

**Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County
Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
Chair: Van Mansker**

Members in Attendance

Van Mansker	Roger Thompson	Richard Wright
Craig Jones	Deborah Tucker	Reginald Dogan
Edna Williams	Mary Ann Bickerstaff	Cindy Kirk
Shanna Robinson	Angela Strumeyer	Tammy Greer

Members Absent

Mona Jackson	Paul Fetsko	Marcus McBride
Shannon Nickinson	Brian Wyer	Melissa Birdsall
Melody Meier		

Public in Attendance

Tara Godbey (Warren Averett, LLC)

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Vicki Pugh
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, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

II. Public Comments

- a. None.

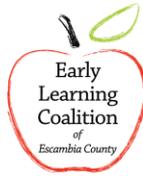
III. Chair Comments

- a. **Approval of Consent Agenda: Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the April 14, 2022, Board Meeting, and Financial Statements for March 2022.**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Mr. Wright, approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Meeting Agenda, Minutes of April 14, 2022, meeting, and Financial Statements for March 2022 was approved without objection.

IV. Executive Committee Report:

- a. **Escambia Children's Trust Board Appointment**



The Escambia Childrens’s Trust has appointed their Executive Director, Ms. Tammy Greer, to be their statutory member of the Board. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Jones, Ms. Greer’s appointment to the Board was approved without objection.

b. Warren Averett, LLC 2020-2021 Audit Presentation

The annual A-133 Audit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was presented by Ms. Tara Godbey. The EXCOM brings the recommendation to the Board to accept the audit for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Ms. Williams the audit was accepted without objection.

c. SR Rate Increase

The rate increase proposal was intended to come before the Board for approval before it was sent to the DEL for approval at their level. Because of changes from this year’s Legislative session, the DEL let Coalition’s know they had to submit any desired rate changes in time to be approved to go into effect June 1, 2022. There was no opportunity to go through the normal Committee to Board approval process. The DEL has approved the Coalition to begin using the new rates effective June 1, 2022, but the Board must approve these new rates before payments can be initiated. Upon a motion made by the EXCOM and seconded by Ms. Williams, the new rates for School Readiness to be effective June 1, 2022, were approved without objection.

d. Second Term Approval Mr. Richard Wright

Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff a second three-year term for Mr. Richard Wright was approved without objection.

e. Second Term Approval Mr. Brian Wyer

Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Greer a second three-year term for Mr. Wyer was approved without objection.

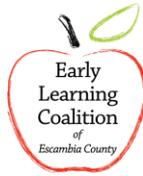
f. Steven Sanchez Removal from the Board

Mr. Stephen Sanchez has been the Faith-based Provider Representative to the Board for the past two years. He has resigned as Principal of Little Flower Catholic School and moved to south Florida and is unable to continue serving on the Board. He left without submitting a letter of resignation, therefore, Board action is required to remove him from the Board. Upon a motion made by Ms. Strumeyer and seconded by Ms. Williams it was approved to remove Mr. Sanchez from the Board without objection.

V. Executive Director’s Report

a. Benchmark Tracker, Enrollment/Wait List Status Report, and Contracting Summary Report

The Benchmark Report through March 2022 was presented. The Coalition is behind SR spending for two reasons. The first is that in the first part of the year not enough parents applied for services. The second is that for the past six months the Coalition has had to limit the number



of children that could be pulled from the Wait List because parents cannot find a place to serve their children. It is not practical to pull children if their parents cannot find a provider. The reason for this lack of capacity is that providers do not have enough staff to work. This means they are unable to open all their classrooms and/or have to reduce classroom sizes. Currently, week to week children are not pulled from the Wait List if the number of children pending provider placement is above 30.

There are 2,701 children enrolled in the School Readiness program of which 94 are SRMT and 1,052 are school-age children.

There are already 1,255 children approved for the 2022/23 VPK School Year Program.

There are 85 SR Providers, and 71 VPK Providers. There are no new fraud cases to report.

