



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson	Jessica Czuprynski	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Cindy Kirk	Paul Fetsko	Myra Vanhose
Melissa Birdsall	Aisha Adkison	

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Nina Daniels
Vicki Pugh	Melissa Jennings	Christy Zukowski

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Misty Lambeth	Ruthie Noel	Rita Cummins
Lawanna Hamilton	Shaunna Bailey	Deborah Jackson
Roselyn Sukal	Dawn McVay	Tonyia Nevins
Victoria Jordan	Andrea Luecht	Aileen Llano
Carolyn Jackson	Tammy Greer	Jennie Parker
Deborah Griffin	Crystal Velez-Marales	

I. Welcome, Call to Order, and Approval of Agenda

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on May 17, 2022 and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on May 2, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson, Committee Chair.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for March 15, 2022

Upon a motion made by Ms. Cindy Kirk and seconded by Ms. Jessica Czuprynski, the Agenda and the Minutes of the March 15, 2022, meeting were approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Pugh reviewed the Medical Support Services report. Satisfaction surveys from clients are positive. Mr. Fetsko brought up that the school district audiology department will see children at no charge to the parents.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings reviewed the Monthly CCRR report. There is still a little trouble finding openings due to the providers staffing shortages. Calls have increased regarding summer activities. There



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were two outreach activities in April. Justice on the Block, which is a program where attorneys come together to provide free legal consults, was a success.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated that VPK and School Readiness monitoring is wrapping up for the year. There are 3 trainings currently going on. Operations is working on bringing training back in house. MMCI classes are going back to having to be done in person to receive credit for the class.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

School Readiness enrollment is holding steady around 2,800 children. There is enough funding to have around 3,200 children but there are not enough providers and staff to place that many children at this time. There were 48 children pulled from the wait list last week and 35 children pulled this week.

There are now 85 School Readiness providers. There are 71 VPK providers. The Coalition is on target with spending the SRMAT funding.

V. Old Business

a. 2022 Legislative Actions – VPK Funding, VPK Assessments, Coalition Funding Allocation, SR Provider Rates.

1. VPK Funding increased to \$2,803 per child and if the VPK provider pays the VPK teacher \$15 per hour the amount is increased to \$3,421 per child.
2. There will now be VPK program assessments using the same CLASS tool as the School Readiness Programs. 100% of VPK classrooms will be assessed.
3. Starting on July 1, 2022, the state will set School Readiness provider payment rates. The DEL is tasked to develop a formula determine each Coalition's rates.
4. The Coalition has proposed an increase in School Readiness rates before the state takes over setting rates on July 1, 2022. If approved, the new rates will go into effect June 1, 2022.

b. DEL CRSSA Workforce Initiative

There Coalition was granted a little over \$530,000.00 to help providers recruit new staff. To get the word out that child care is hiring the Coalition contracted for 15 billboards around town. To incentivize hiring, the Coalition is offering \$1000.00 sign on bonuses and will pay for background screenings are being paid for from this money.

c. ARPA Grants

The Coalition was awarded nearly nine million dollars in ARPA grant money that providers can apply for. The grant money will be paid out in three monthly installments. Applications to apply for these grants need to be submitted soon.



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VI. New Business

a. Coalition Rate Increase Request

The Coalition had to fast track to the DEL a rate increase request before the state takes over setting School Readiness rates state-wide on July 1, 2022. If approved, the new rates will be effective June 1, 2022.

b. DEL Rule 6M-4.500, Changes to QPI CLASS Scores Increments, QPI Private vs. State Rate Limits

1. The DEL is changing the payment rules for the Quality Performance Incentive (QPI). The state is raising the CLASS Composite Score to receive the 4% QPI from 4.0 to 4.5. On a positive note, if a provider receives a score that results in a higher they will receive the higher QPI at the beginning of the following month, vice the start of the next contract year.
2. Starting July 1, the Coalition will no longer pay the lesser of the coalition rate of Private rates still need to be recorded but moving forward state rates will be paid.
3. The Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County ranked #1 among all Coalitions for improvement in overall Composite Scores from 2020 to 2022, and in the top ten in all but one of the eight categories developed by the DEL..

c. SR and VPK Contracts for 2022-2023

Contact Orientation Briefs for SR providers and providers who do both the SR and VPK programs, will begin next week. Contact Orientation Briefs for VPK only providers will be conducted in July and August. The Stars Literacy Assessment will be the new child assessment in VPK classes. These assessments must be given 3 times a year. The third assessment will be one of the factors used to determine provider's VPK Readiness Rate. No official VPK Readiness Rates will be determined for the 2022-2023 school year. Official rates are expected to start in the 2023-2024 school year.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

Ms. Myra Vanhooose stated she is meeting with Tammy Greer, with the Escambia Children's Trust, to participate in meetings of the Achieve Escambia Kindergarten Collective Action Network (KCAN).

b. ARC Gateway

Ms. Bickerstaff reported that they have a speech therapist that is now living in Virginia who is still seeing 37 children for speech therapy via Telehealth. They are having the same staffing issues everyone else is having. There is a shortage of pediatric therapist. They are booked in the Occupational Therapy Department with interns for the next two years.



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- c. CareerSource ESCAROSA
No representative was available to report.
- d. DCF Regulation
No representative was available to report.
- e. Department of Health 5-2-1-0
No representative was available to report.
- f. Early Steps
No representative was available to report.
- g. Escambia Children's Trust
Ms. Greer is speaking at the next KCAN. The Trust got out their first RFP. They are looking for any organization with the capacity to offer a Summer Bridge Program for four year olds who have not had any formal preschool or need extra assistance before they enter kindergarten.
- h. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)
No representative was available to report.
- i. Gulf Coast Kids House
No representative was available to report.
- j. Head Start
Ms. Birdsall stated that Head Start is ending its regular school year next week. There will seven classrooms running throughout the summer. They are looking to add new activities for the children. They are partnering with Dribbles the All Knowing Cat and The Blue Wahoo's. They are also having a bee keeper coming in. Head Start is now in open for enrollments for the upcoming year.
- k. Pensacola State College
Ms. Kirk stated that PSC is interviewing for a new Department Head. Ms. Kirk is wanting to add the class Leadership & Management EEC2523 to the Fall schedule. This class will be for Directors who are wanting to renew. .
- l. Ready Kids
Ms. Noel reported that there are three new Born Learning Trails, with one each at Woodland Heights Resource Center, Chimes Way Park and Morris Court. Summer mentoring will begin June 7,2022 in conjunction with the School District VPK program at Montclair Elementary and at Davis Hwy Head Start. The Ready Rosie program can be signed up for at readykidsfl.org . Ready Rosie gives quick activities that parents can do with their children at home.



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m. School District Education Career Academy

Ms. Adkison reported that in the Early Education Academies there were over 80 students who are now CPR/First Aid certified. PHS has had over 58 students successfully complete the DCF test. 20 students have received their Child Development Associate (CDA). The Coalition's Joyce Griffin won Education Industry Partner of the Year award at The Career Academy Annual Awards Luncheon.

n. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski stated that the VPK school year has wrapped up and planning is underway for the upcoming year. Enrollment for the new year is going on now.

o. Studer Community Institute

No representative was available to report.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Next Meeting: July 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501