

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m.  
Chair: Van Mansker**

**Members in Attendance**

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Richard Wright
Paul Fetsko	Deborah Tucker	Reginald Dogan
Melody Meier	Cindy Kirk	Brian Wyer
Shannon Nickinson	Angela Strumeyer	Tammy Greer
Melissa Birdsall	Melissa Sidoti	

**Members Absent**

Mona Jackson	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Marcus McBride
Craig Jones	Shanna Robinson	Edna Williams

**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 and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on August 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

**II. Public Comments**

- a. None.

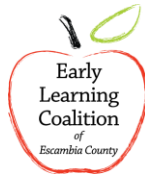
**III. Chair Comments**

- a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the June 9, 2022, Board Meeting.**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wyer and seconded by Ms. Nickinson, approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Meeting Agenda, and the Minutes of June 9, 2022, was approved without objection.

**IV. Executive Committee Report:**

- a. **New Board Member**



Walter Sachs, Family Well-Being Director, of Department of Children and Families has appointed Melissa Sidoti to serve as the Department's Regional Administrator delegate. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Wyer, Ms. Sidoti's appointment to the Board was approved without objection.

**b. FY 2022-2023 Coalition Budget**

The Coalition Budget for FY 2022-2023 was presented for approval. The version of the budget the EXCOM had approved was provided, as well as an amended version that was updated after Mr. Watson prepared the annual Budget Report for submission to the DEL. Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Ms. Strumeyer, the Coalition Budget for FY 2022-2022 was approved without objection.

**c. Warren Averett Terms of Engagement (Audit Contract)**

Warren Averett has submitted a Terms of Engagement, for the A-133 Audit for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. They have requested an increase in their rate from \$20,000 to \$30,000. This is the first time the rate has increased in ten years. The EXCOM recommended approval of the Warren Averett Terms of Engagement. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, the Warren Averett Terms of Engagement was approved without objection.

**V. Executive Director's Report**

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

The Coalition is behind SR spending for two reasons. The first is that in the first part of the calendar year not enough parents applied for services. The second is that for the past six months the Coalition has had to limit the number of children that could be pulled from the Wait List because parents cannot find a place to serve their children. It is not practical to pull children if their parents cannot find a provider. The primary reason parents are having issues finding a provider is because many providers are operating at less than their physical capacity due to staffing shortfalls. Each week the number of children pending provider selection is reviewed and children are not pulled from the Wait List if the number of children is 30 or more.

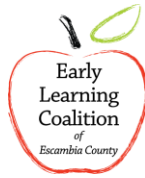
There are 2,648 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 62 are SRMT and 971 are school-age children.

There are already 1,851 children approved for the 2022/23 VPK School Year Program, and 572 have already been enrolled.

There are 84 SR Providers, and 72 VPK Providers. There are no new fraud cases to report.

**b. EOY Program Reports**

End of Year Program Reports were provided to the Board. These reports were presented to EXCOM and a recommendation to bring these reports to the Board was approved. There were 1,413 vision screenings performed during FY 2021-2022 from which 99 referrals were made.



There were 1,429 hearing screenings performed and 97 referrals were made. CCR&R distributed 16,600 books during FY 2021-2022.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **a. CRRSA and ARPA Grant Funding - Update**

The Coalition has nearly \$1 million in CRRSA funding remaining for this fiscal year. Due to the positive responses for retention and recruitment initiatives, a shift in the distribution of the remaining CRRSA funding from provider payments to workforce initiatives has been requested from the DEL.

The first round of ARPA Grants is for direct payments to Providers. The Grant money has been split into three payment that will be paid in three 90-day installment. Applications had to be submitted by June 30, 2022. All Providers have been paid the first installment and some have already been paid their second installment. The funding the DEL moved to this fiscal year will more than cover the remaining installments.

### **b. DEL 2021-2022 Finance Review - Update**

The Finance Review final report was received last week from the DEL. The Coalition had three findings. The Coalition is preparing a response to these findings. The report and the response will be presented to the EXCOM later this month.

### **c. End of Year Funding Transition and Financial Position**

The end of year transition is in process. The Budget Report to DEL was submitted last week. The June invoice has been submitted and work has already begun on the 13<sup>th</sup> invoice which is due September 19, 2022. Due to issues with the previous Finance Director, the Coalition under invoiced the DEL by approximately \$800,000 dollars this past year. This deficit will be corrected with the last invoice for the year.

### **d. Gubernatorial Appointments**

The Chair is up for a second term and one other Board member has an application in for this position. There are no applicants for the second Governor appointed position. If anyone is interested let the ED know and the information for how to apply will be forwarded.

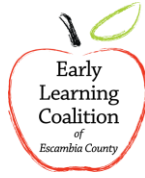
### **e. Vice Chair Opening**

The Vice Chair position is still open. If anyone is interested in the position please let the Executive Director know.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. County Match Funding and Escambia Children's Trust**

The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners held budget workshops on July 13. When the Coalition budget was presented, the Commissioners all agreed that funding for the



Coalition should now be provided by the Escambia Children’s Trust. The Escambia Children’s Trust Board is scheduled to meet August 9, 2022, to discuss the matter.

**b. Achieve Escambia Update**

The decision to no longer participate in Achieve Escambia has been reaffirmed as the Interim Executive Director has stated that she now has a conflict of interest in serving with Achieve Escambia as she is running for a seat on the County Commission.

**c. Executive Director Evaluation**

The SBOE has approved the Rule implementing Coalition evaluations, which includes an annual evaluation of the CEO/ED. The new evaluation form was presented to the Coalition Board members. This new form will need to be submitted by October 31, 2022. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sidoti and seconded by Ms. Greer, it was approved to replace the old ED Evaluation Form with the new one from SBOE without objection.

**d. Finance Director**

The Finance Director of the Coalition resigned on July 15, 2022. The Coalition is in the process of searching for a new Finance Director. Interviews will begin the second half of August.

**VIII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office at 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, FL 32501**

-----  
**Minutes of the meeting on August 11, 2022, of the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County were approved by the Board on October 13, 2022.**