



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2022 8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Van Mansker

Roger Thompson

Mona Jackson

Members Absent

Marcus McBride

Staff

Bruce Watson

Vicki Pugh

Paula Rollins

Dawn Engel

Nina Daniels

Darrell Merritt

Public

None

I. Welcome and Introductions

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for October 27, 2022, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on October 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Masker.

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Consent Agenda

Upon a motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Agenda and Minutes of September 22, 2022, was approved without objection.

IV. Coalition Status Reports

a. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report:

There are 2,688 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. Currently there are 569 children on the Wait List. There are 2,063 children approved for VPK and 1,689 children are enrolled. No children were pulled from the wait list week due to the number of children still looking for placement is over 30.

b. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report:

There are 84 SR providers and 77 VPK providers. There is no fraud to report.

V. Committee Recommendations

a. None.

VI. Old Business



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a. End of Year Funding Transition and Financial Position

The end of year invoicing is complete. The 13th invoice was submitted. Nearly \$800,000 dollars was recovered in SR expenses that were not properly invoiced during Fiscal Year 2021-2022. The process to make all the corrections in the books is underway. An independent audit firm that audits other Coalitions has been approached to assist in this process.

b. DEL CRRSA Workforce Initiative

The DEL issued a new NOA at the end of September, mostly to award remaining CRRSA and ARPA funding by the September 30 deadline. The Coalition received \$8.7M in ARPA Provider funding and nearly \$1.3M in ARPA Building a World Class Workforce Initiative funding, and additional funding for Gold Seal from CRRSA funding.

The Coalition's request to the DEL to shift \$725,467 of prior year CRRSA funding to local retention and recruitment initiatives in 22-23 was approved.

c. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

The first round of ARPA Grants for direct payments to Providers is nearly complete. The last of three installments will be concluded no later than December. The second round of ARPA Grant applications is about to start. In addition to Provider payments, funding will be used for more retention and training initiatives. All funds must be dispersed by June 30, 2023.

d. Escambia Children's Trust match Funding

The Escambia Children's Trust approved funding the Coalition for the School Readiness Match Program commencing October 1, 2022.

e. VPK Program and Progress Assessments

The Coalition is initiating program assessments for all VPK programs and is resuming monitoring the School District VPK programs for contract compliance. VPK program assessments started in September. NOA funding is earmarked for the VPK program assessments. The increase in monitoring requirement is expected to be covered with the 4% admin allowed in the VPK funding. One offset is that VPK base student allocation (BSA) increased from \$2400 to \$2,800 per child, which in turn increases the amount of funding from which the 4% admin is calculated.

f. ECSD Career Academy Change

Due to changes in how the ECSD has chosen to conduct the Education Career Academy, the Coalition has decided to withdraw support for this program. Students are no longer gaining experience in early learning at childcare provider sites. Experience is only being gained by supplementing teaching staff in VPK, Kindergarten and First grade classrooms. The ECSD also persists in using these experiences to qualify for a CDA. However, the requirements for a CDA are very specific, that the experience must be gained in an early learning center. The ECSD practice if allowed by a CDA observer places the CDA observer's own qualifications at risk.



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VII. New Business

a. Anti-Fraud Plan ELCEC 4101.11, Revision

The Anti-Fraud Plan was previously submitted and approved but DEL decided that there were minor changes that need to be made.

b. SR Plan Amendment: ELCEC Policies Requiring Board Approval

1. Developmental Screening Procedure ELCEC 4300.1D
2. SR Program Assessment PnP ELCEC 4301.1B
3. Grievance Complaint Policy ELCEC 4402.1
4. Fee Waiver Policies (No ELCEC number assigned)
5. Program Assessment ELCEC 4301.1B
6. Child Assessment Policy ELCEC 4302.1A
7. Monitoring Plan ELCEC 4401.1H
8. Request for Public Records P&P ELCEC 1401D, and Form
9. Provider Contract Eligibility Policy ELCEC 3201.1G
10. Eligibility Manual ELCEC 2501.1E

The SR Plan Amendments were discussed and upon a recommendation made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, it was approved to put the SR Plan Amendments on the November RDC Meeting Agenda. This is the only option to be able to have public comments before the December Board meeting. It was agreed that the SR Plan Amendments, along with the Anti-Fraud Plan, would then proceed directly to the Board for approval in December.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501