

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2019 – 8:30 AM

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker

Roger Thompson

Members Called In

Mary Ann Winstead

Staff

Bruce Watson

Dawn Engel

Paula Rollins

Anne Cynkar

Vicki Pugh

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda:

a. Consent Agenda Approval:

Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Winstead the Consent Agenda consisting of the Agenda, Minutes of April 25, 2019 were accepted and approved without objection. The Financials for April 2019 were unavailable as the invoice for the month was still being processed.

IV. Status Reports

a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Benchmark Report, Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report:

1. Benchmark Report:

The Coalition has spent \$10.4 million of the current budget. There is a \$1.4 million differential in what the Coalition has spent and what they should have spent. The Coalition will not be able to make up this differential. Mr. Mansker asked how much the Coalition has spent in admin and were there any areas the Coalition could spend any additional money. The Coalition is at 4.17% in admin spending. The Coalition has updated all of their IT equipment and even if the Coalition purchased new items, it would not come close to making up the difference. The VPK numbers are normal for this time of the year as all of the programs are ending this month. Currently the VPK program has an admin rate of 4.52%, however adjustments will be made to monitoring allocations to ensure the Coalition is no higher than the required 4% admin rate.

2. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

Currently there are 3,154 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 1,160 are school age children. The goal is to enroll 3,500 children, however, even if children were enrolling there is if there are enough openings at Providers to fill these slots. The Providers have limitations on how many children they can care for even though they are not close to meeting



capacity. The parents of 26 children still have not selected a program to place their children at. There are no children on the Wait List as the Coalition continues to pull all applicants off the list every week.

The numbers of the parents not responding to Wait List pulls is still around 50%. OEL sent out surveys to these families, however, they have not provided the Coalition with the results. Mr. Mansker asked what the process for applying for School Readiness services entails. Ms. Rollins explained the process and that it is very time consuming and a lot more effort for families.

There are close to 1,300 children already approved for the FY19/20 VPK school year. The school district and Head Start have not started their enrollments at this time, therefore their numbers are not included.

3. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report

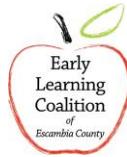
Currently there are 85 SR Providers and 77 VPK Providers. The Coalition has had a few new providers apply for a contract. The two programs that did not meet the minimum requisite score on their School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA) have paid to have an additional assessment completed on their program. The Coalition expects this Provider to score well enough on their second assessment to be eligible to contract next year. There have been no new fraud cases this month.

So far there has only been one Provider who did not meet the minimum requisite score on a School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA). The score was very close to meeting the contracting threshold. As provided for in Rule, the Provider elected to pay for second assessment. The Coalition elected to contract the second assessment and use the Children's Forum to do the reassessment. Because the first SRPA was done on two classrooms the Provider will be charged \$350.00 per class, for a total of \$700.00, for the second assessment.

The SRPA scores of two other Providers were in the range requiring them to be in the Quality Improvement Program (QIP). They will be receiving their notification letters this week.

V. Committee Recommendations

a. This is a new policy. It is required by the OEL as part of the Coalition Plan. This policy details how the Coalition is going to administer School Readiness Program Assessment (SRPA). The Coalition went back and forth with OEL to ensure all of the requirements from the applicable Rules are in the policy. The requirements are pretty straightforward, and include the exemptions for being assessed. Providers who are exempted for an enrollment rate of less than 20% will require monthly monitoring of their attendance levels. Once an exempt provider hits the 20% benchmark, they will be required to have an assessment within 30 days. Providers that are placed on a Quality Improvement Plan will have to complete one or two improvement strategies. The Coalition has decided that all QIP Providers will be required to complete two strategies. All Providers will have to participate in Grow With Me, and the Coalition will choose one of the five strategies OEL has developed, as applicable. The first choice will be for the Provider staff to attend MMCI training. If they have attended this training, then the Coalition will pick another strategy. Providers that fall under the 2.51 threshold for contracting can pay out of pocket for a second observation. The cost is the State rate of \$350 per classroom. The



Coalition has contracted with the Children's Form to conduct these second assessments. However, the Coalition is currently not happy with this agency due to a discrepancy in their scoring of one our Providers. The Coalition is questioning their reliability and having their scoring reviewed. The Coalition has entertained the idea of obtaining a third party of assessors and have plans to talk to the two other Coalitions in our region. The RDC brings forward the motion to the Committee to recommend the Board approval of the new SR Readiness Program Assessment Implementation Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and accepted and approved without objection.

b. Provider Contract Eligibility Policy and Procedure

The need to revise this policy has been ongoing discussion with OEL. With the new statute regarding DCF Class 1 Violations, it is OEL's position that because the statute does not mention Class 2 and 3 Violations then the Coalition cannot prohibit a Provider from contracting with the Coalition if they have multiple DCF Class 2 or 3 Violations. Therefore, the Coalition has to remove this prohibition from the policy. The RDC brings forward the motion to the Committee to recommend the Board approval of the revised Provider Contract Eligibility Policy and Procedure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and accepted and approved without objection.

c. Stars Over Escambia Quality Development Incentive Program

Mary Ann Winstead declared her conflict of interest as her program can receive funding from this program. Ms. Winstead will fill out the Conflict of Interest Form for the Coalition records.

