

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2016 - 10:00 AM
Chair: Kermit Housh**

Members in Attendance

Kermit Housh	Kim Carmody	Tammy Hicks
Jeanne Martin	Pam Hagan	Van Mansker
Susan Nelms	Martha Tutchtone	Edna Williams
Craig Jones	Roger Thompson	

Members Present by Conference Call

None.

Members Absent

Betty Persons	Drew Hardgrave	Brittany Moore
Gerald Boone	Judy Dickinson	Mary Ann Bickerstaff
Wendi Ochs	Mona Jackson	

Members of the Public

Brenda Hardy	Cliff Krut	Sherry White
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Staff

Bruce Watson (call in)	Vicki Pugh	Dawn Engel
Becki Rutchland	Paula Rollins	Holly Stratton

I. Welcome and Introductions:

A. Special Guest:

Ms. Pugh introduced to the Board Dr. Sherry White with Capstone.

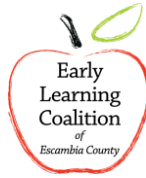
II. Public Comments:

No public comments were made.

III. Chair Comments:

A. Approval of Consent Agenda, Minutes of February 11, 2016 and January and February 2016 Financial Statements – Action Item.

The Consent Agenda was approved on motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Mansker.



IV. Executive Committee Report

A. Board Member Resignations, New Private Sector Member

Ms. Nelms is retiring from CareerSource and therefore has resigned her position on the Board. A recommendation to make Ms. Nelms a private sector Board member was approved on motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

B. New Board Officer Recommendation

Mr. Housh introduced Mr. Krut who is the new CareerSource representative for the Board. The recommendation to make Mr. Krut the Board Secretary was approved on motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

C. Background Screenings for Board Members

There was discussion as to whether or not Board members should have a Level II background screening. Some Board members have undergone background checks through their employers. The consensus by the Board was to not have the Coalition do background screenings on Board members.

D. IT Security Policy

The changes to the IT Security Policy were approved on motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Ms. Nelms.

E. Grievance Policy

The new Grievance Policy was approved on motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

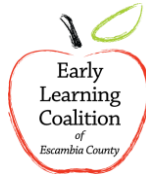
F. Organizational Chart

The changes to the Organizational Chart were approved on motion made by the Executive Committee and seconded by Mr. Mansker.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. SR/VPK Utilization/Projections, Enrollment/Wait List Status and Contracting Summary Reports

School Readiness enrollment has been down. The waiting list has almost been cleared, but the response rate to the wait list pulls has been low. Also, there have been more than usual redetermination failures primarily due to family work history or income not meeting requirements. As of April 13, 2016 there are over 3,000 children enrolled in School Readiness. Ms. Williams inquired about the one fraud case and whether or not it had been found to be true. Ms. Engel replied that the Department of Financial Services is still investigating this case regarding Gwen Hunter.



B. Financial Review

The Office of Early Learning audit of the Coalition took place on March 14-18, 2016. The CPA firm hired by the OEL had only one finding during the audit. Mr. Housh thanked Ms. Rutchland and her staff for another outstanding audit.

C. Legislative Update: Budget, Early Learning Bill, VPK Readiness Rates, VPK Gold

Mr. Housh shared with the Board that once the budget goes through all the approvals, it will provide a small increase to School Readiness funds. The legislature did not approve any change to the base student allocation for VPK. The Early Learning Bill includes a set of changes that brings the state's early learning legislation into line with the updated Federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) bill. One of the changes is to the minimum percentage that the Coalition will be required to spend on Quality Initiatives. The minimum percentage will go up step-by-step over the next four years to reach the new 9% minimum. Another bill was passed that there will be no VPK Readiness Rates assigned again this year. The last official VPK Readiness Rates are from 2013. Also, Teaching Strategies Gold for the VPK program was not funded for next year. Therefore, VPK providers will not be required to do VPK Gold next year.

D. Gold Seal, NAEYC, Military, VPK New Issue

The military base preschools dropped their Gold Seal accreditation because of the new requirement for DCF to inspect all Gold Seal providers. NAEYC is the accreditation agency for the military bases. Mr. Watson is working with the local military base providers to help find a solution for them.

VI. Old Business

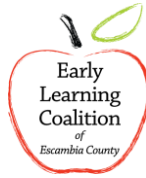
A. RDC Co-Chairs

Mr. Housh informed the Board know that the Resource Development Committee has moved forward with their decision to have co-chairs. This means that there will now be two representatives from the Resource Development Committee sitting on the Executive Committee.

VII. New Business

A. DOH Food Program

Mr. Housh reviewed the report with the Board showing that both participation and reimbursements have gone down in the Food Program. The Executive Committee approved the staff recommendation to terminate the program. The Food Program will end on June 30, 2016.



B. Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce Education Objectives

The Education Objectives were presented to the Board. Mr. Housh shared with the Board that Mr. Watson is an active and influential member of this Chamber committee. Mr. Watson is helping to reinforce the importance of having the business community involved in early learning.

C. Infant/Toddler Institute Advisory Work Group

The RDC agreed for the Coalition to create an Infant/Toddler Institute Advisory Work Group and an Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group. Ms. Pugh and her department are putting together an intensive infant/toddler training curriculum. As they develop this institute, they want feedback from providers, practitioners, and partners. The Coalition wants to be sure what is being put into the institute curriculum is what our customers want and need. Ms. Pugh has spoken with Ms. Debbie Goldberg to ensure efforts are not being duplicated.

D. Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group

There has been an increase in inclusion/behavioral issues the past six months at our provider sites. Also the school district reports they are encountering more children with behavioral issues. Mr. Watson also meets with several other groups that address childhood mental health and trauma related issues. All agree there appears to be an increase in children having issues. Mr. Watson requested an Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group be formed to help identify alternatives and solutions to respond to children with behavioral issues. Members shall include mental health professionals and early learning practitioners. Related to this issue, the Coalition will probably be required to track every expulsion in the future.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

10:00 a.m. – Thursday June 9, 2016

3300 North Pace Blvd, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505

Minutes approved by:

Cliff Krut, Board Secretary

Date