

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2017 – 8:30 AM

Members in Attendance

Kermit Housh Kim Carmody Brett Rowell Roger Thompson
Van Mansker

Absent

Mona Jackson Tammy Hicks

Staff

Bruce Watson Vicki Pugh Becki Rutchland Paula Rollins
Holly Stratton

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Housh.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Consent Agenda:

a. Consent Agenda Approval:

Upon a motion made by Ms. Carmody seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Consent Agenda consisting of the Agenda, the Minutes of January 2017 and the January and February 2017 Financial Statements were accepted without objection.

IV. Warren Averett Audit Report

a. A-133 Audit Final Report – Approval

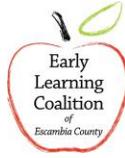
Ms. Kathleen Baldwin with Warren Averett reviewed the Coalition's A-133 Audit Final Report. There were no findings or observations. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Carmody, the Committee recommends that the Board accept the A-133 Audit Final Report.

b. 2015-2016 Form 990 - Approval

Ms. Kathleen Baldwin with Warren Averett reviewed the Coalition's 2015-2016 Form 990 tax return. The Form 990 was completed and issued this year one month earlier than last year. Although filed, an extension was not needed. Upon a motion made by Ms. Carmody and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the Committee recommends that the Board accept the 2015-2016 Form 990.

V. Status Reports

a. SR/VPK Fiscal Year Utilization/Projections:



Two thirds of the way through the fiscal year the Coalition has expended 66% of its budget. The Coalition has spent over 6% on quality. VPK expenditures are ahead of budget due to the Coalition having enrolled 100 more children than the previous year, and our budget allocation for this year was based on our OEL grant from last year. The cost per child for child care increases in May-June due to school agers going from part time to full time for the summer.

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

As of March 12, the Coalition has 3,016 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program, of which 1,254 are school age children. There are 984 children on the Wait List, 839 are birth to five and 145 are school age.

There are 2,123 children enrolled in VPK.

c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

There are 142 SR providers. For this fiscal year, 8 providers were terminated by the Coalition and 28 providers for their own reasons have either chosen not to contract with us, or ended their contracts early. The number of providers is down from last year primarily due to closures for economic reasons as many had no clientele. An incident at one provider may result in the Coalition terminating the provider's contracts. The Coalition is waiting for the official DCF report listing their violations. On March 15, the Review Hearing Committee convened per a provider's request regarding termination of the provider's School Readiness contract. Mr. Watson informed the Committee that since the Review Hearing Committee meeting, the owner of the child care facility has emailed Mr. Watson stating that she intends to sue the Coalition.

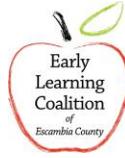
VI. Committee Recommendations

a. Provider Contracting Eligibility Policy, ELCEC 3201.1B, and Procedure, ELCEC 3201.1B – Approval:

Proposed changes to the Provider Contracting Eligibility Policy were made to align Coalition policy with Rules 6M-4.610 and 6M-8.301. The changes to the policy were reviewed. Mr. Housh recommended that section 4.7.6 be changed to read verbatim as it is in Rule, and the numbering under section 4.8 be corrected. Upon a recommendation from the Resource Development Committee (RDC) and seconded by Mr. Rowell, the Committee recommends that the Board approve the Provider Contracting Eligibility Policy, ELCEC 3201.1B, as amended.

b. QRIS Revision:

The Coalition has developed a new Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). Mr. Watson explained to the Committee how the QRIS works. The new system is based on a 50-point scale, is more objective and more performance based than the current system. It also requires much more staff time to support the system as staff will need to go onsite to perform classroom evaluations. The new QRIS system requires the use of Teaching Strategies Gold for the higher Star Ratings, and could be modified in three to five years to include TSG outcomes as rating criteria. Mr. Watson would like the Committee members to review the new system over the next couple of months. He will present it to the Board in April for informational purposes only. The QRIS was similarly presented to the RDC in March, and will be presented again for



approval in May. Mr. Housh suggested that the Committee review the revisions. The new QRIS system will be reviewed again at the May meeting for consideration for a recommendation to the Board for approval.

c. Discussion of SR Provider Rates, Parent Fees and School Age Enrollments:

At the last Committee meeting, Mr. Watson brought the subject of parent fees and school age care to the Committee for discussion. It was discussed that the Coalition does not have in place a definitive program to ensure that all parents do not pay more than 10% of their gross income on child care. Mr. Watson is happy to say that OEL has accepted the Coalition's proposal to incorporate as part of the EFS modernization program the capability to calculate adjusted parent fees to ensure that parents pay less than 10% of their income for child care. As a result, the Coalition will not have to put in place a sibling discount program. The change in the EFS system is scheduled to be implemented July 1.

Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that the Coalition is paying providers more than most other Coalitions pay their providers. To put the Coalition in line with State averages, Mr. Watson suggests that for the FY17-18 the Coalition cut providers rates 10% except for after school care, which will be cut 20%, and reduce Gold Seal payments to at least 10%, possibly 5%, or eliminate Gold Seal all together. A new Rule is pending approval that will allow the Coalition to pay providers who participate in quality rating system a rate incentive that is up to 20% over that standard provider rates. Additionally, Mr. Watson believes the Coalition should consider the ages of children that are served as we currently have a disproportionate number of school age children in care, and many children birth to five on the Wait List. These changes collectively will enable the Coalition to enroll more children birth to five, and improve the quality of care for all children.

VII. Old Business

a. Accountability Review – January 23-25, 2017: OEL Report Pending:

The OEL Accountability Review went very well. Mr. Watson gave kudos to the staff. The draft report from OEL is still pending.

b. Financial Review – On-site March 20-24, 2017: In Progress:

The OEL Financial Review is currently in progress onsite.

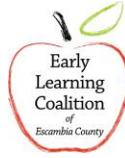
VIII. New Business

a. Community Thrives Voting:

Community Thrives is a part of USA Today Network and is offering grants to different community projects. There is the potential to receive a \$100,000 grant. If received, all money will go towards the LENA portion of our Grow With Me initiative. Mr. Watson encouraged the Committee to vote daily from April 12 to May 12.

IX. ED/Chair Travel

a. ED – AELC/OEL ED/ELAC meetings, Tallahassee, April 26-28



- b. Vice Chair – ELAC, Tallahassee, April 28
- c. ED – AELC Annual Meeting, Miami, May 24-26

X. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:34 am.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Coalition Office.