



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

**Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 28, 2021 8:30 a.m.

**Members Present**

Van Mansker

Marcus McBride

Roger Thompson

**Members Absent**

None

**Staff**

Bruce Watson

Vicki Pugh

Becki Rutchland

Dawn Engel

**Public**

Mona Jackson

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for January 28, 2021 was sent to the Pensacola News Journal and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on January 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Consent Agenda**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Mansker, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, Minutes of November 19, 2020, and Financials for October and November 2020 was approved without objection.

**IV. Status Reports**

- a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report, Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report

1. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report:

One third of the way into the fiscal year, the Coalition is about \$300,000 dollar behind budget in total grant spending after being ahead in spending the first couple of months. Currently direct services (SLOTS) are at 82% of expenditures. VPK administrative spending is at 5% but will slowly decrease as more VPK funding is spent on services.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

Currently, the Coalition has 3,050 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. The decrease is due to the slow reduction in the number of children in the First Responder/Health



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Care Worker Child Care Program as the program begins to fade out. The program ends formally on March 31, 2021. As the Coalition continues to pull from the Wait List, the historical low uptake rate of 30% to 35% continues. The Coalition has pulled 178 children from the Wait List in the past month. To date, only 28 children, or 16%, have enrolled. SRMT match applicants have a higher acceptance rate, but still not above 50%. SRMT enrollments are nearing the targeted level of enrollments and some children are being recoded from SRMT to BG8 so as not to over expend SRMT funding.

### 3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

The Coalition added no new SR or VPK Providers since the last report.

## V. Committee Recommendations

None.

## VI. Old Business

### a. COVID Impact on Operations

#### 1. Provider Absences and Closure Payments and Parent Fee Waivers

This month absences returned to being paid per Rule at no more than 10 days per month. The Parent Fee Waivers ended on December 31, 2020, which means more money must be spent on SLOTS as cost per child are going down.

#### 2. First Responder and Health Care Worker Child Care

The number of First Responder children (BG1-ESS) enrolled is 357, down from a peak of almost 500 enrollments earlier this year. The Coalition is awaiting further guidance on the end date for the First Responder program.

#### 3. SRPA and Monitoring

The Coalition has recently resumed SRPA and Monitoring site visits. All regular SRPA, not including QIP, will be done by March. Mr. Watson noted mentioned that the Rule on SRPA will not require all Providers to score a 4.0 in 2021-2022 to contract. Providers can still score between a 3.5-3.99 and go on a QIP. In the interest of safety staff are restricted to only visiting one Provider per day. This provides a greater amount of protection to all parties, staff, children, and Providers.

### b. CARES Funding Phase IV and First Responder

All Phase IV funding has been distributed. The deadline for submissions and payments was December 31, 2020. The First Responder Program has begun phasing out and will end completely on March 31, 2021. Authorization to extend referrals ended on December 31, 2020. Current referrals go to what ever end date they have from January 1 to March 31, 2021.



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### c. Escambia Children's Trust Update

The Trust has gotten off to rocky start as there is opposition from the County to support this, and differences of opinion regarding when the Trust can begin to function. They elected a Chair and Vice Chair, but there was a difference of opinion regarding whether, or not, this was allowed by the governing statute.

## **VII. New Business**

### a. OEL Proposed Provider Rate Changes

The OEL proposed School Readiness rate change was discussed. Mr. Watson explained the rationale and methodology the OEL used to calculate their proposal and compared to the rate change request the Coalition submitted back in June 2020. He pointed out the version presented to the Committee is not the final version the OEL will use to increase the rates for the targeted care levels, which are Infant, Toddler and ages 2 to 5. Also, the OEL proposal is very close to what the Coalition requested last year. He summarized the discussion with a request that the Committee recommend to the Board approval of the OEL rate change proposal. On a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. McBride the Committee recommends the Board approve the OEL

### b. Board Member Term Limits

The OEL notified the Coalition that two Board members were appointed for a third term which is not allowed by statute. The two Board members in question have as a result resigned. The OEL did state that after a break from their second term both members could reapply for a new appointment.

The Coalition is in receipt of a Board Member application for Ms. Mona Jackson. Ms. Jackson has previously served on the Board. She previously served as Treasurer and on the Executive Finance Committee. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. McBride, a motion to recommend to the Board to appoint Ms. Jackson as a Board member was passed without objection.

The Coalition has been notified that Ms. Edna Williams will be submitting an application to be appointed to the Board. Ms. Williams has previously served on the Board. The Coalition requests that even though the application is not available currently that the Committee recommend appointment of Ms. Williams to the Board. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. McBride, a motion to recommend to the Board to appoint Ms. Williams as a Board member was passed without objection.

Statute provides for Board member terms to be for either three or four years. Coalition By-Laws provide for either limit as well. Current practice is for members to be appointed for three -year terms. The Coalition asks the Board to consider if it wants to continue this practice or go with longer terms. This discussion was tabled for discussion by the full Board.



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### c. Coalition Operations/Relocation

The Coalition is looking to rent new office space in the Tower Plaza building at the south end of Town and Country Plaza. The landlord has agreed to renovate the fourth floor and half of the first floor to suit the needs of the Coalition.

### d. Mid-Year Operational Reports

The Nursing Services, CCRR and Program Support summaries for the first half of the year were presented. The increase in children's BMI, the increase in CCRR calls to pre-pandemic levels, and the resumption of on-site monitoring visits were discussed.

**Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: February 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505**