



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson	Marcus McBride	Tammy Hicks
Jessica Czuprynski	Cindy Kirk	Brenda Hardy
Edna Williams	Shanna Robinson	Aisha Adkison
Ruthie Christie	Kim Krupa	

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Melissa Jennings
Dawn Engel	Christy Zukowski	Paula Rollins

Providers in Attendance

Tangee Coleman	Netisha Rogers	Sherrell Thomas
Lawanna Hamilton	Juanita Lindsey	Aileen Ilano
Wendy Evil	Misty Cawthorn	Roselyn Sukal
Victoria Jordan	Andrea Grace	

Callers on Zoom Identified by First Name Only

Tonia	Hollyberry
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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 4, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson, the new Committee Chair.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes for July 21, 2020 and September 15, 2020 Notes

Upon a motion made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Ms. Kirk, the Minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting and Notes of the September 15, 2020 were approved without objection. Neither Minutes nor Notes were made for the November 15, 2020 meeting because no one attended.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Tucker was not in attendance. Mr. Watson noted that the medical support staff is back to conducting the typical number of site visits at this time in spite of the pandemic. The medical support staff is available on request to conduct site visits, training, and screening services.

b. CCR&R Update



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Ms. Jennings highlighted the increase in phone calls. Mr. Watson noted that the mid-year reports will be presented to the Executive Committee and the Board at their February meeting.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel site visits have resumed. Staff exercise caution when visiting Providers sites, they wear PPE and observe the Providers other requirements. The Program Assessments are on track to be completed as scheduled. Note was made that very few other Coalitions are conducting site visits at this time.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

Mr. Watson noted that enrollment numbers are up slightly and that 3119 children are enrolled as of this week. The decrease in enrollments is due to losses from the First Responder Program as that program begins to phase out. The application deadline for the First Responder Program was the end of July and all referrals end by March 31, 2021. The number of SRMT children enrolled is being kept at around 120 so as to not over spend in this funds limited category.

The Coalition effectively has no Wait List as all children are pulled each week. Currently, there are 16 children and 34 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 has 83 School Readiness Providers and 65 VPK Providers.

V. Old Business

a. COVID Topics

i. Provider payments for all enrollments

Payments to Providers based on enrollments and instead of attendance effectively ended September 30. For October, November, and December the number of allowable absences was 16, 14 and 12, respectively. Starting in January 2021 reimbursement will be based on the regular rules for attendance, but with more understanding regarding extraordinary absences, more than three up to ten.

ii. Parent Fee Waivers (Ended December 31)

Except for children in the First Responder Program the waiver for payment of Parent Co-Payments (Parent Fees) ended on December 31, 2020.

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

Eligibility to renew of existing referrals ended on December 31, 2020. As a result, all referrals will end no later than March 31, 2021, and the program will come to a close.

iv. SRPA and Monitoring (Resumed October 1, 2020)

The Coalition is conducting all required assessments and monitoring requirements.



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v. 2020-2021 Contracts (Extensions end NLT 30 days after 20-21 SRPA)

Contract extensions granted for the 2020-2021 contract year end shortly after an SRPA is conducted for this year. This same SRPA also counts for the requirement to be eligible for 2021-2022 contract.

vi. CARES Phase IV Grants

CARES Phase IV grants were processed and awarded to all child care providers in Escambia, contract and non-contract by December 31, 2020. This completes the CARES Funding program at this time.

b. Escambia Children's Trust Update

The Trust was approved by referendum. Now comes the work to staff the Council and file the paperwork necessary for the Trust to begin to operate.

c. RDC - Committee Chair

Mr. Roger Thompson volunteered to be the Chair of the RDC. Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

d. Fire Impact and Recovery

The Coalition has more or less recovered from the fire, however, both as a result of the fire and the pandemic the majority of the staff currently telework on a daily with only limited staff coming in to the office to conduct business with clients or Providers. However, as time goes on it is being reaffirmed that much of what the Coalition has to do can be done virtually.

VI. New Business

a. Possible Coalition Relocation

The Coalition entered into negotiations with the landlord to possibly relocate the offices to the Town and Country Plaza Tower at the South end of the complex. This would allow the old offices to be used for retail and move the Coalition into office more in line with the current business model. More to follow as the discussions continue.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

Ms. Krupa discussed the Escambia Children's Trust and mentioned that only six people have submitted applications of the fifteen required for the Governor to select five appointees to the Council. Information on the Trust can be found at www.escambiachildrenstrust.org

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. DCF Regulation

No representative was available to report.

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



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No representative was available to report.

e. ECARE

Ms. Christie said ECARE is still looking for mentors, although they have changed their model somewhat and are doing virtual meetings with students. 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

Ms. Kirk reported that the next DCF Trauma Informed Care Training begins February 5, 2021.

i. School District Education Career Academy

Ms. Adkison said the new Superintendent, Dr. Smith, has a goal to improve Early Care and Education and is a supported or career academies. The ECE Academy qualified 23 CDA's last year. Which is an impressive number.

j. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski was present but had nothing to report.

k. Western Panhandle Early Steps

No representative was available to report.

b. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505