



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

**Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 25, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

**Members Present**

Van Mansker

Roger Thompson

Shannon Nickinson

**Members Absent**

Mona Jackson

**Staff**

Bruce Watson

Dawn Engel

Melissa Jennings

**Public**

None

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for April 25, 2024, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal, and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on April 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

**II. Public Comments**

None.

**III. Consent Agenda**

An amendment to New Business to add Doug Brown to the Board was added to the agenda. Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Nickinson, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda, and Minutes of March 28, 2024, was approved without objection.

**IV. Coalition Status Reports**

a. Financial Update

Due to Mr. Merritt no longer being with the Coalition, there is not a financial update to be presented. The Coalition has hired a new Finance Director, and she will start on May 6, 2024.

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report

There are 2,608 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. There are 549 children on the Wait List. The last pull from the Wait List was on April 22, 2024, for applications made between November 13 and November 26, 2023. There are 1,578 children currently enrolled in VPK. Since the application window opened on January 1st, for the 2024-2025 program year, 1,124 applications have been approved.

c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report

There are 84 SR providers and 71 VPK providers.



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### **V. Committee Recommendations**

- a. None

### **VI. Old Business**

- a. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

No significant changes have been made since the March EXCOM meeting. As of the March 2024 invoice, all the ARPA Discretionary funds have been used.

- b. MIP Implementation

The implementation of MIP is going well.

- c. Board Member Orientation Rescheduled to June 2024

Due to the cancellation of April's Board meeting, the orientation has been rescheduled for June 13, 2024. The Coalition staff will conduct an orientation for new Board members immediately after the June Board meeting. Members who have not attended an orientation are strongly requested to attend. All other Board members are welcome to attend if desired.

- d. Joyce Griffin Room Dedication

The new plaque proof should be ready April 26. Hopefully the dedication ceremony will be able to be held at the end of the board meeting in June.

### **VII. New Business**

- a. Finance Director Change

The finance director, Mr. Merritt, is no longer with the Coalition. The Coalition has hired a new finance director, Ms. Bess Abernathy. Ms. Abernathy will start on May 6, 2024.

- b. New Board Member Lindsey Cannon

Ms. Lindsey Cannon has been appointed by Escambia Children's Trust to be their designated representative to the Board. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Nickinson, it was approved without objection to take the appointment of Ms. Cannon to the Board for approval.

- c. New Board Member Doug Brown

Mr. Doug Brown has been appointed by Community Action Program Committee, Inc. as the new Head Start Director and the representative on the Early Learning Coalition Board. Upon a motion made by Ms. Nickinson and seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was approved without objection to take the appointment of Mr. Brown to the Board for approval.

- d. Board Member Misi Birdsall Resignation



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Ms. Birdsall has made the decision to resign from the Board. Due to Ms. Birdsall's new job, she feels that she can no longer give the time needed to remain on the Board. This now leaves the position of Vice-Chair open.

e. Provider Review Hearing May 7, 11-12 a.m.

On May 7, 2024, there will be a Review Hearing for Kiddie Academy of Pensacola. Due to receiving two Class1 Violations and not reporting it to the Coalition and the Department of Children and Families putting them on Probationary License, the Coalition terminated their VPK contract on March 29, 2024. Mr. and Mrs. Peat, the owners of Kiddie Academy of Pensacola have requested to have a Review Hearing to dispute the termination of their VPK contract.

### **VIII. Audits and Reviews - In Progress**

a. A-133 Audit for 2022-2023 In Process

Onsite delayed until May 2024

### **IX. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: May 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501**