



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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:20 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 – *There was no quorum. No action was taken*

- A. Program Minutes – April 5, 2018
- B. Program Minutes – May 3, 2018.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Quality Initiatives / Fundraising – Partnerships Update

Quality Initiative discussions continued, including that there is a similar need in each county regarding workforce issues. Ms. Clowdus commented that teacher training and the TEACH program is important and could contribute to keeping teachers in early learning. Ms. Rosado just received a document entitled “Child Care WAGE\$ Florida Project – Myths and Facts”, which will be shared with the committee. Any funds contributed by the coalition would go directly to providers, however, there is a cost to administer the program.

At recent quality initiative roundtables in Indian River and Okeechobee where providers and local partners were invited to discuss community needs, Ms. Houston explained that their priorities revolved around mental health and behavioral needs. When asked to provide ideas, Ms. Houston shared that a VPK Completer’s Program has been conducted in Martin County. The Indian River School District currently offers a similar program for certain Title I schools and offers free meals and transportation. ELCIRMO’s program would offer services at a private childcare provider, but parents would need to provide transportation for their child.

Ms. Clowdus commented on the importance of continuing to discuss the quality initiatives with providers and community partners. The next roundtable meeting is scheduled on June 27th.

Ms. Clowdus questioned the results of the survey on provider workforce turnover. Ms. Houston replied that the survey was issued at the March provider meetings with limited response. Ms. Clowdus suggested the survey be resubmitted. Ms. Rosado commented that providers have been overwhelmed with so much new information and surveys that have come from the Office of Early Learning.

B. Update – Reaching Underserved Communities

Ms. Houston reported that after reaching out to partnership agencies, it was determined that the greatest need when targeting the 4-year-olds, was in the areas of Playland Park, Dewberry

Gardens, Whispering Pines and Bass Wood, Okeechobee County. Ms. Houston will discuss further with Pat McCoy regarding these specific areas to see if transportation would be feasible. We believe there is not an issue with car seats at this time. Prior to marketing, information gathering continues on assessing the need and number of children, school bus capacity and route, and the availability of child care centers. The Okeechobee School District has offered to utilize their buses and drop children off at childcare locations along their bus route. An additional issue to be resolved includes transportation for those children needing wrap-around care. Ms. Clowdus commented on the amount of coordination involved between Ms. Houston, Ms. McCoy and the community partners to get the program off the ground and commended them for their efforts. She offered her services in designing a brochure or flyer to promote the program, if needed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. House Bill 1091

A recap of the bill was included in the agenda packet and discussed. The bill will pertain to all providers that offer School Readiness services and is not optional. Many of the components are the same as those in the PFP. A minimum threshold composite score will be established by the state in order for providers to contract with coalitions to provide School Readiness. This does not apply to after school programs. Ms. Houston explained the bill in detail.

Ms. Clowdus questioned whether tablets could be purchased for the providers. Ms. Rosado explained the complex procedure for making equipment purchases.

B. Performance Funding Project (PFP) 2018-19

The deadline for providers to enroll in the 2018-19 PFP is June 15th. A copy of the timeline for the 2018-19 PFP was included in the agenda packet and discussed. At the beginning of the 2019-20 fiscal year, the PFP program will be incorporated into the School Readiness requirements. Additional Quality Specialists will be hired to handle the added requirements.

C. House Bill 7055 – DCF Data and Discussion

This bill authorizes the coalitions to determine whether providers with Class I DCF violations would be allowed to contract and/or provide SR and VPK services. Provider data was included in the agenda packet. Coalitions are awaiting rule promulgation. In the interim, it is recommended the Board develop a policy. Ms. Clowdus recommended drafting a memo with various options for handling the violations for presentation at the next board meeting.

D. Program Updates - Ms. Houston provided the following updates:

- The VPK Completer's Program is in its first week for 2017-18 and is held at Apple Tree Academy Jensen Beach. This is an 8-week program with funding by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners.
- Tykes & Teens received the Indian River Impact 100 grant. A select group of ELCIRMO's providers will be participating in the Infant Mental Health program, starting with TLC in Sebastian and For Kids Only in Vero Beach.
- Tykes & Teens has asked to also work with Martin County providers. ELCIRMO is hosting an informational meeting for six providers to learn about the opportunity.
- ELCIRMO will be attending the Children's Services Advisory Council Indian River grant meeting tomorrow. ELCIRMO has applied for three grants: local match, CCEP, and Facilitating Language Development in Young Children.
- ELCIRMO has been awarded \$99,000 from Children's Services Council of Martin County for the Bridge to Continuity grant, which begins July 1.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 8/2/18

Barbara Clowdus, Chair
BC/lt