

**Early Learning Coalition
Resource Development Committee
May 21, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

Persons in Attendance

Committee Members

Mary Ann Winstead (Co-Chair)	Roger Thompson (Co-Chair)	Shawn Jennings
Brenda Hardy	Sharon Vecchio	Tammy Hicks
Aisha Adkison	MJ Ziemba	Cindy Kirk

Staff

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Anne Cynkar
Melissa Stankard		

Non-Committee Member Partners/Public

None

Teleconferencing

Kimberly Edmonds

I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Winstead. Mr. Watson requested to add Achieve Escambia to the Community Partners Updates on the agenda and VPK Readiness Rates Summary under New Business. Upon a motion made by Ms. Hicks and seconded by Ms. Hardy the Agenda as amended was accepted and approved without objection.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2019

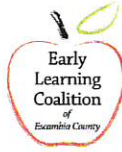
Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Jennings the Minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting were accepted and approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Jennings shared that the ELCEC Medical Support team in March conducted 171 screenings and made 17 vision and 22 hearing referrals, and in April conducted 232 screenings and made 17 vision referrals and 33 hearing referrals. She reminded the Committee that often the nurses return for a second screening date due to absences and other challenges to the child receiving a valid screening. The nurses have conducted 163 education classes to date which included nutrition, hand washing, safety and dental hygiene. 2200 screenings have been conducted year to date. Mr. Watson reported the 2019-2020 Nursing Services contract has been drafted.

b. CCR&R Update



In the month of March there were 120 CCR&R interviews from 83 parents, and in April there 163 calls from 99 parents. Transportation and location are the number 1 & 2 topics of interest each month for persons seeking child care.

Ms. Stankard reported that the CCRR specialists gave away a Mother's Day gift with the children's books during the month of May. The books included a coupon book with items such as "redeem for one hug".

Summer safety is the next campaign theme with info for parents on heat and water safety as well as car checks when leaving the vehicle. Ms. Hardy asked if there were any summer camp programs that accepted vouchers. Ms. Stankard knew of none, although Sam's Fun City and the City of Pensacola Parks and Recreation may be offering programs.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Pugh highlighted two items from the summary. She reminded the Committee that in the upcoming contract year Providers can receive a differential for child assessments and there are currently 6 programs conducting the assessments with a strong level of reliability. She directed the Committee to the decreasing number of classrooms in PFP (Pay For Performance) Program and explained that the programs dropped out due to noncompliance with deliverable due dates. Ms. Pugh reiterated that several of the former PFP programs would be using their pre-PFP program assessment scores for their 2019-2020 SRPA contracting score.

V. Old Business

a. SR/VPK Status Report

There were 3354 children in care as of May 18, 2019. All families on the Waitlist on May 20 have been notified. Mr. Watson reported that although the Coalition is targeted to de-obligate over a million dollars it will not affect the 2019-2020 allocation. Escambia's target will remain 3,500 children in the upcoming year. There are 37 children with a SR voucher who have not been placed due to lack of a suitable Provider. Mr. Watson reported that there is a trend that parents are seeking programs that transport children (to and from home or school), and these facilities fill up quicker than those who don't transport.

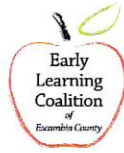
There are 1,300 approved applications for VPK, which is up from this time last year.

b. Provider Contract Summary

There are 85 SR Providers. Mr. Watson reminded the Committee that the numbers for contract terminations are due to statutory requirements, such as disqualified from the USDA food program, too many licensing violations and/or welfare fraud. For voluntary terminations, one Provider closed their business and 4 out of 7 of the total chose not to renew their contract. There are 77 VPK Providers. There were no fraud cases to report.

c. Grow With Me/LENA Update

Ms. Pugh reported that Grow with Me has two programs participating; one family child care home and one center. The family child care home is progressing while the center classroom needs



adjusting on recording day as several of the children do not attend on the current recording day. Ms. Pugh discussed how Grow with Me will be implemented in the 2019-2020 contract year. The first six months of the year will be open to infant toddler classrooms that scored low in the CLASS assessments; the program will be open to the infant toddler classrooms on a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) within their SR contract.

d. SR Program Assessments and Pay For Performance (PFP) Program

Ms. Pugh informed the committee that as of May 16, 2019 that for non-PFP SRPA Assessments, 107 are complete, and there are 16 left to be done.

All required SRPA Assessments will be completed by June 15, 2019. Currently there are two programs in a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), there are those with score below the 3.00 threshold, but above the 2.51 threshold to contract for the 2019-2020 year. There are two programs that scored below the 2.51 threshold who have exercised their option to receive a second observation. The Coalition contracts with the Florida Children's Forum for the second observation. The Provider must pay the current state rate of \$350.00 per classroom to receive the observation.

e. EFS Modernization Transition Update

Mr. Watson reported that he has sent several email reminders to Providers to enter their attendance into EFS Mod. Based on a report in EFS Mod he shared that as of May 16, 2019 only 30 Providers have submitted all 10 months of attendance (Jul-Apr), 24 Providers submitted at least 1 month or more, and 30 Providers have submitted NO attendance at all.

