



Early Learning Coalition
Of Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee Counties, Inc.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

(Via Teleconference)

May 4, 2017

ELC Main Office
10 SE Central Parkway, Suite 200, Stuart

Present:	Brooke Flood (via teleconference) Steve Newman (via teleconference)	Deborah Schooley (via teleconference) Joy Yates (via teleconference)
Excused:	Jennifer Corkern Sabina Guthrie	Donna Rivett
Staff:	Migdalia Rosado Zack Hackley	Pat Houston Loretta Toth

I. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the Program Committee Chair, the meeting was chaired by Mr. Newman who called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. Roll call was taken. A quorum was not present. The meeting continued for information purposes until a quorum could be established.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – None

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Action was taken after the quorum was met).

Motion to adopt the agenda, was made by Joy Yates, seconded by Deborah Schooley and passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Program Minutes – March 2, 2017 (Action was taken after the quorum was met).

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Brooke Flood, seconded by Deborah Schooley, and passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS – None

Brooke Flood joined the call at 8:22 a.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Quality Initiative – School Readiness Provider Stipend Program – Pat Houston reviewed the program as outlined in the packet. Staff recommended a change to the 2nd bullet under “Stipend Criteria and Requirements” to read, “The stipend will be based on October 2016 attendance of contracted SR children ages birth to five-years old”. The change will simplify the calculations and allow the process to be concluded in a timely fashion. Ms. Houston addressed all questions. The committee agreed via consensus to move forward with the program. (Action was taken after the quorum was met).

Motion was made by Deborah Schooley to approve the School Readiness Provider Stipend Program as presented with the recommended change. Motion was seconded by Joy Yates and passed unanimously.

B. Program Updates – Ms. Houston provided the following updates:

- ELCIRMO has received a summer slide grant through the Martin County Board of County Commissioners which begins this summer for VPK graduates. In addition, ELCIRMO is working with Martin County School District on a similar program for next summer.
- The Transition to Kindergarten Committee (OEL forum) is trying to get school districts and coalitions to develop initiatives for the process. In her absence, Jennifer Corkern sent in comments which were read by Ms. Houston. Brooke Flood also commented that the meeting was fantastic.

Joy Yates joined the call at 8:48 a.m. A quorum was present and the action items were addressed.

- Committee members were invited to attend the May provider meetings.
- The Performance Funding Pilot is wrapping up for the year. The application for 2017-18 has not yet been released.
- Staff and providers will be invited to attend a school district training in Martin County on building readers.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The following items were discussed:

- Ms. Houston expressed concern with the STAR Assessment that will be instituted in kindergarten which requires children to test on a computer using a mouse.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Mr. Newman shared an analysis he did in Indian River County to determine the number of children not being served. He questioned the outreach efforts and how they could be improved to reach more families and recommended it be an agenda item at a future meeting. He suggested staff also perform an analysis to determine how many families are not being served.

Brooke Flood left the call at 9:33 a.m.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Newman, Acting Chair
SN/lt

Strategy IV: Preschool and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

Current situation

It is estimated that approximately 95 percent of four and early five-year-olds in Indian River County are enrolled in some kind of prekindergarten. Seventy-five percent of them attend centers that accept Florida VPK funds, and 20 percent attend private centers that do not accept VPK funds.

About 40 percent of three-year-olds attend preschool. Most are attending licensed private centers (both accepting and not accepting School Readiness Program (SRP) funds). A child (0-13) whose parent earns less than 150 percent of the poverty level is eligible for SRP funding. However, these funds, which come from the Federal Government, are very limited and may only reach 15 percent (~200) of three-year-olds in Indian River County.

AS THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS BEGIN VPK, FAMILIES INVITED TO TWEET ABOUT IT

Tallahassee, Fla. – It is back-to-school season, and soon thousands of the state's youngest students will be starting Florida's Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program, a state-funded education program offered to all 4-year-olds.

To celebrate the start of a new year of VPK, Florida's Office of Early Learning and early learning coalitions across the state are launching "My First Day of VPK," a statewide social media campaign to welcome children into the program and help parents mark this important milestone in their child's life. VPK programs start on different days in Florida, so the campaign will begin in August and run through the beginning of September of the 2017-2018 school year.

Parents can visit www.floridaearlylearning.com/vpk/my_first_day_of_vpk.aspx to download and print a special flyer for their children to hold for commemorative photos. Then, they can use #1stDayVPK to post the photos on social media. The office will be sharing #1stDayVPK-tagged content on its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts through early September.

As well as the printable flyer, the web page has tips for parents and children as they prepare for the first day of VPK. There is also a Pinterest board with more resources for children beginning VPK.

Along with families, many school districts and VPK providers will be participating and adding their own activities to make the day special.

VPK builds a strong foundation for school using educational material corresponding to various stages in a child's development. According to the Center for Public Education, high-quality prekindergarten programs not only help children with kindergarten readiness, but can also lead to better school performance and higher graduation rates later on.

Fast facts:

- VPK is free for children who reside in Florida and will be 4 years old by Sept. 1 of the year they enroll. Parents whose children are born between Feb. 2 and Sept. 1 of the calendar year may postpone enrolling their 4-year-old until the following year when their child is 5.
- Results of kindergarten screenings have consistently shown that children who complete VPK are more prepared for kindergarten than those who do not complete or do not attend VPK.
- One of the first states to offer free prekindergarten to all 4-year-olds, Florida leads all other states in access.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, about 76 percent of Florida's 4-year-olds—more than 165,000 children—were enrolled in VPK.
- Approximately 6,200 private, public and charter schools and private child care centers offer VPK.
- There are school year and summer VPK programs as well as specialized instructional services for 4-year-olds with special needs.

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Part of the Florida Department of Education, the Office of Early Learning administers Florida's voluntary prekindergarten education, school readiness, and child care resource and referral programs through 30 local early learning coalitions to ensure Florida's children are emotionally, physically, socially and intellectually prepared to enter school and ready to learn. More than 345,000 children from birth to school age are enrolled in VPK and school readiness programs in Florida. To learn more, visit www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com or call 850-717-8604.



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Toll Free 877-220-1223
www.elcirimo.org

School Readiness & Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten

VPK provides instruction and activities to prepare your child for kindergarten and is **FREE** to ALL Florida 4-year-olds.

School Readiness offers subsidized child care **financial assistance** to qualified families for child care services, ages infant to school-age. This program gives children a competitive start in life.

Let Us Help You Find a Quality Child Care Program.

Building Blocks for Educational Success!



Office Locations

Martin County: 10 SE Central Pkwy., Ste. 200, Stuart, FL 34994

Okeechobee County: 308 NW 5th St., Okeechobee, FL 34972

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