

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019 10:00 a.m.
Chair: Van Mansker

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Brian Wyer
Beate Bolton	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Richard Wright
Cindy Kirk	Mary Ann Winstead	

Members Called In

Craig Jones	Melody Meier	Mona Jackson
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Members Absent

Peggy Steward	Dr. Laura Edler	Christina Doss
Wendi Ochs	Drew Hardgrave	Craig Jones

Staff

Bruce Watson	Becki Rutchland	Vicki Pugh
Jamie Phelps	Paula Rollins	Dawn Engel

Welcome and Introductions:

The Board meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker and note was made that notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and website on November 22, 2019 and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on November 21, 2019.

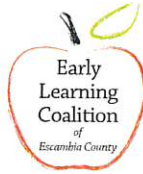
I. Public Comments:

a. Brite Start Learning & Child Care Carolers

b. OEL Director Comments

Ms. Goff, Executive Director of the Office of Early Learning, called into the meeting to speak with the Board about the Statewide Data System, also referred to as EFS MOD. She thanked Coalition staff for their diligence and attention to detail while work continues Statewide to deal with issues with EFS MOD system. Over the last couple of months, the OEL has been actively working with Coalitions on a case by case basis via a multi-person staff team effort. The OEL is in the process of submitting an amendment to their Federal plan to propose a “threshold of materiality or a hold harmless” clause for Providers who may have been overpaid. Ms. Goff reported that the OEL research indicates that most Coalitions statewide have overpaid Providers. The OEL has proposed a hold harmless threshold of \$1,500 per Provider physical address. The OEL has been working on data fixes and additional features to be added to EFS MOD. Currently, there are two packages in process to deal with macro-level line item issues, one involving rounding and other math errors, and another involving reimbursement rate anomalies

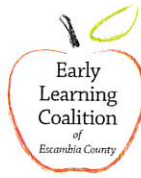
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such as rates and/or attendance doubling or tripling. The OEL will address these issues system wide and Coalition by Coalition. Ms. Goff indicated that Escambia County is unique in that the Coalition has maintained dual systems and she invited Mr. Watson to provide details on the process. Mr. Watson indicated that the Board of Directors is aware that last year, the Coalition paid both SR and VPK programs based on data from the EFS Legacy system and that this year, the Coalition is using EFS MOD for VPK, but is still using EFS Legacy for SR payments. The Coalition, however, has required Providers to keep the EFS MOD system current regarding attendance. The Coalition has been using both systems to do enrollments. Ms. Goff indicated that Escambia County may be among the first two counties to be able to complete final reconciliation of 2018-2019 by the end of the calendar year. She added that the OEL may propose an addendum to the Grant Agreement to memorialize data for 2018-2019 and to establish a threshold for margin of error. The understanding of the addendum is to acknowledge that from both the OEL and Coalition perspective, the Coalition has met all ten steps required to confirm data. Ms. Goff indicated that another key initiative is preparing for the annual audit and she referenced a 3:00 p.m. call scheduled later today between the OEL and the various agencies Coalitions have contracted to do their annual audits. Coalitions will have two options to meet audit requirements. The first option is to continue the current reconciliation process past the filing deadline and the second option is to close out financial statements effective December 31, 2019. Coalitions may opt for either option. Note was made that the audit filing deadline is March 31, 2020. The OEL would close out the General Ledger FLAIR report effective December 31, 2019 and work toward providing Coalitions with revenue confirmations and a data snapshot by January 31, 2020. Ms. Goff noted that some Coalitions have expressed concern regarding the impact EFS MOD system issues may have on potential audit findings and subsequent accountability to Local Funders. The OEL is considering the possibility of providing Coalitions with a supplemental narrative acknowledging EFS MOD system functionality issues and the OEL Agency level administrative errors that are outside the control of local Coalitions. Mr. Watson noted that the Local Funders for this Coalition have no issues with financial accountability and are satisfied with the reporting thus far. Ms. Goff indicated that the OEL is happy to intervene with Providers on behalf of Coalitions and that Escambia County may be moved to the top of the list to discuss officially closing out 2018-2019. Mr. Watson offered to reactivate the OEL's password to the Coalition's local copy of EFS Legacy so the OEL may access 2018-2019 data as needed. Mr. Watson expressed concern about credits that show in EFS MOD that make it appear that the Coalition owes the OEL money that the Coalition was never paid. Mr. Watson indicated that he would share with the Board information from his conversation with Ms. Goff yesterday regarding SRPA. Ms. Goff indicated that the OEL is giving careful consideration to the impact the new standards will have, especially with respect to a handful of counties including Escambia. Mr. Mansker noted that SRPA results for Escambia County are a huge concern for the Coalition. He thanked Ms. Goff and her staff for taking a hard look at the data and thanked Mr. Watson for keeping the Board well informed. Note was made that the Public Comment period for the proposed Rule opens Monday, December 16 and ends at on Friday, December 20, 2019. Comments and feedback are highly encouraged.

