



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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2019

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

Present:	Barbara Clowdus (phone)	Donna Doubleday (phone)
Excused:	Rhiannon Forker Pat McCoy	Donna Rivett
ELCIRMO Staff:	Pat Houston Zack Hackley	Loretta Toth
Others:	Malissa Morgan, A Child's World	

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chair, Barbara Clowdus. A quorum was not present. The meeting continued for informational purposes only.

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 – December 13, 2018** - *There was no quorum. No action was taken.*

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Quality Initiatives – Provider Stipends

1. Infant/Toddler
2. Preschool

Due to funding availability, the above quality initiatives were recommended by staff. The stipends will be based on the number of children served during April. An application process is required with certain criteria to be met. In previous years, the Provider Services Department reached out to all providers to ensure providers were aware of the initiatives and had an opportunity to submit an application.

Ms. Clowdus questioned how many on-site visits are made to the providers that receive stipends. Ms. Houston reported that while the Provider Services staff is visiting providers to review other requirements, there is the opportunity to review what was purchased with the funds. Ms. Clowdus expressed an interest in hearing about the improvements that providers will be making with the stipends.

B. Program Updates - Pat Houston provided the update.

- Because of implementation of last year's early learning bill, a total of 80 post-assessments will be conducted. Due to the large number of post-assessments, Okeechobee's post-assessments will be contracted out. Seven providers have scored high enough enabling them to skip next year: 1) All About ABC's; 2) All About ABC's Learning Center 2; 3) Apple Tree Academy Jensen Beach; 4) Gertrude Walden; 5) Kids First; 6) Mrs. Theresa's; 7) Stepping Stones II.
- The fifth year of the Performance Funding Project (PFP) is coming to a close.
- May provider meetings will include honoring the providers for Provider Appreciation Day.

- Rule promulgation continues to hold up the processing of School Readiness contracts. The process will be initiated immediately following rule promulgation. Providers are updating their profiles in the portal and entering accompanying documents. DCF violations are being tracked to ensure compliance with the new policy.
- Two providers are on probation due to DCF violations.
- Linda McConkey, Quality Monitoring Specialist in Indian River, is retiring effective 5/17/19.

Ms. Clowdus questioned whether the providers with DCF violations will be brought before the board. She suggested that board members be kept abreast of such violations as well as the status of providers.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Provider Rep Update – Due to Ms. Forker's absence, no update was provided.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – Ms. Clowdus expressed the importance of having monthly Program Committee meetings, even if there is no formal business to approve. In addition, it is a learning experience for the members. She would like to have the Committee take action at the next meeting to approve monthly meetings.

Ms. Doubleday expressed her appreciation for the comments and indicated she is still learning, and the updates are very educational. She thanked staff for the work they do. The report earlier in the meeting on the high-scoring providers was excellent.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Provider usage of stipends.
- Committee meetings to be held regardless of lack of business to conduct.
- Ensure new committee assignments include a Provider representative on the committee.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

X. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 6/3/19

Barbara Clowdus, Chair
BC/lt