

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Chair: Van Mansker

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker	Brian Wyer	Deborah Tucker
Tarae Donaldson	Shannon Nickinson	Reginald Dogan
Shacondra Primm	Cindy Kirk	Melissa Birdsall
Richard Wright	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Craig Jones
Tammy Hicks		

Members Absent

Edna Williams	Bambi Sealy	Melody Meier
Roger Thompson	Melissa Sidoti	Mona Jackson
Tammy Abrams	Paul Fetsko	

Public in Attendance

Tara Godbey (Warren Averett)

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Melissa Jennings
Nina Daniels	Darrell Merritt	

I. Welcome and Introduction

Notification of this meeting of the Board of Directors was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication on January 29, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

- a. None.

III. Chair Opening Comments

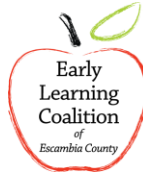
- a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of December 14, 2023**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Jones, approval of the Consent Agenda, Meeting Agenda and Minutes of December 14, 2023, was approved without objection.

IV. Executive Committee Report:

- a. **Warren Averett A-133 Audit 2021-2022 Report Presentation**

Ms. Godbey of Warren Averett presented the Final Report of the A-133 Audit for 2021-2022 to the Board. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Ms. Kirk, the financial audit was accepted as presented without objection.



b. Board Orientation April 2024

Coalition staff will conduct an orientation for new Board members immediately after the April Board meeting. Board members who have not attended an orientation are requested to attend. All other Board members are welcome to attend if desired.

V. Executive Director's Report

a. Financial Snapshot – December 2023 Invoice Dashboard

Through December the Coalition has spent \$7.6 million of the \$17.3 million SR grant which is 44.1%. Admin was 2.3%, Non-Direct 17.5% and Quality 8.7%. VPK Admin was 3.3%.

b. Coalition Status Reports: Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report

There are 2,536 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 92 are SRMT and 1,032 are school-age children. There are 575 children on the waitlist. 43 children were pulled from the Wait List on February 5, 2024. Their parents applied for services at the end of August. There are 1,658 children enrolled in the VPK School Year Program.

There are 84 SR Providers, and 72 VPK Providers.

VI. Old Business

a. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

The Coalition has spent \$2.2 million of the \$4.99 million ARPA Early Learning Discretionary grant through the end of December.

b. Joyce Griffin Center - Update

The Coalition has raised over \$450 through donations for the plaque to dedicate the Training Room. The Coalition had to switch companies for making the plaque. The company originally chosen was unable to grasp the design concept and provide an acceptable proof. Another company has been found and they are working up a proof and cost estimate. Once a delivery date has been provided, a date and time will be set for the dedication ceremony.

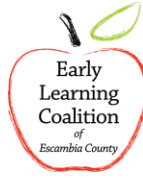
c. ECT New Director Starts 12FEB24

The Escambia Children's Trust has selected a new Executive Director, Lindsey Cannon, formerly with Children's Home Society. Ms. Cannon starts February 12, 2024.

VII. New Business

a. IACET

The Coalition has gained certification as an IACET approved agency. This allows the Coalition to deliver courses that earn CEU credits. Operations staff put in a great deal of work to get approved for this certification.



b. MIP Kick Off

The first meetings with MIP were a success. The Coalition is in the process of providing documentation to MIP. The finance department is currently working with MIP to develop a training schedule. During this training period, overtime will be approved.

c. Phone System Changes - Update

The transition to a new computer-based phone system is almost complete.

d. Brownsville At-Risk Care – Update

Brownsville At-Risk Care is continuing along. The search for funding sources has begun. Brownsville is wanting to keep the childcare facility separate from the church.

e. Little Free Library Thank You Card

The Coalition received a thank you card from local Little Free Library coordinators for the support as their partner in the fight against illiteracy in underserved areas of Pensacola. Together 15,000 books have been distributed in the past 3 years.

f. Dr. Suess Day March 5, 2024

On March 5, 2024, the Coalition and the Ice Flyers will be doing readings in the morning and afternoon in the resource room on the first floor to celebrate Dr. Suess Day. Board members are encouraged to volunteer their time to read on this day. If interested, please contact Ms. Jennings.

VIII. Audits and Reviews in Progress

a. DEL Financial Review 2023-2024 – In Progress, On site February 12-16

VIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition offices at 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, FL 32501