II. Chair Comments:

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a. Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, and Minutes of October 10, 2019, and Financial Statement for June End of Year, August, and September 2019

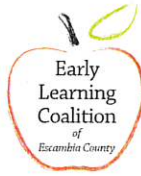
Upon a motion made by Mr. Wyer, with a second by Mr. Jones, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, the Minutes of October 10, 2019, and the June End of Year, August, and September 2019 Financial Statements, was approved without objection.

III. Executive Committee Report:

a. SRPA

The Coalition is in the second year of conducting School Readiness Program Assessments (SRPA) and to date SRPA's have been completed for 27 Providers. SRPA results for last year and the proposed change to the Rule for the SRPA Program were discussed at the November Executive Committee meeting. SRPA scores statewide indicated that, of over roughly 4,000 Providers statewide, over 75% scored 4.0 or better and under 25% scored below 4.0. From this the OEL has concluded that the Contracting Minimum Threshold (CMT) is too low and needs to be raised to improve quality statewide. The OEL has decided that the current cutoffs of 2.5 to contract and 2.5 to 3.0 to be on a Quality Improvement Program (QIP) are too low. In the proposed Rule, the new cutoffs will be 3.5 to contract and 3.5 to 4.0 to be on a QIP. Mr. Watson noted that there are over 300 Providers statewide that scored between 3 and 3.5, but the proposed change to the Rule would not afford these Providers an opportunity to be on a QIP prior to being determined ineligible to contract. This creates an inequity and could pose negative legal implications. Mr. Watson has suggested to the OEL an incremental increase in score minimums over the course of the next three years, vice two years, with the CMT increasing from 2.5 to 3.0 in 2020, 3.5 in 2021 and 4.0 in 2022. In Escambia County, last year 57% of Providers scored between 3.0 and 4.0 and another 10% scored below 3.0. This means that without improvement in their scores roughly two thirds of Providers will not meet the proposed CMT. If the new Rule is approved, the Coalition could be facing serious negative impact to capacity. Potentially over 63%, or approximately 2,000 children, would be displaced. Exemptions for capacity needs may have to be granted, but exemptions are not a permanent solution as they can only be granted for up to three years. Quality improvement has been at the forefront of Coalition initiatives for over a decade, but despite Coalition efforts a great number of providers have failed to improve. This is likely due in part because up until now failure to improve quality has not impacted Providers bottom line. Recently, Providers are facing new challenges with respect to hiring and retaining well qualified staff. Mr. Watson indicated that instead of granting waivers, the Coalition could request from the OEL a formal Variance to Rule that would exempt Escambia County from meeting the new standards for a defined period. This would afford Providers more time to meet the proposed quality standards. The Executive Committee has indicated that it is not in support of granting waivers. Mr. Mansker noted that Providers need to focus on teaching as opposed to baby sitting and that the Coalition offers training to Providers, including business operations training. Note was made that a reduction in the number of Providers might be necessary in order to improve quality standards in Escambia County. Mr. Watson noted that one of the keys to success greater Director involvement, and that the Coalition offers Directors mentoring and training. Training opportunities for all practitioners include MMCI and Grow With Me. The latter of which includes use of LENA and one-on-one in person coaching conducted in the

