



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

09.02.2026 | Events Committee Meeting

Table of Contents

01	Events Committee Meeting Agenda: September 2, 2026	3
02	Welcome & Public Comment	5
03	Approval June 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes	6
04	Special Initiatives	7
05	Partnership Development	8
06	New Business	10
07	Next Meeting November 4, 2026, at 8:30 am	11
08	Adjournment	15
09	Events Committee Membership	16
10	ELC of SWFL Mission & Vision	17

Events Committee Meeting Agenda: September 2, 2026

The purpose of the Events Committee is to create and implement events to build a stronger governance board and improve the ELC's presence in the community.

Events Committee Meeting Agenda

 September 2nd, 2026 8:30am EDT

Meeting Location: Fort Myers Brunch, 60 Dr Martin Luther King JR Blvd, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Welcome & Public Comment

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Special Initiatives

Partnership Development

New Business

Next Meeting & Adjournment

November 4, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

The purpose of the Events Committee is to create and implement events to build a stronger governance board and improve the ELC's presence in the community.



Welcome & Public Comment

The purpose of the Events Committee is to create and implement events to build a stronger governance board and improve the ELC's presence in the community.

Each public speaker shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes to speak. Prior to the Board meeting, each speaker shall [complete and sign the public comment form](#), which is maintained by the Administrative Coordinator, and state whether they intend to speak on a specific topic on the agenda or a topic that is not on the agenda. If the topic is not on the agenda, the Board of Directors will not comment on the issue but may direct the CEO to contact the speaker about the issue. The CEO may contact the speaker to review or resolve the issue, or to schedule the issue at a subsequent Board meeting. General citizen participation shall not be permitted when the Board is sitting as the legislative body pursuant to 6M-9.400 of Florida State Board Rule, to hear any appeals cases, charges, or recommendations to terminate a provider or client, or otherwise acting as a quasi-judicial body.

Approval June 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes

We will need a committee member to motion to approve as well as a second to the motion.

ACTION ITEM



[06.10.2026] events-committee-meeting-minutes-DRAFT.pdf



[06.10.2026] events-committee-meeting-minutes-DRAFT.pdf

View PDF in Appendix or [on Zeck.app](#) 

 **Vote: Approval of the June 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

Special Initiatives

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Strategies to Increase Board Member Participation

The Committee will discuss practical strategies to increase Board member participation in Coalition and community events. Discussion may include advance notice of opportunities, identification of events suited to Board representation, sign-up and reminder processes, and recognition of Board engagement.

Outreach Events

Thursday, September 17, 2026	Learn, Play & Grow @ Pine Island	Pine Island Public Library 10701 Russell Rd Bokeelia, FL 33922 10 am - 12 pm
Friday, September 18, 2026	Immokalee Community Baby Shower	Immokalee Community Park 321 N 1st St Immokalee, FL 34142 10:30 am - 1 pm Set up: 9:30 am

[View table at Zeck.app](#) 

Partnership Development

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Community Partnership Update

The Committee will receive a brief update regarding current Coalition partnerships and recent community-engagement activities, including the THRIVE Collaborative launch and ongoing relationships with CMON, Future Ready Collier, NCF, Ready Together Alliance, the Health Planning Council, and the four school districts. No new event commitments or expenditures are proposed at this meeting.

Children's Museum of Naples (CMON)

Future Ready Collier

- All in for Early Learning Day: January 25, 2026

Hendry County EDC

NCF

Ready Together Alliance/THRIVE

- SDLC
- CCPS
- Health Planning Council

Glades County School District

Hendry County School District

New Business

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Committee members may raise additional matters related to the planning and implementation of Coalition events, Board engagement, or the Coalition's presence in the community. Matters requiring formal action may be scheduled for a future meeting as appropriate.

Next Meeting | November 4, 2026, at 8:30 am

INFORMATIONAL ITEM



FISCAL YEAR 2027 (2026-2027)

Program, Events, Human Resources, and Nominations & Bylaws Committees Meeting Calendar

Program 9:00 – 11:00 am Hybrid Meetings	Events 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. *In-person meetings	Human Resources 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Hybrid Meetings	Nominations & Bylaws 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Hybrid Meetings
August 28, 2026 Friday Agenda Deadline: August 20, 2026	September 2, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: August 20, 2026	September 2, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: August 20, 2026	September 2, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: August 20, 2026
October 30, 2026 Friday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026	November 4, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026	November 4, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026	November 4, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026
January 29, 2027 Friday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027	February 3, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027	February 3, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027	February 3, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027
April 2, 2027 Friday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027	April 7, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027	April 7, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027	April 7, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027
May 28, 2027 Friday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027	June 2, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027	June 2, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027	June 2, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027

Hybrid meetings will be hosted using the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

FISCAL YEAR 2027 (2026-2027)

