

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes**

(Note: These are meeting notes, vice minutes, as the meeting did not meet quorum.)

February 13, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Chair: Van Mansker

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker
Cindy Kirk

Roger Thompson
Drew Hardgrave

Judy Dickinson

Members Called In

Craig Jones

Brian Wyer

Richard Wright

Members Absent

Peggy Steward
Beate Bolton
Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Sheryl Rehberg

Dr. Laura Edler
Edna Williams
Melody Meier

Wendi Ochs
Mary Ann Winstead
Mona Jackson

Staff

Dawn Engel
Jamie Phelps

Vicki Pugh
Becki Rutchland

Paula Rollins

Welcome and Introductions:

Notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and website on January 31, 2020 and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on January 27, 2020

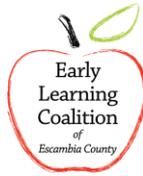
I. Public Comments:

There were no Public Comments.

II. Chair Comments:

a. Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of December 12, 2019, and Financial Statements for October and November 2019.

Mr. Mansker announced that there were not enough Board members in attendance to meet quorum, therefore the meeting could not be called to order. Mr. Mansker asked Ms. Rutchland to provide an update on the recent audit. Ms. Rutchland reported that although written results are pending receipt, the Coalition has received oral confirmation that there were no findings and no citations noted. Mr. Mansker commended Coalition staff and thanked them for an doing an outstanding job.



III. Executive Committee Report:

a. Board Provider Representative Position

No discussion as quorum was not met.

b. Board Actions

No official discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker reported the following changes in Board membership:

1. Christina Doss: resigned 12/31/2019 (Designee pending)
2. Mary Ann Winstead: resigned 1/26/2020
3. Roger Thompson: retired 3/31/2020 (DCF Relief: Angela Strumeyer)
4. Edna Williams: second term expires 2/12/2020 (Proposed Approval of Third Term is pending)

Mr. Mansker thanked Mr. Thompson for his years of service on the Board and he presented Mr. Thompson with a service plaque.

c. Board Vice Chair and RDC Chair

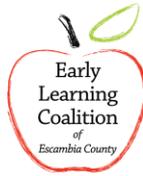
No official discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker encouraged anyone who is interested in filling these roles to contact Mr. Watson to express interest.

d. Match Funding

No discussion as quorum was not met. Mr. Mansker announced that the Board will review this item at the next meeting.

e. Coalition Reorganization

Although the Board did not take action on this item as quorum was not met, Mr. Mansker asked Ms. Engel to provide an overview of the proposed Coalition reorganization. Ms. Engel reported that under the new organization, the Program Improvement Department is merged with the Program Integrity Unit to form the new Operations Department. In addition, a new Community Impact Department has been added. The Community Impact Director position will be a part time position. It is anticipated this arrangement will last at least 12 months, after which the outcomes and effectiveness will be evaluated, and a decision will be made to keep the department or merge it into another department or division. Ms. Pugh will be the Community Impact Director and Ms. Dawn Engel the Operations Director effective March 1, 2020. The proposed reorganization will make the Coalition's organization like that of many other Coalitions. The Provider Support and SR/VPK Contracts position was moved from the Finance Department to the Program Integrity Unit several months ago and that change is now reflected on the updated Organizational Chart. The new chart also reflects one additional FTE role in the Finance Department which was added in order to handle additional workload demands created by the EFS MOD system. The Coalition currently has 39 staff members, but that number may increase to 41 or 42 if the addition of VPK Program Assessment is added as a result of pending legislation. Further discussion will be held after the legislation is finalized in roughly two months. The Coalition may need to obtain additional physical space if the number of staff



members increases. There is space available in the suite next to the Eligibility office so that may be a viable option. Reorganizational impact to Administrative costs will be minimal and will remain within the 5% cap on Admin.

IV. Executive Director's Report:

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

1. Benchmark Report:

Ms. Engel reported that the Coalition is underspent by about \$1,000,000 at this time.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

Currently there are 3,267 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 1,244 are school-age children. There are 86 children enrolled in the SR Match Program. There are 1,886 children enrolled in VPK.

3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

The Coalition has 82 School Readiness Providers at this time. Two potential new Providers are waiting on health and safety inspections. Currently there are 78 VPK Providers.

There were no new cases of fraud to report.

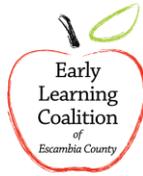
b. Semi-Annual Operations Reports

No discussion as quorum was not met.

c. 2020 Legislative Actions

Mr. Mansker noted that under the proposed legislation there would no longer be an Office of Early Learning. Instead, the Office of Early Learning would become the Division of Early Learning with more definitive lines of authority within the DOE. Under the proposed changes, the State Board of Education would exert greater control over the former Office of Early Learning. Mr. Mansker noted that both he and Mr. Watson have expressed concern about statutory restrictions regarding the eligibility of entities exclusively under the authority of the Public School System to receive Children's Services Council funding. Although there may be workarounds to the restrictions, concern remains over the legal interpretation. Legal advice has been solicited on the matter.

Another big change in the proposed legislation is that VPK would be assessed in a manner similar to the SR assessments currently in place. In addition, ELAC would be abolished under the proposed legislation and a committee would be established whose primary function would be to develop a better method of establishing VPK Readiness Rates. A combination of CLASS scores, something perhaps related to FLKRS, and a follow on to the VPK assessments would be the factors for determining VPK Readiness Rates. There is general agreement that the VPK assessment is insufficient to be used for definitive consequences so development is underway for an assessment that would include social and emotional measurements, not strictly academics.



