

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2016 – 8:30 AM

Members in Attendance

Kermit Housh Kim Carmody Roger Thompson Cliff Krut
Tammy Hicks Mona Jackson

Members Present by Conference Call

None

Staff

Bruce Watson Paula Rollins Becki Rutchland Dawn Engel
Vicki Pugh Holly Stratton

Guests

None

I. Welcome and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Housh.

a. Consent Agenda Approval

The Agenda, the Minutes of March 2016 and the February and March 2016 Financial Statements were accepted without objection.

II. Appeals Committee:

The minutes for the Appeals Committee are kept and approved separately.

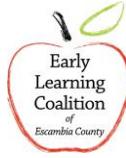
III. Public:

There was no public comment.

IV. Financials:

a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Utilization/Projections:

Mr. Watson informed the Committee that current enrollments are slightly above what the Coalition would normally consider to be a budgetary steady state. The increase is intentional to compensate for enrollments in January and February falling below our desired levels due to an unforeseen number of terminations. The financial tracker was reviewed by the Committee. It was pointed out by Mr. Watson that the Coalition for fiscal year in School Readiness is over 84% for slots, administrative is at 3.6%, indirect is at 8%, and quality at 3.8%. The quality amount, however, does not include Infant/Toddler Gold Seal (IGS) that OEL now counts toward meeting the requirement for a minimum of 4% of expenditures go towards quality. Recently OEL removed all Gold Seal from counting towards quality, but then decided to add the portion that is IGS back in. With IGS, Coalition quality is 6.5%. Mr. Housh inquired as to when the required expenditure on Quality will begin to go up and what the minimum will be for the Coalition. Mr.



Watson replied that it would go up in the 2016/2017 year, the minimum has not been published yet but he think it will be 5% this year, and increase 1% per year up to the new minimum required by the CCDF of 9%. Mr. Housh calculated that for every 1% increase in quality expenditures the Coalition would spend \$130,000 less on School Readiness slots. It was noted by Mr. Watson that the Coalition is back on the desired SR budgetary timeline having spent \$10.2M, or 74%, and of the \$13.3M budget three quarters of the way into the fiscal year.

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

As of April 25, there were 630 children on the wait list. 478 of those children were birth to five years old. Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that he recently did an analysis on the 1,249 school age children currently enrolled. It was suspected that school age enrollments were this high due to completely clearing out the wait list, including school agers, two years ago, but it turned out this is not the case. Over 700 of the 1,249 school agers are siblings of Priority 3 birth to five children. While the remaining 400 children do not have younger siblings many of them are in care because they were enrolled when they were birth to five.

c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

Mr. Watson made note that two years ago the Coalition has 66 child care homes and now that number is down to 51. The reduction is more because people are choosing to close their business rather than the Coalition terminating contracts. It was explained by Mr. Watson that Escambia County has an inordinate number of providers whose sole source of income is school readiness children, and without school readiness children enrolled they have no other source of income. Mr. Housh noted that when it comes to School Readiness there is three times more capacity under contract than what our state grant allows us to enroll.

V. Working Committee Recommendations:

There were no Committee recommendations.

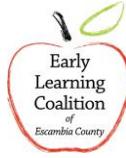
VI. Old Business

a. Food Program

Mr. Watson gave an update to the Committee. All of the providers have been notified that the food program is ending. Mr. Watson has learned that the providers affected by this are putting together a petition to implore him not to end the program. The Coalition is still looking for a non-profit to take over the food program. Mr. Watson met with a provider who was trying to put together a nonprofit to take over the food program, but the Department of Health said only an existing nonprofit can take over the program, and it has to be one which is not otherwise affiliated as a recipient in the food program. The program will end on June 30, 2016. Mr. Watson asked the Committee's permission to extend the end date to September 30, 2016 if someone comes forward before June 30 and says they want to take over sponsorship. Although the Committee did not specifically vote on the matter, permission was granted.

b. Early Learning Breakfast

The 4th Annual Early Education Summit breakfast is May 12, 2016. Mr. Housh will give the opening comments. The guest speakers this year are Dr. Rick Harper, Chief Research Officer for



UWF, and Dr. Craig Jones, Program Director in Early Childhood Education at UWF. Mr. Watson will also be making a presentation.

VII. New Business:

a. Provider Contagion Concern

Mr. Watson informed the Committee that a provider has an employee who has an active case of tuberculosis. This is of extreme concern. The Coalition has been working closely with the Provider staff, Mr. Thompson, with DCF, and the local Department of Health office. The Department of Health will be going out to check the results of all the tests they did on Tuesday. The infected employee's daughter also has tested positive for tuberculosis. The employee did not know she had tuberculosis, but she had been diagnosed with strep and pneumonia and came back to work for a week. She should not have been allowed back into the work space until she was well. Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that as the new statutes came out this year, one of the requirements written into the new Early Learning statutes is that DCF will inspect every provider at least once per year for health and safety. DCF will then provide their findings to OEL and the appropriate Coalition. OEL is developing rules that they will take these findings and treat them as if they were a DCF violation.

b. VPK for five year olds

Mr. Housh shared with the Committee that he is happy that the bill to allow parents to enroll their five year olds in VPK has been passed and signed by the Governor. Now the hard part is figuring how to implement it. Ms. Jackson asked if the system would catch it when the parents register their children that the child has already had a year of VPK. Mr. Watson replied yes, and added that another concern is what will be the status of a child who has previously finished 70% of VPK, but did not complete the course, will there be a cutoff point. A question proposed by Mr. Watson is what to do with a child who has completed two weeks of VPK and then dropped out due to developmental issues. OEL must provide answers to these questions.

c. Grade Level Reading

Florida's Grade Level Reading Campaign is a national campaign. It does not give the Coalition any money but Mr. Watson believes it gives a certain level of validity and endorsement to what the Coalition is doing. The Coalition is working with the Grade Level Reading folks at OEL and is in the process of getting signed up on the list. The Coalition is tying the Reading Stars program to this campaign and will be taking the Reading Stars program out to the community to get more people involved.

VIII. ED/Chair Travel

ED travel provided for informational purposes only. No action required.
AELC Annual Meeting, Bradenton, May 17-19, 2016.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am

Next Meeting: May 26, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Coalition Office