

**Early Learning Coalition  
Resource Development Committee  
March 15, 2016 – 10:00 AM**

*Roger Thompson and Tammy Hicks, Co-Chairs*

**Committee Members:**

Pam Hagan	Beth Ramirez	Brittany Curtis	Roger Thompson
Sissy Carter	Brenda Hardy	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	

**Staff:**

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Sarah Whipps	Karen Linton
Holly Stratton			

**Partners/Public:**

Melanie Perritt	Paula Doty	Deborah Goldberg	Marcella Copeland
Phyllis Gonzalez			

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**I. Welcome and Approval of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson. Mr. Thompson requested adding Ms. Phyllis Gonzalez to the agenda under the Community Partner Updates. The Agenda was approved on a motion made by Ms. Mary Ann Bickerstaff with a second by Ms. Sissy Carter.

**II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

**III. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2016**

The Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Resource Development Committee meeting were approved on a motion made by Ms. Deborah Goldberg with a second by Ms. Pam Hagan.

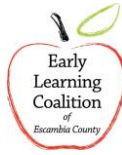
**IV. Program Reports**

**a. Nursing Services Report**

Ms. Pam Hagan reported that the medical support staff numbers have picked back up for January and February. Over 1,600 children have been seen year to date for vision screenings and it seems more children have gotten glasses this year than last year. The medical support staff have been very busy and are getting done the home screenings. Ms. Carter complimented the medical support staff by saying they are great and doing a wonderful job. For the fiscal year, over 2,500 children have been seen by the medical support staff.

**b. CCR&R Update**

Ms. Sarah Whipps informed the Committee that in January there were 89 calls and only 9 of them did not want listings, they wanted information only. Most of the callers were one adult households and the majority of them were working. The main inquiries were for transportation and affordability, with some concerns about schedules. Full time care was the most requested.



Child care centers were the top requested with large family child care homes and family child care homes. In February there were 119 calls with 20 of them who did not want listings, and only 4 did not request referrals. Out of the 119 calls, 87 of them were one adult households and 26 had two adults in the household. There were a total of 111 with a parent, so the vast majority were parents who were calling. Most of the callers were working. The main inquiries were for affordability, location, transportation and schedules. Full time care was requested the most. Ms. Phyllis Gonzalez requested information for grandparents who are watching the children, such as Medicaid and other programs that are available to them, and grandparent support groups that help them with all the other benefits. Mr. Watson suggested to Ms. Gonzalez to stop by the CCR&R office at the Coalition and see all the resources that the Coalition has; it may spark some ideas as to what DCF would like the Coalition to add to the list of resources. Ms. Marcella Copeland shared with the Committee information about child care for military families and the website [militarychildcare.com](http://militarychildcare.com) to assist families looking for military sponsored child care providers.

### **c. Program Support Summary**

Ms. Vicki Pugh briefed the Committee on the data listed in the summary. Ms. Pugh introduced Ms. Karen Linton, the new Assessment and Training Specialist, to the Committee.

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. Committee Name, Chair(s), Membership and Scope**

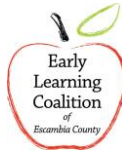
Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that in January the Executive Committee asked for additional information before agreeing to the Committee proposal to have co-chairs. The Executive Committee wanted to know if the Coalition By-Laws supported the Committee having co-chairs, particularly because there would be two Committee members attending the Executive Committee meetings. In February, Mr. Watson reviewed the By-Laws with the Executive Committee and it was found that there was no legal issue with having co-chairs. As result the Executive Committee agreed with the Committee decision to have co-chairs.

### **b. Teaching Strategies Gold**

Mr. Watson encouraged all the providers to get involved in the Coalition's pilot program of TSG in School Readiness. iPads are still available to those in the program who choose to use them as the tool of choice to administer TSG. The Coalition is still committed to paying for all subscriptions for School Readiness and VPK children. OEL has given its full endorsement, blessings and encouragement to the Coalition to continue, expand and improve what the Coalition is doing with TSG assessments. The Coalition is still tying TSG to our QRIS, so to be a 3 or 4 Star facility the Provider must use the TSG assessment tool. Mr. Watson shared with the Committee what happened with the legislature pulling funding for VPK Gold for fiscal year 2016/2017. The Legislature decided that VPK Gold will no longer be used in the VPK program. However, what did not go away is the requirement that all VPK Providers does VPK Gold this current fiscal year. All VPK Providers must complete the third checkpoint.

### **c. Local Training**

Nothing to report.



#### **d. QRIS**

Nothing to report.

#### **e. Contract Summary**

Mr. Watson notified the Committee that the wait list has been cleared through the end of February, and the letters will be sent out March 15-16, 2016. There are currently 160 SR providers and 85 VPK providers. There has not been much going on in Fraud.

#### **f. DCF Violation to ELC Levels for Exempts Crosswalk**

The Board approved the Crosswalk and the Coalition has begun using it. The change to the policy is still pending but the Coalition got approval to begin using the attachment and to hold providers accountable.

