

Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Chair: Van Mansker

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker	Richard Wright	Craig Jones
Brian Wyer	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Shanna Robinson
Reginald Dogan	Tammy Greer	Melissa Birdsall
Melissa Sidoti	Melody Meier	Edna Williams
Cindy Kirk	Mona Jackson	Roger Thompson
Tammy Hicks	Shacondra Primm	Tarae Donaldson

Members Absent

Angela Strumeyer	Deborah Tucker	Shannon Nickinson
Paul Fetsko		

Public in Attendance

Veronica Prickett

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Melissa Jennings
Darrell Merritt	Nina Daniels	

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 June 1, 2023. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

- a. None.

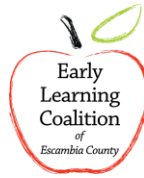
III. Chair Opening Comments

- a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the April 13, 2023, Financial Reports for March 2023**

Upon a motion made by Mr. Wyer and seconded by Ms. Greer, approval of the Consent Agenda, Meeting Agenda, Minutes of April 13, 2023, and the Financial Reports for March 2023 was approved without objection.

IV. Executive Committee Report:

- a. **Ideas to Improve Child Care Employment Levels**



The Resource Development Committee and the Executive Committee each discussed what can be done to assist providers in identifying, hiring, and retaining staff to work in their early learning and care facilities. Although much has been done to financially support providers and help them pay incentives for retention and recruitment, the childcare industry here locally, like many other services industries, is suffering from a lack of people willing to work. The Coalition is seeking ideas for how to assist providers in finding more staff. Efforts are being made to improve education opportunities and raise the level of professionalism amongst early learning teachers.

b. New Board Members

CareerSource ESCAROSA has decided to change their designee to the Coalition Board. Mr. Marcus McBride has designated Ms. Tarae Donaldson. The Executive Committee makes a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Donaldson to the Board. Upon the motion made by the EXCOM and seconded by Ms. Williams the appointment of Ms. Donaldson to the Board was approved without objection.

The local Director of Headstart is in the process of being changed. The Coalition would like to have the former Director of Headstart, Ms. Misi Birdsall, appointed to the Board as a Private Sector member. This change in status occurred after the Executive Committee last met. Both the Chair and Executive Director recommend making this change. Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Jones the appointment of Ms. Birdsall to the Board as a Private Sector member was approved without objection.

c. Provider Representative Vote Results

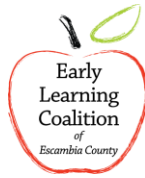
Every three years the Coalition solicits a change in the two statutorily required Provider Representatives to the Coalition Board. The Providers make nominations and in turn vote for who they want to represent them. The Executive Committee concurs with the nominees chosen by the Providers, Ms. Shaondra Primm for the Private Sector Provider Representative and Ms. Tammy Hicks for the Faith-Based Provider Representative.

Upon a motion made by the EXCOM and seconded Ms. Sidoti the appointment of Ms. Primm to the Board as the Private Sector Provider Representative was approved without objection.

Upon a motion made by the EXCOM and seconded by Ms. Kirk the appointment of Ms. Hicks to the Board as the Faith-Based Provider Representative was approved without objection.

d. 2023-2024 Coalition Budget

The Coalition budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 was not ready for review and approval by the Executive Committee, however, approval was granted for a draft budget to be presented to the Board so the Coalition can be authorized to commence spending for the new fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2023. Because the Coalition has yet to receive the first NOA from the DEL from which to apply actual funding amounts, the budget presented is based on level funding from the prior year for SR and VPK, and an estimate for any other funding. The budget included



the \$1.00 per hour increase in employee wages as approved by the Board in 2021. Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Jones the draft budget was approved without objection. A final budget will be prepared once the funding authorization is received from the DEL and presented to the Board for approval at the August meeting.

e. Anti-Fraud Plan

All Coalitions are required to review their Anti-Fraud Plan annually and update the plan or certify that it has been reviewed and there are no changes. Upon a motion from the Executive Committee and seconded by Ms. Greer the unchanged Anti-Fraud Plan was approved without objection.