Another key component of the proposed legislation is that the minimum requirements to qualify as a VPK Director will increase significantly. A gradual phase in of the new requirements has been proposed as there will be no grandparenting clause with respect to meeting the new standards.

VPK payment rates are expected to rise significantly more so than the rates have risen over the last ten years.

An Estimating Conference has been proposed in order to determine the SR funding each Coalition would receive. The Conference will take into consideration not only the number of children served but other factors such as economic concerns. Prevailing Market Rates may be determined in order to establish base payment rates for the entire state with cost of living adjustments for each county factored in. The current wording of the legislation would not allow Coalitions to pay more or less than the established rate. Most Coalitions across the State are not opposed to an established rate however, Coalitions agree that authority to adjust local rates to meet local needs should remain within control of each Coalition.

Also included in the legislation is a proposal to reduce the maximum size of Coalition Boards from 30 to 15 members. The average Board size statewide is about 21, and Miami only has 22 Board members. For Escambia County, there would be 10 designees, three Governor Appointees, and at most, one or two Private Sector Representatives. Coalitions statewide have indicated that input from the Private Sector is critical.

Language throughout the proposed legislation refers to Early Learning - 20, as opposed to K – 12, but the early learning focus is only on VPK. The narrow focus on academics without equal consideration given to social and emotional development is of general concern to both Coalitions and Providers and the Coalition has already lost one Provider due to this issue. The bill has been submitted and will be in discussion over the coming months. Mr. Mansker noted that there is a chance that the bill may die because it lacks any budgetary analysis on funding the changes and the budget has already been submitted.

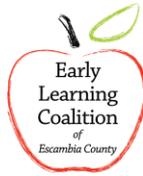
Related to this, Mr. Mansker indicated that the Rule regarding the new SRPA cutoff rates was pulled largely due to Mr. Watson's input regarding potential legal ramifications from Providers who fall between a 3.0 and a 3.5 and who had never been afforded the option of participating in a Quality Improvement Plan.

d. Provider Rates and State Market Rates

No discussion as quorum was not met.

V. Old Business:

a. Escambia Children's Trust Update



Ms. Engel reported that CSC efforts are ongoing but fundraising has not kicked into full gear at this time. Initial estimates are that the campaign may cost roughly \$100,000 dollars. She noted that Mr. Watson would like the Board to consider approving a Coalition donation of \$500 dollars from unrestricted funds to the CSC campaign and, most importantly, publicly name the Coalition as officially in support of the Trust. No further discussion ensued as quorum was not met.

b. EFS Modernization Transition Update

Ms. Engel reported that reconciliation for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 shows that the Coalition has a zero balance for over payments and underpayments. She noted that reconciliation of any discrepancies between EFS MOD and what the Coalition actually paid Providers for the current year will at best be completed in July.

VI. New Business:

a. 8th Annual Early Learning Summit – May 26, 2020

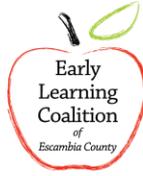
The proposed date for the 8th Annual Early Learning Summit is Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Two sessions are planned with one held in the morning and one held in the afternoon. The morning session will feature the screening of a 45-minute version of the film, “No Small Matter.” The afternoon session will feature a full-length screening of the film. The proposed Keynote Speaker for both sessions is Early Learning Specialist Rachel Giannini. The proposed morning session venue is Greenhut Auditorium on the Sacred Heart Campus. Selection of the venue for the afternoon session is pending.

b. 2020 Census

Ms. Pugh noted that CCR&R and the new Community Impact Department will function as 2020 Census Champions. On-line entry is highly encouraged. The Census Bureau will mail reminder cards several times and representatives will visit in person if the process is not completed. Ms. Pugh noted that the State of Florida forfeited \$67,000,000 dollars in yearly funding as a result of underreporting during the last Census. Underreporting was largely attributed to hard-to-count populations and it was noted that children under the age of four are particularly underreported. 2020 Census information has been posted to the Coalition’s FaceBook page and a link to the Census web site has also been provided.

c. IT Security Brief for Board

Mr. Whipps provided an overview of the Coalition’s current technical security. He noted that sometime in calendar year 2020, the Coalition expects to retire the Legacy EFS system that has been run in house. Decommissioning the in-house system is expected to enhance data security by reducing vulnerability to hacking attempts. He noted that over the last year a variety of software upgrades and updates have been run, the roll out to Windows 10 was finished, and back-end software was also updated. The upgrades have allowed the IT Department to transition to a more proactive approach as opposed to a reactive approach. Primary data threats are more likely to originate with organized criminal activity than with generic malicious hacks. In response to a recent data breach, the City of Pensacola spent about \$140,000.00 just to have a consultant assess and identify the data that had been compromised. Both the likelihood of data



breaches and the cost of addressing the breaches continue to rise therefore, preemptive spending is advisable. The estimated cost of cyber crime worldwide is roughly \$3,000,000.00 a minute resulting in a total loss of roughly \$1.5 trillion dollars over the last year. Statistically, roughly 90% of breaches are attributed to human error and not to technical issues. 20% to 30% of human error is attributed to clicking on links to malware contained within phishing attempts. It is estimated that about 40% of data breaches occur because available software patches were not applied. Technical preventative measures are in place, so the Coalition is primarily focused on user education. The Coalition partners with Know Before to conduct training so that employees can identify malware and suspicious activity. Primary prevention is focused on social media as it is the source of nearly 90% of malicious spyware.

VII. Adjourn

Lacking quorum, the meeting was not called to order therefore the meeting was not adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2020 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505

Minutes approved by:

Sheryl Rehberg, Board Secretary

Date