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classrooms. Mr. Watson noted that the number of assessments that would need to be conducted by the Coalition may require hiring more staff and requirements are being evaluated. Ms. Winstead commented that many parents view Providers as just day care, as opposed to educational entities. She also pointed out that many children's social/emotional developmental issues pose a significant problem for Providers. A lack of parent involvement and proper behavior modeling for their children is a major concern and is forcing many Providers to focus more on behavior issues instead of academic development.

b. 2020-2021 Curriculum Requirements and Scholarships

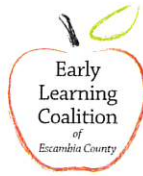
The State has evaluated and updated the list of approved curricula for birth to five. All Providers will be required to have the new curriculum in order to contract with the Coalition next year. All but two Escambia County Providers use Creative Curriculum. Centers who use Creative are currently using Editions 2 and 5. The new list of approved Curriculum requires Editions 3 and 6. The cost to acquire the new editions is estimated at about \$3,300 per Center, and just under \$1,500 per Home. The cost for all Providers to make this change will be roughly \$234,000 to purchase new curriculum. The publication of a new list was the result of the OEL updating the Education Standards for Birth to Five. As a result, all curricula were evaluated against the new standards. Most publishers did not submit their old curriculum for evaluation and the OEL did not evaluate curriculum from their old list. Therefore, most everything on the list is new. The last time OEL conducted such a review was five years ago. The Resource Development Committee recommended to the Executive Committee to forward to the Board a proposal that the Coalition pay 50% of the Providers' cost for new curriculum. The cost to the Coalition would be approximately \$117,000, which would come out of quality funding. Reimbursement would be made only after proof of purchase is submitted. Mr. Mansker asked what timeline is anticipated and Mr. Watson indicated that if the Board approves the subsidy, reimbursements will be authorized starting in January 2020. The Coalition will highly encourage Providers to purchase the new curriculum sooner rather than later since Providers statewide will be making similar purchases and demand will be high, which means supplies could run low. In most cases, the Coalition shall reimburse Providers within thirty days of submitting proof of purchase. Mr. Watson clarified that the Coalition will pay each Provider 50% of the total cost for one copy of the new curriculum per facility including shipping costs.

The Executive Committee brings forward a motion to approve the Coalition paying 50% of the cost of Providers purchasing new curriculum. Total cost to the Coalition is estimated to be about \$117,000 dollars. Providers would be reimbursed the cost of one approved curriculum per Provider per facility including shipping costs. Providers will be reimbursed only after presenting a receipt and proof of delivery for their purchase. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff and approved without objection. Ms. Winstead abstained from voting and filed a Conflict of Interest form accordingly.

c. Budget Update

A revised budget for 2019/2020 that accommodates additional funding from OEL is provided for approval. The additional funds were addressed at the last meeting. Two of the three additions

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are for quality programs, and the third is a mix of quality and direct services (slots). Therefore, this does impact the allocation percentages, however, some of the impact was offset by redirecting funding already allocated for quality to slots.

Over the last four months, the Coalition received three additional Notice of Awards (NOAs). The revised budget incorporates this additional funding, which includes \$71,291 dollars in Quality funding for the PDG Grant, \$50,586 dollars for conducting SRPAs, and \$168,934 dollars in local SR Match funding. Except for these additions, there was no other change to the budget. The overall increase was about \$300,000.

