



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee Meeting

Friday, April 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

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

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

Angela Nader, Lee County School District

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
01. Welcome	Michele King	Meeting called to order at 9:03 by Michele King
02. Approve: Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2024	Michele King	Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 12, 2024, made by Rita Dellatore and Seconded by Michelle Star, none opposed. motion carries.
03. Quality and Grant Updates	Leona Adkins	Reported 1 st round Infant/toddler capacity increase and Provider Mini-grants released for payment, Kaplan will be sending Kindergarten readiness kits for over 6000 children to the providers that will also include Summer kits for home. Procure is still accepting applications and will be reaching out to applicants shortly. Quality team planning Spring training for Directors. The plan is to have an all-day session with a Guest Speaker, vendors, and new contractors. Save the date of April 20, 2024, for this event. More information to follow.
04. Enrollments and Waitlist; Program Services updates	Gilda Duran	Reported SR enrollment 6,294. Breakdown by county Lee 4186, Glades 16, Hendry 479, and Collier 1613. VPK as of January 1, 2024, we received 700 applications by the 15th we had 1800. Most recent numbers 6790 application had been submitted. Bread down by County Lee 4,586, Glades 81, Hendry 362, and Collier 1761. The VPK campaign has been a super success. Although we started the VPK campaign 2years ago we have become more aggressive in our advertising in the last 6 months.
05. Health & Safety updates and concerns	Danna Breeden	Reported that there has been an uptick in out breaks of RSV, Flue, Nurses town hall is the 2 nd Thursday of each month @ 1:30 p.m. Nurses Town Hall (TEAMS link) .
06.	Cheryl Carpenter	Reported Children’s Forum and Coalition staff conducted 281 SR CLASS assessments and 262 VPK CLASS assessments to date. We are now at 62% of completion. 4 rescreens are currently being scheduled for the end of April which will allow for additional TA.
07. Child Assessment and ASQ updates	Bronwyn Gogia	Reported ASQ Areas of need, VPK Child Assessments, SR Child Assessment. See attachment: ASQ Report
08. Training updates, Provider Profiles	Brenda Griffin	<p>Reported The Bloodborne Pathogen training conducted during the Nurses Town Hall was a success. Training was well attended. Providers earned CEUs. The participation indicates this will be ongoing.</p> <p>Monthly training with Danna Breedan on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM.</p> <p>Profiles for 2024-2024 are being reviewed in the order they were received. If rejected for corrections, they will be placed in an active status.</p>

09. Open Discussion	Michele King	(Q) Rita Dellatore had questions about SR wrap around care and fees due to half days when children arrive before normal schedule. This requires staff to arrive early and increases salaries. (A) Leona stated providers are responsible for setting parent fees and if fees are to increase must be posted and updated. (Q) Rita Dellatore wanted to know if directors could bring staff for the Spring Training. (A) Leona said that training is for directors.
10. Next Meeting: April 12, 2024 9:00 – 11:00 am <i>Last meeting for the 23-24 FY</i>	Michele King	Michele King confirmed next Program Committee Meeting will be held on April 12, 2024, at 9:00-11:00 a.m.
11. Adjournment	Michele King	Motion to adjourn meeting made by Rita Dellatore and Seconded by Stephanine Rode