

**Early Learning Coalition
Resource Development Committee
January 15, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

Persons in Attendance

Committee Members:

Mary Ann Winstead (Chair)	Shawn Jennings	Roger Thompson
Brenda Hardy	Cindy Kirk	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Sharmane Lilleston	Brittany Curtis	Aisha Adkison
Peggy Steward	Phyllis Gonzalez	

Staff:

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Anne Cynkar
Melissa Stankard		

Non-Committee Member Partners/Public:

None

Teleconferencing:

None

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 Ms. Bickerstaff and seconded by Ms. Hardy the Agenda was accepted and approved without objection.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2018

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hicks and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff the Minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting were accepted and approved without objection.

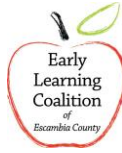
IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Jennings shared that year to date the ELCEC Medical Support team has served 1,937 children, which included conducting numerous screenings, education classes and 92 site visits.

In November the Medical Support staff screened 161 children for vision and hearing, 21 children received vision referrals and 22 received hearing referrals. They also conducted 17 education classes. A CPR course was scheduled in November but had to be cancelled and rescheduled for January 2019. In December the Medical Support staff screened 227 children for vision and 226 for hearing, 14 children received vision referrals, and 24 received hearing referrals. Three children received glasses. They also conducted eight education classes for 129 children and 11 staff and parents.

b. CCR&R Update



In the month of November there were 85 CCR&R interviews of which 44 were new interviews and 41 were from single parent homes and three were from two parent homes. Two families from Bay County called requesting Disaster Assistance as a result of Hurricane Michael. The main topics of interest this month were location, transportation and a concern that there were no openings available for eight children in the infant, toddler, two, and three year-old age groups. The need for child care jumped from eight to seventeen in just one month. In December there were 95 CCR&R interviews of which 58 were new interviews and 52 were from single parent homes. The primary reason for care was to enable employment for working parents.

The CCR&R staff called Providers to update their transportation listings for parents to review and use. This listing will assist many of our parents who request facilities that provide transportation.

The Coalition did a creative makeover of the children's portion of the front lobby. It is now more welcoming and visually appealing and is a site for parents and children to engage in learning. Large shadowbox like cabinets were placed where children can see site words, tell time in 15-minute increments and look at a science project with growing flowers and more.

With the start of the new year Mr. Watson requested that CCR&R track the number of parents applying for VPK and the number approved and rejected and add these numbers to the monthly 2019-2020 report. The Coalition anticipates an even greater need by the end of the fiscal year and these number will help assess our future goals.

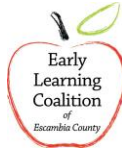
After Hurricane Michael, the Coalition assisted several families from the Bay County area. Four families were enrolled in the program, five families returned to their homes and six came in with a homeless referral from Opening Doors of North West Florida. Ms. Stankard was unable to contact the remaining families therefore their status is unknown.

The Parent/Provider Resource Room is fully operational and is available to assist parents with making applications for our programs, uploading documents and searching for resources. Presently, the Resource Specialist are reaching out to assist parents here at the Coalition by phone or texting, from their homes. Since October there has been a staff change in the Child Care and Resource Referral Office with Ms. Miller replacing Ms. Wirick who retired.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Pugh shared that December was a slow month for program support activities and the primary focus for the new year will be on doing Program Assessments.

Ms. Abney the Inclusion /Behavior Specialist is developing training for Providers on Trauma Informed Care for Children which she is scheduled to present on February 11, 2019 , from 6-8 pm in the Coalition training room. This training will provide quick tips and strategies on taking care of these vulnerable children. Ms. Amy Intermioia will also be conducting training on the reporting requirements for Protective Service children. This training is specifically for Providers who want to provide services to Protective Service children, but it is open to all Directors and practitioners. For more information contact the Coalition at 850-595-5400 or visit the Coalition website to sign



up for this training session. This training will also be added to the SR contract orientation for new Providers.

V. Old Business

a. Wait List and Contract Summary

As of January 12, 2019, there were 3,262 children enrolled. The 40 children on the Wait List, of which 28 are birth to five children, are just those that applied last week as the Coalition currently has no Wait List. Currently, the Coalition is notifying all parents within a week of submitting their applications. The Coalition is concerned that it has not met its' goal of enrolling 3, 600 children, which is necessary to use this year's grant, including the additional funding received from the state in October.

