



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2021 8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Van Mansker
Mona Jackson

Marcus McBride

Roger Thompson

Members Absent

None

Staff

Bruce Watson
Dawn Engel

Vicki Pugh

Becki Rutchland

Public

None

I. Welcome and Introductions

Notification of the Executive/Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for April 22, 2021 was sent to the Pensacola News Journal and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on April 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon a motion made by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. McBride, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, Minutes of March 25, 2021, and Financials for February 2021 was approved without objection.

IV. Status Reports

- a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report, Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report

1. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report:

Through March, the Coalition is about \$1,600,000 dollar behind budget in total School Readiness grant spending. Direct services (SLOTS) are just under 82% of expenditures. VPK administrative spending is above 4% because of the unprecedented low enrollments this year resulting in less spending in VPK services which increases the percentage of spending necessary to manage the VPK program.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:



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The enrollment of children in the School Readiness Program has dipped below 2,900 for the first time this year. The decrease is in part the result of the First Responder/Health Care Worker Child Care Program ending, but also because not as many parents are applying for care. This trend has only continued from previous months. The community overall is being impacted by the decision of many people to remain on unemployment instead of working. As the Coalition continues to pull from the Wait List, the historical low uptake rate of 30% to 35% continues. The Coalition pulled 212 children from the Wait List in March. To date, only 40 children have enrolled. SRMT match applicants have a higher acceptance rate, but still not above 50%. SRMT enrollments met the targeted level of enrollments and children are being recoded from SRMT to BG8 so as not to over expend SRMT funding.

3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

The Coalition added no new SR or VPK Providers since the last report.

V. Committee Recommendations

None.

VI. Old Business

a. COVID Impact on Operations

1. Parent Fees Waived May/June

The OEL has reinstated paying all parent fees for the months of May and June. Parents and Providers will be informed. The Statewide Data System (EFS MOD) will be set to automatically pay the fees.

2. Summer VPK Hours and Closures

The OEL has granted waivers for Providers offering Summer VPK (primarily school districts) to reduce the number of hours being offered from 300 to 200 hours if their local circumstances necessitate a reduced schedule. This is primarily to provide relief for counties where the regular 2020-2021 public school year has been extended to accommodate lost days due to COVID. Additionally, accommodations are being made for any closures that might be required by facilities or classrooms due to COVID.

b. CARES Funding – OEL Working on CARES Phase V

The OEL is working to roll out a CARES Phase V for all providers, contracted and noncontracted. It is expected that the authorization and funding will be made available in May.

c. Coalition Relocation Update

Negotiations for the Coalition to rent new office space in the Tower Plaza building at the south end of Town and Country Plaza are going well. The landlord has agreed to renovate the fourth floor and half of the first floor to suit the needs of the Coalition.



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d. Insurance Claim Update

The insurance company has paid approximately \$30,195.32 of the claim submitted by the Coalition. This covered the costs of mitigation, records disposal and disposal of all of damaged furniture and equipment. These costs were accounted for by direct invoices the Coalition provided, and there was no requirement for them to adjusted or confirmed by a Contents Specialist. The Contents Specialist is still working up a report to send to the Claims Adjustor for payment. The insurance company is not pleased in the amount of time this has taken.

e. Audits and Reviews for 2021

1. OEL Accountability Review, Jan-Mar 2021

This review is in process. The week set aside for the “site” has been completed virtually. The Coalition received the draft results and is in discussion with the OEL to resolve their findings.

2. OEL Financial Review, Feb-Apr 2021

This review started shortly after the other review. The week set aside for the “site” has been completed virtually. The Coalition received the draft results and is in discussion with the OEL to resolve their findings.

VII. New Business

a. Legislative Update

The Legislature is in session and is contemplating significant changes to the structure and processes of the Coalitions. HB 419 will integrate the OEL into the larger DOE structure and make it a Division, vice Office, under DOE. VPK programs will be required to program assessments like the SR programs currently do.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505