



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Program Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2019

9:00 – 11:00 am

Committee Members Present: Chair **Damaris Boone** (Board Member – RCMA); **Angela Anderson** (Child Care of Southwest Florida); **Jennifer Black** (FAIMH); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Susan Driscoll** (Family Resources Ctr. At FGCU); **Renate Engles** (Guadalupe Center); **Jamie Eskridge** (Little Wonders); **Jenn Faber** (Children’s Council); **Jodi Garrett** (Child’s Path); **Megan Greeley-Gibson** (Community Children’s Center - Zoom); **Ashley Houk** – (First Presbyterian Church, Naples - Zoom); **Donna Killion** (Discovery Day Academy - Zoom); **Michele King** (Board Member – Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Sharra Leonard** (Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership); **Suzanne March** (Collier Child Care Resources) **Penney Norton** (Office of Early Learning - Zoom); **Joanne Pachiva** (Lee County School District); **Stephanie Rode** (St. Andrews Catholic School); **Kelly Roy** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Heather Singleton** (Bright Beginnings); **Jami Slack** (Open Doors); **Donna VanTol** (Collier County Health Department – ELC); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree);

Staff Members Present: **Kristi Biffar** (Supervisor of Early Childhood Specialists - Zoom); **Barbara Peck** (Director of Family Resources); **Bronwyn Gogia** (Supervisor of Assessment and Screening); **Gayla Thompson** (Chief Quality Officer)

Committee Members Absent: **Amy Adame** (A Step Up Child Dev. Center – Immokalee); **Stacie Britton** (FDLRS); **Yara Duchesne** (Board Member - RCMA); **Rita Delatore** (Board Member – Kid City); **Patricia Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **Rodrigo Gamboa-Dominguez** (Challenged Minds Learning Center); **JoAnne Fuciu** (Lee Memorial); **Kim Gerbasio** (LAMP); **Terri Konczak** (Office of Early Learning); **Julia Kroeker** (Florida SouthWestern State College); **Marie Liebenson** (Lee Memorial); **Yalitza Miraflores** (FDLRS); **Elizabeth McBride** (Collier County Public Schools); **Rachel McIntyre** (Open Doors & Estero Early Learning); **Ana Neuhauser** (RCMA); **Kendra Stamp** (Educare); **Michelle Starr** (Collier County Schools); **Jesyca Virnig** (Learning Tree); **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 9:01 am. Introductions were made, including those on Zoom, our web-based meeting space.	

<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2019</p>	<p>Draft minutes were reviewed for the February meeting.</p>	<p>Motion to accept minutes made by Heather Singleton and seconded by Renate Engles. Approved unanimously. Minutes will be posted on the Program Committee page of www.elcofswfl.org.</p>
<p>ELC Report — Gayla Thompson for Susan Block</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1027 – a bill that requires OEL to develop certain training and course standards for SR program providers as well as to identify formal and informal career pathways, stackable credentials and certification, passed. Rule-making will follow • The legislative session ends 5/3. The VPK bill, which would have initiated program assessments for VPK, did not become a bill. It may be considered next year. • A bill that would have required transition activities between private Pre-K providers and schools also did not pass. • The final budget has not yet been negotiated by the Senate and House. A final version should be available by the end of the day. There is no anticipated increase for VPK; funding in the new budget. However, the new budget includes SR registration and tiered reimbursement (awaiting final rule approval) beginning 7/1/19. • The Coalition is sponsoring a community wide breakfast, “The Business of Preschool” with Dr. Mike Martin, President of FGCU, on Friday, May 10th. The invitation is on our website – reservations are due by 5/3/19 • We have received Proclamations in honor of Provider Appreciation Day, May 10th, from all four county commissions. • We are working to reconcile all payments for VPK and School Readiness. 	<p>www.elcofswfl.org to register</p>

<p>Provider Portal – SR Attendance: Bronwyn Gogia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Gogia reported that there are 725 months of complete SR attendance, 797 missing or incomplete (Each provider should have 10 months of attendance). 75 facilities are missing at least 1 month. Many are waiting for fixes by the Office of Early Learning. • The effort to get all the SR attendance into the portal is continuing on several fronts: email, phone calls, and one on one visits with providers. • Portal Champions (Bronwyn Gogia, Amanda Devariste, and Cora Rice) are leading the effort to help providers with this task. 	
<p>Grade Level Reading project – Jenn Faber</p>	<p>Ms. Faber presented information about the Florida Grade Level Reading Campaign (FGLRC), serving families and children ages birth – third grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of campaign partners is to ensure children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade. • 18 communities in Florida participate, and they hope to grow to 30 by the end of their 2021 grant cycle with the Helios Education Foundation. • Local communities choose how to participate in the program within the five areas of intervention: school reading, attendance, summer learning, parent engagement and health • Local GLR communities participate as established by their partners, resources, and community need. • Four areas of Campaign expansion include: New GLR Communities and growth of business partners; expanded public policy; expanded community engagement with infant/toddler supports; and promotion of summer learning best practices for early readers. <p>FGLRC community meetings for anyone interested in joining this campaign are set for Collier County on June 13, 9:30-11am at Champions for Learning, and Lee County on July 9th, 8:30-10am at the United Way.</p>	<p>For more information contact Ms. Faber at jfaber@floridacsc.org.</p>

