

**Early Learning Coalition
Resource Development Committee
January 16, 2018 – 10:00 AM**

Persons in Attendance

Committee Members:

Roger Thompson	Shawn Jennings	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Cindy Kirk	Tammy Hicks	

Staff:

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Paula Rollins
Dawn Engel	Sarah Whipps	Holly Stratton
Leah Finneseth-Meyers	Kelly Todd	

Partners/Public:

Dynita Bufford	Debbie Goldberg	Kimberly Pace
Aisha Adkison		

I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson. The Agenda of the January 16, 2018 Resource Development Committee was approved upon a motion made by Ms. Bickerstaff and seconded by Ms. Kirk.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2017

The Minutes of the November 21, 2017 Resource Development Committee meeting were approved upon a motion made by Ms. Bickerstaff and seconded by Ms. Kirk.

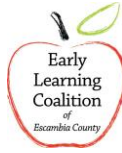
IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

The medical support staff screened 246 children in November and 94 children in December. Ms. Jennings reported that in November there were 35 vision referrals and 24 hearing referrals, and in December there were 12 vision referrals and 16 hearing referrals. They conducted a total of 32 education classes in November and December.

b. CCR&R Update

In the month of November there were 120 calls to CCR&R, of which 42 were previous callers. Most of the callers were one adult households, parent/step parent who were working. The main inquiries were for affordability/cost, location/transportation, schedule, and quality. The most



frequent requests were for information regarding full time care, child care centers, and school age care. In the month of December, there were 82 calls, of which 40 were previous callers. Most of the callers were one adult households, parent/step parent who were working. The main inquiries were for location/transportation, affordability/cost, schedule, and quality. The most frequent requests were for information regarding full time care, child care centers, and school age care.

CCR&R has been placing copies of the OEL Newsletter Parent's Page in their office and in the cubicles of each of the Eligibility Specialists.

c. Program Support Summary

Nothing stands out on the report except for not many books are being distributed. FirstBooks has not offered as many books this year, and the ones they offer and not the type or target age range for Coalition purposes. For the discounted books there is not a wide range of books in the age or price range desired. Some board books are being purchased for use in the LENA Start program.

The number of expulsions/suspensions for the fiscal year is eight. These are mainly from VPK classrooms. The Inclusion/Behavior Workgroup met on January 10. Ms. Pugh mentioned that there will be a few behind the scenes tasks being performed that stemmed from the workgroup meeting. She will give an update on the outcome of those tasks at the next Committee meeting.

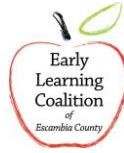
One of the Program Support Summary low lights is the lack of participation in the Coalition Stars Over Escambia QRIS Initiative. The Coalition anticipates that interest in the QRIS will increase once providers see the full impact of the provider rate decrease that took effect on December 1, 2107.

V. Old Business

a. Wait List and Contract Summary

In December there were about 2,900 children enrolled in the School Readiness (SR) Program, and the steady state goal is 3,000. As a result, the Coalition was under executing the budget. The steps taken to increase the number of children enrolled, such as enrolling school age siblings and increasing total enrollments above 3,000, were discussed. Mr. Watson announced that as of January 7, there were 3,127 children enrolled in the SR Program. Mr. Watson gave kudos to Ms. Rollins and her staff for their efforts in getting the enrollment numbers up. About a month ago the Coalition ran out of birth to five-year old to enroll, so to stay within budget it was necessary to pull school age siblings of enrolled Priority Three children from the Wait List. There are currently 226 children on the Wait List, of which 142 are school age. There are still not many children being enrolled because many parents who have submitted applications do not reply to the notification letters, phone calls and emails.

There are 1,998 children enrolled in VPK. Online applications became available on January 1, 2018 for the 2018/2019 school year. Around 70 applications have already been received.



There are currently 97 SR providers and 80 VPK providers under contract. Providers are leaving the child care business for a variety of reason but mostly due to a lack of clients. Infant care availability has almost reached a critical situation. Placement of infants in Protective Services (PS) has been harder lately. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) has been placing more children with grandparents and other family members and referring them for child care.

There is nothing to report regarding Fraud investigations.

b. Grow With Me/LENA Update

LENA Grow With Me (GWM) had a new cohort start in the Fall of 2017, and in the Spring more providers will be added to the initiative.

