

MISSION STATEMENT

To identify and meet the needs of children and families to lay the foundation for lifetime success by: maximizing each child's potential, preparing children to enter school ready to learn, and helping families achieve economic self-sufficiency.

TO SUPPORT THIS MISSION, THE COALITION UPHOLDS THESE VALUES

- 1) School readiness programs shall prepare children for success in school.
- 2) School readiness programs shall involve parents as their child's first teacher and support family skill building.
- 3) School readiness programs shall be an integrated and seamless system of services and shall be implemented by the local coalition working with partnering agencies and programs.
- 4) School readiness programs shall be coordinated and public funding integrated to achieve effectiveness and efficiency.

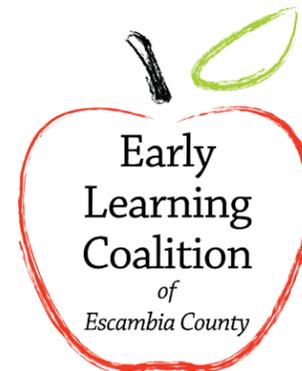
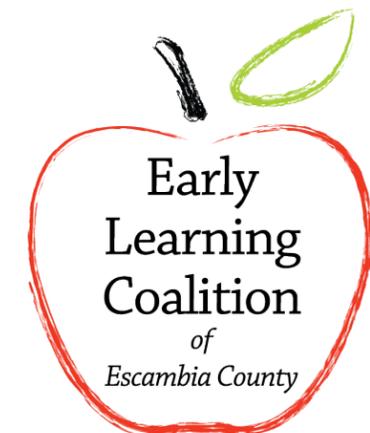
It is our **VISION** that all children in our community will enter school **Ready to learn!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meri Asmar	Private Sector
Leona Bailey	Governor Appointment
Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Rep. Children w/Disabilities
Audra Carter	Private Sector
Hollace Craven, Ph.D.	Community College Designee
Judy Dickinson	Head Start
Richard W. Dodd	Private Sector
Scott Ginnetti	Private Sector
Julie Green	Provider Representative
Skip Housh, Chair	Governor Appointment
Linda Moultrie	School District Designee
Susan Nelms	Regional Workforce Board
Kathy Nelson	Private Sector
Kismet Rideau	Private Sector
Janice Thomas	DCF Circuit Administrator
Roger Thompson	DCF Licensing Supervisor
Gene Valentino	County Commissioner Designee
Trena Webb	County Health Department Designee
Carolyn Williams	Provider Representative
Lori Winterberry	Provider Representative

Diane Hutcherson

Executive Director



3636D North L Street, Suite A
Pensacola, FL 32505
Tel: (850) 595-5400 ♦ Fax: (850) 595-5405
www.elcescambia.org

2009-2010

ANNUAL REPORT

Service Areas . . .

SUPPORTING FAMILIES & CHILDREN

School Readiness Services (SR)

Working with approximately 235 early education and child care providers, our coalition's school readiness funding supported children from low income working families, families with protective services involvement, and welfare transition families. Eligibility services were handled by in-house staff members. Child care resource and referral, parent education, provider information, and community resource support was provided to all parents, special needs teens, and respite support. Priority enrollment was given to the Department of Children & Families (DCF) protective services-referred children, welfare transition families, and children with identified disabilities. During the year services were provided to 5,081 children.

Eligible Children/Families Served	Monthly Average
Children Enrolled	3,249
Children Billed	2,999
Waiting List (Peak)	1,139
Parent Co-Payments	\$132,548
Slot Cost for All Children	\$1,030,290

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)

Children who were 4 years old on or before September 1, 2009 were eligible for VPK. For the 2009-2010 school year, 93 provider locations with 191 classrooms provided learning opportunities to approximately 2,398 children during the school year and summer classes. Both Directors and Classroom Teachers were trained in the VPK Performance Standards. Over 2,500 Coalition-designed VPK calendars and 25,000 copies of "Parent and Child" magazine were distributed to VPK parents and providers.

Child Assessments & Screenings

Age appropriate screenings of children's development were administered to identify areas in need of further evaluation and referral. The Child Assessment Screening & Evaluation (CASE) team provided observation, screening, assessment and follow-up services for 2,974 children utilizing Ages & Stages Questionnaires resulting in 105 referrals to internal staff and community partners.

