



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

RDC Committee Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson	Jessica Czuprynski	Cindy Kirk
Melissa Sidoti	Lindsey Cannon	Shacondra Primm
Tarae Donaldson	Bambi Sealy	Tammy Hicks
Deborah Tucker		

Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Dawn Engel	Nina Daniels
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Providers and Partners in Attendance

Shirley Kelley	Melinda Maiterth	Amy Stamey
Roselyn Sukal	Shaunna Bailey	Destiny Garrett
Tammy Gibson		

Public in Attendance

None

I. Welcome, Call to Order, Adjourn Temporarily for Ceremony to Dedicate the Joyce Griffin Training and Testing Center and Reception

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Roger Thompson, Committee Chair. The meeting was temporarily adjourned to hold the Training Room renaming and dedication ceremony. In honor of Ms. Joyce Griffin, the Training Room was dedicated in her memory and renamed The Joyce Griffin Room for Professional Development and Testing. A short reception was held before the meeting resumed.

II. Resumption of meeting

The meeting was resumed. Notification of this meeting was posted to the Coalition Public Calendar Board and sent to the Pensacola New Journal on June 20, 2024.

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for January 16, 2024

Upon a motion made by Ms. Kirk and seconded by Ms. Sidoti, the Agenda and the Minutes of May 21, 2024, were approved without objection.

V. Community Partner Updates

a. ARC/Gateway/Help Me Grow



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Ms. Kelley provided the following:

- Help Me Grow was excited to announce that Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) testing has had an age expansion to include 3–5-year-olds.
- Help Me Grow has open positions for infant/toddler Developmental Specialists.
- Help Me Grow has had a sensory room at Amazing Kids, presented a presentation at Magella House, held a second training at Tiny Treasures and is in the process of getting set up to do outreach events in Century.
- Help Me Grow participated in many outreach events in June and July, and there are many more events scheduled for the coming months.

b. CareerSource ESCAROSA

Ms. Maiterth provided the following:

- TSA is having a hiring event on July 16 for transportation security officers.
- CareerSource ESCAROSA is having a Florida Healthcare initiative for funded job training in the medical field.
- AMI Kids Pensacola has a program that offers stipends for teens and young adults to complete their GED's and to obtain job training.

c. DCF - Regulation

Ms. Sealy stated that the Childcare Licensing office has three new staff members, and all school readiness inspections have been successfully completed in a timely manner.

d. DCF - Community Development

Ms. Sidoti stated that the Safe Haven Law is changing on July 1. The time limit to drop off a newborn at a safe place is going from seven days to thirty days.

e. Escambia Children's Trust

Ms. Cannon stated that ECT is looking at the end of year data and are working on a report for out-of-school time. The report should be ready by August. Ms. Cannon also stated that an invitation to bid went out for Healthy Schools Escambia.

f. Head Start

No representative was available to report.

g. Pensacola State College

Ms. Kirk stated that the four courses needed for a CDA will be offered online starting in the Fall. The Child Development class is completely full and so is Intro to Early Childhood.

h. Ready Kids!

No representative was available to report.

i. School District VPK



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Ms. Czuprynski reported that the School District is gearing up to get ready for the new school year.

j. Gulf Coast Kids House

Ms. Stamey stated that Gulf Coast Kids House is busy gearing up for the new school year.

V. Program Reports

a. Medical Support Services Report

Mr. Watson reported that for Fiscal Year 2023-24:

- There were 1,557 vision screenings from which 97 referrals were made
- There were 1,653 hearing screenings from which 122 referrals were made.

b. CCR&R Update

Mr. Watson reported that for Fiscal Year 2023-24:

- There was a total of 543 interviews conducted.
- The Coalition stayed busy with outreach events and participated in 43 events.
- A total of 19,735 books were distributed.

c. Program Support Summary

Ms. Engel stated the following:

- There was a total of 114 trainings performed this past year.
- Monitoring for the year resulted in only nine corrective actions.
- June was a slow month, and Operations used this to wrap up program activities.

d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are 2,531 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program. The last pull from the Wait List was on May 21, 2024. There are 589 children on the Wait List. To date, there are 1,584 children approved for the 2024-25 VPK program.

There are 81 School Readiness Providers and 70 VPK Providers.

VI. Old Business

a. ARPA Grants for 2023/2024

ARPA Grant funding has come to an end. Over the last three years, over \$45 million has gone out into our community.

b. SR Plus Program in fiscal Year 2024-25

The State is implementing a new program to allow parents who are already in the SR program to remain past 85% SMI up to 100% SMI. Their parent fees will be higher, but it will help ease the transition from subsidized child care as their incomes increase.



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VII. New Business

a. SR Provider Rates Impact on Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding

The allocation numbers for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget have been received from the DEL. At this point if the State does not allocate more funding, the Coalition will be \$2.5 million short for the year. Projections indicate that if no additional funding is received to balance the budget the Coalition would have to cut 304 children from the SR program.

b. New RDC Meeting Schedule

A new meeting schedule, with the revised meeting dates, was presented to the Committee.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Joyce Griffin Room for Professional Development and Testing at the Early Learning Coalition Office, 1720 West Fairfield Dr. Suite 100/400, Pensacola, Florida 32501