



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

**RDC Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 17, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Roger Thompson	Jessica Czuprynski	Cindy Kirk
Shanna Robinson		

**Staff in Attendance**

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Vicki Pugh
Nina Daniels	Wendy Jimenez	Christy Zukowski
Melissa Jennings		

**Providers and Partners in Attendance**

Roselyn Sukal	Shaunna Bailey	Juanita Williams
Stephanie Kroger	Melinda Maiterth	Deborah Marley
Amy Stamey		

**I. Welcome, Call to Order, and Approval of Agenda**

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on January 6, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson, Committee Chair.

**II. Public Comments**

None

**III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for March 15, 2022**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Ms. Czuprynski, the Agenda and the Minutes of the November 15, 2022, meeting were approved without objection.

**IV. Community Partner Updates**

a. Achieve Escambia

No representative was available to report.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. CareerSource ESCAROSA

Ms. Maiterth is the new representative for CareerSource ESCAROSA. She is the career readiness advisor and drafts resumes for individuals and help with interview practices. She reported that CareerSource ESCAROSA will be participating at the job fair in February.



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d. DCF Regulation

No representative was available to report.

e. Early Steps

No representative was available to report.

f. Escambia Children's Trust

No representative was available to report.

g. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

Ms. Goldberg announced that her last name is now Marley. She also reported that FAIMH is winding up a project to try to increase capacity in the mental health area. The active chapter in the panhandle is now meeting on the first Monday every other month. The next meeting is the first Monday in February. Studer Institute is having a parent fair on April 15, 2023.

h. Gulf Coast Kids House

Ms. Stamey reported that this was her first time here and that she is staying busy with community outreach activities.

i. Head Start

No representative was available to report.

j. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk reported that there was not anything new going on and that her numbers are down. She stated that most people are looking for online classes and PSC hasn't added additional online classes and that they are wanting to stay with in-person classes. She was advised to keep a log of how many people call and want online classes.

k. Ready Kids!

No representative was available to report.

l. School District Education Career Academy

No representative was available to report.

m. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski said that there were no new updates to report on. They are currently going through monitoring with the Coalition.

## V. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report



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Ms. Pugh reported that there were 74 Vision screenings performed in December from which 8 referrals were made and 74 hearing screenings were performed from which 11 referrals were made.

### b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings stated that in the months of November and December there were 65 interviews. There was one outreach event in November and one in December. 1,500 books were distributed in November and 1,500 books were distributed in December.

### c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated the number of developmental screenings have picked back up since October. DEL had a glitch in their reporting system that has since been corrected. The Coalition has started the Ready Rosie Program with ReadyKids! and it is going well. There are currently 397 families participating in the program. Monitoring and Program assessments are going as planned. Training is also going as planned.

### d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are 2,712 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. No children have been pulled from the waitlist in the last two weeks. There are 689 children on the waitlist. To date, there are 2,098 children approved for VPK. 1,680 children are enrolled in VPK as of January 8, 2023.

There are 85 School Readiness providers and 77 VPK providers.

## **VI. Old Business**

### a. DEL CRRSA Workforce Initiative

The Coalition is officially done with CRRSA program and has spent 100 percent of the money awarded by the DEL. The Coalition has applied for spending authority to use the ARPA equivalent to continue doing workforce initiatives for the next 6-7 months.

### b. ARPA Grants

The second round of ARPA direct payments are being done now. The Coalition has just under \$1.3 million to spend on ARPA Workforce educational and qualification related incentives.

### c. Program Assessment Scheduling

SR and VPK Program Assessments are going well. The Coalition is halfway through the year and almost halfway through the assessments. There have been 2 Providers that failed to achieve the composite score required. Both have requested second assessments.

## **VII. New Business**



## Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

### a. Resource Development Committee Way Ahead

The Coalition is still not pleased with the lack of participation from the Provider community in the Resource Development Committee. The Coalition is looking for ways to get the Provider community to want to contribute input and attend the committee meetings.

### b. Provider Board Representatives

In February, the Coalition will initiate the process to solicit nominees to be elected for two Provider Representatives to the board, one representing private providers and one representing faith-based providers. Nominations will be solicited in February and March. Providers will be asked to vote on their representative in April. The results from the vote will be taken to the Board in June for final approval.

### c. Discuss Ideas to Improve Child Care Employment Levels

All present agreed there is a severe shortage of people willing to work in the child care industry in Escambia County. Efforts have been made to remedy this situation, but the Coalition asks if anyone has ideas to improve the level of employment in the childcare industry to please submit them to the Coalition.

**Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.**

Next Meeting: March 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501