



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2020 10:00 a.m.

Members in Attendance

None

Members Called In

Melody Meier

Brenda Hardy

Debi Tucker

Mary Ann Bickerstaff

Bryan Wyer

Staff

Bruce Watson

Vicki Pugh

Jamie Phelps

Public

Hitomi Wright

Tammy Hicks

Shawna Bailey

Jenny Reed

Shaunda Young

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

Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board on February 27, 2020 and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on February 28, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Watson who noted that, due to the retirement of the DCF Representative and the resignation of the Provider Representative, the RDC Chair is vacant at this time. Mr. Watson announced that he will work with the Board to recruit a new RDC Chair and he indicated that the is open to a Provider who is not a Board member to be the RDC Chair, and that interested parties may contact him directly. Due to the Coronavirus Crisis, a number of agenda items may be skipped at this meeting.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2020

Upon a motion made by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Meier, the Minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were accepted and approved without objection.

IV. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Mr. Watson requested a very brief recap of the Medical Support Services Report and he indicated that visits by the medical support staff to Provider sites have been suspended at this time. Ms. Tucker indicted that the Medical Support team to date have completed 653 vision screenings, with 16 referrals and 26 outcomes and 691 hearing screenings with 21 referrals and 20 outcomes. Over the last few months, 51 education classes have been conducted. Training class topics have included handwashing, safety, dental, and nutrition. In addition, EpiPen training for staff has been completed and an Adult CPR Course was conducted. Mr. Watson



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

noted that he will be meeting with the nurses immediately after this meeting and that in all likelihood, the CPR class scheduled for tomorrow will be cancelled. He added that he notified DCF that until further notice the Coalition will not be used as a DCF testing site.

b. CCR&R Update (Skipped)

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Pugh indicated that Program Support was going well. SRPA, technical assistance, and training will all be suspended for a minimum of four to six weeks. Guidance from OEL is expected to be forthcoming with respect to ASQs. Providers in TS Gold are highly encouraged to continue observations on site and were reminded that coaching staff will remain available via email and phone.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are currently just under 3,300 children enrolled in the SR Program of which 100 children are in the new category of SR Match with families that are over 150% of FPL but under 85% SMI. At this time, the Coalition is continuing to process the Wait List and encourage parents to reach out to Providers to seek care for their children. Mr. Watson indicated that he has been discussing with DCF the possibility of bringing on practitioners who have Department of Education background screenings. He further noted that there is no indication that ratio numbers will be modified since those numbers are established based on safety.

There are currently 82 SR Providers and 77 VPK Providers. Later today, Providers may expect an email from Mr. Watson regarding closure process guidelines. The Coalition requests that VPK Providers hold off on submitting closure forms until three days after classes resume as further updates are likely as the crisis evolves.

V. Old Business

a. SRPA and 2020-2021 Contract Requirements

Most SR Program Assessments (SRPA) have been completed at this time and the Coalition is hopeful that all assessments will be done in time to contract for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Due to the COVID-19 Crisis, it is possible that the State may grant waivers for completing an SRPA so that Providers lacking an SRPA may continue to contract with the Coalition.

With one exception, most Providers operating with a QIP have made adequate progress. Mr. Watson noted that the exception was not impacted by circumstances related to the COVID-19 Crisis because the Provider was already out of compliance before the crisis began. It is anticipated that the Coalition should be able to complete SRPAs for the other two Providers with QIPs, provided business as usual resumes before the end of April.

b. SRPA QPI/Grow With Me/LENA Update (skipped)



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

c. Escambia Children's Trust Update (skipped)

d. 2020-2021 Curriculum Requirements and Scholarships

Providers are encouraged to continue purchasing updated curriculum required for 2020/2021 contracts. The Coalition is offering scholarships to support purchase of the new curriculum and anticipates beginning reimbursing Providers sometime in the month of May. There is a possibility that Providers who have already purchased the new curriculum and who have filed paperwork for the scholarship will be reimbursed by the end of April.

e. RDC Committee Chair/Co-Chair

The Coalition has had two Board members who have served as RDC Co-Chairs over the last two years. One is retiring in March and the other will roll off the Board in June 2020. Therefore, the Coalition will need at least one person to step into the role. While it is preferable for a Board Member to fulfill the role, a Provider Rep could also be eligible to serve.

f. Provider Board Representatives

2020 marks the three-year cycle for the Coalition's two Provider Board Representatives to roll off the Board effective July 1, 2020. Nomination forms were distributed in Attendance Day packets in February and will be emailed to Providers. The Coalition must fill the two Provider Representatives because they are statutorily required and at least one Provider Representative is required to be a member of every Review Hearing Committee.

g. 2020 Legislative Actions

Mr. Watson reported that HB1013 has not yet been passed in the Legislature as focus has shifted to the COVID-19 crisis response.

h. 8th Annual Early Learning Summit – Tentatively May 26, 2020

At this time, the Coalition has tentatively reserved the date of May 26, 2020 for the 8th Annual Early Learning Summit. Screenings of the film, "No Small Matter" will be shown at both the morning and afternoon sessions at 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. respectively. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to the screenings and snacks will be provided. Providers and their staff will be given two hours of in-service time for attending either of the sessions. The film focuses heavily upon the impact of Early Learning on early brain development as well as societal impact if children do not properly develop. Early Learning advocate, Rachel Giannini, will speak four 30-45 minutes after each screening. The Summit will be held at Amos Theatre on the Pensacola State College campus and the theater seats up to 600. WSRE is co-sponsoring the Summit and will begin airing commercials by the end of April or the beginning of May.

VI. New Business

a. Provider Rate Changes

The Coalition is proposing increasing Provider rates. After discussion, the proposed Provider rate increase for infants was amended from \$26.51 to \$35.00 per day; and the toddler rate from \$24.42 to \$32.00 per day. In addition, School Age rates would increase from \$17.55 to \$20.00



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

per day. Upon a motion made by Ms. Wright and seconded by Mr. Wyer a recommendation to the Executive Committee to accept the proposed Provider Rate Changes, as amended, was approved without objection. The proposed rate changes will be sent to the Office of Early Learning before the end of April for implementation on July 1, 2020.

b. Parent Fee Change

The proposed Parent Fee Decreases would change full time base rate from \$5.00 to \$3.50 and part time base rate from \$2.60 to \$2.50. Upon a motion made by Ms. Wright and seconded by Ms. Bickerstaff a recommendation to the Executive Committee to accept the proposed Parent Fee Change was approved without objection.

VII. **Community Partner Updates**

a. Achieve Escambia

No representative was available to report.

b. ARC Gateway

Ms. Bickerstaff reported that, due to the COVID-19 crisis, ARC Gateway is exploring Tele-Therapy options as Navy Base child care centers have requested cessation of on-site visits. At this time, the Navy Base centers are the only Providers requesting remote services. Ms. Bickerstaff invited Provider feedback on the matter. Ms. Wright, indicated that ARC Gateway is welcome to continue conducting on-site services at her facility.

c. DCF Outreach

No representative was available to report.

d. DCF Regulation

No representative was available to report.

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

No representative was available to report.

f. ECARE

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.



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

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

k. School District VPK
No representative was available to report.

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

VIII. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 3300 North Pace Boulevard, Suite 210, Pensacola, Florida 32505