

**Early Learning Coalition  
Resource Development Committee  
March 19, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

**Persons in Attendance**

**Committee Members**

Mary Ann Winstead (Chair)  
Brenda Hardy

Shawn Jennings  
Mary Ann Bickerstaff

Roger Thompson  
Brittany Curtis

**Staff**

Bruce Watson  
Melissa Stankard

Vicki Pugh  
Paul Cotton

Anne Cynkar

**Non-Committee Member Partners/Public**

None

**Teleconferencing**

Kimberly Edmonds

**I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Winstead. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jennings the Agenda was accepted and approved without objection.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2019**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Curtis the Minutes of the January 15, 2019 meeting were accepted and approved without objection.

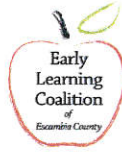
**IV. Program Reports**

**a. Medical Support Services Report**

Ms. Jennings shared that year to date the ELCEC Medical Support team has served 1,850 children, which included conducting numerous screenings, and educated 1,490 students and visited 131 centers.

In January the Medical Support staff screened 288 children for vision and hearing, 22 children received vision referrals and 26 received hearing referrals.

In February the Medical Support staff screened 318 children for vision for a year to date total of 1,852. 13 children received vision referrals. 318 screened for hearing for a year to date total of 1,850 screenings and 21 referrals.



Mr. Watson shared that the efforts of the Coalition's Medical Support Team visits resulted in a parent informing the Coalition that she was grateful because the hearing screening revealed a hearing defect that was corrected, and now the child can hear properly.

#### **b. CCR&R Update**

In the month of January there were 156 CCR&R interviews of which 115 were new interviews and 41 were repeat callers. Primary calls came from 107 single parent homes with many children needing care were school age children. The main needs for 92 callers this month were for employment and working reasons, and 19 caregivers were no longer available. In February there were 75 CCR&R interviews of which 32 were repeat interviews and 70 were from single parent homes. The primary reason for care was to find employment. Location and transportation were the biggest issues for parents.

The Eligibility staff continues to present the "Up, Up and Away to VPK" concept for the children and parents who visit their lobby. During the various seasons and holidays the staff displays educational early learning mini lessons which allows for more interaction between parent and child. During this month books were handed to the children visiting our lobby. Materials were also available to parents regarding the "SNAP (Food Stamp) program. This program focuses on how to save money. The staff is gathering information on upcoming summer events that will be available in the lobby for parents. In the parent books for March, the summer camp program information will be available. For instance, Sam's Fun City is sponsoring an educational summer camp.

Ms. Winstead asked a question regarding the eligibility of parents. If a parent works and goes to school will they qualify for the 20 hours needed for eligibility? Parents get credit for class time based on actual hours per work in class plus an additional hour per credit hour for study time. For class time to qualify certain criteria must be met. Coalition staff recommended the parent visit the Coalition and speak with an Eligibility Specialist.

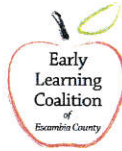
#### **c. Program Support Summary**

Ms. Pugh shared that for the last year and half the Coalition has been conducting monthly ASQ validations to improve the quality and accuracy of ASQ screenings. Notably, the Providers are becoming more comfortable with the process and interacting with Coalition staff. The Coalition has noticed the drop in VPK enrollment numbers which is normal in the second half of the school year. VPK applications for next year will start to pick up in March.

### **V. Old Business**

#### **a. SR/VPK Status Report and Provider Contract Summary**

As of March 9, 2019, there are 3,029 children enrolled. Enrollment numbers are still under what the Coalition is funded for. For more than five months there has effectively been no one on the Wait List. Why the community does not take advantage of School Readiness services has the Coalition baffled. The overall impact of these numbers is impacting the Coalition's finances. Mr. Watson stated he will address this issue with the Board in April.



Currently, 40 children, of which 11 or 25% are school agers, are waiting to be placed. Parents are having some difficulty finding a Provider, however, many parents are determined to find a facility that provides transportation and will do so even it means choosing transportation over quality of care. Unfortunately, the centers that provide transportation often lack quality.

