the providers. Provided information on how Procure will allow ELC to pull attendance and streamline reimbursement process. Spoke on other items that would be provided to providers at no cost such as Kindergarten Readiness Kits, Laptops with software through MarcoPolo, Behavioral kits through Discovery Source. Grants available for Infant/Toddler classroom expansion and provider mini grants for their centers. Questions reading annual renewal, cost of services if center currently has ProCare were asked. All providers are encouraged to take advantage of current grants as there is no guarantee of any additional funding after funds are spent. |
| 04. Enrollments and Waitlist; Program Services updates | Gilda Duran | Cora Rice provided statistics of VPK and SR enrollments for all counties. SR enrollments 4890 as of 12.31.23. Lee 3633 Hendry 378, Glades 15, and Collier 1224. SR has a normal decline in November and December resulting from the school closures and holiday breaks. Families generally hold off on enrollment until after the new year. VPK applications open enrollment went live on 1.4.24, within 48 hours 464 applications were submitted. As of 1.12.204 1000 + VPK applications have been submitted. ELC VPK campaign has is showing great success with the increased applications. Staff are working applications on a first come basis. We had over 427 lobby walk in and over 2,902.00 phones call in the month of January thus far. |
| 05. Health & Safety updates and concerns | Danna Breeden | Reported an uptick in influenza, RSV, COVID, Chicken pocks and shingles. Many centers have had to establish clean rooms for children who are not sick. Blood pathogen training will be done at the next nurses town hall in February. You can earn CEU's by attending. |
| 06. CLASS Assessment SR and VPK Provider Contracts | Cheryl Carpenter | SR and VPK contracts are going well. We completed 413 observations FY2024. Children's Forum and ELC are currently the only ones conducting class assessments. |
| 07. Child Assessment and ASQ updates | Bronwyn Gogia | Referrals are recommended to parents by Lana o inclusion coordinator completes each referral for ages |

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| | | 0-2yees 11 months. FDLRS referrals are completed online for Ages 3+. Parents contacted to set up appointment by referring agency for child screening assessments. Referrals by county Lee-40, Collier 8, Hendry-5, and Glades-0. Inclusion Coordinator Referrals to Community agencies. Early Steps Lee 21, Collier 3, Hendry-3 Glades 0. FDLRS Lee 19, Collier-5, Hendry-2, Glades-0. |
| 08. Training updates, Provider Profiles | Brenda Griffin | <p>Trainers are in the process of writing new training courses to be added to the training calendar. Danna Breeden will be conducting Bloodborne Pathogens training at the next Nurses Town Hall on the second Tuesday in February at 1:30 p.m. Providers in attendance can receive CEU credits. Due to low attendance during the day an evening meeting will be added. Providers will need to add their name to the chat for attendance.</p> <p>2024-2025 profiles are now available to providers. Submission has begun.</p> <p>Many of the children have received their first Literacy Buddy book, and the second book is due by February 16, 2024.</p> <p>Humana sponsored a book drive for Literacy Buddy and donated over 300 books covering three locations. Every child who attended received a book. They also donated additional books to the classroom libraries.</p> |
| 09. Open Discussion | Michele King | <p>Providers wanted answers to questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where to find Procure reimbursement grant details? ELC website. 2. Which section of Procure will be accessed by ELC staff? Attendance only 3. Will the tablets be for VPK or SR or both? Tablets can be used for both. 4. How many tablets per school? Leona stated we have more than enough tablet for each location to have at least 2-3 5. What is the length of a Procure subscription? Subscription is good for 2 Years. |
| 10. Next Meeting: February 23, 2024 9:00 – 11:00 am | Michele King | Committee Chair confirmed date of the next Program Committee meeting of February 23, 2024. 9:00-11:00 a.m. |
| 11. Adjournment | Michele King | Motion to adjourn meeting by Michele King and second by Jamie Slack. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m. |

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