

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2016 - 10:00 AM
Chair: Kermit Housh

Members in Attendance

Kim Carmody (Acting chair)	Cliff Krut	Mona Jackson
Roger Thompson	Jeanne Martin	Pam Hagan
Van Mansker	Martha Tutchtone	Tammy Hicks
Christina Doss	Craig Jones	Brittany Curtis
Drew Hardgrave	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	

Members Present by Conference Call

Wendi Ochs

Members Absent

Kermit Housh	Gerald Boone	Susan Nelms
Judy Dickinson	Edna Williams	

Members of the Public

None

Staff

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

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Mr. Watson introduced Ms. Christina Doss, a new Board member. Ms. Doss is appointed to the Board by Commissioner Steven Barry.

II. Public Comments:

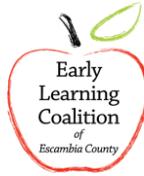
No public comments were made.

III. Chair Comments:

A. Approval of Consent Agenda, Minutes of April 14, 2016 and March and April 2016 Financial Statements – Action Item.

The Consent Agenda was approved on motion made by Ms. Hicks and seconded by Mr. Thompson.

IV. Executive Committee Report



A. Information Systems Data Breach Response, ELCEC 1302.1A

A new existing policy for how to respond to a breach in our information systems has been drafted. Upon a motion made by the Executive Committee, the Board approved the Information Systems Data Breach Response policy.

B. Budget Package

The budget is not yet available for the Board to review due to the Executive Committee requesting that Mr. Watson and staff draft a new budget that includes an option for 5% increase in employee compensation and an increase in total expenditures for quality to be at least 6% of the budget. The EXCOM will evaluate the impact of the budget changes on slots at the next meeting of the Committee, and the budget recommendation will be presented to the Board in August.

V. Executive Director's Report

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

Mr. Watson informed the Board that as of to date the Coalition was right on budget having spent 11 twelfths of the grant award in 11 months. As of June 6 there are 2,994 children enrolled in the SR program. There are currently 613 children on the wait list, 434 birth to 5 and 179 school age. The wait list has been cleared through April 23, 2016. The Coalition is working to stay between 3,000 to 3,100 children enrolled. The Eligibility Department has done an admirable job keeping the numbers up. We have terminated one provider who has requested a review hearing. The Coalition is waiting on the provider to choose one of the three proposed dates for the hearing.

VI. Old Business

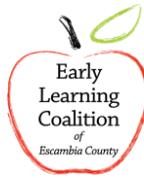
A. Provider Contagion

Mr. Watson provided a status update that the provider whose staff member tested positive for tuberculosis is now well, but the status of her infected child is not known. The baby of a client that was thought to have tuberculosis tested negative on more precise tests. The Department of Health has completed all of their testing. Kudos to the Department of Health for the great job they did.

B. Food Program

The food program folks notified Mr. Watson that there is a non-profit facility in Okaloosa that will be taking over the food program. The goal is for the facility to take it over by June 30. If necessary, Mr. Watson is prepared to keep the Coalition in the food program into through August if that is what it takes to get the new entity up and running.

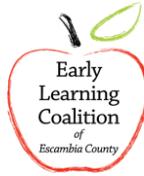
C. Advisory Work Group for the ELCEC Infant/Toddler Institute



The Advisory Work Group for the Coalition's Infant/Toddler Institute had its first meeting and came up with a good framework for their meetings and how the institute will operate. The two-year initiative will be concentrating on birth to 15 month old children and daytime child care workers, then, at a later time, pull in the nighttime workers. The goal is to recruit 25 classrooms, which could include up to 40 teachers. The near term objective is to improve teacher behaviors and teacher/child interactions, and long term objective is to be able to impact performance on third grade reading assessments. The Coalition is concentrating its recruiting efforts to attract centers that have the largest number of SR babies from all geographic parts of Escambia County. As part of the Quality Initiative dollars, during the first year participation stipends will be paid directly to the practitioners and overall center performance improvement bonuses will be paid to the owner. The practitioner stipends will be based on the classroom scores and will be paid at increments based on classroom scores improving. The second year is still open for ideas and planning, but the Coalition is hoping that as babies move up, the Coalition will begin moving up the cohorts and develop the program to fit teachers in the next age group. Long term it would be great to fold this plan in with the Achieve Escambia collaborative. In the near future, the Coalition plans to take the first cohort on a field trip to Tallahassee and visit Dr. Pam Phelps' early learning facility so the practitioners can receive in-service hours and witness a high quality early learning infant/toddler program. Dr. Phelps is the owner/director of Creative Center for Childhood Research. The providers are expected to pay their staff that attend the field trip, and this may incur more expenses for the providers. Providers who attended the field trip and participate successfully and stay in the program will receive at the end of the year compensation from the Coalition to show the Coalition's respect and appreciation to the provider. The meetings of the Advisory Workgroup shall be stated meetings so that Board members can attend. There will be minutes of the meetings.