V. Executive Director's Report

a. Financials

Financial reports were provided in the consent agenda. The Coalition through April has spent \$13.5 million of the \$17.3 million SR grant, or 77.7%.

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

There are 2,694 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 61 are SRMT and 997 are school-age children. There are currently 728 children on the waitlist. Due to the number of children still searching for a provider, no children have been pulled from the waiting list since April 18, 2023.

There are 1,423 children approved for the 2023/24 VPK School Year Program.

There are 84 SR Providers, and 74 VPK Providers.

VI. Old Business

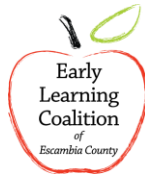
a. DEL CRRSA Workforce Initiative - Update

The Coalitions local initiatives are complete. With the May invoice the CRRSA program is closed. The Coalition spent 100% of the initial award.

b. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

All payments for ARPA Round 1 Third Installments and Round 2 Initial Payments have been completed. The DEL intends to recoup all unexpended provider stabilization funding and redistribute it to Coalitions in time for ARPA Round 2 Final Payments to be made no later than June 30, 2023.

c. VPK Program Assessments and Progress Monitoring



The Coalition completed 100% of the VPK Program Assessments and the Providers completed 100% of the VPK Progress Monitoring Assessments. The two Providers doing the VPK Summer Program will be assessed this month.

d. 401K Transition - Update

The transition to the new 401K provider is complete. Deductions started with the April 15th pay period.

e. ECSD Education Career Academy - Update

The Coalition met with the new director of the ECSD Education Career Academy. She understood the Coalition's position that if the students were not doing on the job training at childcare facilities there really was no business having a business partner relationship with the Coalition. The School District is reassessing where this program is going and what the program will consist of.

f. Escambia Children's Trust Help Me Grow ITB

Ms. Greer announced that ARC won the bid for the Help Me Grow Program. The Coalition is looking forward to collaborating with them in the future.

VII. New Business

a. Legislative Recap

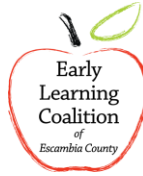
AELC provided a recap of the 2023 Legislative Session. The SR program saw a \$100 million increase in recurring base funding, for a total of \$889 million. The Legislature again used an unproven and untested methodology based on county populations for allocating funding to the Coalitions. There was also \$77 million allocated to DEL to be dispersed to the Coalitions. The recommendation from the Coalitions was to use this funding to fill in the gaps between last year's funding and this year's initial allocations. Help Me Grow received a \$2.6 million increase. There was a \$20 million increase to VPK funding, which equals to \$148 increase to the VPK BSA. \$750,000 has been set aside for a cost of care study to be used in a future allocation plan. There is \$315 million in ARPA discretionary funding for coalitions/providers to address local initiatives to meet unique community needs.

b. Credit Card Changes

The Coalition has new credit cards. The bank without asking gave the Coalition a \$25,000 credit limit which is \$5,000 more than what the Board had originally approved. Upon a motion made by Ms. Greer and seconded by Ms. Birdsall the \$5,000 increase to the credit card limit was approved without objection.

c. Review Hearing Committee Meeting May 25, 2023

A recap of the Review Hearing Committee meeting was presented to the Board. This hearing resulted in a provider contract termination.



d. 2023-2023 Grant Agreement

The 2023-2024 grant agreement will be released soon. Given the current timeframe, this agreement will require an immediate turnaround and will not be subject to review and preapproval by the Board.

VIII. Audits and Reviews in Progress

a. DEL Accountability Review 2022-

Exit Conference May 3rd, still waiting for final report.

b. DEL Financial Review 2022-2023

The Final Report and PCAP were received. There are 3 findings in the report.

c. Warren Averett A-133 Audit 2021-2022 – In Progress.

VIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition offices at 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, FL 32501