Currently there are 2,369 children approved, and 1,939 enrolled in VPK for the 2018/2019 School Program Year. The Coalition continues its efforts to advertise the VPK program and work with both parents and Providers to get more children enrolled. Hopefully, this year enrollments will return to 2,200-2,300 children typically enrolled in past years.

There are 87 School Readiness Providers and 78 VPK Providers. One new SR Provider has contracted with the Coalition, one SR Providers have terminated their contract by their own choice and one SR Provider had their contract terminated by the Coalition.

The Coalition continues the EFS Legacy system to calculate payments for Providers. The Coalition is waiting for OEL to complete the EFS MOD development. OEL promised this would be done in 2018, and yet development continues with no completion date in sight.

Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

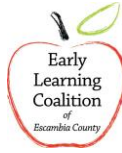
There were no Fraud cases to report. One Review Hearing has been requested by a Provider whose contract was terminated and eligibility to provide services revoked because they exceeded the allowable number of Class 2, and Class 3 violations, and other contractual noncompliance.

b. Grow With Me/LENA Update

Ms. Pugh reported that there are two-Family Child Care Home programs in Grow With Me this year. The total number of participants is less than the previous two years. A new person is being trained to take the lead on this program. Starting with the 2019/2020 contract year, Grow With Me and LENA will be one of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) options for Providers who score low on the School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA).

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

During Attendance Days in January, Ms. Pugh spoke with the Providers who were unable to complete inputting their data into the Wels Portal. She ensured these Providers were provided the assistance needed to complete getting their information in the system. The Coalition continues to visit the facilities in the PFP Program and do the CLASS observations that are required.



d. SR Capacity and Space Availability Reporting Update

The Coalition continues to track SR Capacity and Space Availability, however, Provider response with data to support this list has been poor. The list was created to assist parents in finding a facility where they can enroll their children. The Coalition will continue to encourage Providers to use this tool to track capacity and space availability.

e. EFS Modernization Transition Update/

On January 15, 2019 the Coalition sent all VPK Providers an email regarding VPK Attendance submission requirements. This email requested Providers submit their VPK attendance from August through December 2018 by February 1, 2019 electronically into the new EFS MOD data system. Compliance with this request will help ensure the Coalition is ready to use the State data system for Provider payments when it becomes available, and the Provider's are required by contract to submit this information.

f. Gulf Power Foundation Update

The Gulf Power Foundation Grant for the improvement and quality of early learning in the four Northwest Florida Coalitions is making progress. \$9,000 of the portion of this year's funding earmarked for Escambia County will be used to purchase Training from Teachstone for how to coach Providers on implementing the results of their CLASS observations.

VI. New Business

a. 2018-2019 OEL Accountability Review – Jan.22-24, 2019

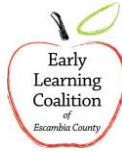
The OEL Accountability Review will be conducted January 22-24, 2019. This visit will include a review of all the Coalition programs.

b. Stars Over Escambia QRIS Rating Award Approvals and Presentation

Mr. Watson and Ms. Pugh presented two Providers for approval for a Star rating award. The rating packages for Myrtle Grove Baptist Preschool and Top Notch Christian Academy were presented. The recommendation for approval came with a caveat that the two facilities had submitted their packages prior to July 2018, but because of implementation of the EFS MOD system the Coalition was unable to process their packages nor accurately calculate the payment amount if they were approved. Therefore, the Coalition also requests approval for the two Providers to have their rate incentive payments back dated to begin on July 1, 2018.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Steward and seconded by Tammy Hicks the Committee accepted and approved without objection designation of Myrtle Grove Baptist Preschool as a Four Star rating facility.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Steward and seconded by Tammy Hicks the Committee accepted and approved without objection designation of Top Notch Christian Academy as a Two Star rated facility.



After the Committee approved their rating, Mr. Watson presented Ms. Mary Ann Winstead, the Director of Myrtle Grove Baptist Preschool, their Stars Over Escambia Four Star rating award letter and a sign to place at the facility to inform the public that they are a Four Star Rated facility. Additionally, they will receive their 10% rate incentive back dated to July 2018. The second center, Top Notch Christian Academy, did not have a representative present so they will have their award letter and accompanying sign delivered. They too will receive their 5% rate incentive back dated to July 2018.

