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

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,  
      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. The 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: ________________________________
Marcus McBride, Board Secretary

Date