The Executive Committee brings forward a motion to approve the revised 2019/2020 budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and approved without objection.

d. SR Match Funding Program

The State legislature this year changed how Coalitions account for match and how the funding could be used. Coalitions are no longer required to meet the 6% local match requirement. The Child Care Executive Program (CCEP) program was in part also done away with in that there is no longer a CCEP Board that must meet to allocate the funding. Instead, \$30 million was Appropriated for match funding, compared to about half that in years past for just CCEP, and all Coalitions are allocated a portion of this money. The OEL allocated \$168,934 dollars that can be match one for one with the approximately \$308,000 dollars in local funding the Coalition currently receives. This will allow the Coalition to bring in children whose family income exceeds 150% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but still falls below 85% of State Median income (SMI). Flyers have been developed to inform the public about this new program. The Coalition called all parents who were recently determined ineligible, but now qualify under the new SR Match Program, to inform them that they are now eligible for services.

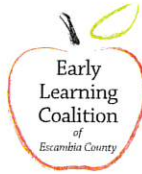
IV. Executive Director's Report:

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

1. Benchmark Report:

The report indicates the Coalition continues to fall behind in executing SR slots. At one third of the way through the fiscal year, the Coalition is currently underspent by roughly \$600,000. In order to catch up enrollments need to be above 3,500. The shortage is a direct result of low enrollment numbers, with 50% of parents not following through with their applications. Two weeks ago, 94 parents applied but only 10% of parents have enrolled children to date. Note was made that the on-line application process may be an impediment for some applicants. Over the last month, the Coalition has sent solicitations to companies and hospitals informing them of the new SR Match funding that is now available. Under the new funding, the Coalition can serve about 120 additional children throughout the year. Currently, there are 56 children receiving services under the new funding guidelines.

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Currently, there are also issues with capacity and placing children in care. Based on DCF licensing figures Providers have the physical capacity to serve over 6,600 children, however, parents are having difficulty finding an opening even though there are less than 3,300 SR children enrolled. The parents of on average 60 children are still seeking a Provider. The Coalition has identified Providers who are operating at less than 80% so that Eligibility Specialists can inform parents of facilities that may have room for their children. Providers are stating the number one reason they are serving fewer children is a lack of availability to retain and hire staff.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

Currently there are 3,298 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 1,307 are school-age children. There are 56 children enrolled in the SR Match Program. There are 1,961 children enrolled in VPK.

The Coalition has been unable to sustain enrollments over 3,300 which means the Coalition lags each month in spending funding. In order to spend all funding, enrollments would need to increase by at least 300 children. However, Providers may not be able to serve an additional 300 children as most Providers are operating at about 75% capacity due to lack of staff.

The trend continues that only 50% of applicants complete the process and enroll. 18% of applicants fail to reply to Coalition notifications and 23% start the eligibility determination process but never complete it. Applicants that are disinclined to complete the process online are reminded they are more than welcome to apply in person at the Coalition office. Since the online SR application process was activated, there has been a decrease in applications that has resulted in an ability to increase enrollments by the 200-300 children required to meet this year's funding allocation. Other Coalitions are experiencing similar drops in enrollments.

3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

There are 83 SR Providers and no contracts have been terminated by the Coalition this year. Three new Providers are coming onboard by December and a New Provider Contract Orientation was held on November 20, 2019. Six Providers have self-terminated this year, but in most cases, another party assumed operations at the same location.

One new VPK Provider was added this year for a total of 78 and VPK capacity far exceeds the number of children enrolled.

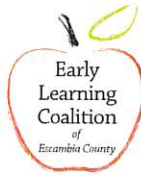
There were no new cases of fraud to report.

V. Old Business:

a. **EFS Modernization Transition Update**

Issues with the EFS MOD system persist. The system still does not work reliably, although there are some features that working well enough to use. The Coalition continues to discover new problems. As a result, the Coalition still requires Providers to submit both electronic and paper

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attendance sheets. Some Providers are creating secondary issues because their paper and electronic attendance do not match. Mr. Mansker congratulated and thanked Mr. Watson for his foresight in maintaining local control of and access to the Legacy system and appreciates that Escambia County Providers have not been overpaid or underpaid. He noted that statewide most Coalitions have overpaid, and in some cases underpaid, Providers based upon inaccurate data and calculations in the EFS MOD system. Mr. Watson noted that, over three years ago, the Coalition decided to retain local control of the Legacy system despite continued pressure to relinquish access and move the database to the Northwest Data Center. He thanked staff members for their excellent advice not to give up local control.

