



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson	Cindy Kirk	Tammy Hicks
MaryAnn Bickerstaff	Jessica Czuprynski	Paul Fetsko
Bambi Sealy	Tarae Donaldson	

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Nina Daniels
Melissa Jennings	Ella Brown	Wendy Jimenez

Providers and Partners in Attendance

Shaunna Bailey	Shirley Kelley	Lindsey Cannon
Melinda Maiterth	Pamela Barksdale	CN1111

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 March 1, 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 January 16, 2024

Upon a motion made by Ms. Czuprynski and seconded by Mr. Fetsko, the Agenda and the Minutes of January 16, 2024, were approved without objection.

IV. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC/Gateway/Help Me Grow

Ms. Kelley stated that Help Me Grow participated in their first Book, Balls and Blocks event at the Be My Neighbor event last Saturday. They will participate in their second Book, Balls and Blocks event on March 24 at the Building Brains Ballpark Bash being held at The Wahoo Stadium. They will also be participating in the 2024 North Escambia Baby Shower in Century, Florida on April 13.

b. CareerSource ESCAROSA



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Ms. Maiterth stated that ESCAROSA will be at the Health Career Job Fair on April 11 at PSC's Warrington Campus and the Pensacola Beach Hospitality Career Fair on April 3 that's being held at Holiday Inn Resort Pensacola Beach. ESCAROSA has added Florida Ready to Work workshops to the March Calendar.

c. DCF Regulation

Ms. Sealy stated that there was nothing new to report on.

d. Escambia Children's Trust

Ms. Cannon introduced herself as the new Executive Director of the Escambia Children's Trust.

e. Head Start

No representative was available to report.

f. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk reported that there will be 2 new online courses added for the Summer Semester. Starting in the Fall Semester, all 4 classes for the CDA will be available online.

g. Ready Kids!

No representative was available to report.

h. School District VPK

Ms. Czuprynski reported that registration will begin on April 1.

V. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Ms. Brown reported that as of February, there have been 993 vision screenings from which 58 referrals have been made and 1,051 hearing screenings from which 73 referrals have been made.

b. CCR&R Update

Ms. Jennings reported that the number of new interviews has increased. The Coalition has been busy with Outreach events. The Coalition participated in Be My Neighbor Day this past weekend. The Coalition will be participating in Building Brains Ballpark Bash at Wahoo Stadium on March 24, Fiesta Pensacola on April 6 and the 2024 North Escambia Baby Shower in Century on April 13. As of February 2024, there have been 9,695 books distributed.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated that there have been a lot of training events with an increased number of participants. A new round of curriculum training will start in April. A lot of coaching is taking place in the field. Program assessments are slowly coming to an end. Assessments for VPK are finished and all of SR assessments should be completed by the end of April to first part of May.



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

The Coalition has five assessors on staff that are trained across the board from Infant to PreK. Annual Provider monitoring is still in progress.

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

There are 2,591 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. Two weeks of children were pulled from the waitlist on 3/19/2024. There are 593 children on the Wait List. To date, there are 684 children approved for the 2024-25 VPK program.

There are 84 School Readiness Providers and 72 VPK Providers.

VI. Old Business

a. **Program Assessments and Monitoring for 2023/2024**

Program assessments are slowly coming to an end. Assessments for VPK are finished and all of SR assessments should be completed by the end of April or first part of May. The Coalition has five assessors on staff that are trained across the board from Infant to PreK. Annual Provider monitoring is still in progress.

b. **ARPA Grants for 2023/2024**

The Coalition has Workforce Grants coming up. The estimated amount of funds needed for this grant will exceed the \$1.7 million allocated for this initiative.

c. **Joyce Griffin Room Dedication**

The Coalition has yet to find a company to submit a proof for the plaque that has passed the parameters of what the Coalition is wanting. Mr. Fetsko suggested putting a sample together and have the students at Northview High School, who are in the academy that work with the technology to laser engrave, make the plaque for the training room. The Coalition would only have to pay for the supplies needed for the plaque.

VII. New Business

a. **IACET Plaque**

The Coalition gained the certification as an IACET approved agency. The certification plaque came in last week and was shared with the Committee.

b. **Legislative Session Results Preview.**

The Legislative Session \$1.7 billion for Early Learning programs highlights were presented and discussed. These session highlights will be presented at the next EXCOM meeting.

c. **Kindergarten Readiness Rates**



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

The DEL has published the Kindergarten Readiness rates for the State by county and by School. Florida was 51% ready and Escambia was 50% ready. State VPK completers were 64% ready and Escambia 64% ready. State Non-Participants were 36% ready and Escambia 38% ready.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501