



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair - **Damaris Boone** (RCMA – Board Member); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Rita Delatore** (Kid City); **Yara Duchesne** (RCMA – via Zoom); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Patricia Hansen** (DPH Collier; ELC Nurse Consultant); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples – via Zoom); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Marie Liebensohn** (Lee Memorial); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College – via Zoom); **Sherry Shupp** (RCMA); **Heather Singleton** (Gladiolus Learning and Child Development – via Zoom); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare – via Zoom); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree);

Staff Members Present: **Krisit Biffar** (Early Childhood Specialists Supervisor); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer); **Kim Usa** (Chief Operations Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Michele King** (Galvano Children’s Hospital of SWFL – Board Member); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); ; **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Yunitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Elizabeth Perdomo** (Florida Southwestern State College); **Paul Welch** (Sonrise Academy); **Mandy Willis** (Faith Academy)

Agenda Items	Facilitator/Presenter	Comments/Actions
Welcome	The meeting was called to order by Damaris Boone at 9:03. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, a new web-based meeting space.	
Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2018	Draft minutes were reviewed for the January 11th meeting.	Motion to accept minutes made by Sherry Shupe and seconded by Marie Liebensohn. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the ELC website on the Program Committee page

**ELC Report – SB
1254
Gayla Thompson**

- Ms. Thompson discussed Senate Bill 1254 (now HB 1091) which has passed both houses of Legislature. It has many proposed changes that will have effects on the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) as well as providers.
- The Office of Early Learning (OEL) will identify observation-based child assessments for use by providers at least 3 times a year.
- OEL will adopt a program assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions including classroom organization and instructional supports for children ages birth to 5 years.
- OEL will develop a differential payment program for providers based on teacher-child interaction quality measures.
- OEL will revise the statewide provider contract to include contracted slots, quality improvement strategies, and program assessment requirements.
- ELC will assess local priorities based on the needs of families and provider capacity using available community data.
- ELC will set local eligibility priorities, the use of contracted slots in the ELC's procedures for program implementation, a payment rate schedule and description of quality improvement strategies in the ELC's quality activities and services.
- Providers will be required to participate in a program assessment that measures the quality of teacher-child interactions.
- The award of grants and financial supports will be authorized to providers and instructors to meet program assessment requirements, as funding allows.
- OEL will revise the statewide provider contracts for school readiness providers to include provisions for termination for cause, which must include a provider's failure to meet the minimum quality measure adopted as a part of the program assessment for a period of up to 5 years, unless the ELC determines that the provider is essential to meeting capacity needs and the provider has an active improvement plan a part of the program assessment.
- The possible transition from the local QRIS to a form of state QRIS through the Performance Funding Project was discussed.

<p>Quality Rating Improvement Systems (QRIS) Stars– Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Biffar reported that the revised version of STARS has removed many requirements that do not directly impact child outcomes. • Classroom Assessment System (CLASS) now is 50% of the rating, professional development 25%, and screening, assessment and curriculum 25%. • CLASS scores will now be composite. Instead of choosing one classroom in each age group, 50% of the number of each age classroom (Infant, Toddler, and Preschool) will be assessed. • 5 bonus points for ratio and group size, as well as accreditation. • There will be no binder. • The attempt has been made to mirror the state vision of QRIS – focus is on child outcomes and what influences those outcomes. • Professional Development for directors, not just Early Childhood Education (ECE) degrees, but also take business education into consideration classroom teachers have higher requirements in ECE than directors. A possible waiver from ECE credits was discussed for those directors who do not have ECE for their college degrees. Another possibility was 6 hours of ECE, which is the requirement for a staff credential. 	<p>Ms. Biffar will work on draft language for a waiver for those without ECE credits in their college degrees. She will send this out to committee members for their review and comments.</p>
<p>Discussion of Screen Time for Young Children - Kristi Biffar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Biffar presented a document from Marion County Coalition regarding screen time for children which incorporates the views of many respected organizations including Zero to Three and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). • The group felt that the one hour or less recommendation for screen time for children ages 2-5 was reasonable, although the NAEYC best practice is 15 minutes. It is important to think about what children experience at home when deciding screen time use in child care. • Anecdotal evidence shows issues not only with speech development, but also small motor development as less time is spent in play developing these skills. 	<p>Ms. Boone will present this information to the board in response to their request for screen time recommendations.</p>

<p>CDA supports – Scholarships – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Thompson reported that scholarships are still available for CDA, FCCPC, Director’s Credential and AS/AA classes. Amounts differ dependent on whether a facility participates in STARS . • The Coalition was awarded a grant by the Ft. Myers Rotary Club in the amount of \$4000 to support teachers in low socio-economic areas of Lee County in achieving their FCCPC or CDA. These funds would supplement the amount of support given to facilities that are not in STARS. • Applications are encouraged to be sent to TEACH now, even though scholarships will not be offered again until July 1, 2018. Applications will be reviewed in the order in which they are received. (especially for AA/AS or BA) 	
<p>SR/VPK Provider Eligibility Policy – onboarding audit – Gayla Thompson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OEL conducted a provider onboarding (contracting) audit. There were no findings in the areas of policies and procedures, communication for resolving issues, tracking of provider applications, review of provider applications and record retention. • OEL recommended that the Coalition amend policy to qualify and accept providers for the school readiness program. In response, the policy was updated and presented to the committee. 	<p>Motion to accept policy and forward to Executive Committee by Rita Dellatore, seconded by Jesyca Virnig. Approved unanimously.</p>
<p>SR, VPK Waitlist numbers: Kim Usa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Usa reported that the Coalition is currently enrolling SR children from the waitlist in all counties. Collier and Lee offices have Saturday appointments to meet the needs of the parents. 124 children were enrolled from the economically disadvantaged priority group in three weeks. • In January the waitlist was 1500+, in February it was 1200+ • SR paid in January was 4332 • VPK paid in January was 7148 	

Other Discussion/Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider Portal – contracting is happening now. Due date for School Readiness is April 16. VPK due: Advance VPK contract by March 23 Regular VPK contract by April 6. • Patricia Hansen reported that the influenza trend as of March 3 in 50 Florida counties is decreased – 7 have leveled off and only one county, Okeechobee, has had an increase in influenza activity. Flu cases are tracked in the county in which the person is diagnosed, not residing. • Ms. Hansen reported the new DCF requirements for Safe Sleep training only accept the DCF or Early Learning Florida Safe Sleep classes. These classes are required within 30 days for new hires. The Safe Sleep class that Ms. Hansen offers is not accepted for this requirement at this time. She and Ms. Thompson have discussed the Safe Sleep Center recognition and will suspend this certification for now. • Dr. Kelly Roy reported that Florida SouthWestern State College will be offering CDA classes during the summer term. Registration begins on March 16th and classes begin on May 9th. There will also be a blended (face to face and online) Administration of a Child Care Center class on the Lee Campus evenings and one completely online. 	<p>See attached flyer for more information.</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, May 11, 2018 	

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