Mr. Watson conveyed that DCF is having difficulty placing infants and toddlers in foster care was a challenge. One factor may be because many of the foster parents were unwilling to pay the price differential between what the Coalition pays and what the Provider charges. Hopefully, this problem will be resolved in this year's legislation. Senator Montford has referred a bill that is going through the process of being approved. If approved DCF will be authorized to pay the differentials for their foster parents. (stipend-like.) This is not restricted to infant and toddlers but for all foster care children. Other Protective Services children may not be included.

Mr. Watson stated the Coalition is \$1M under spent. One solution proposed by OEL to spend more of the Coalition's money would be to do a rate adjustment. However, the process to get OEL approval for a rate change takes approximately two to three months, and with the issues with EFS MOD processing these payments would only complicate matters. In Fiscal 2019-2020, Providers, based on their program assessment results, will receive a rate incentive of between 3-12% per child.

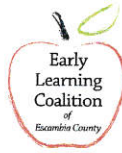
Currently there are 1,939 children enrolled in VPK for the 2018/2019 School Program Year. The Coalition continues its efforts to advertise the VPK program and continually works with both parents and Providers to get more children enrolled. Hopefully, this coming school years enrollments will return to 2,200-2,300 children, as has been typically enrolled in the past.

There are 88 School Readiness Providers and 77 VPK Providers. One new SR Provider has contracted with the Coalition, five centers and one home have terminated their contract by choice. In the past year the Coalition has only terminated five SR Providers, most because of an excessive number of DCF violations. The Coalition has the capacity under contract to serve 6,000 children but only has around 3,000 children enrolled. In the past capacity has been as high as 10,000 children. Each year this number continues to decrease.

There were no fraud cases to report.

#### **b. Grow With Me/LENA Update**

Ms. Pugh reported that Grow With Me/Lena has had a low number of participants this year. Two Family Child Care Homes signed up for the program, but only one home will participate. The second did have enough parents commit to the program. The Coalition will begin recruiting again in April. Representatives from LENA will be in town at the end of March. Their focus is to aggressively recruit for another LENA Start program for parents. LENA Start offers an excellent curriculum however, it is a labor-intensive and a 13-week course which many parents cannot commit to. The Coalition decided not to take on the LENA Start program at this time.



**c. Program Assessments/Performance for Pay (PFP) Program**

Minus the post assessments with PFP Providers, the Coalition has completed 75% of the SR Program Assessments (SRPA). May is the anticipated completion month for the remaining assessments. The Coalition's concern is that five Providers did not update their profile into the WELS Portal. Having an updated profile is a prerequisite to conducting the assessments. The Coalition will send a letter to these Providers in April to remind them that if their entry in the WELS Portal is not updated in the next 30 days this could impact their eligibility to contract in the coming year. If a Providers contract is not signed by July 1, then the children will have to transfer to another Provider.

The need for more management and leadership training courses geared for Directors has been raised by Directors and Providers. Ms. Pugh said that in the fall, the University of Florida will be offering an online Leadership course.

**d. EFS Modernization Transition Update**

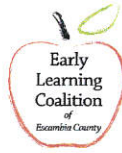
The Coalition continues to work to correct discrepancies and make updates as OEL moves toward completing development of the EFS MOD system.

**VI. New Business**

**a.** Escambia County School District awarded the Coalition a plaque and formal recognition as their Education Business Partner of the Year. A primary reason for the Coalition receiving this award was the great efforts of Ms. Griffin in supporting the Early Education Career Academy.

**b.** Because of initiatives implemented by the State, the Coalition's QRIS "Stars Over Escambia" is no longer needed. The incentives that the State is putting in place, rate incentives of 3-12% for program assessments results and a 3-5% differential for child assessments, supplant much of what the QRIS measured and paid for. Coalitions cannot spend more than 20% on all quality type incentive programs (not including Gold Seal.) Therefore, the authority left to the Coalition is only 5%. The Coalition does not have anything concrete or definitive to justify using this authority. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff the Committee recommends to the Executive Committee and the Board approval of termination of the Coalition Stars Over Escambia QRIS Program effective June 30, 2019. The motion was accepted and approved without objection. Ms. Winstead noted her conflict of interest as a Provider and QRIS participant but did not recuse herself from voting.