D. ELCEC Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group

The first meeting of the Coalition's Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group is scheduled for June 22 at 10:00am at the Coalition in the Training room. The meetings of the Advisory Workgroup shall be stated meetings so that Board members can attend. There will be minutes of the meetings. The purpose for forming this work group is to identify means and methods for helping providers deal with behavioral issues. The goal is to quantify and describe the problems in our facilities, develop response plans, identify treatment options. One long term goal is to prevent and/or reduce expulsions, and develop reporting and documentation processes. The Workgroup will develop aids to help parents and Eligibility staff to ask the right questions when behavioral issues are suspected. Mr. Watson shared with the Board that the customers, being the providers, are begging the Coalition to give them more tools to help them identify what the causes are for the behavioral issues and what solutions are available. The providers feel there has been an increase in inclusion/behavioral issues at their sites. Mr. Watson requested that this Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group be formed to help identify alternatives and solutions to respond to children with behavioral issues.



E. Breakfast Recap

The annual early education breakfast summit went well despite a lower than desired turnout. The content of the presentation and the enthusiasm of those present was good. Several of the invitees said they did not receive their invitation via the mail. However, the invitations sent via e-mail were well received. It is the Coalition's intention to do strictly e-invites for the breakfast next year. The day after the breakfast there was a good front page article in the newspaper regarding early education, as well as one about the breakfast.

VII. New Business

A. AELC Annual Meeting Recap

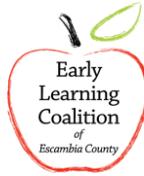
1. Statute, Rule, Contract Corrections and Changes Proposal

Mr. Watson attended the AELC Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL. There was much discussion about statute, rules, and how to deal with corrections and changes in the School Readiness contracts. Mr. Watson expressed his concern about the way the Office of Education and Learning (OEL) is interpreting statute, rules and contracts. Of particular concern is OEL's interpretation of what their authority is, and how much oversight of the Coalitions is required. For instance, the Coalitions have been in negotiations with OEL to get their Coalition Plans approved. Part of the approval process requires the Coalition to submit certain policies. OEL has interpreted the statute to say that they have the authority, responsibility, and requirement to require edits to these Coalition policies as a precondition to get the Plan approved. OEL is in essence telling the Coalition Boards what to say in their policies. Mr. Watson strongly objects to OEL having such authority, and he believes it will affect the Coalition's independence. The Board is the policy making entity of the Coalition. OEL has asked what our Board thinks about this matter. Additionally, AELC is doing an overarching review of early learning statutes, rules and the provider contracts. Mr. Watson is one of the individuals that has been asked to provide input regarding changes prior to the next round of legislation. One issue will be to propose a change to the statute to allow for Other members on Coalition Boards.

2. Contracting and Procurement

Mr. Watson explained to the Board that part of the 2013 statute states that the Coalition has to adhere to all State procurement policies. OEL is interpreting that to mean the Coalition has to procure everything as if it were a state agency. The problem with that is the Coalition does not have access to the State's contracting office nor their lawyers who oversee all of their agreements. Mr. Watson suggested that Board members can call their State representatives and let them know what they think of this matter. As Mr. Watson gets more resolution and clarity on this matter he will share it with the Board.

B. VPK for Five Year Olds



The state is still wrestling with exactly how to implement the program. The one issue that has been identified is the statutory requirement children enter school by age six. This means five year olds born between February 2 and September 1 of each year may participate in the program.

C. Grade Level Reading

The Coalition is moving forward with the Grade Level Reading Campaign. The next step will be for Mr. Watson to meet with the school district. In his further study on this item, he found that tracking attendance and tardiness is important and they are factors impacting grade level reading. This needs to be a joint effort with the school district to get their support for providing the data needed to address issues impacting grade level reading performance. Mr. Watson believes the Coalition can be the leader to get this campaign going.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 11:04 am.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting

10:00 a.m. – Thursday August 11, 2016
3300 North Pace Blvd, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505

Minutes approved by:

Cliff Krut, Board Secretary

Date