



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson

Melissa Sidoti

Jessica Czuprynski

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson

Dawn Engel

Vicki Pugh

Melissa Jennings

Kimberly Sparks

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Victoria Jordan

Sherry Padgett

Deidre Patton

Latavia Blunt

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 September 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson, Committee Chair.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for March 15, 2022

Upon a motion made by Ms. Czuprynski and seconded by Ms. Sidoti, the Agenda and the Minutes of the July 19, 2022, meeting were approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Pugh stated that July was a light month due to school being out. The medical staff are fully booked for the next few months. CPR classes are still going strong.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings stated that the average amount of calls stayed consistent over the past couple of months. There was an increase in the distribution of books.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated that there were issues with her report due to the new processes going on. The report will be fixed and presented at the EXCOM meeting.

Child Assessment: There are 279 children enrolled in the child assessment program.

Developmental Screening: There are two types of ASQ's being administered, the ASQ-3 & ASQ-SE-2.



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VPK Program: Preparations for school beginning increased last month. Tablets to initiate doing child progress assessments were distributed.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are 2,687 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. Last week the Coalition pulled three weeks of children from the waitlist and should be pulling 2 weeks more from the waitlist this week. There are 733 children on the waitlist. To date, there are 1,858 children approved for VPK. 1,605 children have been fully enrolled in VPK as of September 11, 2022. Program Assessments for VPK providers start this year.

There are now 84 School Readiness providers and 72 VPK providers. There was 1 contract terminated since the last meeting.

V. Old Business

a. Update on 2022 Legislative Actions – VPK Funding, VPK Assessments, Coalition Funding Allocation, SR Provider Rates.

1. VPK Funding – This is the first month at the new rates. The VPK base rate increased from approximately \$2,400 to \$2,800 a year and for providers who agreed to pay their lead teachers at least \$15.00 per hour, their rate increased to a total of \$3,200.
2. VPK Assessment – Program assessments will begin this year. The Coalition goal is to have all VPK assessments completed by the end of February or early March. This will give time for any providers who score below 4.0 to receive help and be reassessed and hopefully receive a 4.0 score before the end of the school year. VPK and SR providers must earn a minimum 4.0 score to be able to have a contract for the following year.
3. Coalition Funding Allocation – The State has come out with a new process to allocate funds. All providers were sent a link to the DEL Provider Survey that DEL is encouraging providers to complete. This survey is being used to collect data on SR & VPK programs and will be sent to the cost estimating conference. This data will help the conference determine future allocations.
4. SR Provider Rates – The new rates went into effect June 1, 2022.

b. DEL CRSSA Workforce Initiative

The Coalition had to give back unexpended CRRSA money for 21-22 before it was known exactly how much the requests from providers was going to be. The Coalition had to resubmit an application for the Workforce Retention Packet to get authorization to spend CRRSA in 22-23. The DEL approved the \$720,000 that was requested for retention and recruitment initiatives.

c. ARPA Grants

The first round of ARPA Grants for sustainment payments to providers is almost complete. The last of the installments will be concluded by December. The second round of ARPA Grant



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application is about to start. In addition to provider payments, funding will be available for more retention and training initiatives. All funds must be dispersed by June 30, 2023.

d. Program Assessment Scheduling

SR and VPK program assessments will begin soon. The goal is to have all VPK assessments completed by the end of February. SR assessments will conclude in May. VPK and SR providers must earn a minimum score of 4.0 to be able to have a contract for the following year.

VI. New Business

a. VPK Progress Assessments (FLAIR)

The VPK API, 2 and 3 assessment tool has been replaced by the same assessment tool the DOE uses to assess Kindergarten Readiness. This new assessment tool will be used to evaluate children's progress during their year in VPK.

b. DEL Provider Survey

DEL has sent out Provider Surveys to all Providers to collect data they require to determine how much funding each Coalition will receive. This survey will become a part of what will be required to get a contract with the Coalition. Due to some of the in-depth financial questions asked on the survey, some providers may decide to no longer participate in the program.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

No representative was available to report.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. CareerSource ESCAROSA

No representative was available to report.

d. DCF Regulation

No representative was available to report.

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

No representative was available to report.

f. Early Steps

No representative was available to report.

g. Escambia Children's Trust



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No representative was available to report.

h. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

No representative was available to report.

i. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was available to report.

j. Head Start

No representative was available to report.

k. Pensacola State College

No representative was available to report.

l. Ready Kids

No representative was available to report.

m. School District Education Career Academy

No representative was available to report.

n. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski said that there were no new updates to report on.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 15, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501