### **VI. New Business**

#### **a. Legislative update**

##### **1. Budget**

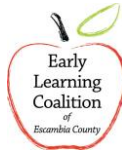
Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that legislation decided that the proposed fifty cents per hour increase to VPK will instead go to the K-12 program. There is \$10.3M being added to the SR budget this year, which is almost exactly what the School Readiness program received last year, and which means the Coalition should receive \$150K to \$200K more for subsidy child care.

##### **2. Early Learning Bill and CCDF**

Mr. Watson shared with the Committee that the Early Learning Bill, that was necessary to implement requirements of the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), was passed. If this bill had not passed, it would have put in jeopardy the federal money the State receives for the SR program. A noteworthy change to that bill is that all providers receiving SR subsidy will be visited by DCF Licensing at least once per year. For those providers who are license exempt it will be to validate that they meeting all health and safety requirements. Results of the visits will be turned over to the Coalition for follow on action. Assuming the Governor signs the bill into law, this will go into effect on July 1, 2016.

##### **3. VPK Readiness Rates**

Mr. Watson explained to the Committee that in the same legislation language doing away with VPK Gold was language to preventing OEL/DOE from using the Kindergarten readiness scores to calculate VPK Readiness Rates. Preliminary VPK Readiness Rates for the 2014-2015 school year have been sent out, but because of uncertainty in the reliability and credibility of the Kindergarten readiness scores the VPK Readiness Rates will not be made official. Therefore, without a new rate providers on probation from 2013-2014 for their 2012-2013 school year performance will remain on probation. The readiness rates associated with that school year are posted on the Coalition website. The Coalition is still required by statute to publish the last official rates. There are ten providers in this category. Those ten providers will be called and told they have to do their provider improvement plan again for another year, and for eight out of those ten that involves doing TSG because that is what they said they would do as part of their improvement plan.



#### **4. VPK Gold**

See comments regarding Legislative action regarding VPK Gold in V.b. above.

##### **b. Infant/Toddler Institute Advisory Work Group**

After discussion of the Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group, Ms. Pugh shared with the Committee that the Coalition would also like to create an Infant/Toddler Institute Work Group. Ms. Pugh will send out an e-mail to all providers and partners inviting them to participate in the work group. Mr. Watson advised the Committee that in the next three to five years the Coalition will have to increase quality expenditure from the current 4% minimum to a 9% minimum, of which at least 4% of that 9% has to be dedicated to Infant/Toddler specific programs. To meet these requirements will mean fewer dollars available for child care slots, and we will not be able to keep our 83% dedicated to slot utilization. Mr. Watson would like this advisory group to help the Coalition develop what an Infant/Toddler Institute would look like. This will be a change in our training perspective; to have training and coaching dedicated to enhancing the ability of providers to deal with infants and toddlers. The Coalition would like input from the providers as to what types of training and coaching they are willing to participate in. No action from the Committee was required on this item.

##### **c. Inclusion/Behavioral Advisory Work Group**

As the Committee asked questions about non-payment for expulsion of a child from a facility because the child is hurting others in a classroom, Mr. Watson let the Committee know that the Coalition is proposing to put together an advisory work group with providers and Coalition staff to discuss behavioral/inclusion issues of kids. An e-mail will be sent out to all providers and partners inviting them to participate in the work group. The work group will be a by-product of the Committee and will report back to the Committee in the future. The Coalition has recently received a rash of incident reports, some that have to do with actual discipline policies and some that have to do with behavioral issues. Mr. Watson would like to find where the balance is between behavioral support and safety of the other children. Upon a motion made by Ms. Carter and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff, the work group was approved.

#### **VII. Community Partner Updates**

##### **a. ARC Gateway**

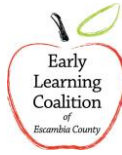
Ms. Bickerstaff said the numbers are beginning to grow. They are looking to fill a few positions. They have begun a recycle program for Mardi Gras beads.

##### **b. Early Steps**

Ms. Debbie Goldberg gave an update on the passing of legislation 7034. There was major resource development in legislation that was not there before for parents with special needs children. The legislation changed eligibility making it harder to get in.

##### **c. School District Academies**

Ms. Pugh shared with the Committee that Ms. Adkison was not able attend the meeting. The Coalition is sponsoring seven candidates going through Ms. Adkison's academy for their national CDA certification.



**d. DCF Licensing**

Mr. Thompson let the Committee know that DCF Licensing has a new counselor. Her name is Ms. Jane “Janie” DeSoi. Mr. Thompson and other staff have been training her and she has begun doing inspections online.

**e. Pensacola State College**

No report.

**f. Other**

Ms. Phyllis Gonzalez invited everyone to the state kickoff event for child abuse prevention month. The event will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 4, 2016 at Pensacola Beach by the big beach ball. April is also military child month. Ms. Gonzalez requested from Ms. Pugh children’s books to hand out at the event. From Blue to Better is a movement to raise awareness about child abuse prevention. Please contact Ms. Paula Doty if you have any questions. Order a pizza from Papa John’s and they will donate 20% to From Blue to Better.

Ms. Paula Doty with Gulf Coast Kids Home requested to be added back to the agenda going forward. They serviced 3,100 children last year and taught prevention to 1,400 children.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** May 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.