



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2022 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Angela Strumeyer	Jessica Czuprynski	Brian Wyer
Debbie Tucker	Paul Fetsko	Myra Vanhoose

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Paula Rollins	Nina Daniels
Vicki Pugh	Melissa Jennings	Christy Zukowski
Mariam Gomez	Matt Moseley	Roxanne Daley

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Misty Lambeth	Andrea Grace	Latavia Blunt
Malena	Shaunna Bailey	Pamela Smith
Skye Owens	Terrance Savage	Tonyia Nevins

I. Welcome, Call to Order, and Approval of Agenda

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on March 2, 2022 and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on March 1, 2022. Due to the absence of the Committee Chair, the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Watson. Upon a motion by Ms. Strumeyer and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, having Mr. Watson continue to conduct the meeting in the absence of the Committee Chair was approved without objection.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for July 20, 2021

Upon a motion made by Ms. Czuprynski and seconded by Ms. Tucker, the Agenda and the Minutes of the November 15, 2021, meeting were approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Pugh reviewed the Medical Support Services report. Satisfaction surveys from clients are positive. In particular they like the new training spaces at the Coalition.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings reported again there is a need for infant, two and three-year-old slots as well as school age. She requested again that directors to send in pictures and/or narratives on family engagement to showcase on the Coalition's Facebook.

c. Program Support Summary



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Ms. Engel stated coaches are making 2-3 daily visits to programs. More MMCI classes are scheduled this year some of which are more preferred face-to-face training.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

School Readiness enrollment is holding steady around 2,800 children. Eligibility has stopped pulling from the Waitlist because parents cannot find care due to capacity issues stemming from staffing shortages. The SRMT enrollment cap has been capped at 90 enrollments to ensure funds are spent as close to budget as possible. These are families that normally would not be served received much needed assistance. VPK enrollment numbers have started coming down from a high of just over 1,600.

Removing children from the Waitlist is being regulated to ensure no more than 30 children at a time are authorized care but have not been placed in a program. Although not the maximum use of dollars, it increases parents' odds of finding a place for their child.

There are now 83 school readiness providers with three new contracts signed in January. There are 71 VPK providers.

V. Old Business

a. Coalition Relocation

The Coalition has fully moved into their new offices. Most of the glitches have been worked and systems are working as they should be.

b. DEL Disaster Relief Grants for Teachers/Directors 21/22

The second round of CRSSA Disaster Relief Grants are being distributed. Coalition staff has points of contact for teachers to call if they are issues with receiving their check. Again, these dollars that are distributed to teachers will not be taxed.

c. 2022 Legislative Actions – VPK Assessments, VPK Funding

The 2022 Legislative session has seen proposals to increase funding for VPK participation, quite possibly it will be the most since VPK was created. DEL formally announced that the VPK Program Assessment tool will be the CLASS assessment.

VI. New Business

a. DEL CRRSA Workforce Initiative

A needs survey was completed and application to DEL was made for CRRSA funding to be used for Workforce Initiatives for Early Educators. The Coalition received \$531,253 for staff development, stipend for new hires, practitioner retention bonuses, training, background screening costs, VPK CLASS kits, and advertising for child care workers.



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b. ARPA Grants

Details of the ARPA Grant Program were provided. Provider can get substantial funding based on enrollments (vice capacity), number of SR children served, ages of children served, CLASS scores, and if they are willing to use at least 25% of the grant on staff pay and benefits.

VII. Community Partner Updates

a. Achieve Escambia

Ms. Myra Vanhoose, the new Executive Director for Achieve Escambia, introduced herself and stated she is looking forward to working with the early learning partners of our community.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. CareerSource ESCAROSA

No representative was available to report.

d. DCF Regulation

Ms. Strumeyer reminded the committee that Technical Assistance for the new requirement for vehicle alarms was still available. expressed gratitude to all the providers in appreciation of their work with families. She also reminded everyone that counselors are checking for the alarms and for adherence to the new CPR/FA requirements.

e. Department of Health 5-2-1-0

Ms. Tucker stated there was nothing to report.

f. Early Steps

No representative was available to report.

g. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

No representative was available to report.

h. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was available to report.

i. Pensacola State College

No representative was available to report.

j. Ready Kids

No representative was available to report.



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k. School District Education Career Academy
No representative was available to report.

l. School District VPK
Ms. Czuprynski reported that VPK registration is beginning April 4, 2022.

m. Studer Community Institute
No representative was available to report.

n. Western Panhandle Early Steps
No representative was available to report.

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501