



## PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2017

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

**Present:** Barbara Clowdus  
Rhiannon Forker (via teleconference) Shonda Hunter (via teleconference)  
Donna Rivett

**Excused:** Pat McCoy

**Staff:** Migdalia Rosado Loretta Toth  
Pat Houston

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Clowdus. Roll call was taken and a quorum present.

### II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA – None

### III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

*Motion to adopt the agenda, was made by Donna Rivett, seconded by Shonda Hunter and passed unanimously.*

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

#### A. Program Minutes – May 4, 2017

*Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Donna Rivett, seconded by Shonda Hunter, and passed unanimously.*

### V. OLD BUSINESS – None

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Outreach Efforts to Reach More Families** – Ms. Houston commented this item is on the agenda because of discussions at previous meetings concerning how many children are not being served and how to address the situation. She referenced an analysis performed in Indian River County with community partners which reported about 95% of 4-year-old children in Indian River County were being served. Approximately 40% of 3-year old children attended preschool. All providers (contracted and uncontracted) as well as home-schooling committees were included in the reporting process.

ELCIRMO participates in outreach events in all counties and advertises in various publications such as Parenting Magazine. A copy of a recent ad was included in the packet. A listing of upcoming outreach events was included and discussed. Recommendations for future outreach events: a) should include an educational component, i.e., Touch-a-Truck – vendors could tell the children what the vehicles are and what they do; b) free tickets should be given to School Readiness (low-income) families; c) lollipops, hard candy and sticks of any kind should be discouraged.

It was clarified for new members that there is a wait list for School Readiness due to reaching targeted enrollments based on available funding, but VPK does not have a wait list as the state provides funding for all children interested in attending. The committee discussed the various underserved “pockets” where families may not be receiving services, which may be for cultural

reasons, their lack of knowledge of the programs available, or lack of transportation. The earlier a child is in the program, the greater the impact. Further discussion included educating the families in those “pockets” of communities on the importance of early education, how to obtain additional funding, community resources that can be utilized along with collaborating partners, the language barrier, and taking the programs to the communities to overcome the transportation obstacle.

It was recommended a comprehensive report be provided to the board members at the next meeting to obtain their input.

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

- Provider stipends were awarded in June, and Providers expressed appreciation for the additional funding, which was used to increase quality.
- The VPK Completer’s Program just ended, which was an 8-week Summer Slide program provided through a grant from the Martin County Board of County Commissioners.
- The Performance Funding Project applications for 2017-18 are being reviewed. There are 26 child care providers who have applied to participate.
- OEL will be requiring all child care providers to utilize the Provider Portal online system.

**VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Follow-up to include additional information gathered to reach underserved pockets in the communities.
- Setting tasks (regarding Item VI.A).

**VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – None.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Approved 10/5/17***

Barbara Clowdus, Chair  
BC/lt