Parent Involvement and Skill-Building

The Coalition offered support and resources to assist providers in offering meaningful parent involvement programs, along with education about Learning & Developmental Standards, School Readiness Standards, and VPK Education Standards. Providers were encouraged to achieve and maintain Gold Seal Accreditation. Bringing our total to 51. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) has accredited all Escambia County School District Early Intervention/Pre-kindergarten programs. Parents in the community were also assisted by the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) program through the United Way's

LOCAL INITIATIVES

Quality Initiatives

The Coalition allocated a combined seven percent of the annual budget to Quality Initiatives and Gold Seal enhanced rate payments to support improvements in the local early learning community. The Quality Initiative projects are what make this Coalition unique and help us make a real difference in the lives of young children. Quality funding supported educational scholarships, provider mini-grants, regional conferences, printed materials for community distribution, nursing supports, trainings, and the Imagination Library project. The Coalition coordinated with Unite Escambia's Education Solutions team to create and implement a VPK data system to share information between VPK teachers and kindergarten teachers.

Community Literacy Projects

Ongoing joint efforts between our Coalition, the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and Every Child a Reader in Escambia (ECARE), continue to result in amazing success. As a result of those efforts the Coalition enrolled over 1900 local children in the Imagination Library during 2009-2010. This resulted in 22,836 books going out to the doorsteps of local children. The Coalition Board adopted the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as a five year project to promote early literacy. The goal of our Board and community partners is to ensure that every child, birth to age five in Escambia County, who wants to participate will have age appropriate books each month until their fifth birthday. This project addresses one of our biggest community challenges - *literacy*. Our dream of a community where all children enter school ready to succeed, with a common background of early literacy thus forming the foundation for school success is becoming a reality.

Inclusion Services

A contract with the Escambia County School District allowed for the services of an Inclusion Specialist. The Inclusion Specialist verified that special accommodations are being made for children with special needs. Referrals received by staff members total 199 children with 55 of those children being referred to other agencies for their specific need. Along with verifying accommodations, staff met with providers to explain specific strategies for individual children to enhance their learning and early childhood experiences.

Early Childhood Nursing Services

Under contract with the Escambia County Health Department, the Coalition provided supervisory support for nursing services under Head Start, Title I and Early Learning programs. This unique screening and health education team delivered screening for hearing, vision, height, weight and BMI to 4,853 unduplicated 3 & 4 year olds. The nursing staff taught 664 classes to 8,651 children on dental care, hand washing, safety, and nutrition.

Family Child Care Home Food Program

The Coalition maintained the contract for oversight of the Department of Health's Child Care Food Program for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties. This essential program supplements the nutritional needs of 4,631 local children. These homes must be licensed and maintain federally mandated USDA Standards.

LOCAL OPERATIONS

Provider Training & Technical Assistance

The Coalition offered multiple professional development opportunities utilizing its annual training calendar, with updates of additional opportunities. Infant/Toddler services included a nine-month quality project on "Birth to 3" Standards. The overall number of participants in Coalition sponsored workshops and trainings was 648. A Coalition created training database includes the past 3 years of trainings/workshops which assists in tracking 1,254 practitioners and 400 providers. The Coalition continues to be a certified provider of continuing education units (CEUs) through the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)

Trained CCR&R Specialists assisted 1,192 families in making the best choice of early learning programs by providing comprehensive information on legally operating providers. First Call for Help has been instrumental in delivering our CCR&R services to community members. During the process, other community information is shared, often resulting in even further assistance. The Coalition's Professional Development Coordinator continues as one of four national leaders in CCR&R, with a 3 year Fellowship through the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA). Graduates of this program help shape the future of CCR&R at local, state and national levels.



Fiscal

Providing affordable, accessible, and quality early care and education to eligible children is the top priority for the Coalition, as well as, administering the state VPK program. With combined expenditures of \$20,132,156, administrative costs were 2.22% for School Readiness and 4.24% for VPK. Funding was provided through the AWI/OEL and federal stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Responsibility Act (ARRA). A portion of required local match was provided by the Escambia County Commissioners and the United Way. Seventy-eight (78%) percent of SR dollars were used for child care slots.

Summary of Success

Coalition staff, along with board members, committee members, contractors, and community partners, have helped to shape our focus and commitment to young children. Through our collaboration with community partnerships, we continue the focus of serving all children in our community as they become the leaders and workforce of our future.