



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Members Present

Van Mansker
Mona Jackson

Roger Thompson

Shannon Nickinson

Members Absent

None

Staff

Bruce Watson
Nina Daniels

Dawn Engel
Bess Abernathy

Melissa Jennings

Public

None

I. Welcome and Introductions

Notification of the Executive Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for May 30, 2024, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal, and posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on May 2, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mansker.

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 April 25, 2024, was approved without objection.

IV. Coalition Status Reports

a. Financial Update

Through April, the Coalition has spent \$13.9 million of the \$17.3 million SR grant which is 74.5% of the grant. Admin was at 2.4%, Non-Direct total was at 17.7% and Quality was at 8.9%. VPK Admin as at 3.1%

b. Enrollment/Wait List Status Report

There are 2,656 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. There are 495 children on the Wait List. The last pull from the Wait List was on May 21, 2024, for applications made between January 1 and January 7, 2024. Pulls from the waiting list are being put on hold. Since the application window opened on January 1, for the 2024-2025 VPK program year, 1,394 applications have been approved.



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c. Contracting and Fraud Summary Report

There are 84 SR providers and 71 VPK providers. There are 3 fraud cases pending.

V. **Committee Recommendations**

- a. None

VI. **Old Business**

a. ARPA Grant Funding - Update

The Coalition spent all but \$907 of the \$404,688 ARPA Discretionary Curriculum Grant. To date the Coalition has spent over \$4.7 million of the \$4.99 million APPA discretionary Early Learning Grant.

b. MIP Implementation

Most of the inputs to set up the program have been submitted and training has started.

c. Board Member Orientation Rescheduled to June 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 Joyce Griffin Room Dedication will be held prior to the start of the June 13, 2024 Board meeting.

VII. **New Business**

a. New Finance Director Introduction

The introduction of the new Finance Director, Ms. Bess Abernathy, was made. Ms. Abernathy started the position on May 6, 2024

b. Vice-Chair or Secretary Opening

Ms. Nickinson has volunteered to become the Vice-Chair. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, it was approved without objection to take the recommendation of Ms. Nickinson becoming the Vice-Chair to the Board for approval. This now leaves the position of Secretary available.

c. New SR Provider Rates for Fiscal Year 2024-25

A comparative summary of the new SR provider rates is provided for discussion. This is the highest single increase in rates in the Coalition's history.

d. Coalition Funding/Budget for FY 2024-2025 – Funding Shortfall

The Coalition budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 was not ready for review. Due to the rate increases, the Coalition is expected to have between \$2 to \$3 million shortfall in SR Funding.



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VPK funding will increase. Upon a motion made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Jackson, it was approved without objection to take the recommendation to commence spending for the new fiscal year starting on July 1, 2024 to the Board for approval.

e. SR Plus Program in Fiscal Year 2024-25

The State is implementing a new program that will allow parents who are already in the SR program to remain part 85% SMI to 100% SMI. The parent fees will be higher but it is designed to help ease the transition as their incomes increase.

f. 2023-24 Issued Monitoring Report

The final report has been received and the Coalition received three findings. The Coalition is working on the Corrective Action Plan for the three findings.

g. Proposed Change to Board and Committees Meeting Intervals

A discussion was brought up pertaining to changing the intervals of Board and Committee meetings. Committee members have suggested that Board and RDC meetings be changed to quarterly meetings and that EXCOM meetings go from monthly meetings to eight meetings per year. Upon a motion by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was approved without objection to take the recommendation to change meeting frequency of the Board and the RDC to quarterly instead of bi-monthly and the EXCOM to eight meetings a year instead of monthly starting July 1, 2024, to the Board for approval.

VIII. Audits and Reviews - In Progress

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

Onsite delayed until June 2024

IX. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr., Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501