VI. New Business:

a. Town Hall Meeting Recap

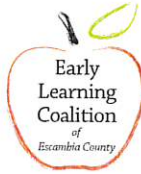
The Executive Director conducted two town hall meetings in October. The first meeting was at DT Child Development Center on Saturday, October 26, 2019 and was better attended than the second meeting. The second meeting was held at Myrtle Grove Baptist Pre-School on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. The five topics discussed were SRPA, SR curriculum, SR Match Program, SR payment rates, the future of EFS MOD, and Providers' responsibilities for all topics.

The SRPA results for last year and the proposed Rule for the SRPA Program was discussed. SRPA scores statewide indicated that 75% of Providers scored 4.0 or better and 25% scored below 4.0. From this OEL has concluded that the minimum threshold for contracting is too low and needs to be raised to ensure quality statewide. OEL has decided that the current cutoffs of 2.5 to contract and 2.5 to 3.0 for Quality Improvement Program (QIP) are too low. In the proposed Rule, the new cutoffs this year will be 3.5 to contract and 3.5 to 4.0 to be on a QIP. Last year 57% of Coalition Providers scored between 3 and 4 and another 10% scored below that which means that two thirds of Providers will not meet the proposed new minimum standards. Looking ahead, if the new minimum standards are passed, the Coalition could be facing serious negative impact to capacity. Exemptions for capacity needs may be granted, but the exemptions can only be for up to three years.

The State revised the standards for birth to five and conducted a curriculum review. As a result, the OEL issued a new list of approved curricula, and the old editions not on the list are no longer acceptable. For instance, the second and fifth editions of Creative Curriculum for centers no longer meet State standards, but the third and sixth editions are acceptable. Mr. Watson indicated that this is the five time since the original list was developed about five years ago that the State has revised curriculum requirements. In order to be eligible to contract in 2020-2021 Providers will be required to have a curriculum from the new list. Mr. Watson informed Providers that due to relatively short notice of the change and the cost to Providers, the Coalition will forward a recommendation to the Board to subsidize 50% of the cost of one curriculum per facility. Providers will be required to submit proof of payment in order to be reimbursed.

Mr. Watson announced that the State has completely revamped the SR Match Program. A copy of the Sliding Fee Scale with SR Match Program eligibility range highlighted was provided. Due

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to Legislative changes to the Match Funding requirements, Coalitions may now use local funding to provide SR services to families who fall in the 150% FPL to 85% SMI range. When families submit their initial application online if they are ineligible for the traditional SR program the State system provides a notice that applicants may be eligible for local funding. They are directed to contact the Coalition to inquire about eligibility for local funding. In total this funding will allow the Coalition to provide services for an additional 120 to 150 children a year. Flyers announcing the new funding guidelines were distributed in both English and Spanish.

The Coalition is considering increasing some, if not all, SR payment rates next year, in particular Infant and Toddler rates.

Providers were informed that there were no changes anticipated this fiscal year regarding how the Coalition uses EFS MOD. Hopefully next year the transition to using EFS MOD exclusively will be complete.

b. Board and Committee Meeting Schedule 2020

The schedule of Board and Committee meetings for 2020 was provided.

c. DCF Trauma Informed Care Training

DCF has two new Trauma Informed Care courses. One course is introductory and shorter in length and is available online. Practitioners can use the introductory course toward their in-service hours. The other course is for Directors and is more in depth and structured like a college course. DCF is partnering with Pensacola State College to deliver the course. The Directors course will be five three-hour sessions and involves a heavy load of homework. Statewide where this has been started attendance and completion rates have been low.

d. Escambia Children's Trust Update

A Political Action Committee (PAC) has been formed and progress continues to be made toward getting a referendum to approve a Children's Services Council for Escambia County on the ballot next year. A Call to Action notice has been circulated and donations are being solicited. Mr. and Mrs. Julian MacQueen generously donated a \$10,000-dollar matching gift to the Escambia Children's Trust campaign to pay for a poll. Preliminary results from a poll of eligible voters conducted recently indicate about a 60% approval rate.

