



## EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2017

9:00 – 11:00 am

**Committee Members Present:** Chair - **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples; Board Member); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Damaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA – one phone); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders – on phone) **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP - phone); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sharra Leonard** (Head Start – Child Care Partnership – on phone); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development - on phone); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

**Staff Members Present:** **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists); **Susan Block** (Chief Executive Officer); **Cheryl Carpenter** (Lead Early Childhood Specialist); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer); **Kim Usa** (Chief Operations Officer)

**Committee Members Absent:** **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Patricia Hansen** (Nurse Consultant); **Michele King** (Galvano Children’s Hospital of SWFL) **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Gail Mishler** (Wellington); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
<b>Welcome</b>	The meeting was called to order by Ashley Houk at 9:03 am. Introductions were made.	
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2017</b>	Draft minutes were reviewed for October 11 meeting. Error - correct Dr. Larry Miller’s name on page two of the minutes	Motion to accept minutes as corrected made by Damaris Boone and seconded by Ana Neuhauser. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page

<p><b>ELC Report – state and local updates: Susan Block</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Office of Early Learning (OEL) completed the process of assigning unique identifying numbers to VPK students, which will follow the children through their years in school. We are beginning to consider how to create memoranda for data sharing with providers.</li> <li>• The legislative session begins in January, because this is an election year. – Ms. Block encouraged all providers to reach out to their legislators and make themselves heard regarding early childhood education concerns.</li> <li>• A \$75,000 grant was received from Save the Children to assist providers with recovery from Hurricane Irma.</li> <li>• The faith based provider representative from Lee County needed to serve on the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) board beginning in January. It is important and required to have provider representation on the board. The position rotates through the counties served by ELC.</li> <li>• Ashley Houk’s term on the board ends in December, therefore she will no longer be the Chair of this committee. Ms. Block thanked her for her service to the ELC, and welcomed Demaris Boone as the new Chair of the Program Committee starting January 1st.</li> </ul>	<p>The board application can be found at <a href="https://elcofswfl.org/index.php/early-learning-coaliton-board-membership-application/">https://elcofswfl.org/index.php/early-learning-coaliton-board-membership-application/</a></p>
<p><b>Performance Funding Project – Cheryl Carpenter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Performance Funding Project (PFP) for 2017-18 is aligning more with a possible statewide Quality Rating Improvement System.</li> <li>• The PFP is a grant from the state. Providers applied to participate. They are ranked in tiers through the use of the Classroom Assessment System (CLASS) and will receive additional payment for service to SR children to participate, a minimum of 20% of their children are funded by School Readiness (SR).</li> <li>• This is the first year that PFP offers tiered reimbursement for providers. PFP is modeled after the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) model. Participating providers receive CLASS scores, conduct child assessment and implement professional development strategies. Teachers take classes in Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) in both Pre-K and Infant/Toddler modalities. Early Learning Florida (ELFL) classes, coaching and observations are all part of the project design.</li> <li>• ELFL was cut \$3 million dollars in the state budget this year, therefore teachers are no longer paid stipends to participate. Also teachers have</li> </ul>	

	<p>to be in PFP to participate in the classes and the classes have increased in size.</p>	
<p><b>Psychosocial Training for Caregivers through Save the Children – Gayla Thompson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adverse childhood experiences are often referred to as toxic stress or childhood trauma.</li> <li>• Save the Children is sponsoring Journeys of Hope training which uses literacy, cooperative play, arts and discussion to help children accept and understand their emotions related to trauma. The program helps develop coping strategies and instill a sense of hope, empowering children to feel more in control.</li> <li>• There are 6 workshops for adults being sponsored in Florida, including one in Immokalee. The topic is how to support children who experience trauma.</li> <li>• There will be train the trainer sessions in the near future, about which information will be sent once received.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How to encourage more providers to become School Readiness providers – Gayla Thompson</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gayla Thompson asked the committee for input about how to encourage more providers to become School Readiness providers. Barriers identified included: The newer CDA requirements required by Oct. 2018, which require one CDA when there are two teachers present in a classroom. Earning the CDA is an expense that many providers and teachers can't afford. Providers were given 1 ½ years to meet this requirement so it is doubtful there will be a grace period. Supports are needed to help teachers receive the needed training. TEACH scholarships, which were helpful to CDA candidates, are drastically decreased in this 2017- 2018 year.</li> <li>• Paperwork for School Readiness (SR) requirements can be overwhelming and time intensive for providers. There are challenges (for some providers) uploading documents in SharePoint because only small</li> </ul>	

	<p>files can be uploaded at one time. This last issue will be investigated by ELC staff to provide assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee recommended that a webinar be held and taped so it can be viewed at any time regarding what it is like to be an SR provider. Creating specific, step-by-step modules to learn about the process would be helpful.</li> <li>• The 90 day training requirements are not perceived as a barrier. Teachers can take the free ELFL classes to meet the requirement. However, they are not available in Spanish. For Spanish speakers, it requires someone to sit with them and translate.</li> <li>• Group size is not an issue except for afterschool age.</li> </ul>																	
<p><b>SR, VPK Waitlist numbers: Kim Usa</b></p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="558 602 1467 773"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Sept. 2017</th> <th>Aug. 2017</th> <th>Sept. 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>SR Children Served</td> <td>4460</td> <td>4710</td> <td>3896</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VPK</td> <td>6116</td> <td>5716</td> <td>7041</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waitlist</td> <td>1438</td> <td>1475</td> <td>1150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>VPK numbers do not include Glades, Hendry and some Collier County programs, as many start in October</p>	Category	Sept. 2017	Aug. 2017	Sept. 2016	SR Children Served	4460	4710	3896	VPK	6116	5716	7041	Waitlist	1438	1475	1150	
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<p><b>Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) Southwest Florida Stars – Kristi Biffar</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 42 providers in the 2016-2017 Southwest Florida Stars. The star ratings were awarded as follows: One star – 3; two stars- 9; three stars 11; four stars – 9; 5 stars 10.</li> <li>• Staff is looking at aligning the ELC QRIS system with PFP. They will reconvene the QRIS workgroup to look at the requirements of counting elements that are not necessarily indicative of quality. Volunteers for the group include: Ana Neuhauser, Julia Kroeker, Jesyca Virnig, Heather Singleton, Kim Gerbasio and Sharra Leonard. Potential meeting dates will be sent to the group.</li> <li>• The idea of using a composite score formula for CLASS assessments was discussed. This is used in the PFP and works well. 50% of classrooms in a given age range are observed. It would increase the numbers of CLASS observations that ELC does but would provide a more accurate picture of the facility.</li> </ul>	<p>Anyone who would like to be on the QRIS committee, please contact Kristi Biffar at <a href="mailto:Kristi.biffar@elcofswfl.org">Kristi.biffar@elcofswfl.org</a></p>																

<b>Other Discussion/Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rodrico Gamboa-Dominguez discussed the PreK to Kindergarten transition meeting that was held at Orangewood Elementary. He has reached out to Villas Elementary and they are very interested in participating in a similar meeting. Kristi will convey this to the Futuremakers at the meeting being held this afternoon.</li> <li>• Julia Kroeker reported on the success of the Pop Up Play event hosted by Florida SouthWestern College (FSW) on November 4th. About 50 FSW students and 75 children took part in the Pop up Play. It will be held again in November of 2018.</li> <li>• Gayla Thompson thanked Ashley Houk for her service to the Program Committee and presented her with a gift and a certificate of appreciation.</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Thursday</u>, January 11, 2018 from 9-11 am</li> </ul>	

*All meetings will be held at 2675 Winkler Avenue Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901 unless otherwise announced.*