



PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2018

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

Present: Barbara Clowdus (via teleconference) Pat McCoy (via teleconference)
Rhiannon Forker (via teleconference) Donna Rivett

Excused: Shonda Hunter

ELCIRMO Staff: Migdalia Rosado Loretta Toth
Pat Houston

Others: Steven Newman

I. CALL TO ORDER

At the request of Chair, Barbara Clowdus, the meeting was called to order at 8:17 a.m. by Acting Chair, Donna Rivett. Roll call was taken and a quorum present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Ms. Clowdus requested to add Item C under New Business, to include a discussion on the Program Committee's role with respect to provider's concerns regarding the potential merger and data gathering. Mr. Newman provided an updated from the January board meeting.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt the revised agenda was made by Rhi Forker, seconded by Barbara Clowdus and passed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Program Minutes – November 2, 2017

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Barbara Clowdus, seconded by Pat McCoy and passed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update – Reaching Underserved Communities

Ms. McCoy reported on the meeting with the Okeechobee School District and ELCIRMO. The Superintendent is very open to transporting students from outlying communities who are on regular school bus routes to school sites where private providers could pick them up and take them to centers that offer VPK. Ms. Houston mentioned that some parents need wrap-around care, which would require additional funding, perhaps through a grant. Also, there are children in Okeechobee who are home-schooled. The next step is to gather data such as number of children and cost. The committee discussed funding and publicity ideas.

Tasks:

- 1) Pat McCoy - research funding sources in Okeechobee.
- 2) Committee members - funding sources that may be available in other areas.
- 3) Pat Houston - compile data.

Ms. Rivett suggested the information be sent to the committee as soon as it is available, and prior to the next meeting. Committee members should forward any information to Ms. Rosado.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion: “Why Are Our Most Important Teachers Paid the Least?” *(shared by Mr. Newman)*

Ms. Rivett, a former preschool teacher, commented on the great article, noting that the pay scale is not changing much. The importance of having a good, solid preschool education can help raise children out of poverty.

Ms. Forker left the call at 8:53 a.m.

Ms. Houston commented on the WAGE\$® program which provides a stipend to early educators for milestones in their professional development. The teacher turnover rate was questioned. Ms. Rivett suggested doing a survey to find out how many teachers have left in the last three years. Ms. Newman recommended gathering data about the number of teachers pursuing degrees with the intent of obtaining a teaching position in the public schools due to higher incomes, suggesting the information may be used to convince legislators and others about this important issue and increase funding to keep the teachers in early education, where they have the most impact.

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

- ELCIRMO is co-hosting an Early Educators Conference this Saturday at Redeemer Lutheran Preschool in Stuart. There are approximately 250 participants registered. The event is free to all participants, with lunch catered by the Olive Garden.
- ELCIRMO is supporting Tykes & Teens in an initiative to provide Pyramid Model training to childcare providers in high-need areas. This initiative will be presented to Indian River Impact 100 for a grant opportunity.

Pat McCoy left the call at 9:11 a.m. A quorum was no longer present.

C. Discussion – Program Committee’s Role – Merger Data Gathering

Ms. Clowdus provided an update from the January board meeting, noting that additional data will be gathered and presented at the March board meeting. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Newman. Mr. Newman attended a provider meeting whereby their concerns were expressed to him. After hearing their concerns, it was recommended the board pursue further fact finding and determine if ELCIRMO will proceed with a merger. A provider focus group will be requested to gather additional data and allow an opportunity for the providers to voice their opinions and concerns. Mr. Newman suggested that ELCIRMO staff have input into the information that may be helpful from the Program Committee standpoint, as not all information pertains to financial and operational issues. Staff was directed to develop questions for committee review and input. Additional discussion was held regarding the facilitator, at which time it was suggested that the Board Chair or Vice-Chair facilitate the Focus Group.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Update on tasks – Reaching Underserved Communities
- Data gathering – Teacher turnover rate and number of teachers pursuing degrees.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 3/1/18

Barbara Clowdus, Chair
Donna Rivett, Acting Chair

BC/DR/lt