VII. Adjourn

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

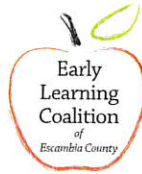
Next Meeting: February 13, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505

Minutes approved by:

Sheryl Rehberg, Board Secretary

Date

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**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes**

(Note: These are meeting notes, vice minutes, as the meeting did not meet quorum.)

February 13, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Chair: Van Mansker

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Judy Dickinson
Cindy Kirk	Drew Hardgrave	

Members Called In

Craig Jones	Brian Wyer	Richard Wright
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Members Absent

Peggy Steward	Dr. Laura Edler	Wendi Ochs
Beate Bolton	Edna Williams	Mary Ann Winstead
Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Melody Meier	Mona Jackson
Sheryl Rehberg		

Staff

Dawn Engel	Vicki Pugh	Paula Rollins
Jamie Phelps	Becki Rutchland	

Welcome and Introductions:

Notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and website on January 31, 2020 and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on January 27, 2020

I. Public Comments:

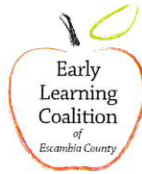
There were no Public Comments.

II. Chair Comments:

a. Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of December 12, 2019, and Financial Statements for October and November 2019.

Mr. Mansker announced that there were not enough Board members in attendance to meet quorum, therefore the meeting could not be called to order. Mr. Mansker asked Ms. Rutchland to provide an update on the recent audit. Ms. Rutchland reported that although written results are pending receipt, the Coalition has received oral confirmation that there were no findings and no citations noted. Mr. Mansker commended Coalition staff and thanked them for an doing an outstanding job.

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III. Executive Committee Report:

a. Board Provider Representative Position

No discussion as quorum was not met.

b. Board Actions

No official discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker reported the following changes in Board membership:

1. Christina Doss: resigned 12/31/2019 (Designee pending)
2. Mary Ann Winstead: resigned 1/26/2020
3. Roger Thompson: retired 3/31/2020 (DCF Relief: Angela Strumeyer)
4. Edna Williams: second term expires 2/12/2020 (Proposed Approval of Third Term is pending)

Mr. Mansker thanked Mr. Thompson for his years of service on the Board and he presented Mr. Thompson with a service plaque.

c. Board Vice Chair and RDC Chair

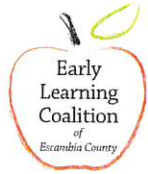
No official discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker encouraged anyone who is interested in filling these roles to contact Mr. Watson to express interest.

d. Match Funding

No discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker announced that the Board will review this item at the next meeting.

e. Coalition Reorganization

Although the Board did not take action on this item as quorum was not met, Mr. Mansker asked Ms. Engel to provide an overview of the proposed Coalition reorganization. Ms. Engel reported that under the new organization, the Program Improvement Department is merged with the Program Integrity Unit to form the new Operations Department. In addition, a new Community Impact Department has been added. The Community Impact Director position will be a part time position. It is anticipated this arrangement will last at least 12 months, after which the outcomes and effectiveness will be evaluated, and a decision will be made to keep the department or merge it into another department or division. Ms. Pugh will be the Community Impact Director and Ms. Dawn Engel the Operations Director effective March 1, 2020. The proposed reorganization will make the Coalition's organization like that of many other Coalitions. The Provider Support and SR/VPK Contracts position was moved from the Finance Department to the Program Integrity Unit several months ago and that change is now reflected on the updated Organizational Chart. The new chart also reflects one additional FTE role in the Finance Department which was added in order to handle additional workload demands created by the EFS MOD system. The Coalition currently has 39 staff members, but that number may increase to 41 or 42 if the addition of VPK Program Assessment is added as a result of pending legislation. Further discussion will be held after the legislation is finalized in roughly two months. The Coalition may need to obtain additional physical space if the number of staff



members increases. There is space available in the suite next to the Eligibility office so that may be a viable option. Reorganizational impact to Administrative costs will be minimal and will remain within the 5% cap on Admin.