Distribution of the Nemour's BriteStart! Toolkits, which was funded by the Impact 100 grant, began in January for the infant/toddler classrooms. In Spring 2018, training and distribution for preschool toolkits will begin. The GWM sites will be the first to receive the toolkits. Then, based on VPK scores, the sites that are both School Readiness and VPK will receive toolkits starting with providers whose children scored the lowest on VPK assessments.

c. LENA Start Update

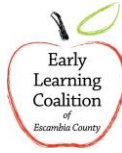
LENA Start is project led by the Studer Community Institute, and the Coalition is a partner. In this initiative the Coalition works with parents and grandparents for thirteen weeks with one-hour sessions once per week. A cohort was completed on December 14, 2017. One of the first GWM sites participated in this cohort, so the children at that site were wearing the LENA device during the day in their classrooms and at home once per week for eight hours with parents and/or grandparents. The goal is to track these children up through third grade.

Ms. Leah Finneseth-Meyers gave a brief presentation of the LENA Start reports showing the results from the first cohort. The survey given to parents showed that 75% of the parents saw a positive change in their children and their families, and 75% say they saw improvement in their child's development and understanding.

Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that LENA contacted the Coalition and asked us to present what we have been doing in the past year and a half with LENA Grow With Me and LENA Start at the Zero To Three Annual Conference 2018 in October in Denver, Colorado.

d. QRIS

The Coalition QRIS aligns almost identically with the Performance Funding Project. Both Mr. Watson and Ms. Pugh think that at some point very soon the state will have a mandatory quality rating system. One home provider has applied to be in QRIS. A scoring guide that is derived from the QRIS guide is in the process of being developed. Mr. Watson recommended that the Coalition bring the scoring cards to the RDC for final approval of the STAR rating awarded to the provider, and thus the RDC will also act as the QRIS Award Committee. This will help keep the STAR rating decision objective, and above reproach. The recommendation was approved upon a motion made by Ms. Bickerstaff and seconded by Ms. Hicks.



e. PFP

The Coalition is currently in the middle of completing all the different types of strategies and requirements in the Performance Funding Project (PFP) that they are required to do, so all the teachers are involved in different areas of professional development. There is a nice selection of child care center directors participating in the Infant/Toddler Make The Most Out Of Interaction, which is a twenty-four hours of training credit. There is also a separate teacher track and the teachers have been giving very good feedback to the Coalition about using new strategies and making the most of their time with the children. Another avenue of professional development the teachers have is through two online sessions, Early Learning Florida, with the University of West Florida. Teaching Strategies Gold is one of the areas of the PFP that the Coalition is really pushing for the providers to meet the requirements so that by next year they can do their class assessments.

VI. New Business

a. FAIMH Membership

The Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH) wants to wrap their arms around everyone who deals with young children. They have begun an endorsement system and a Level 1 endorsement in that system is for child care providers. Through a process the providers can be endorsed as having an understanding of trauma and its' impact on the regular development of children. Membership fee is \$50.00, except for child care providers it is \$15.00. In the future providers who join the FAIMH may be able to can count their membership and endorsement towards professional development credentials required by DCF.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC Gateway

As of December 2017, their three newest specialists are serving 60 new children. Surveys were distributed in December and January to early education care providers regarding providers' developmental screening practices. ARC Gateway has begun doing more focus groups with providers and parents.

b. Early Steps

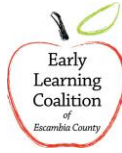
No representative was present to report.

c. School District Child Care Career Academy

The School District Child Care Career Academy after school program is currently focusing on health and safety, CPR/First Aid, good handwashing and cleaning habits, and making sure schools follow procedures to secure the safety of the children.

d. School District VPK

Ms. Buford reported that there were no updates to their program to report. They have had some children with behavioral issues, so they are working on the referral process to get those children



the help they need. The trauma part has been a big issue, especially in four-year olds, so they are trying to get the right counseling that these children need.

e. DCF Licensing

Mr. Thompson announced that the child care handbook will take effect on February 28. An email from DCF has been sent out regarding training schedule for the new handbook that contains all the new rules for child care. There will be two webinars for the State, each one has 1,000 slots. For those who wish not to attend a webinar, there will be two training classes held in Pensacola; one on February 8 and the other on February 13.

f. DCF Outreach

No representative was present to report.

g. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was present to report.

h. Pensacola State College

For this semester, Ms. Kirk announced that she has six classes, five of them are face-to-face and one is online. The online class is overflowing with 45 students. Ms. Kirk is having her students put together literacy backpacks this semester. She will be attending a network meeting in Tallahassee on April 10-13, 2018.

VII. Public

a. Florida Department of Health 5-2-1-0

Ms. Pace is working with Ms. Pugh to provide to the child care centers a training about nutrition, and more specifically about the USDA requirements. The training will take place at the Coalition, a date has not yet been set.

b. FAIMH (Vision Council)

Ms. Goldberg shared with the Committee a flyer for New Perspectives on Health, a conference focusing on mental health, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities in children. The conference will take place at Marcus Pointe Baptist Church on February 16.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Next Meeting: March 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.