



BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2018

CareerSource Research Coast
584 University Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL

Present:	Brandon Tucker Sandy Akre Barbara Clowdus Rhiannon Forker (via teleconference) Miranda Hawker Shonda Hunter (via teleconference) William Laughlin (via teleconference)	Steve Newman Karlette Peck (via teleconference) Richard Reilly (via teleconference) Ann Rodriguez Natalie Sanders (via teleconference) Joy Yates Julie Zobec
Excused:	Michelle Akins Pat McCoy	Donna Rivett
Staff:	Migdalia Rosado Zack Hackley	Pat Houston Loretta Toth
Others:	Ed Moss - Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC	Deb LaBella - ELC St. Lucie

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair, Ann Rodriguez at 1:38 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – Tom Peer, DCF

representative, retired effective 12/31/17. A letter will be sent to him thanking him for his years of service.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Julie Zobec, seconded by Steve Newman and passed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Regular Meeting Minutes – November 16, 20176
- B. Submission of Children’s Services Council of Martin County 2018-19 Early Learning Development Grant Application
- C. Employee Personnel Handbook (Sections 218, 307, 501, 512 and 516)

Will Laughlin left the call at 1:42 p.m.

It was requested that Item C be pulled from the consent agenda and placed under New Business for a correction and review.

Motion was made by Barbara Clowdus, seconded by Steve Newman to approve consent agenda Items A and B. Motion passed.

V. AUDITOR PRESENTATION

- A. **Action Item 2017-18.01-1 – Acceptance of 2016-17 Audit Report** – Mr. Hackley introduced the auditor, Mr. Ed Moss of Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC.

*Brandon Tucker arrived at 1:46 p.m.
Will Laughlin rejoined via teleconference at 1:47 p.m.*

Mr. Moss reviewed the audit report in depth. It was a clean report, the best that can be received. Once again, ELCIRMO has qualified as a low-risk auditee.

Motion to accept the Audit Report for the year ending 6/30/17 as presented, was made by Brandon Tucker, seconded by Steve Newman and passed.

- B. Action Item 2017-18.02 – Acceptance of IRS 990, FY end 6/30/17** – The report was included for preliminary review purposes only. The report was removed from the agenda, as minor adjustments are required. Filing date is May 15th. The report will be presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

- VI. INTERIM CEO'S REPORT** – Ms. Rosado reported that the Fiscal Specialist resigned, however, the position has been filled. Currently there is a wait list in all counties. Funding has been received toward Okeechobee local match from the United Way Okeechobee in the amount of \$4,000 and \$1,500 toward Indian River local match from the Harry Webster Walker II Charitable Trust.

Ann Rodriguez, Acting Chair, turned the meeting over to Chair, Brandon Tucker.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Action Item 2017-18.03 – Merger Recommendation** – Mr. Tucker noted that the Joint Advisory Merger Committee met and has recommended to move forward with the merger. He opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Newman noted he recently attended a provider meeting, whereby the providers shared their opposition to the merger, including the providers who contract with both ELC's. Based on their comments, Mr. Newman suggested the board consider moving forward in a different manner. The result of previous mergers by other coalitions revealed no additional children served and no cost savings. Discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Miranda Hawker to move forward with the merger per the committee's recommendation and per the Chair's vision laid out for the merger. Motion was seconded by Sandy Akre. There was discussion on the motion. Upon being put to a vote, **Motion failed**.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Steve Newman to:

- 1) Set up a provider focus group to listen to their issues;
- 2) Contact legislators from the other 7 coalitions on the merger list who are opposed to merging to obtain the legislator's comments;
- 3) Obtain finance statements from St. Lucie ELC for two or three years and provide the same to them, as well as talk with their auditor;
- 4) Contact the coalitions that have merged previously to find out if they operate more efficiently, if they are serving more children, and if there are any cost savings.
- 5) Try to complete these tasks within the next 4 weeks or so and regroup.

Motion was seconded by Ann Rodriguez. There was discussion on the motion. Upon being put to a vote, **Motion failed**.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Miranda Hawker to move forward with the merger with St. Lucie ELC, to include a collaborative committee of providers and parents served. Motion was seconded by Sandy Akre. There was discussion on the motion. Upon being put to a vote, **Motion failed**.

Following additional discussion, **Motion** was made by Will Laughlin to decline merging at this time, pending further factfinding discussed. Motion was seconded by Steve Newman. It was further recommended that the facts be brought back to the board for review at the March 22, 2018 board meeting. There was no further discussion. Upon being put to a vote, **Motion passed.**

Staff was directed to coordinate a Provider Focus Group and Steve Newman volunteered to contact the legislators from all the potential merging coalitions, however, Brandon Tucker noted he would contact the legislators and report at the next meeting.

In consideration of time, Chairman Tucker tabled the remainder of the agenda items until the next meeting. There were no objections.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 3/22/18

Ann Rodriguez, Acting Chair
Brandon Tucker, Chair
AR/BT:lt