VI. Old Business

a. DEL CRRSA Coalition workforce Initiative for Early Educators

The Coalition received \$523,00 for recruitment, retention and improving the health of the childcare industry in Escambia County. There are currently about 15 billboards around town advertising careers in Early Learning. One of the uses of this funding to fund \$1000 sign on bonuses for those who get hired on with our Providers. The funding is also being used to pay training and screening of new hires, and retention and training incentives for practitioners.

b. ARPA Grants

The first round of ARPA Grants was for direct payment to Providers. The amount each Provider will receive has been split into three payments to be paid over the next six months. The deadline to submit applications is June 30, 2022.

c. DEL Financial Review for 2021-2022 February 2022

The Finance Review final report is still being prepared by the DEL.

d. Attempted Theft of Coalition funding by Use of Counterfeit Checks - Update

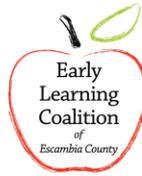
The new checking account was opened. All agencies that either fund and/or debit the Coalition have made the transition.

VII. New Business

a. ELCEC 4101.1H Anti-Fraud Plan Approval

This item did not go before the EXCOM. Coalitions are required to update and submit this policy every June. The only change this year was to update our address. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Kirk, the Anti-Fraud Plan was approved without objection.

b. Gubernatorial Appointments



This did not go before the EXCOM. The DEL is working with State Appointments Office to get caught up on appointments. The Chair position is up for a second term and there is one other Board member with an application. There are no applicants for the second Governor appointed position. Please advise the ED if anyone is interested in applying for the open position.

c. 2022 Legislative Update

The Legislature appropriated an addition \$100 million for VPK programs that agree to raise VPK teacher pay to a minimum \$15 an hour. This will lift the BSA an additional \$618 per child. VPK programs that agree to the \$15 an hour pay will receive a BSA increase of \$935 per child.

d. DEL Change to Rule 6M-4.500

This Rule has been updated by the DEL. One change was of concern to the Coalition as it impacts our providers. The cutoff to receive the 4% Quality Performance Incentive (QPI) has been changed by the DEL. They have raised the score cutoff from 4.0 to 4.5. Providers scoring on between 4.0 and 4.49 on their annual School Readiness Performance Assessment (SRPA) will no longer receive a rate incentive. A positive change was starting this contract year Providers who SRPA score results in a higher QPI will no longer have to wait until the next contract year to receive the increased rates. They will start receiving the higher QPI the first on the following month after their assessment becomes official.

e. End of Year Funding Transition

The Coalition will have to return approximately \$2 million in unexpended ARPA advance, and \$555,000 in CRSSA advance. The money must be returned now as part of the State end of year financial process. The money will be added to the 2022-2023 Notice of Award (NOA) and be available for use in July.

f. FY 22-23 Budget Development Status

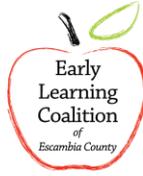
The draft budget for the coming year is not ready. With the transition to a new Finance Director, the process is not complete, and we are behind on getting this prepared. The EXCOM brings the motion to the Board to approve spending authority for the coming fiscal at levels not to exceed the previous year until a new budget is approved. Upon a motion made by Mr. Jones and seconded by Ms. Kirk, spending authority for the coming fiscal at levels not to exceed the previous year until a new budget is approved was approved without objection.

g. First ECT RFP

The Escambia Children's Trust released its first Request For Proposals (RFP) for a summer program for four-year-old children to help prepare them for Kindergarten. The Coalition elected to not participate due to a lack of resources and time to prepare. The Coalition is participating as a member of the RFP Review Team.

h. Achieve Escambia Affiliation

As agreed by the EXCOM, the Coalition is withdrawing from participation with Achieve Escambia.



VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office at 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, FL 32501

Minutes of the meeting on June 9, 2022, of the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County were approved by the Board on August 11, 2022.