IV. Executive Director's Report:

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

1. Benchmark Report:

Ms. Engel reported that the Coalition is underspent by about \$1,000,000 at this time.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

Currently there are 3,267 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 1,244 are school-age children. There are 86 children enrolled in the SR Match Program. There are 1,886 children enrolled in VPK.

3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

The Coalition has 82 School Readiness Providers at this time. Two potential new Providers are waiting on health and safety inspections. Currently there are 78 VPK Providers.

There were no new cases of fraud to report.

b. Semi-Annual Operations Reports

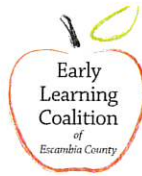
No discussion as quorum was not met.

c. 2020 Legislative Actions

Mr. Mansker noted that under the proposed legislation there would no longer be an Office of Early Learning. Instead, the Office of Early Learning would become the Division of Early Learning with more definitive lines of authority within the DOE. Under the proposed changes, the State Board of Education would exert greater control over the former Office of Early Learning. Mr. Mansker noted that both he and Mr. Watson have expressed concern about statutory restrictions regarding the eligibility of entities exclusively under the authority of the Public School System to receive Children's Services Council funding. Although there may be workarounds to the restrictions, concern remains over the legal interpretation. Legal advice has been solicited on the matter.

Another big change in the proposed legislation is that VPK would be assessed in a manner similar to the SR assessments currently in place. In addition, ELAC would be abolished under the proposed legislation and a committee would be established whose primary function would be to develop a better method of establishing VPK Readiness Rates. A combination of CLASS scores, something perhaps related to FLKRS, and a follow on to the VPK assessments would be the factors for determining VPK Readiness Rates. There is general agreement that the VPK assessment is insufficient to be used for definitive consequences so development is underway for an assessment that would include social and emotional measurements, not strictly academics.

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Another key component of the proposed legislation is that the minimum requirements to qualify as a VPK Director will increase significantly. A gradual phase in of the new requirements has been proposed as there will be no grandparenting clause with respect to meeting the new standards.

VPK payment rates are expected to rise significantly more so than the rates have risen over the last ten years.

An Estimating Conference has been proposed in order to determine the SR funding each Coalition would receive. The Conference will take into consideration not only the number of children served but other factors such as economic concerns. Prevailing Market Rates may be determined in order to establish base payment rates for the entire state with cost of living adjustments for each county factored in. The current wording of the legislation would not allow Coalitions to pay more or less than the established rate. Most Coalitions across the State are not opposed to an established rate however, Coalitions agree that authority to adjust local rates to meet local needs should remain within control of each Coalition.

Also included in the legislation is a proposal to reduce the maximum size of Coalition Boards from 30 to 15 members. The average Board size statewide is about 21, and Miami only has 22 Board members. For Escambia County, there would be 10 designees, three Governor Appointees, and at most, one or two Private Sector Representatives. Coalitions statewide have indicated that input from the Private Sector is critical.

Language throughout the proposed legislation refers to Early Learning - 20, as opposed to K – 12, but the early learning focus is only on VPK. The narrow focus on academics without equal consideration given to social and emotional development is of general concern to both Coalitions and Providers and the Coalition has already lost one Provider due to this issue. The bill has been submitted and will be in discussion over the coming months. Mr. Mansker noted that there is a chance that the bill may die because it lacks any budgetary analysis on funding the changes and the budget has already been submitted.

