

Minutes of a Meeting of the Program Committee of the Board of Directors of Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida.

April 10th, 2026

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Program Committee of the Board of Directors of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida was held on April 10, 2026, commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m. EDT at the offices of the Company located at 2675 Winkler Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Myers, Florida 33901, and virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order; Roll Call

The following directors, constituting a quorum, were present in person or by teleconference:

- Bethany Quisenberry, Program Committee Chair
- Tara Sherrod
- Rebecca McKellar
- Chantel Porte
- Joanne Moran
- Stacie Britton
- Joanne Pachiva
- Rodrigo Gamboa
- Patricia Dominguez
- Stephanie Rode
- Amanda Thomas

- Angela Anderson
- Mandy Willis
- Danielle Cwikla
- Jamie Schofield

Coalition Staff present:

- Melanie Stefanowicz, Chief Executive Officer
- Beth McBride, Chief Programs Officer
- Cheryl Carpenter, Chief of Early Childhood Education
- Brenda Griffin. Director of Early Childhood Education
- Bronwyn Gogia, Director of Assessment and Screening
- Daana Breeden, RN

Presiding Officer; Secretary

Bethany Quisenberry presided as Chair of the meeting. Melanie Stefanowicz served as Secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes. A quorum being present, Chair Quisenberry called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. EDT.

Welcome & Public Comment

The section, Welcome & Public Comment, was presented. A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Meeting Agenda Adoption

The section, Meeting Agenda Adoption, was presented. A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The February 6, 20206, Program Committee Meeting Minutes were presented for review. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unani-

mously approved as presented.

Program Services Department

Beth McBride, Chief Programs Officer, presented Program Services updates, including utilization data for School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) for the period July 1, 2025, through February 28, 2026. Highlights included enrollment trends, monthly utilization patterns, and wait-list activity.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Early Childhood Education Department

Brenda Griffin, Director of Early Childhood Education, presented updates related to quality and performance, including CLASS observations. It was noted that the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida is leading the state in completed CLASS observations as of January 20, 2026. Updates regarding upcoming CLASS tools and training timelines were also shared.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Contracts and Professional Development

Brenda Griffin, Director of Early Childhood Education, provided updates on provider profiles and contracts and professional development activities. Topics included newly executed SR and VPK contracts, availability of provider profiles for the 2025–2027 period, health and safety updates, and the 3rd Annual Directors' Conference: Together We Can Build a Brighter Tomorrow.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Assessment and Screenings

Bronwyn Gogia, Director of Assessment and Screening, presented updates including Teaching Strategies Child Assessments, VPK Progress Monitoring Period 2 completion rates, and ASQ Child Screening activity. Data related to screening outcomes and referrals for additional services were reviewed.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Strategic Initiatives

Melanie and Cheryl provided updates on strategic initiatives including the School Readiness Birth to age 3 Capacity Building Grant, backpacks for 3 year-olds, the Disaster Relief Grant (DRG) continuity planning opportunity and application process, and the Thrive initiative including the mental health, behavior support, speech pathology, and early identification system of support.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Legislative Updates

A legislative update was provided, including advocacy priorities and information relevant to the 2026 Legislative Special Session. The Coalition is monitoring the budget development process for fiscal year 2026-2027.

A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

New Business

The section, New Business , was presented. A full discussion followed. No formal action was taken or required.

Next Meeting; Adjournment

Next Meeting Scheduled & Adjournment

The next Program Committee meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., with in-person and virtual attendance options available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

