



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson (Chair)	Marcus McBride	Jessica Czuprynski
Ruthie Christie	Brian Wyer	Shannon Nickinson
Kim Krupa	Aisha Adkison	Brenda Hardy
Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Jessica Czuprynski	

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Paula Rollins	Dawn Engel
Nina Daniels	Melissa Jennings	Roxanne Daley
Angela Mitchell		

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Aileen Ilano	Deborah Jackson	Kristy Craig
Mindi Crain	Juanita Lindsey	Lawanna Hamilton
Misty Lambeth	Tangee Coleman	Andretta Malden
Diedre Patton	Victoria Jordan	

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 May 3, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson, the Committee Chair.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for January 19, 2021

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wyer and seconded by Ms. Hardy, the Agenda and the Minutes of the March 16, 2021, meeting were approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Mr. Watson gave the report. He noted that there were many visits to providers in March and April. The contract with DOH for medical supports services end on June 30, 2021 and will not be renewed. Services will be provided solely by Coalition staff from now on.

b. CCR&R Update

It appears employment is on the rise as the number of calls of parents who need child care in order to be able to work keeps increasing each month. Calls per month are about the same as before the pandemic.



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c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel site visits have resumed and most of the annual SRPA visits, with the exception for those that are on a Quality Improvement Plan, will be done by the end of April.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

Mr. Watson noted that enrollment numbers have been decreasing. Only 2952 children are enrolled as of this week. The decrease in enrollments is in part due to the First Responder Program ending on March 31, 2021.

The Coalition still has no Wait List as all children are pulled each week. Currently, there are 12 children and 32 PS children who are approved but have been unable to find care due to limited space available, or not meeting the preferences of their parents or guardians. Providers have indicated that space is limited due to a lack of teachers resulting in a shortage of staff throughout the county. Staffing shortages are being experienced statewide and is a significant factor here in Escambia County.

The Coalition still has 83 School Readiness Providers and 65 VPK Providers.

V. Old Business

- a. First Responder and Health Care Worker Child Care (Enrollments ended July 31, 2020, program ends March 31, 2021)

All enrolments end on than March 31, 2021. Parents are being encouraged to apply for SR services to determine if they qualify. Prior SR clients are being reverted as well.

- b. Coalition Relocation

The Coalition is still negotiating with the landlord to renovate new offices in the office tower at the south end of Town and County Plaza.

VI. New Business

- a. SR Provider Rate Increase and Contract Amendments

The OEL SR rate increase was fully implemented and went into effect on January 1, 2021. Many Providers are in the process of changing their private pay rates so as to take full advantage of the rate increase. Contract amendments will continue as needed until all the rate change requests are complete.

- b. OEL SRPA Rule Impact on 21/22 Contracts

The OEL decided through Rule to extend the cut off for contracting at 3.5 into Fiscal Year 2021/2022. However, if Providers score below a 4.0, they will have to be on a Quality Improvement Program (QIP). Starting in 2022/2023 all Providers will have to score 4.0 or higher to be eligible for a SR contract.



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c. Annual CCRR Updates and 21/22 Contracting

The Coalition is in the midst of the annual OEL CCRR Provider Profile updates. All Providers must update their profiles in EFS MOD before May 31, 2021. However, they will need to be done before that if they want to initiate next year's contract on time.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

No representative was available to report.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. DCF Regulation

Ms. Strumeyer stated most of the Regulation office staff are still teleworking. The office can still be contacted by calling the main number and the call will be forwarded accordingly. Renewals still need to be submitted on time, but Providers can expect delays in getting the approval back on time. If you need verification that you have submitted the renewal package, contact the Regulation Office and they can send email confirmation. Renewal notices are going out 90 days prior, and submissions must be made no later than 45 days prior, to expiration date. Send the application form and check to Tallahassee by regular mail, the rest of the package can be emailed. The Regulation Office is looking to hire a new Counselor.

d. Department of Health 5-2-1-0

No representative was available to report.

e. ECARE

Ms. Christie encourages parents to sign up for the Ready Rosie App. There is no cost as this is being offered under an Impact 100 Grant. If anyone is interested, she asks that they please contact her at kristy@escambiareads.org

f. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

No representative was available to report.

g. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was available to report.

h. Pensacola State College

No representative was available to report.

i. School District Education Career Academy



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No representative was available to report.

j. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski informed everyone that VPK enrollments for school district sites will begin on April 5.

k. Western Panhandle Early Steps

No representative was available to report.

a. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505