

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**February 10, 2022 10:00 a.m.**  
**Chair: Van Mansker**

**Members in Attendance**

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Mona Jackson	Marcus McBride	Brian Wyer
Melody Meier	Craig Jones	Deborah Tucker
Richard Wright	Cindy Kirk	Shannon Nickinson
Angela Strumeyer	Edna Williams	Shanna Robinson

**Members Absent**

Judy Dickinson	Paul Fetsko	Steven Sanchez
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**Public in Attendance**

None

**Staff in Attendance**

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Vicki Pugh
Nina Daniels		

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on February 1, 2022, and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on February 2, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

**II. Public Comments**

a. None

**III. Chair Comments**

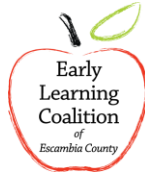
a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the December 9, 2021, Board Meeting, and Financial Statements for November 2021.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wyer and seconded by Mr. Wright, approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Meeting Agenda, Minutes of December 9, 2021, meeting, and Financial Statements for November 2021 was approved without objection.

**IV. Executive Committee Report:**

a. **School Readiness Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual Revision - Approval**

The Executive Committee makes a motion for approval of the School Readiness Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual Revisions. This manual was approved in June, but DEL



requested further revisions be made. Upon a motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Thompson the revision of the Eligibility Manual was approved without objection.

## **V. Executive Director's Report**

### **a. Benchmark Tracker, Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report**

The Benchmark Report through November 2021 was presented. The Coalition is still behind in SR spending due to a lack of space available at provider sites. This is primarily due to a lack of staff to work in the facilities. The Coalition has had to manage pulls from the Wait List so that parents are more likely assured they will be able to find a facility to care for their child(ren).

There are 2,833 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 92 are SRMT and 1,145 are school-age children. Currently, pulls from the Wait List occur as the number of children pending provider placement falls below 30.

There are 1,627 children enrolled in VPK. For the 22-23 VPK program, there are already 308 children approved.

There are 83 SR Providers, and 71 VPK Providers. There are no new fraud cases to report.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **a. Coalition Relocation**

The move was conducted the week of January 15, 2022. There is still some minor work to be completed, but the Coalition is operating normally at this time. The Coalition is working with the Landlord and their contractor to complete the work.

### **b. DEL CRRSA Phase VI and ARPA**

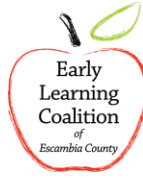
The DEL released the CRRSA Phase VI Grants. The Coalition awarded over \$3.2 million to SR, VPK and non-contracted childcare Providers. The Coalition has to prepare an application for over \$523,000 for recruitment, retention and improving the health of the child care industry in Escambia County. DEL is still working with the Coalitions to develop recommendations for how to best the ARPA funding.

### **c. DEL Financial Review for 2021-2022 February 2022**

The review week is scheduled for the last week in February.

### **d. Board Orientation Postponed to April**

A Board Orientation will be conducted after the April Board meeting. All Board members who have not participated in an orientation are required to attend.



**e. Annual Code of Ethics Training**

Two Board members have not completed the Code of Ethics Acknowledgement Form for 2021.

**VII. New Business**

**a. DEL Notice of AWARD (NOA) December 22, 2021**

DEL released the latest NOA for distribution of each Coalitions portion of ESSER II funding. *ESSER II Funding Provides funding to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) through Section 313 (b) of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund, to address the impact of COVID-19 on elementary and secondary schools.* All new funding goes toward this one program, therefore a new budget is not required. The Coalition decided to follow the recommendation of the DEL and use most of the funding to purchase tablets for all VPK classes to use for monitoring, child assessments and program assessments.

**b. ARPA Grants**

The DEL plan for distribution of ARPA Child CARE Provider Stabilization Subgrants – Round 1 should have been approved February 9, 2022. The ELC Escambia portion of this funding is a little over \$8.9 million. There are many facets to how and when this money can be used.

**c. Legislative Update**

DEL offered some new insights into what is being discussed in the ongoing legislative session. Most encouraging are proposals from the Senate to make the most significant increase in VPK funding since inception of the program. Several DEL presentations and summaries of how Florida VPK compares to other states were reviewed.

**d. Executive Director Resignation**

The Executive Director of the Coalition withdrew his resignation. After careful consideration and having received inputs for the Board and Staff, he decided that with the changes in one Department Head, and a second in the next three to four months, that he needed to stay on to complete the transition and ensure the stability of the Coalition before turning over the Executive Director position. The Board received this news favorably, and several members stated they were pleased with the decision.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office at 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, FL 32501**

**Minutes approved by:**

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 Marcus McBride, Board Secretary

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 Date