Congratulations on a job well done to both Myrtle Grove Baptist Preschool and Top Notch Christian Academy.

c. SR Program Assessment Implementation Policy, ELEC 4301.1A

The SR Program Assessment Implementation Policy was discussed. The policy states that all SR Providers serving children from birth to kindergarten must have a program assessment conducted and meet the contract minimum threshold to be eligible to participate in the School Readiness program. A waiver can be granted by the Coalition if a Provider is deemed essential to meet local child care capacity needs as stated in the Coalition's School Readiness Plan.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff, the Committee recommends to the Board to approve the SR Program Assessment Implementation Policy, ELEC 4301.1A. The motion was accepted and approved without objection.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC Gateway

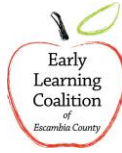
Occupational and speech therapists at Pearl Nelson Center have become certified in the Sequential Oral Sensory Approach to feeding therapy. This approach addresses both oral and sensory motor skills. A special feeding clinic will be provided for children with significant feeding issues. Ms. Bickerstaff has opened this special feeding clinic for childcare Providers to help assess and improve eating behaviors. Contact her at mbickerstaff@arc-gateway.org for more information.

The Achieve Escambia Early Screening Matters workgroup learned that the RFA for becoming a Help Me Grow affiliate should be distributed in April and will include a planning period for implementation for newly funded affiliates. Expansion to new affiliates is pending increased State funding for this program.

Developmental screening awareness improvement efforts for the Spring include two events that early childhood partners will be requested to provide volunteer support.

1. April 13 - The Early Screening Matters Workgroup is partnering with Ms. Phyllis Gonzalez, DCF, at Dixon School of the Arts in Brownsville. This event will address developmental promotion and the importance of developmental delays.

2. April 27 - Be My Neighbor Day will be held at WSRE from 10:00-2:00 pm, and



includes community organizations with children's activity booths and useful information along with the opportunity to visit Daniel Tiger and Katerina Kittykat along with hearing PBS Kids co-host, Mr. Steve.

b. DCF Outreach

Ms. Gonzalez announced that this year the DCF Outreach's focus is on "Upstream Prevention" The two events Be My Neighbor, and Books, Balls, and Blocks will continue to focus on making the community more aware of Child Abuse Prevention and Autism Awareness issues the community faces. In our community, it is calculated that 54% of the families in poverty have young children. Hopefully, with the partnership of Achieve Escambia, DCF, ARC Gateway, and the Dixon School of the Arts in Brownville the community will benefit from this support and assistance.

c. DCF Regulation

Mr. Thompson announced that DCF added four new staff members to their team. While the staff is in the training phase it continues to be an interesting and challenging transition for the DCF Child Care Regulation Office. However, with staff changes the office sees this as a move in the right direction.

Mr. Thompson shared that DCF and the SR programs will see new changes in the areas of Staff Credentialing and Group sizing in the near future. These areas together are presenting the biggest challenges for the DCF staff to inspect.

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.

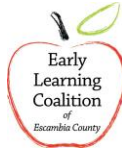
f. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was present to report.

g. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk announced that she is requesting from her Department Chair of Pensacola State approval to implement an online Leadership Course for students and prospective Directors. This course has been used in the past at Pensacola State but was discontinued due to lack of use. Currently, the interest from the community has grown and reactivation of the course is needed. Enrollment numbers, and cost factors are being carefully reviewed to support this request and possibly next year this online Leadership Course will be available.

Ms. Kirk shared that she will be attending the SECA (Southern Early Childhood Association) Conference in Orlando. This year the theme is focused on emotional development in the early years of childhood.



h. School District Education Career Academy

Ms. Adkison gave out handouts to the Committee members regarding the Florida Department of Education Curriculum Framework. This handout included topics such as training requirements for child care personnel and preschool teachers, and the regulatory requirements that must be met to offer and teach Early Childhood Education.

Ms. Adkison shared that after students complete all DCF 40-hour Introductory Child Care Training coursework, they can begin earning direct work experience hours with children 5 years old or younger. To be awarded the Early Childhood Professional Certificate the student must be enrolled in the program and obtain 480 hours of work experience with children 5 years old or younger. However, to offer and teach the 40-hour Introductory Child Care Training, schools must obtain approval from the local DCF Child Care Training Coordinator Agency and meet the trainer requirements established by DCF.

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, March 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at 3300 N. Pace Boulevard Suite 210 Pensacola Fl 32505