



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Van Mansker

Roger Thompson

Mona Jackson

Members Absent

Marcus McBride

Staff

Bruce Watson

Vicki Pugh

Paula Rollins

Nina Daniels

Fred Perkins

Dawn Engel

Public

Tara Godbey (Warren Averett, LLC)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2022, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal on May 2, 2022, and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on May 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, Financials for March, 2022 and Minutes of March 24, 2022, was approved without objection. Note: The Committee meeting scheduled for April 29, 2022, was cancelled.

IV. Warren Averett, LLC 2020-2021 Audit Presentation (Tara Godbey)

Tara Godbey with Warren Averett LLC presented the results of the 2020-2021 audit. All aspects of the Coalition's financial performances were discussed. There was one finding with the reconciliation of grant activities. The Coalitions grant revenues and receivables did not reconcile to DEL's accounting records. After a thorough review, the reconciliation of all revenue and expenses for 2020-2021 was completed on 05/06/2022. Upon a motion by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Thompson, to forward the Audit as presented to the Board with recommendation for acceptance was approved without objection.

V. Coalition Status Reports: Fiscal Year Benchmark, Enrollment/Wait List Status, SRMT Summary, and Contracting Summary

- a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report:



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The Coalition is over \$2 million under budget in SR. This is due to both insufficient enrollment applications at the beginning of the fiscal year, and since the beginning of the calendar year a slowdown in Wait List pulls because parents cannot find openings to place their children. Both SR and VPK are within statutory ratios for spending.

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

There are 2,765 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. The Coalition slowed pulling from Wait List each week to keep the number of children whose parents cannot find a child care provider to no more than 30 children. Future pulls will be dependent upon the number of children waiting for a provider, as opposed to funding available to place children in care. SRMT numbers were adjusted to keep enrollments in this category capped to 90 children. This is to ensure that Match expenditures for the year do not exceed the combined grants for this purpose from the County and the DEL.

c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

There are 85 SR providers and 71 VPK providers. There is no fraud to report for the year

VI. Committee Recommendations

None.

VII. Old Business

a. DEL CRRSA Coalition Workforce Initiative for Early Educators – Update

The CWIEE portion of the CRRSA funding is being used to give \$1,000.00 bonuses to new hires at provider sites and to pay for their certifications. Recertifications, training and qualifications can also qualify for reimbursement. To aid providers in recruitment 15 billboards have been placed around town to let people know early learning is hiring.

b. ARPA Grants - Update

The Coalition received a \$4.3 million advance of the almost \$9 million total ARPA Round 1 allocation. The DEL informed everyone that the portion of ARPA that is direct payments to Providers would be administered in three installments over the course of 180 days. Applications must be submitted by June 30, 2022.

c. DEL 2021-2022 Finance Review - Update

The draft report is done. There were three findings, all of which the Coalition rebutted. The final report is still being prepared by the DEL.

d. Attempted Theft of Coalition funding by Use of Counterfeit Checks - Update

This will be the last update on the matter. Everything was transferred successfully to the new checking account, and all agencies that debit or credit the Coalition account have made successfully made the transition.



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VIII. New Business

a. 2022 Legislative Update

The Legislature appropriated the largest increase in VPK funding since its inception. The Base Student Allowance (BSA) an additional \$618 more per child. The Legislature also added and additional \$100 million for VPK programs that agree to raise VPK teacher pay to a minimum of \$15.00 an hour. This will add approximately \$400 more per child.

b. DEL Change to Rule 6M-4.500

The DEL made several changes to Rule 6M-4.500. One of the most significant will increase the QPI score required to receive the 4% rate incentive from a 4.0 to 4.5. On a more positive note, starting July 1, 2022, if a Provider receives a Composite Score that results in receiving an increased rate incentive they will no longer have to wait until the following contract year to receive the rate increase, but will instead begin receiving the new rate incentive funds starting the first of the following month.

c. SR Rate Increase

The Coalition was preparing to submit a rate change commencing July 1, 2022, however, in mid-May the DEL informed all Coalitions that the State will be taking over setting School Readiness rates on July 1, 2022, and if a Coalition wanted to initiate a rate change it had to do so with a commencement date of June 1, 2022. The Coalition, therefore, decided to fast track the proposed rate change, but this meant that getting approval of the Board was not possible. The Coalition used the 2021 Market Rate Survey that the DEL published as the basis for the new rates. The new rates are the greater of the 75th percentile of every published market rate or the rates the DEL implemented last year. Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, submitting the rate increases to the Board was approved without objection.

d. End of Year Funding Transition

The Coalition is giving back almost 2 million dollars in CRSSA and ARPA funding so the Coalition can get the funds back in the new Fiscal Year.

e. FY 22-23 Budget Development Status

This meeting is normally when the budget for the next Fiscal Year would be presented to the Committee for approval before taking it to the Board, but due to the Audit and transition issues the budget will not be presented until the next meeting. However, the Coalition needs authority to begin spending for the next Fiscal Year on July 1, 2022. Upon a motion by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the recommendation to the Board for the Coalition to begin spending in the upcoming Fiscal Year was approved without objection.

f. First ECT RFP



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The Escambia Children's Trust released its' first RFP. The Trust wants to implement a Summer Bridge Program for 4 year-olds to give to better prepare qualifying children for Kindergarten. The criteria for the children to meet are (1) Children who are under prepared to enter Kindergarten. (2) Children who have not attended VPK. (3) Children with special needs. Upon reviewing the RFP, Coalition decided to not apply since there are no providers that can be engaged to meet the requirement of this proposal.

g. Achieve Escambia/AELC Affiliations

1. Achieve Escambia: The Executive Director has decided it is in best interest of the Coalition to no longer participate in the activities of Achieve Escambia. The organization no longer has a definitive purpose and mission, and continued involvement may not reflect well on the Coalition and is a waste of staff time.
2. AELC: The Executive Director wants to step back and not be as engaged in meetings with all the other Coalitions. Their interests and concerns are currently not very well aligned with our Coalition. However, it is in the interest of the Coalition to remain engaged with the Executive Director and Assistant of AELC.

h. Second Term Approval Wright and Wyer

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, submitting a recommendation to the Board for approval of second term for Mr. Wright and Mr. Wyer was approved without objection.

IX. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501