Finance and Executive Committees & Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Reporting Period/Subject*	Finance Committee 8:30-9:30 am	Executive Committee 10:00-11:15 am	Board Meetings 9:00 – 11:00 am
September Meeting Draft Report for FY26 and July Report	September 3, 2026 Thursday Agenda Deadline: August 25, 2026	September 3, 2026 Thursday Agenda Deadline: August 25, 2026	September 16, 2026 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: August 25, 2026
November Meeting September Report	November 5, 2025 Thursday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026	November 5, 2025 Thursday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026	November 18, 2025 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: October 21, 2026
February Meeting December Report	February 4, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027	February 4, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027	February 17, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: January 20, 2027
April Meeting February Report	April 8, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027	April 8, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027	April 21, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: March 23, 2027
June Meeting March Report & FY26 Budget, Anti-Fraud updates, Sliding Fee Scale, Third Party Contracts FY Meeting Dates	June 3, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027	June 3, 2027 Thursday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027	June 16, 2027 Wednesday Agenda Deadline: May 18, 2027

Meetings will be hybrid, using the Microsoft TEAMS platform and the Fort Myers location for in-person attendees.

Adjournment

ACTION ITEM

 **Vote: Motion to Adjourn**

Events Committee Membership

Committee Members

- Tara Sherrod, Committee Chair, Director, First Baptist Preschool
- Laura Bright, Chief Advancement Officer, Golisano Children's Museum
- Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz, Chief Executive Officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Ex Officio

Staff Liaison

- Electa Waddell, Chief of Communications & Outreach of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

ELC of SWFL Mission & Vision

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the quality of children's lives by providing families, early childhood educators, care-givers and community partners in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties, with opportunities to positively impact the future.

Our Vision

All children in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee communities will be healthy, eager, and successful learners, supported by well-informed parents, involved citizens, and collaborative community partners. Early Learning Programs will have high quality standards, comprehensive services, seamless delivery systems with diverse settings, and well-educated, competent, and adequately compensated staff.

Our Motto

Nurturing the young children of Southwest Florida and those who care for them!

Our Goals

- Enroll children in child care and pre-school options where they are safe and where they interact with trained staff members who are committed to continuous quality improvement;
- Increase the availability of quality early learning programs to meet the demonstrated needs of families, particularly families who are working toward economic self-sufficiency;

- Work to support children's emotional, intellectual, physical, and social well-being;
- Provide professional development opportunities for those engaged in early learning services;
- Collaborate with community organizations critical to the realization of the Coalition's mission;
- Secure funding sufficient to support the mission of the Coalition;
- Maintain fiscal responsibility and direct resources to achieve intended outcomes;
- Implement accountability measures that are accessible to the Coalition's stakeholders; and
- Develop plans to educate the community on early learning issues and determine strategies that secure support for the mission.

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

June 10th, 2026

Time and Place of Meeting

A meeting of the Events Committee of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida was held on June 10, 2026, commencing in person at approximately 8:30 a.m. EDT at Fort Myers Brunch, 60 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Call to Order; Roll Call

The following Committee members, constituting a quorum, were present in person:

- Tara Sherrod, Events Committee Chair
- Laura Richardson Bright

Coalition Staff present:

- Melanie Stefanowicz, Chief Executive Officer
- Cheryl Carpenter, Chief of Early Childhood Education
- Beth McBride, Chief Program Officer

Presiding Officer; Secretary

Tara Sherrod presided as Chair of the meeting; Melanie Stefanowicz served as secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes. A quorum being present, Tara called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am EDT.

Welcome & Public Comment

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and provided an opportunity for public comment.

No public comment was offered, and no formal action was taken or required.

Approval of the April 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes of the April 14, 2026, Events Committee meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Laura and seconded by Tara, the April 14, 2026, meeting minutes were approved as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Special Initiatives

The Committee discussed strategies to increase Board member participation in Coalition and community events.

The Committee also debriefed the 2026 Directors' Annual Conference and reviewed upcoming community outreach opportunities, including Coalition participation in community events and the Learn, Play and Grow library series scheduled throughout June, July, and August.

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

Partnership Development

The Committee received updates regarding the Coalition's continued partnership development efforts, including engagement with:

- Future Ready Collier;
- Naples Children & Education Foundation;
- Ready Together Alliance and THRIVE partners;
- School District of Lee County;
- Collier County Public Schools;
- Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida;

- Glades County School District; and
- Hendry County School District.

A full discussion followed regarding opportunities to strengthen the Coalition’s community presence and advance collaborative relationships. No formal action was taken or required.

New Business

The Chair invited Committee members to raise new business.

No new business was presented; therefore, no formal action was taken or required.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for September 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made by Laura and seconded by Tara, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 am EDT.

Respectfully submitted,