MISSION STATEMENT

To identify and meet the needs of children and families to lay the foundation for lifetime success by: maximizing each child's potential, preparing children to enter school ready to learn, and helping families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

TO SUPPORT THIS MISSION, THE COALITION UPHOLDS THESE VALUES

1) School readiness programs shall prepare children for success in school.
2) School readiness programs shall involve parents as their child's first teacher and support family skill building.
3) School readiness programs shall be an integrated and seamless system of services and shall be implemented by the local coalition working with partnering agencies and programs.
4) School readiness programs shall be coordinated and public funding integrated to achieve effectiveness and efficiency.
5) Early learning programs shall be supported in their efforts to expand professional development and promote program quality.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Meri Asmar: Private Sector
- Leona Bailey: Governor Appointment
- Mary Ann Bickerstaff: Rep. Children w/Disabilities
- Alexis Bolin: Private Sector
- Julie Booth-Moran: Private Sector
- Jewel Canada-Wynn: Private Sector
- Robert Cothran: Board of County Commissioners
- Hollace Craven, Ph.D.: Community College Designee
- Judy Dickinson: Head Start
- Richard W. Dodd: Private Sector
- Brenda Hardy: Provider Representative
- Skip Housh, Chair: Governor Appointment
- Kathy Lasky: Private Sector
- Linda Maultrie: School District Designee
- Susan Nels: Regional Workforce Board
- Kathy Nelson: Private Sector
- Kismet Rideau: Private Sector
- Roger Thompson: DCF Licensing Supervisor
- Trena Webb: County Health Department Designee
- Carolyn Williams: Provider Representative
- Edna Williams: Private Sector
- Lori Winterberry: Provider Representative

P L A Y

L E A R N

G R O W

Parent's are a child's first teacher. Parental Involvement is an important factor in every child's life.
Quality Initiatives

School Readiness (SR) - Subsidy Child Care

Child Care Assessment & Screenings

The ELCEC partners with the Escambia County School District (ECSD) to administer and assist providers with screenings and assessments. This has proven to be an invaluable partnership, thus ensuring children are identified early in the learning process to help prevent learning failures. It is our intention that early notice and intervention will allow for greater success for our children. Our community is working together to bridge the gap sometimes faced within fluid communities by tracking child need. Trainings are collaborated with providers, community partners, subsidy/non-subsidy providers and national organizations. The Coalition also supports a Behavioral Specialist who offers on-site and telephonic consultation to enable classroom teachers and program directors to support children with unique needs. These two support positions have enabled many children to be better supported in early learning programs.

Health Screenings and Education

The ELCEC partners with the local health department, the Escambia County Health Department (ECHD), to administer height, weight, hearing, vision and BMI screenings, as well as, health/nutritional classes. This service also provides timely information by local, state, and federal agencies during high health stress times, i.e. H1N1, normal flu, and other localized health outbreaks. This has proven to be very instrumental in the prevention of current and future health crises. The Coalition began conversations with the ECHD to deliver their services in two manners: provider sites and the Subsidy office site. We believe these venues will deliver our services in a more budget-friendly manner, while still maintaining the high level of service we feel our community deserves.

Child Care Food Program

The ELCEC partners with the Department of Health to provide our services to promote, monitor, reimburse, and train local, licensed child care homes with their children’s nutritional needs. We staff 1.5 FTE positions to provide these services to a three (3) county area to ensure the community children have healthy, nutritious meals and snacks. We reimburse providers approximately $20,000 monthly for their meal preparations and snacks. In some cases, these are the only nutritious meals these children receive.

Fiscal

Provider Training & Technical Assistance

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

A Free Parent Information Line

The ELCEC operated this service in multiple venues by contracting with United Way to facilitate and handle calls specific to our Coalition. During the middle of the year the organization transitioned to a 211 system. Once the client is assisted with CCR&R they are furthered questioned to ensure their other needs not just with the initial request. We have found that those clients requesting CCR&R normally have additional questions which 211 has ready access to the appropriate answers. This partnership is greatly valued and recognized throughout the community. Our eligibility department also assists clients with parenting information and community solutions when they are in the office for child care assistance. Multiple questions are fielded with great success, especially with our newest Family Support Specialist staff member.

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