



# EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee Minutes

Friday, May 31, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Program Committee is to provide professional support 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

**Susan Gorman**, NCEF Pediatric Dental Care, Naples

**Staff Members:**

**Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz**, CEO

**Gilda Duran**, Chief Programs Officer

**Cheryl Carpenter**, Director of Early Childhood

**Bronwyn Gogia**, Director of Assessment and Screening

**Brenda Griffin**, Director of Professional Development

**Monica Gaddy**, Administrative Coordinator

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Discussion and Actions</b>
<b>01.</b> Welcome	Michele King	The meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Michele King. No public attendance.
<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Discussion and Actions</b>
<b>02. Approve:</b> Meeting Minutes for 4/12/24 Meeting	Michele King	Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Rita Dellatore and Seconded by Rodrigo Gambo-Dominguez. None opposed motion carries.
<b>03.</b> CEO Update(s)	Melanie Stefanowicz	CEO was able to secure \$935,000 additional (ARPA) American Rescue Plan Act dollars to award to local providers. In the process of drilling down root causes of reasons why families approved are not using their vouchers. Data collection to provide insight on ways to support a family's ability to use VPK and SR certificates. Providers had questions about SharePoint and uploading attendance. Working on a plan to shift from SharePoint to Portal by July 1, 2024. Details will be forthcoming.
<b>04.</b> Quality and Director's Training Updates	Leona Adkins	Dr. Melanie discussed the upcoming First Annual Director's Training. This event is local, and 140 Directors have registered for this event. Conference date June 1, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. Location will be the Crowne Plaza 9931 Interstate Commerce Drive, 33913. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. This will be a time for Directors to meet the staff, have Q&A with CEO, get details on reimbursement timeline, Programs. updates, workshops, vendors and more.
<b>05.</b> Enrollments and Waitlist; Program Services updates	Gilda Duran	Reported from January 2024 to current we received 7,016 applications for services. 5,787 approved and 817 rejected pending client information updates. A Programs staff member pulls the client waitlist weekly. In most cases the list is from the families that applied for service over the weekend. Parents are often on a waitlist at the center they have selected for childcare. This is often a result of limited seats available. Parents are encouraged to complete applications as early as possible to be sure they upload the proper documents.

<p><b>06.</b> Health &amp; Safety updates and concerns</p>	<p>Danna Breeden</p>	<p>Virus season is whining down but lice cases are increasing. Providers are encouraged to Hurricane season storm plan, as the season starts June 1st.</p>
<p><b>07.</b> CLASS Assessment SR and VPK Provider Contracts</p>	<p>Cheryl Carpenter</p>	<p>Summer VPK numbers are exceptionally low. We have a total of four enrollments between the four counties we serve. 767 Class assessments have been completed and only two will need a reassessment. Excited to say we had one center to score a perfect seven. The average for high quality was 5.11 for School Readiness (SR) and 5.14 for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)</p>

<p><b>08. Child Assessment and ASQ updates</b></p>	<p>Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<p>91.90% of our assessments are complete to date with thirteen remaining for June 2024.</p> <p>PM1 88.60% PM2 79.30% and PM3 91.90%. Renaissance is an updating system so provided</p>
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Agenda Items	Facilitator	Discussion and Actions
		<p>can make manual updates.  ASQ's 358 in May, 6 referrals to Early Steps/FDLRS.  Child Assessments out of fifty providers, forty-four completed all three assessments, 2 closed, and 4 had no birth to 5-year-old enrollments.  Counties are still experiencing teacher shortages.  ELC will have a new Inclusion Specialist starting on Wednesday June 5, 2024.</p>
<b>09.</b> Training updates, Provider Profiles	Brenda Griffin	<p>The 2024-2025 Provider profiles and Contracts are complete for (SR). We have several Public-School contracts still waiting for approval. The Nurse's trainings list is complete for the fiscal year with training to take place during the Town Hall meetings. You can find the list of training posted on the website. The Early Childhood Specialist (ESC) are collaborating with providers to schedule on-site in-person training.</p> <p>Currently, there are six centers offering summer VPK for a total of nine classrooms. The next Nurses Town Hall scheduled for June 13, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Topic will be Fire Extinguishers</p>
<b>10.</b> Open Discussion	Michele King	Certification now allows unlimited attempts for a passing score. How to educate parents about SR, and how to apply. Ensure information available in both English, Spanish and Haitian creole, providers.
<b>11.</b> Next Meeting:	Michele King	The next committee meeting August 30, 2024, 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.
<b>12.</b> Adjournment	Michele King	The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

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In person Attendance