Toolkit for providers to share with parents for VPK/K transition – Gayla Thompson for Kristi Biffar

- Kindergarten Transition Summit – SWFL and Sarasota met together led by the Children’s Forum on April 7
- Statewide Transition Efforts – Workgroup has met over the past two years
- Workgroup has defined transition efforts for: Ready communities, ready schools, ready families and ready children
- Partnership with Early learning Coalitions, Districts, Head Start and RCMA
- Vision - Children and families will enjoy a well-articulated and effective transition from preschool to kindergarten. When transitions are effective, they provide the supports children need to make adjustments to new surroundings, expectations and relationships leading to better child outcomes and child success.
- Angela Anderson reported how FutureMakers and the Lee County School district have been partnering to move along the interrelationship between Pre-K and K teachers as well as between directors and principals.
- Our group for SWFL felt that we already have some elements of transition in place:
 - Sharing articulation cards (Collier and Lee)
 - Lee county – same screening tool for Kindergarten used in each school now
- Next steps – Program Committee Create workgroup to develop toolkits to share with providers, families and elementary schools (kindergarten teachers)
 - Requested volunteers to serve on this workgroup – Terri Konczak volunteered

Contact Kristi Biffar (Kristi.biffar@elcofswfl.org) or Gayla Thompson (Gayla.thompson@elcofswfl.org) to volunteer for this workgroup.

<p>SR, VPK, Waitlist numbers and Enrollment status - Barb Peck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Peck reported that enrollment in the portal continues to be a challenge. • VPK numbers – 6461, the largest number this fiscal year was 6950 in December. • Waitlist – In March, there were 725 children on the waitlist. For comparison, last June 1314 children were on the waitlist. • Paid children for School Readiness in March was 5295, the highest number in memory. • There is a great need for more school readiness spaces for children, especially for Birth through 2. It is becoming difficult to place at risk children in private providers. 	
<p>Health Report – Donna VanTol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The measles outbreak is a concern, although there have been no reported cases in Collier, Lee, or Hendry and Glades. More people are applying for religious exemptions and the health department has no way to deny these requests. There need to be two vaccinations to provide immunity. • There has been a Hepatitis A outbreak. Children 12 months and older need to be vaccinated with a booster 6 months later • Ms. Van Tol and Danna Breeden have visited 14 centers in Hendry Glades counties to distribute books and let them know of their availability for health concerns. • Ms. Breeden has contacted Lee County EMS to find out if Stewie the Duck can be encouraged to visit child care centers like they do in Collier. • Save the Date for a Conference on November 16th from 9-2 at Golisano Children’s Hospital. Variety of presenters: Sheriff’s office, social workers, child care. American Pediatrics, how to deal with pediatric issues after the storm. Lunch will be provided by NCH. • Ms. Breeden and Ms. Van Tol will be providing naptime trainings in child care centers. 	
<p>Other Discussion/Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelly Roy informed the group that FSW has approved 3 certificates at 12 credits each in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Child Development and Inclusion Specialization. FSW is also working with the Lastinger Center to give credit for the Early Learning Florida Classes. There are many scholarships going unused at FSW. Encourage people 	

	<p>to apply. TEACH has also changed access to providers so it should not be a problem to be able to have the majority of student's education paid for. The AS degree from FSW can articulate toward a bachelor's degree at State College of Florida.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Black talked about Florida Association of Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) Look at working across domains to bring people together to support infant and early childhood. FAIMH is offering an infant and early childhood endorsement to provide support for providers. She would like to get more people involved. The first week of May is children's Mental Health week – our local FAIMH chapter will be showing the film Resilience on May 10th at child Care of Southwest Florida • Joanne Pachiva – encourage VPK providers to tell parents that all children need to register for Kindergarten. They are finding that children with special needs are not applying for Kindergarten. They missed the first batch of school choice. • Terri Konczak – Phonological Awareness Session 1 be offered May 30 from 6-8 and June 27 6-8 same location will be Session 2. Teachers can sign up on the DCF website. • Kristi Biffar – There will be meetings set up through Zoom and face to face for SR contracts. Information will be sent out about Teaching Strategies Interrater Reliability and the 5% differential being offered for using Teaching Strategies with reliability and 3 times/yr. • Suzanne March reported that Collier Child Care Resources is hosting an Early Education Symposium on May 18th. The presenter is Ron Davis on the topic of The Challenge of Behavior – Is There No End?! The event is from 8 am to 12:30 pm Cost \$30, .4 CEUs (at additional cost from FLAEYC) and is being held at Avow Ispiri community Center, 1205 Whippoorwill Lane, in Naples. 	<p>Contact Kelly Roy for assistance at kroy@fsw.edu or call her at 239-985-3423</p> <p>To register, go to www.collierchildcare.org/symposium or call 239-643-3908</p>
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am. 	
Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, May 31,9-11 	

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