

**Early Learning Coalition
Resource Development Committee**

March 21, 2017 – 10:00 AM

Roger Thompson and Tammy Hicks, Co-Chairs

Committee Members:

Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Pam Hagan

Brittney Curtis

Brenda Hardy

Staff:

Bruce Watson
Holly Stratton

Paula Rollins
Christy Zukowski

Karen Abney
Leah Finneseth-Meyers

Partners/Public:

Lakesha Lewis

Dynita Bufford

I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mr. Watson. Neither of the two Co-Chairs was present. Committee members present agreed to allow Mr. Watson to conduct the meeting in absence of the Chairs. The Agenda was approved on a motion made by Ms. Hardy with a second by Ms. Bickerstaff. Ms. Pugh introduced Ms. Leah Finneseth-Meyers, the Coalition's new Program Assessment and Training Specialist.

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

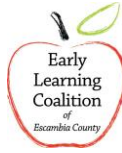
III. Approval of Minutes of January 17, 2017

The Minutes of the January 17, 2017 Resource Development Committee meeting were approved on a motion made by Ms. Hardy with a second by Ms. Bickerstaff.

IV. Program Reports

a. Nursing Services Report

The nurses saw 278 children in January and 258 children in February. Ms. Hagan pointed out on the report that the "Hearing (office)" and "Vision (office)" sections of the nurse's report are the walk-ins that the nurses screened in their Coalition office. In the two combined months, there were 14 vision outcomes reported, resulting in 12 children receiving glasses; and there were 22 hearing outcomes reported, resulting in 5 children being seen by an ENT with 4 children having tubes inserted surgically. There were 8 children seen by an audiologist with recommendations for



a physician evaluation. There was one CPR training class scheduled for January and one in February. The survey comments on the nurses have been positive.

b. CCR&R Update

In the month of January there were 60 calls to CCR&R, of which 11 were previous callers. The majority of the callers were one adult households, parent/step parent who were working. The main inquiries were for location/transportation and affordability/cost. The most frequent requests were for information regarding full time care, child care centers, and school age care. In the month of February, there were 63 calls, of which 20 were previous callers. The majority of the callers were one adult households, parent/step parent who were working. The main inquiries were for location/transportation and affordability/cost. Again, the most frequent requests were for information regarding full time care, child care centers, and school age care. Ms. Whipps mentioned that the numbers were lower due to the Coalition not pulling as many children from the Wait List as in previous months. All of the Eligibility Specialists are CCRR certified now.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Pugh reviewed the Support Summary report with the Committee. The Corrective Action Notices is decreasing, which is a good thing. Ms. Pugh pointed out that the VPK program monitoring numbers for December, January and February need to be updated on the report. There were 12 VPK program monitorings in January and 7 in February. Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that the Coalition conducts provider monitoring only ten months out of the year.

V. Old Business

a. Wait List and Contract Summary

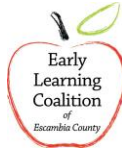
As of March 21, there are 3,023 children enrolled. There are currently 966 children on the Wait List, of which 822 are birth to age five. There are 2,119 children enrolled in VPK. There are currently 142 SR providers and 85 VPK providers under contract. The number of SR providers is the lowest amount the Coalition has ever had. This is primarily due to providers getting out of the business by their own choice. Some homes are deciding not to provide school readiness services anymore because they do not want to transition to online program admin.

b. Infant/Toddler Institute Advisory Work Group

Ms. Pugh provided an update to the Committee. This workgroup met in March and will meet again on June 6. Ms. Pugh shared with the Committee data from the second assessment of the Grow With Me infant/toddler initiative.

c. Inclusion/Behavioral Work Group

Ms. Karen Abney provided an update to the Committee. OEL visited this workgroup's January meeting and did a brief review of the Expulsion Checklist. During that meeting it was discussed what training is needed. The ELC staff suggested to OEL to use the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning teaching model out of Vanderbilt University. It was asked of OEL to provide training to provider directors on discipline and trauma care. There were two expulsions in the month of March.



d. LENA Update

See the meeting minutes from items V.b. and VI.a.

VI. New Business

a. Community Thrives Voting

Community Thrives is a part of USA Today Network and is offering grants to different community projects. There is the potential to receive a \$100,000 grant. If received, all money will go towards expanding the Grow With Me sites. The Committee is encouraged to vote during April 12-May 12. The Studer Community Institute (SCI) met with Mr. Watson and Ms. Pugh to discuss beginning LENA Start, which involves the LENA device going home with the parent and child. SCI also agreed to help the Coalition and the School District follow the Grow With Me children to see what their school readiness scores are and what their third-grade reading level is.

b. QRIS Revision

Mr. Watson asked the Committee members to review the new Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), make comments, then he will present the new system again at the meeting in May. He discussed the Star scoring system and how the amount of points determines a provider's Star rating. Mr. Watson pointed out that some of the providers will have to do these changes anyway in order to comply with new assessment requirements. A copy of the new Rule 6M-4.500 will be sent to providers once it is approved.

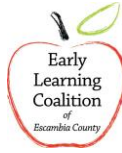
c. Parent Fees/School Age Care

Mr. Watson brought the subject of parent fees and school age care to the Committee for discussion. It was discussed that the Coalition does not have in place a definitive program to ensure that all parents do not pay more than 10% of their gross income on child care. Mr. Watson is happy to say today that OEL has accepted the Coalition's proposal to incorporate a new part of the EFS modernization with the capability to calculate parent fees to keep costs less than 10%. Thus, the Coalition will not have to put in place a sibling discount program. The change in the EFS system is set to be incorporated July 1. The Coalition will be able to afford the new system by discontinuing school age care.

d. Provider Rates: Market Rate and Quality Rating System Changes

Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that the Coalition is paying providers more than other Coalitions pay their providers. To put the Coalition in line with all the other Coalitions in the State, Mr. Watson suggests that for the FY17-18 the Coalition cut all providers rates 10% except for after school care, which will be cut 20%, cut the Gold Seal to 10%, and then the STAR rated providers get paid an incentive. Mr. Watson believes these changes will enable the Coalition to enroll more children, improve the care for the children, and hopes it will improve quality.

e. Provider Contracting Eligibility Policy, ELCEC 3201.1B, and Procedure, ELCEC 3201.1B



Mr. Watson added this item to the agenda during the meeting. As a result of the statutory changes to Health and Safety standards, the Coalition needed to revise its' Provider Contracting Eligibility Policy and Procedure. Mr. Watson explained the policy changes to the Committee. Ms. Curtis asked for clarity on how the changes would affect her three Class III violations, which had nothing to do with child care. One example she gave was that her child care center has ten toilets, yet on the day of inspection one of the toilets was clogged and the sink was not working. Mr. Watson suggested that sections 4.1 through 4.4 be amended from "is not" to "may not". Upon a motion by Ms. Bickerstaff, and seconded by Ms. Hardy, the Committee recommends that the Executive Committee approve the amended policy.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC Gateway

Ms. Bickerstaff provided an update on ARC Gateway. On March 22 ARC Gateway will begin their second full day of screenings since there are a significant number of children who need to be screened. Ms. Lakesha Lewis reviewed with the Committee the child care screenings report.

b. Early Steps

No representative was present to report.

c. School District Academies

No representative was present to report.

d. DCF Licensing

No representative was present to report.

e. DCF Outreach

No representative was present to report.

f. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was present to report.

g. VPK School District

Ms. Bufford had nothing significant to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.