The state pulled from the reimbursement Rule the provision to award rate incentives to Providers for SRPA scores ranging from 3-3.99. It is the Coalition's position that these Providers, many of which were in PFP last year, should be recognized for their efforts even though they are not meeting the new state guidelines. Under the proposed change to the program Providers can receive up to a total of a 5% rate incentive. The program elements are:

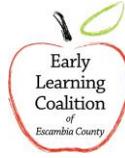
1. If a provider has 50% of their staff trained in MMCI, they can receive a 1% rate incentive.
2. If their SRPA CLASS score is between 3-3.49 their will get a 1% rate incentive.
3. If their SRPA CLASS score is between 3.50 and 3.99 they will get a 2% rate incentive.
4. If half of their staff are trained and reliable in a child assessment tool and they are screening at least 50% of their children, they can get a 2% rate incentive.

Every Provider must apply for these incentives as this will not be automatic. The RDC brings forward the motion to the Committee to recommend the Board approval of the revised Stars Over Escambia Quality Development Incentive Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and accepted and approved without objection.

VI. Old Business

a. Early Learning Summit - Recap

The Coalition made the front page of the newspaper. The Coalition was pleased with the turnout. About 50 attended out of 120 people invited, 70 RSVP'd. None of the County Commissioners attended, neither did the Mayor, however, he had planned to. The Coalition has about reached the limit of what we can do to educate the community about what a CSC is and what it would mean to Escambia County to have one.



b. EFS MOD and Possible Impact on Reimbursements

The Coalition is making great progress getting SR attendance entered. Staff are entering attendance for Providers that are no longer contracted with the Coalition. However, the Coalition is concerned that when it comes time for the 13th invoice in September there is very likely the numbers produced by EFS MOD will not match what has been paid to the Providers.

c. SR Providers Attendance Submission

The Coalition ran a report to see the status of attendance submission for the Providers. Thirty providers have submitted all of their attendance. Twenty-four providers have started inputting their attendance. However, thirty have not entered any information at all. An email was sent to the Providers informing them that if they didn't meet specific deadlines over the next two months, payment would be withheld until they completed submitting their SR attendance. Providers have to have at least 6 months of attendance entered by June 5, 2019 and 12 months of attendance entered by July 3, 2019. The Coalition requires Providers to have their attendance submitted by the third business day of each month, and these requirements will remain in effect July 1, 2019.

VII. New Business

a. Sliding Fee Scale

The Feds have issued a new sliding fee scale for 2019/2020. The Coalition's associated parent fees have not been changed. Related to this is a new requirement that Coalitions no longer have to raise the local 6% match. Nineteen out of thirty Coalition were not meeting this requirement. For 2019/2020, all local donations can now be used like funds in the CCEP. Now some families over 150%, but still under the 200%, can receive child care. We have several families that would qualify for this benefit. Mr. Watson will inform the County Commissioners and United Way about this new policy.

b. Press Release from Governor De Santis Regarding VPK Provider Readiness Rates

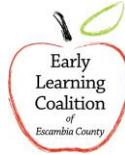
The Governor issued a press release after the VPK Readiness Rates were released regarding concerns he has about the effectiveness of the VPK Program. There was a misquote that 42% of children were not ready for kindergarten, when it is actually 42% of VPK Providers that are by the new rates on probation. This was incorrect, however he was not off by much as the rate for children who never attended VPK is 41% percent are not ready for kindergarten.

c. VPK Provider Readiness Rates

There is a draft Rule going through the approval process which will give Providers up to an additional 10% readiness rate point increase if the children in their program show improvement between their AP1 scores and their AP3 scores. Most children show improvement so most Providers will benefit from this.

d. DOH Medical Support Contract

A few minor edits will be made to the contract in the certification and assurance sections. Mr. Watson will have to compare the contract to the new OEL Grant Agreement. Last year's budget was \$99,223, this year it went down to \$93,612. Staff salaries were increased, however benefits dropped. The amount for equipment calibrations increased as well. Upon a motion made by Mr.



Thompson and seconded by Ms. Winstead to recommend to the Board to approve The DOH Medical Support Contract. The motion was accepted and approved without objection.

VIII. ED/Chair Travel

- a. ED: AELC Annual Retreat, June 5-7, 2019, Daytona Beach
- b. ED: AELC/OEL ED/ELAC, July 15-17, 2019, Tampa
- c. CHAIR: ELAC July 16, 2019, Tampa

IX. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2019 - 8:30 a.m., at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, FL 32505