



BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2019

Economic Opportunities Council
2459 St. Lucie Avenue, Vero Beach, FL

Present:	Leigh Giunta Sandy Akre (<i>phone</i>) Barbara Clowdus (<i>phone</i>) Donna Doubleday (<i>phone</i>) Linda Halpin (<i>phone</i>) Miranda Hawker Steve Newman	Richard Reilly Donna Rivett Natalie Sanders Carolann Wegener-Vitani (<i>phone</i>) Bill West (<i>phone</i>) Julie Zobec (<i>phone</i>) Nivea Torres (<i>new board member</i>)
Excused:	Michelle Akins Rhiannon Forker	Pat McCoy Joy Yates
Staff:	Marsha Powers Zack Hackley Carla Herron	Pat Houston Loretta Toth
Others:	Malissa Morgan – A Child’s World	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Leigh Giunta, at 1:30 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Ms. Giunta announced the appointment of Bill West as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, to fill the vacancy in the position previously held by Ann Rodriguez. This appointment will be until June 30, 2019.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Sandy Akre, seconded by Miranda Hawker and passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Minutes – January 24, 2019
- B. CEO Evaluation Tool
- C. Employee Personnel Handbook, Section 301 – Annual Leave/Paid Time Off
- D. Coalition School Readiness Plan Element Revisions
 1. Plan Element II.C – Eligibility and Enrollment Policies and Procedures
 - a. Needs Assessment & School Readiness Eligibility Priorities)
 - b. Coalition Local Priorities Form
 - c. School Readiness Program Policies
 2. Plan Element III.D – Quality Improvement Strategies
- E. Submission of Children’s Services Council of Okeechobee grant application
- F. Job Description – Operation Manager

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Sandy Akre, seconded by Donna Rivett. Motion passed with Steve Newman opposed.

- V. CEO's REPORT** – Ms. Powers reported EFS Mod (the new online portal) continues to have issues. VPK attendance has been completed. There were only a few providers that were owed money. All coalitions throughout the state are experiencing issues. The School Readiness online system is not yet operational. Once the system is operational, coalitions will have very little time to complete and reconcile reimbursements. Enrollments are down throughout the state. ELCIRMO will enroll off the wait list in all three counties. This is the first time in a long time that enrollments will take place in Indian River County. The Family Services Department will track why we are losing children.

Ms. Powers has been in Tallahassee quite often. She spoke of a proposed bill by Representative Grall, which has the support of Senator Harrell that will require pre and post testing in VPK as opposed to FLKRS (Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener).

There may not be much change in funding, as told by Appropriations, as there are many other priorities.

Ms. Hawker questioned whether ELCIRMO has extra capacity to handle the additional enrollments. Ms. Powers indicated that ELCIRMO will confirm with providers regarding capacity levels.

- VI. OLD BUSINESS** – Ms. Giunta informed the board that the IRS 990 for the year ending 6/30/18 was approved by the Executive Committee at the February 5, 2019 meeting, since a quorum was lost at the January 24, 2019 board meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Membership & Acceptance – Dr. Nivea Torres

Dr. Nivea Torres, Executive Director of the Kindergarten Readiness Collaborative (KRC) in Indian River County, was recommended for membership by the Executive Committee.

Motion was made by Donna Rivett, seconded by Natalie Sanders to accept the board membership application of Dr. Nivea Torres. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Torres shared what the KRC is doing in terms of building relationships and building a system of delivery to avoid duplication of efforts. They are focusing on the Fellsmere and Gifford areas in Indian River County. KRC is working very closely with Head Start, The Learning Alliance, and the United Way.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance Committee Report** – The March meeting was cancelled. At Mr. Newman's request, Mr. Hackley provided a financial update. He reported that VPK is 99% reconciled regarding the collection of all payments. The SR online system was rolled out by OEL and then halted due to many issues. ELCIRMO continues to estimate payments to providers.

There were technical difficulties with the phone system for a few minutes. Attendance via teleconference was confirmed prior to the continuation of the meeting.

- B. Bylaws Committee Report** – The February 27, 2019 minutes were included in the packet. The March meeting was cancelled. Mr. Newman expressed his thoughts and recommended changes to the CEO Evaluation and the Employee Handbook, Section 301. Any additional changes would be reviewed by the Bylaws/Personnel Committee.
- C. Executive Committee Report** – Minutes from the February and March meetings were included in the packet. Ms. Giunta requested that all members submit their bios to Ms. Toth, if not already submitted.

D. Program Committee Report – Ms. Clowdus reported that the February, March and April meetings have been cancelled.

E. Provider Report – Ms. Forker was not in attendance to provide a report.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – Ms. Giunta reported that she attended her first ELAC (Early Learning Advisory Council) meeting in Gainesville. The meeting included discussions regarding issues with the portal as well as upcoming initiatives by legislators.

In consideration of all board members, Ms. Giunta would like to hold at least one board meeting in each county and requested feedback regarding changing the time of the board meetings to 8:00 a.m., so as not to be so disruptive to everyone's schedule. Any suggestions are welcome regarding the time and/or day change.

ELCIRMO's annual Touch-a-Truck fundraising event is Saturday, April 6, 2019. Board members were encouraged to volunteer.

All board members were reminded to submit their bios to Ms. Toth and include any areas of interest.

X. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – At this month's Martin County Provider Meeting, Mr. Newman commented on the small percentage of children that are on reading level in 3rd grade. Ms. Powers reported on the stats that she shared with Mr. Newman and the many factors that affect the percentages, including the fact that many children started out not speaking English. Rather than focus on the percentage of children on grade level at 3rd grade, the focus should be on the learning gains achieved. There are multiple levels of assistance needed. Some children require more assistance than others to bring them up to the level of their peers.

Donna Doubleday left the call at 2:30 p.m.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

XII. INFORMATION – Information items were included in the packet.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 4/25/19

Leigh Giunta, Chair
LG:lt