



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Resource Development Committee (RDC) Meeting Minutes July 15, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

RDC Members in Attendance

Roger Thompson (Chair/Board)	Cindy Kirk (Board/PSC)
Melissa Sidoti (Board/DCF)	Tarae Donaldson (Board/ESCAROSA)
Bambi Sealy (Board/DCF)	Lindsey Cannon (Board/ECT)
Tammy Hicks (Board/Vice-Chair)	Debbie Tucker (Board/County Health Department)
Brian Wyer (Board/Gulf Coast Minority Chamber of Commerce)	
Jessica Czuprynski (Partner Member/ECSD)	

Coalition Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Nina Daniels	Melissa Jennings
Renee Maxwell		

Providers and Non-RDC Member Partners in Attendance

Roselyn (Provider)	M. Hunt (Provider)	Tammy Gibson (Provider)
Vanna English (Provider)	Whittney Smiley (Provider)	
Victoria Jordan (Provider)	Lawanna Hamilton (Provider)	
Amy Philley (Provider)	Hitomi (Provider)	Dana Minchew (Provider)

Public in Attendance

None.

I. Welcome, and Call to Order

Notification of the Resource Development Committee meeting for July 15, 2025, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication and posted to the Coalition's Public Calendar Board on July 1, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson.

II. Public Comments

None.

III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes for April 22, 2025

Mr. Watson requested to amend the Agenda to add Fall 2024-2025 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Results to New Business. Upon a motion made by Ms. Sidoti and seconded by Ms. Czuprynski, it was approved without objection to amend and approve the Agenda and the Minutes of April 22, 2025.

IV. Community Partner Updates

- a. ARC/Help Me Grow
 - No representative was available to report.



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

- b. CareerSource ESCAROSA
 - Ms. Donaldson stated that she had nothing new to report.
- c. DCF – Regulation
 - Ms. Sealy stated that practitioners can now complete the 40-hour course for free. There is still a \$10 fee for the exam.
 - SR Readiness inspections have started for the FY 25-26.
- d. DCF - Community Development
 - Ms. Sidoti stated that she had nothing new to report.
- e. Escambia Children’s Trust
 - Ms. Cannon stated that there have been 14 new grants issued through the Cares Grant Program.
 - Escambia County and ECT have come to an agreement over the tax money the County says the Trust owes. The Trust will directly fund the County’s summer youth employment program and other child service initiatives that the County requested. In return, the County has agreed to provide data related to the children that they are serving.
 - The City of Pensacola has asked for CRA dollars in the amount of \$2.4 million. The City is also asking for late fees and interest. ECT has filed for an exemption with the City.
- f. Head Start
 - No representative was available to report.
- g. Pensacola State College
 - Ms. Kirk stated that classes start on August 18.
 - Ms. Kirk stated that online classes are full and that there are 186 students who signed up.
- h. Ready Kids!
 - No representative was available to report.
- i. School District VPK
 - Ms. Czuprynski stated that registration for VPK is in full swing at the school district. They expect to be completely full by the first day of school.

V. **Program Reports**

- a. Medical Support Services Report
 - Ms. Jennings reported that for the FY 24-25:
 - o 1,237 vision screenings were done, and 61 referrals were made.
 - o 1,348 hearing screenings were done, and 94 referrals were made.



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

- b. CCR&R Update
 - Mr. Jennings reported that for FY 24-25:
 - o 604 new interviews were conducted.
 - o The Coalition participated in 24 outreach events.
 - o A total of 17,886 books were distributed.
 - o Lobby Events are now posted on the ELC website.
- c. Program Support Summary
 - Mr. Watson provided the following for FY 24-25:
 - o There was a total of 52 trainings conducted with a total of 617 participants.
 - o There was a total of 128 classroom assessments performed.
 - o There was a total of 27 Corrective Action Plans implemented.
 - o ELC will be partnering with UWF and planning to hold an Early Learning Conference in the Fall.
- d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary

There are 2,516 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program of which 58 are SRMAT and 881 are school-age children. There are 260 children on the Wait List. There are 1,371 children approved for VPK for 2025/26 Program year.

There are 80 SR providers and 68 VPK providers.

VI. Old Business

- a. SR Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding Update

All SR and VPK Advance money was expended with the May 2025 Invoice. For VPK this was planned, but for SR and SR Plus this was done because the DEL required all SR and SR Plus advances to be returned with the May invoice. To help ensure expenditure reimbursements were more than advances the DEL approved including any non-direct expenses already paid or obligated in June be included in the May 2025 invoice. There will not be a June or a thirteenth invoice for 2024-2025 for SR and SR Plus services or expenditures. This was done so that the balance of unexpended but allocated SR and SR Plus funds could be reverted and reappropriated to the Coalition for use in Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Payment for the June Service Period of SR and SR Plus will be made by doing a Prior Year Invoice in 2025-2026. The amounts reverted were \$2,560,523 for SR and \$184,588 for SR Plus. Approximately \$1.4 million of the reverted funds were used to pay for June SR. June SR Plus services have not been invoiced because the reverted funds have yet to be fully reallocated and no funds for SR Plus were allocated in the first NOA for FY 2025-2026.

VII. New Business

- a. SR Fiscal Year 2025-26 Funding Update



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

The first Notice of Award for 2025-2026 has been released. The total SR allocations for the fiscal year is \$16,368,553.

b. Quality Funding Restrictions/Program Cuts

Gold Seal funding has been added back into the SR funding under direct services for FY 2025-2026 which will reduce the total amount that can be used for SR child services. The overall reduction will affect the number of quality initiatives that can be funded by the Coalition.

c. Discussion on Enrollment Options

The following funding/enrollment scenarios for the FY 2025-2026 Funding are provided for review:

1. At the FY2024-2025 year end funding amount of \$18.3 million, the Coalition can support about 2,500 children.
2. The Legislature has proposed allocating ELC Escambia \$15.8 million. This would only support 2,000 children in care. A reduction in enrollment of 500 children would have to be initiated almost immediately.
3. The reverted funding should result in an increase in funding for 2025-2026 of just over \$1.5 million. This addition funding could support 2,200 children in care. This would result in a reduction of about 300 children.
4. The AELC has proposed a plan named the Compression Scenario where all the reverted funds are redistributed based on need. This would potentially increase Coalition funding by an additional \$500,000. This would support 2,300 children in care. This would result in a reduction of about 150 children.

d. Kindergarten Readiness Rates

A summary of the Kindergarten Readiness for the 2023-2024 VPK program year was provided for discussion.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2025, 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