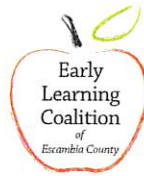
Related to this, Mr. Mansker indicated that the Rule regarding the new SRPA cutoff rates was pulled largely due to Mr. Watson's input regarding potential legal ramifications from Providers who fall between a 3.0 and a 3.5 and who had never been afforded the option of participating in a Quality Improvement Plan.

d. Provider Rates and State Market Rates

No discussion as quorum was not met.

V. Old Business:

a. Escambia Children's Trust Update



Ms. Engel reported that CSC efforts are ongoing but fundraising has not kicked into full gear at this time. Initial estimates are that the campaign may cost roughly \$100,000 dollars. She noted that Mr. Watson would like the Board to consider approving a Coalition donation of \$500 dollars from unrestricted funds to the CSC campaign and, most importantly, publicly name the Coalition as officially in support of the Trust. No further discussion ensued as quorum was not met.

b. EFS Modernization Transition Update

Ms. Engel reported that reconciliation for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 shows that the Coalition has a zero balance for over payments and underpayments. She noted that reconciliation of any discrepancies between EFS MOD and what the Coalition actually paid Providers for the current year will at best be completed in July.

VI. New Business:

a. 8th Annual Early Learning Summit – May 26, 2020

The proposed date for the 8th Annual Early Learning Summit is Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Two sessions are planned with one held in the morning and one held in the afternoon. The morning session will feature the screening of a 45-minute version of the film, “No Small Matter.” The afternoon session will feature a full-length screening of the film. The proposed Keynote Speaker for both sessions is Early Learning Specialist Rachel Giannini. The proposed morning session venue is Greenhut Auditorium on the Sacred Heart Campus. Selection of the venue for the afternoon session is pending.

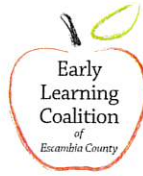
b. 2020 Census

Ms. Pugh noted that CCR&R and the new Community Impact Department will function as 2020 Census Champions. On-line entry is highly encouraged. The Census Bureau will mail reminder cards several times and representatives will visit in person if the process is not completed. Ms. Pugh noted that the State of Florida forfeited \$67,000,000 dollars in yearly funding as a result of underreporting during the last Census. Underreporting was largely attributed to hard-to-count populations and it was noted that children under the age of four are particularly underreported. 2020 Census information has been posted to the Coalition’s FaceBook page and a link to the Census web site has also been provided.

c. IT Security Brief for Board

Mr. Whipps provided an overview of the Coalition’s current technical security. He noted that sometime in calendar year 2020, the Coalition expects to retire the Legacy EFS system that has been run in house. Decommissioning the in-house system is expected to enhance data security by reducing vulnerability to hacking attempts. He noted that over the last year a variety of software upgrades and updates have been run, the roll out to Windows 10 was finished, and back-end software was also updated. The upgrades have allowed the IT Department to transition to a more proactive approach as opposed to a reactive approach. Primary data threats are more likely to originate with organized criminal activity than with generic malicious hacks. In response to a recent data breach, the City of Pensacola spent about \$140,000.00 just to have a consultant assess and identify the data that had been compromised. Both the likelihood of data

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breaches and the cost of addressing the breaches continue to rise therefore, preemptive spending is advisable. The estimated cost of cyber crime worldwide is roughly \$3,000,000.00 a minute resulting in a total loss of roughly \$1.5 trillion dollars over the last year. Statistically, roughly 90% of breaches are attributed to human error and not to technical issues. 20% to 30% of human error is attributed to clicking on links to malware contained within phishing attempts. It is estimated that about 40% of data breaches occur because available software patches were not applied. Technical preventative measures are in place, so the Coalition is primarily focused on user education. The Coalition partners with Know Before to conduct training so that employees can identify malware and suspicious activity. Primary prevention is focused on social media as it is the source of nearly 90% of malicious spyware.

VII. Adjourn

Lacking quorum, the meeting was not called to order therefore the meeting was not adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505

Minutes approved by:

Sheryl Rehberg, Board Secretary

Date

LAH