

## **The Meeting Minutes for the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Program Committee.**

April 25th, 2025

### **Time and Place of Meeting**

A meeting of the Program Committee of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida was held on April 25th, 2025, commencing at approximately 9:00 am at the offices of the Early Learning Coalition of SWFL 2675 Winkler Ave Suite 300, Ft. Myers FL 33901. A virtual option was provided to participants via Microsoft Teams.

### **Call to Order**

Michele King presided as Chair of the meeting; Monica Gaddy served as secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes. Michele King called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am.

### **Agenda**

#### **Welcome & Public Comment**

Welcome & Public Comment was presented by Michele King. No public in attendance. No formal action was required to be taken or required.

## **Meeting Agenda & Adoption**

Meeting Agenda & Adoption was presented by Michele King. Committee accepted meeting agenda as outlined. No amendments nor corrections were made.

## **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion duly made by Joanne Moran and seconded Amanda Thomas, the Program Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the Program Committee Meeting dated March 7, 2025.

## **Program Services Department**

The Program Services Department update was presented by Gilda Duran, Chief Program Officer. Dr. Melanie provided updates from recent legislative conference in Tallahassee and shared the anticipated budget reduction as indicated in the House and Senate budget proposals released in April. As for our four-county region Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry steps are being made to ensure we are able to assist as many families as possible with childcare services.

The families who have received vouchers but have not enrolled their child(ren) in care will need to reapply for services.

Our current waitlist has 80 household with 125 children. Numbers by county show Collier 16, Glades 0, Hendry 6 and Lee 58. These numbers reflect the data through April 21, 2025.

Gilda, Chief Program Officer, reported Voluntary- Pre Kindergarten (VPK) numbers for March 2025. 1,370 Resource and Referral Request. The total VPK ap-

plications received for 2025-2026 currently stands at 5,452.

Our VPK enrollments by county are Collier, 1673, Hendry 342, Glades 54 and Lee 5260.

School Readiness (SR) enrollments by county are Collier 1258, Hendry 214, Glades 21 and Lee 3517.

No formal action was taken or required.

### **Early Childhood Education Department**

The Early Childhood Education Department was presented by Michelle Aguiar. CLASS scores were briefly reviewed along with the VPK Accountability Metric, and the Coalition Customer Service Survey from University of Florida. A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

### **Contracts and Professional Development**

Contracts and Professional Development were presented by Brenda Griffin. Humana will be hosting two book drives in May. Dates are May 5th and the 9th.

Lena Grow. Providers can still sign up by contacting [Brenda.Griffin@elcofswfl.org](mailto:Brenda.Griffin@elcofswfl.org). At this time, there are no fees for providers as the Coalition is providing Lena Grow as a service.

Additional professional development opportunities in Spanish have been added to the professional development calendar. The classes fill up quickly, but there is a waitlist.

Provider profiles must be completed by May 9th. Your contract cannot be initiated if your profile has not been completed. We are reaching out to providers by email and phone as a reminder that contracts may have been released but we can't initiate without an active profile.

If providers need assistance with updating profiles, you may contact Angelica Zavala at ***Angelica.Zavala@elcofswfl.org*** or Yanely Cruz at ***Yanely.Cruz@elcofswfl.org***.

### **Assessment and Screening**

The Assessment and Screening information was presented Bronwyn Gogia. A review of the Class Score Matrix. VPK accountability components are on the new matrix. Handouts available for PM1/PM3 calculations. Please email ***Bronwyn.Gogia@elcofswfl.org*** if you have questions regarding your current assessment status. No formal action was taken or required.

### **Reimbursement Updates**

Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz, Chief Executive officer presented Reimbursement Updates was presented. A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

### **2025 - Legislative Updates**

The 2025 - Legislative Updates was presented by Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz. HB 859/SB1382- School Readiness Program /Eligibility Threshold; SB 166 no companion bill filed (School District Long Forms) A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

## **New Business | Open Discussion**

New Business | Open Discussion, was presented by Michele King. The second annual Directors Conference is scheduled for June 7, 2025, at the Crown Plaza. The next Provider Town Hall is on May 20, 2025. No discussion followed and no formal action was taken or required.

## **Meeting; Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Rodrigo Gamboa Dominguez and second by Jamie Slack. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:57 a.m. and the next scheduled meeting will be held on June 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monica Gaddy

Administrative Coordinator