



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

**RDC Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 16, 2021 10:00 a.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Roger Thompson (Chair)	Marcus McBride	Jessica Czuprynski
Ruthie Christie	Angela Strumeyer	Stephen Sanchez

**Staff in Attendance**

Bruce Watson	Vicki Pugh	Christy Zukowski
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**Providers and Partners in Attendance**

Aileen Ilano	Deborah Jackson	Kristy Craig
Mindi Crain	Gwen Stabler	Hitomi Wright
Juanita Lindsey	Kabrina Anderson	Lawanna Hamilton
Misty Lambeth	Shaunna Bailey	Tina Issacson
Tonyia Nevins		

**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 March 1, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson, the Committee Chair.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for January 19, 2021**

Upon a motion made by Ms. Strumeyer and seconded by Ms. Czuprynski, the Agenda and the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting were approved without objection.

**IV. Program Reports**

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Tucker was not in attendance. Mr. Watson noted that Ms. Boyd retires in April. The DOH has agreed to provide people to meet the contract for the remainder of the fiscal year.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Pugh noted that CCR&R is fielding about the same number of calls per month as before the pandemic. Most are looking for child care so they can work.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel site visits have resumed and most of the annual SRPA visits, with the exception for those that are on a Quality Improvement Plan, will be done by the end of April.



## Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

### d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

Mr. Watson noted that enrollment numbers have been decreasing. Only 2952 children are enrolled as of this week. The decrease in enrollments is in part due to the First Responder Program ending on March 31, 2021.

The Coalition still has no Wait List as all children are pulled each week. Currently, there are 12 children and 32 PS children who are approved but have been unable to find care due to limited space available, or not meeting the preferences of their parents or guardians. Providers have indicated that space is limited due to a lack of teachers resulting in a shortage of staff throughout the county. Staffing shortages are being experienced statewide and is a significant factor here in Escambia County.

The Coalition still has 83 School Readiness Providers and 65 VPK Providers.

## V. Old Business

- a. First Responder and Health Care Worker Child Care (Enrollments ended July 31, 2020, program ends March 31, 2021)

All enrolments end on than March 31, 2021. Parents are being encouraged to apply for SR services to determine if they qualify. Prior SR clients are being reverted as well.

- b. Coalition Relocation

The Coalition is still negotiating with the landlord to renovate new offices in the office tower at the south end of Town and County Plaza.

## VI. New Business

- a. SR Provider Rate Increase and Contract Amendments

The OEL SR rate increase was fully implemented and went into effect on January 1, 2021. Many Providers are in the process of changing their private pay rates so as to take full advantage of the rate increase. Contract amendments will continue as needed until all the rate change requests are complete.

- b. OEL SRPA Rule Impact on 21/22 Contracts

The OEL decided through Rule to extend the cut off for contracting at 3.5 into Fiscal Year 2021/2022. However, if Providers score below a 4.0, they will have to be on a Quality Improvement Program (QIP). Starting in 2022/2023 all Providers will have to score 4.0 or higher to be eligible for a SR contract.

- c. Annual CCRR Updates and 21/22 Contracting

The Coalition is in the midst of the annual OEL CCRR Provider Profile updates. All Providers must update their profiles in EFS MOD before May 31, 2021. However, they will need to be done before that if they want to initiate next year's contract on time.



## Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

### **VII. Community Partner Updates**

a. Achieve Escambia

No representative was available to report.

b. ARC Gateway

No representative was available to report.

c. DCF Regulation

Ms. Strumeyer stated most of the Regulation office staff are still teleworking. The office can still be contacted by calling the main number and the call will be forwarded accordingly. Renewals still need to be submitted on time, but Providers can expect delays in getting the approval back on time. If you need verification that you have submitted the renewal package, contact the Regulation Office and they can send email confirmation. Renewal notices are going out 90 days prior, and submissions must be made no later than 45 days prior, to expiration date. Send the application form and check to Tallahassee by regular mail, the rest of the package can be emailed. The Regulation Office is looking to hire a new Counselor.

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

No representative was available to report.

e. ECARE

Ms. Christie encourages parents to sign up for the Ready Rosie App. There is no cost as this is being offered under an Impact 100 Grant. If anyone is interested, she asks that they please contact her at [kristy@escambiareads.org](mailto:kristy@escambiareads.org)

f. Florida Association for Infant Mental Health (FAIMH)

No representative was available to report.

g. Gulf Coast Kids House

No representative was available to report.

h. Pensacola State College

No representative was available to report.

i. School District Education Career Academy

No representative was available to report.

j. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski informed everyone that VPK enrollments for school district sites will begin on April 5.



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

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

**a. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.**

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505