



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

**RDC Committee Meeting Minutes**

January 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Roger Thompson	Cindy Kirk	Tammy Hicks
MaryAnn Bickerstaff	Jessica Czuprynski	Tammy Abrams
Deborah Tucker	Shacondra Primm	

**Staff in Attendance**

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Nina Daniels
Melissa Jennings		

**Providers and Partners in Attendance**

Roselyn Sukal	Misty Lambeth	Shaunna Bailey
Shirley Kelley	Tonyia Nevins	Shenoa Drewa
Sheree Williams	Teresa Zwierzchowski	Hitomi Wright

**Public in Attendance**

None

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

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on January 3, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson, Committee Chair.

**II. Public Comments**

None

**III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for May 16, 2023**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Bickerstaff and seconded by Ms. Czuprynski, the Agenda and the Minutes of November 14, 2023, were approved without objection.

**IV. Community Partner Updates**

a. ARC/Gateway/Help Me Grow

Ms. Bickerstaff brought members of Help Me Grow to experience an RDC meeting. Ms. Shirley Kelley is the Outreach Coordinator who handles scheduling events out in the community. Ms. Theresa Zwierzchowski handles the social media and marketing side of Help Me Grow.

b. CareerSource ESCAROSA

No representative was available to report.



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c. DCF Regulation

No representative was available to report.

d. Escambia Children's Trust

Ms. Abrams reported that the Trust has hired a new Executive Director. Ms. Lindsey Cannon will assume the position of Executive Director starting the February 12, 2024.

e. Head Start

No representative was available to report.

f. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk reported that there are no new updates to report on. The new semester just started.

g. Ready Kids!

No representative was available to report.

h. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski reported that there is not a lot to report on. New registration opens on April 1, 2024.

### **V. Program Reports**

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Jennings stated during the months of July through December there were 783 vision screenings performed from which 46 referrals were made and 810 hearing screenings were performed from which 56 referrals were made.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings stated that the number of interviews in the months of November and December remained steady. There were 4 outreach events in the months of November and December. 6,575 books have been distributed so far, this fiscal year. January 22 to 26 is Literacy Week in Florida. On January 25, The ELC will hold a book reading at 10:00 a.m.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated that monitoring's and assessments have been slow due to the holidays and will start picking back up in upcoming weeks. Ms. Engel also stated that there are lots of training opportunities coming up in the next couple of months.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are 2,499 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. Two weeks of children were pulled from the waitlist on 1/8/2024. There are 693 children on the Wait List. To date, there are 2,166 children approved for the 2024-25 VPK program, of which 1,669 are enrolled.



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There are 84 School Readiness Providers and 73 VPK Providers.

### **VI. Old Business**

a. Program Assessments and Monitoring for 2023/2024

Due to the holidays, the number of assessments and monitoring's are down. The number of assessments and monitoring's will heavily increase in the upcoming weeks.

b. ARPA Grants for 2023/2024

The Coalition has spent \$2.2 million of the \$4.99 million ARPA Early Learning Discretionary grant through the end of December.

### **VII. New Business**

a. Little Free Library Thank You Card

The Coalition received a thank you card from Little Free Library for the support as their partner in the fight against illiteracy in underserved areas of Pensacola.

b. IACET Approval

The Coalition has gained certification as an IACET approved agency. This allows the Coalition to deliver courses that earn CEU credits. Operations staff put in a great deal of work to get approved for this certification.

**Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m.**

Next Meeting: March 19, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501