



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson (Chair)	Marcus McBride	Paula Doty
Cindy Kirk	MJ Ziemba	Brenda Hardy
Tammy Hicks	Shanna Robinson	

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Paula Rollins	Dawn Engel
Nina Daniels	Fred Perkins	Vicki Pugh

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Aileen Ilano	Deborah Griffin	Juanita Lindsey
Hitomi Wright	Shauna Bailey	Sheila Primm
Tangee Coleman	Andretta Malden	Diedre Patton
Erica Crocker	Victoria Jordan	Roselyn Sukal
Stephanie Davis		

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

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on July 8, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson, the Committee Chair.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for May 18, 2021

Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Ms. Hardy, the Agenda and the Minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting were approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Mr. Watson gave the report. He noted that there were many visits to providers in June, but none in May. The contract with DOH for medical supports services ended on June 30, 2021 and will not be renewed. Services will be provided solely by Coalition staff from now on. A new notice for Health Screenings for Providers to post and the new Health Screening Consent form were presented.

b. CCR&R Update

It appears employment is continuing to increase as the number of calls of parents who need child care in order to be able to work kept increasing each month.



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c. Program Support Summary

Annual SRPA visits were complete in June, with the assessments of those that are on a Quality Improvement Plan. Only one QIP Provider scored below the Contracting Minimum Threshold, and they have requested a second assessment at their own expense.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

SR enrollment numbers are still below 3,000. The target for budgeting is between 3,300-3,500. Only 2924 children are enrolled as of this week. The Coalition still has no Wait List as all children are pulled each week. Currently, there are 19 BG8 children who are approved but have but their parents have been unable to find care due to limited space available, or not meeting the preferences of their parents or guardians. Providers still report that space is limited due to a lack of teachers. Staffing shortages are being experienced statewide and is a significant factor here in Escambia County. There will a Child Care recruitment fair as Career Source ESCAROSA on July 22, 2021, that is being co-sponsored by the Coalition. A dozen Providers will be setting up tables and talking with prospective applicants.

The Coalition has 79 School Readiness Providers and 64 VPK Providers.

V. Old Business

a. Coalition Relocation

Renovation of the new offices continues. The prospective move period is now late September.

b. DEL CRRSA Phase V Grants

All Providers, both contracted and non-contracted, SR and VPK, who applied for the CRRSA Phase V Grant were paid in October. Over \$1.3 million was disbursed.

VI. New Business

a. DEL Disaster Relief Grants for Teachers/Directors 21/22

The DEL has contracted a third party to manage and disburse Disaster Relief Payments of \$1000 to every teacher and director providing child care, early learning and/or VPK. The payments should begin to go out in August. Directors must go online and submit the names and addresses of all their qualified staff. These payments are all non-taxable.

b. 2021 Legislative Actions - DEL Reorganization, VPK Assessments

The 2021 Legislative session saw many changes to the statutes governing early learning. The Office of Early Learning was redesignated the Division of Early Learning under the Department of Education. Coalitions will be more closely reviewed to include satisfaction surveys involving Providers and parents. VPK Programs in 2022/2023 will begin to receive program assessments,



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similar to those administered in the SR program, and a new Readiness Rate calculation system will be developed.

c. Vehicle Alarm Requirement – Status and Options

In the 2021 Legislative session the requirement that every child care Provider who transports children must now have an alarm system that ensures vehicles are properly checked to ensure no child is left behind. The requirement goes into effect October 1, 2021. The DEL has indicated they are looking to see if they can use CRRSA or similar funding to purchase the alarms for Providers. Coalition proposes that if the DEL does not fund this requirement that the Coalition use quality funding to do it. Upon a motion made by Ms. Hicks, and seconded by Ms. Kirk, the proposal that a recommendation be made to the Board to approve funding vehicle alarms was approved without objection.

d. Registration Fees and New Contract Year

This is the start of a new contract year therefore Providers that require parents to pay an annual registration fee can submit reimbursement for these fees through EFS MOD.

e. Eligibility Manual – Update

The Eligibility Manual has been updated and is ready to go to the Board for approval. Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Doty, the recommendation to the Board to approve the Eligibility Manual was approved without objection.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

Ms. Ziemba announced that the Executive Director of Achieve Escambia, Ms. Kim Krupa, has resigned and accepted a position with CAPC/Headstart.

Parent University is hosting an event on August 14 at Pensacola High School.

Baptist Hospital is hosting a Health Fair on July 24.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. DCF Regulation

Ms. Strumeyer stated the Regulation office is resuming site visits. They have a new data system in operation, CARES II. Providers are reminded to update their employee rosters and check the clearing house as well. On inspection Providers are reminded to ensure their fall zones are at least 6 feet. COVID has not resulted in change to DCF guidance, but there has been an increase in reported cases.



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d. Department of Health 5-2-1-0
No representative was available to report.

e. ECARE
No representative was available to report.

f. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)
No representative was available to report.

g. Gulf Coast Kids House
Ms. Doty was pleased to announce the success of the online No Child Abuse Training. The top child care Providers who participated were Grace Child Development Center, Ivy League, Brite Start, Carden Academy and Beulah's.

h. Pensacola State College
Ms. Kirk stated their Early Childhood Education AS Program was open for enrollments. Also, as part of the CARES Act, students can get help with their tuition and related costs. There is weblink for the application, visit the PSC website for more details.

i. School District Education Career Academy
No representative was available to report.

j. School District VPK
No representative was available to report.

k. Studer Community Institute
No representative was available to report.

l. Western Panhandle Early Steps
No representative was available to report.

a. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505