In his email, he stated that All Providers are required to have entered at least six months of their attendance by June 5, 2019. Failure to do shall result in the Coalition issuing notifications of failure to comply with your SR contract and we will withhold payments for May services until such time as at least six months of attendance has been entered.

He informed the Committee that non-compliance letters would go out to Providers that do not make the deadlines. He stated that VPK and SR previous months attendance must be entered into EFS Mod by the 3rd business day of the month or none of the Providers can be paid.

VI. New Business

a. Sliding fee Scale

Mr. Watson reviewed the scale and highlighted figures at the different income levels between 150 and 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). He explained how 85% of SMI will become more important because the match funding program as it currently exist will be discontinued in the new year. OEL is creating a new funding stream much like Childcare Executive Partnership (CCEP) which will also be dissolved. The new funding stream will allow for local 'match' dollars to be designated and will result in a 1:1 match from the state above the SR grant to serve children whose parents income is between 150-200% of FPL. It is estimated that the current funding from the County and United Way would provide for an additional 75 children. There was some discussion



on adjusting the EFS Parent Portal in order to inform parents of their potential eligibility using this enhanced funding stream.

b. Stars Over Escambia Quality Development Incentive Program

With the changes soon to be approved to Rule 6M-4.500 programs that scored below the differential threshold of 4.00 will not receive a payment differential. The majority of Escambia's Providers scored in the 3.00 to 3.99 range on their SR Program Assessments. Therefore, staff recommended that the former quality rating improvement system be revised to incentivize Providers in this range. The new version mirrors the state's incentives especially in the area of CLASS scores and child assessments. Providers can earn up to 5% higher rates for their SR children. Providers must apply for the incentives and include the back up documentation.

c. SR Program Assessment Implementation Policy & Procedure, ELCEC 4301.1A

Mr. Watson explained that much of the first few paragraphs are directly out of the rule and walked the Committee through the section on exemptions. OEL did not approve the first draft therefore, paragraph 6.5 was added. Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Kirk the recommendation to forward the policy to the Board for approval was accepted and approved without objection.

d. Provider Contract Eligibility Policy and Procedure, ELCEC 3201.1E, Revision

Mr. Watson reviewed the statutory changes from 2018-2019 that require a change to the Coalition policy. DCF violations have more impact on contracts. There were several deletions and renumbering items noted. Upon a motion made by Ms. Hardy and seconded by Ms. Kirk the recommendation to forward the policy to the Board for approval was accepted and approved without objection.

e. VPK Summary

Mr. Watson presented the official Readiness Rates that are published on the OEL website. The summary report is in ascending order based on scores, not alphabetically. He explained that a rule is being promulgated to create a point system for the 2018-2019 scores whereby learning gains captured by the VPK assessments (AP1 and AP3) will be used to as an additional factor to the FLKRS results. For example, if 70% of the VPK children improved between the two assessment periods, the FLKRS score would have 7 points added. He indicated that this if applied this year that 19 of the Coalition VPK Providers readiness rates could improve to above the cut-off to be on probation. Mr. Watson added that the issue of children's readiness for Kindergarten, particularly for those having attended VPK, has become an interest item to the Governor. However, the press release from the Governor's office which stated that 42% of the children were not ready for kindergarten was incorrect. The correct statement is that 42% of the state's VPK Providers were low performing.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC Gateway

No report.



b. DCF Outreach

No report.

c. DCF Regulation

No report.

d. Department of Health 5-2-1-0

No report.

e. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

No report.

f. Gulf Coast Kids House

No report.

g. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk reported that the Early Education State Network will be meeting in Pensacola Sept 24-27, 2019. She has several local presenters. Her advisory committee recommended two on line course to be offered through PSC: one for the FCCPC and one on Leadership for Directors.

h. School District Education Career Academy

Ms. Adkison reported on the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, 188 students have tested on 377 exams (part or all of the 40 hour state mandated coursework) 99 students have earned CPR/1st Aid certification; 352 DCF modules have been purchased and 23 National CDA certifications earned. Mr. Watson reminded Ms. Adkison to submit documentation for the CDA reimbursements as soon as possible for this year's budget.

i. School District VPK

No report.

j. Western Panhandle Early Steps

No report.

k. Achieve Escambia

Ms. Ziemba reported the VISTA assigned to early childhood at Achieve is working with families in several housing projects to enroll children in early childhood programs, VPK and HeadStart. Mr. Watson suggested using the sliding fee scale in the information packet for families.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at 3300 N. Pace Boulevard Suite 210 Pensacola Fl 32505