



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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2018

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

Present:	Barbara Clowdus	Rhiannon Forker (via phone)
Excused:	Shonda Hunter Pat McCoy	Donna Rivett
ELCIRMO Staff:	Migdalia Rosado Pat Houston	Loretta Toth
Others:	Steven Newman (via phone)	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Clowdus. Roll call was taken. A quorum was not present. The meeting continued for information purposes.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA - None

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – *There was no quorum. No action was taken.*

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Program Minutes – April 5, 2018 – *There was no quorum. No action was taken.*

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update – Reaching Underserved Communities

Ms. Houston reported that she is reaching out to community partners and providers to gain more information on the number of underserved children. No data has been compiled to date. Okeechobee School District opened enrollment for two new VPK Classrooms which are already full, indicating an interest and need in the community.

Steve Newman joined the call at 8:17 a.m.

When asked how the new school district classrooms would impact child care Providers, Ms. Houston noted that child care providers will still address the needs of the children ages birth-to-five years old. It was noted that each age group has different staffing requirements and pay rates, some of which are less favorable than VPK. Mr. Newman questioned whether the 40 new children enrolled in Okeechobee's VPK classes were transfers from other centers or new enrollees.

B. Quality Initiative – Provider Stipend Updates

Ms. Houston reported that a total of 54 providers throughout the three counties submitted provider stipend applications. Approximately \$60,000 was awarded in infant/toddler stipends and \$40,000 in the birth-five stipends.

C. Fundraising–Partnerships Update

Ms. Houston will be meeting with the directors of non-profit agencies and child care Providers to obtain their input on Quality Initiatives that would address the community needs in each of our Counties. A list of suggested Quality Initiatives and estimated costs will be sorted by priority, and will be presented for discussion at a future meeting. Mr. Newman recommended fundraising be

added to the Finance Committee agenda. Ms. Houston mentioned the resource GuideStar, which is a tool for identifying potential foundations and grantors, and for which a free subscription is available at the Blake Library in Stuart. Mr. Newman noted that the author, James Patterson, has donated millions in funding to literacy efforts, and suggested that the Association of ELC's request a donation of books.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. House Bill 1091

A brief overview of the bill was included in the packet. The Office of Early Learning is preparing rules for implementation of HB1091. Ms. Rosado explained that the Association of ELC's is urging all coalitions to speak with one voice. The bill involves a major undertaking which begins July 1, 2018 and must be fully implemented by July 1, 2019. In order to keep up with the demand, ELCIRMO will be increasing staff. Ms. Houston explained the impact on the coalition and providers.

Mr. Newman reported that he drafted a letter regarding this legislation, discussing the positive attributes, and suggesting that efforts begin prior to VPK in order to have a higher impact on the number of children who are ready for kindergarten. Suggesting that the letter be addressed from the board, it will be presented at the May board meeting.

B. Program Updates

ELCIRMO has been awarded a \$99,000 grant through Children's Services Council of Martin County to serve children not meeting "purpose for care", called "Bridge to Continuity". The grant will begin July 1.

Rhiannon Forker left the call at 9:03 a.m.

ELCIRMO has submitted three grants to the Children's Services Advisory Council in Indian River for Local Match, CCEP, and Facilitating Language Development in Young Children.

VI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Prioritized list for fundraising for quality initiatives
- Implementation of HB 7055 – Policy to be developed for onboarding providers

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 8/2/18

Barbara Clowdus, Chair
BC/lt