



Early Learning Coalition of Escambia County

Resource Development Committee (RDC) Meeting Minutes

October 21, 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)
Lindsey Cannon (Board/ECT)	Tammy Hicks (Board/Vice-Chair)
Jessica Czuprynski (Partner Member/ECSD)	Reggie Dogan (Board/CHNWF)
Doug Brown (Board/Head Start)	Melinda Maiterth (Partner/ESCAROSA)
Kristy Craig (ReadyKids)	

Coalition Staff in Attendance

Bruce Watson	Nina Daniels	Melissa Jennings
Dawn Engel	Renee Maxwell	

Providers and Non-RDC Member Partners in Attendance

M. Hunt (Provider)	Vanna English (Provider)	Victoria Jordan (Provider)
Amy Philley (Provider)	Hitomi (Provider)	Dana Minchew (Provider)
Phil B. (Provider)	Shaunna Bailey (Provider)	Ms. Deidre (Provider)
Deborah J. (Provider)	CN112 (Provider)	Treehouse (Provider)

Public in Attendance

None.

I. Welcome, and Call to Order

Notification of the Resource Development Committee meeting for October 21, 2025, was sent to the Pensacola News Journal for publication and posted to the Coalition's Public Calendar Board on October 7, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Thompson.

II. Public Comments

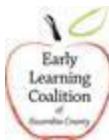
None.

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

Upon a motion made by Ms. Czuprynski and seconded by Ms. Kirk, the Agenda and the Minutes of July 15, 2025 was approved without objection.

IV. Community Partner Updates

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



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- b. CareerSource ESCAROSA
 - Ms. Maiterth stated that there will be a career fair held at Pensacola Beach on October 29th.
 - In November there will be a Paycheck for Patriots job fair held at Olive Baptist Church.
- c. Community Health of Northwest Florida
 - Mr. Dogan reported on the Baby Bucks program that offers pregnant mothers incentive bucks when they come in for check-ups and complete courses. These Baby Bucks can be used to buy baby items at on campus Baby Buck store. This program is being used to hopefully help with the high rate of infant immortality. Escambia County has the highest infant immortality rate in the State.
- d. DCF – Regulation
 - No representative was available to report.
- e. DCF - Community Development
 - Ms. Sidoti stated that the Circuit 1 Alliance will be held on November 15th.
- f. Escambia Children's Trust
 - Ms. Cannon stated that ECT has secured another year of Match for SR for ELC.
 - ECT is looking to fund a mobile optometry unit that would start of serving children in kindergarten and First grade.
- g. Head Start
 - Mr. Brown congratulated the Coalition on receiving the Grant and for the success of the Conference.
 - Mr. Brown extended an invitation to Strategic Planning.
- h. Pensacola State College
 - Ms. Kirk stated that she just returned from the Network meeting in St. Petersburg.
 - Ms. Kirk stated that this semester she has 220 students. Currently there are two face-to-face classes, four online classes and three adjuncts that are teaching.
 - Advisory Meeting will be November 7th.
- i. Ready Kids!
 - Ms. Craig stated that Ready Kids is now in 16 VPK classrooms. There are 251 children eligible for the program.
- j. School District VPK
 - Ms. Czuprynski stated that there were no new updates at this time.

V. Program Reports



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- a. Medical Support Services Report
 - Ms. Jennings reported that through September 2025:
 - o 208 vision screenings were done, and 11 referrals were made.
 - o 202 hearing screenings were done, and 11 referrals were made.
- b. CCR&R Update
 - Mr. Jennings reported that through September 2025:
 - o 114 new interviews were conducted.
 - o A total of 450 books were distributed.
 - o CCR&R has been involved in 6 outreach events.
- c. Program Support Summary
 - Ms. Engel provided that through September 2025:
 - o There are four classrooms operating with the LENA program. DEL offered the LENA program through a grant. ELC was awarded 15 classrooms, and the four classrooms will rotate throughout the year.
 - o Now approaching the first checkpoint for child assessments.
 - o This year the change from using HATCH to using Gold Finch, that is operated by Teaching Strategies, will go into effect.
 - o There is one low performing provider in VPK.
 - o 1,376 children have been assessed for progress monitoring.
- d. SR/VPK Status Report and Contract Activity Summary
 - There are 2,313 children enrolled in the School Readiness Program of which 61 are SRMAT and 1,030 are school-age children. There are 499 children on the Wait List. There are 1,841 children approved for VPK for 2025/26 Program year of which 1,456 are enrolled.

There are 82 SR providers and 67 VPK providers.

VI. Old Business

a. SR Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding Update

The following analysis and funding scenarios for use of the FY 2025-2026 SR funding allocated to date were provided for review and discussion:

1. The initial allocation from the Legislature for ELC Escambia for SR services was \$19.4 million. \$1.4 million had to be used to pay SR for June 2025. An additional \$431,700 must go to cover the QPI/GS shortfall. This leaves a total of \$17.5 million for SR funding for FY 2025-2026. This amount can support 2,400 children in care.
2. To get the number of children back to the level that was enrolled on July 1, 2025, which was 2,541, the Coalition would be \$820,000 in the hole.



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3. The Escambia Children's Trust has made an offer to try and get the Coalition the \$820,000 to help offset the shortage in funding.

- b. Quality Funding Restrictions.

The number of Coalition events and spending has been reduced due to the funding cut. Several departments are getting creative with ways to keep events going.

VII. New Business

- a. Recap of Early Learning Conference 28SEP25

A list of the Conference Sponsors and Vendors was presented to the committee. Thank-you letters have been sent out to all the sponsors and vendors. Plans for a conference in 2026 are already underway. The Coalition is looking for a different venue.

- b. Twenty Years of VPK

This year is the 20th anniversary of the VPK Program. The Coalition has a couple of things in work to recognize this milestone. One is having some former VPK graduates, now adults, return to their classrooms and film their interactions with their VPK teachers. The Coalition is soliciting other ideas of how we can mark the event.

- c. Ideas for ELC Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Recognition

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Coalition. November 30, 2000, was when the Coalition was incorporated. The Coalition is soliciting ideas of how the event can be celebrated.

- d. 2026 Meeting Calendar

The meeting calendar was presented to the committee for discussion.

- e. Executive Director Resignation

The Executive Director informed the RDC Committee that he had submitted his resignation. Mr. Watson's last day will be December 23, 2025.

- f. Halloween Door Judging – Post Meeting

The Coalition enlisted the help of committee members to help judge the Halloween Door Contest. All funds raised by the entry fee to enter the contest will be donated to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer.

VIII. Additional Information/News

- a. Impact 100 Grant

The Coalition was one of twelve non-profits to receive a \$103,500 grant from Impact 100. A huge job well done to Ms. Jennings, the Community Director, as this was her project and



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deserves the credit for getting this grant. The Coalition's name the van campaign is going on with our providers for the new Classroom on Wheels!

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 13, 2026, 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