**c.** The Annual Early Learning Summit has been changed to May 22, 2019. The topic this year is Children's Services Council - Introduction and Community Impact. The new Executive Director from the Florida Children's Council, Matt Guse, will be the guest speaker. Two Executive Director's from already existing CSC's may accompany him. They will share their experiences with their CSC, what they their CSC accomplishes, how to campaign for a CSC, and lessons learned in getting a CSC approved. This event will be held in the Studer Community Institute Building, formerly the old Sun Trust building. Because of limited seating capacity please



RSVP. Immediately following the meeting a few select attendees will meet to discuss in more details the do's and don'ts of campaigning for a CSC.

d. The Coalition's Developmental Screening Process Policy and Procedure, ELCEC 4300.1B, needs to be submitted to OEL for inclusion in the Coalition Plan. The Coalition was reluctant to make any changes to the existing policy when this was first requested because there was a Rule in development that would change the screening process from the antiquated paper-based system to the current electronic system. However, OEL has since pulled the Rule, and they do not know when it may be reopened. The current policy is missing elements of the existing Rule which is why the Coalition was tasked by OEL to make changes necessitated by the Rule. The primary change is the addition of the requirement to notify parents in writing there are concerns with their child that require a referral for individualized supports. Upon a motion made by Ms. Jennings and seconded by Ms. Winstead the Committee recommends to the Board to approve the revisions to the Developmental Screening Process Policy and Procedure, ELCEC 4300.1B. The motion was accepted and approved without objection.

## **VII. Community Partner Updates**

### **a. ARC Gateway**

During April, ARC Gateway, DCF Outreach, Achieve Escambia-Cradle to Career, DCF, Dixon School of the Arts and Sciences in Brownville's community, and the Lakeview Center will be hosting two community events. Be My Neighbor, and Books, Balls, and Blocks these events will focus on identifying children's developmental needs and educating their parents on the many resources in the community.

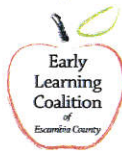
The Books, Balls and Blocks event is a free family event for children ages birth to five years old and will be held on Saturday April 13, 2019 from 10-2pm at 1201 North H. Street Pensacola, FL, the site of the new home of Dixon School of Arts and Sciences. The Books, Balls and Blocks event will also address developmental promotion and the importance of developmental delays in areas of communications, problem-solving, personal-social skills, motor skills and vision and hearing screenings. Lakeview will also conduct ACES interviews for interested parents. With parking limitations, the area churches will volunteer to run shuttles to and from the event.

Occupational and Speech therapists at the Pearl Nelson Center have become certified in the Sequential Oral Sensory Approach to feeding therapy and will address both oral and sensory motor skills. A special feeding clinic will be provided for children with significant feeding issues. Ms. Bickerstaff has opened this special feeding clinic "Taste Buds" to child care Providers to help assess and improve eating behaviors.

Mr. Bickerstaff reminded the Committee that April is Child Abuse Month.

### **b. DCF Outreach**

No representative was present to report.



**c. DCF Regulation**

Mr. Thompson reported that the 4” size gaps in the span on iron-rod fences must be repaired to meet the new standards of 3.5” span or less. This will go into effect beginning May 1, 2019. There are 12-15 places in the counties that still need to be corrected.

The Department of Children and Families/Child Care are in the process of writing a new policy for water activities and staff to children ratios. The ratio of staff to children by number and footage will be specific to pools, rivers, creeks, ponds, and beaches where activities are held.

**d. Department of Health 5-2-1-0**

No representative was present to report.

**e. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)**

No representative was present to report.

**f. Gulf Coast Kids House**

No representative was present to report.

**g. Pensacola State College**

No representative was present to report.

**h. School District Education Career Academy**

No representative was present to report.

**i. School District VPK**

No representative was present to report.

**j. Western Panhandle Early Steps**

No representative was present to report.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at 3300 N. Pace Boulevard Suite 210 Pensacola FL 32505