



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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2018

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

Present:	Barbara Clowdus (via phone) Rhiannon Forker (via phone)	Shonda Hunter (via phone)
Excused:	Pat McCoy	Donna Rivett
ELCIRMO Staff:	Marsha Powers Pat Houston	Loretta Toth

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m. by Chair, Barbara Clowdus. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA - None

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Shonda Hunter, seconded by Rhi Forker and passed unanimously.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Program Minutes – April 5, 2018
- B. Program Minutes – May 3, 2018.
- C. Program Minutes – June 7, 2018

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made Rhi Forker, seconded by Shonda Hunter and passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Update – Reaching Underserved Communities** - Ms. Houston reported that flyers were distributed at a recent outreach event to solicit families identified as needing services but don't have transportation. Flyers were also distributed to community partners such as Healthy Start, the library, and the Health Department. The Okeechobee School District is firmly committed to the project by offering to provide transportation to children attending childcare centers along the bus route. Individual childcare providers will determine their capacity.

Ms. Clowdus has reached out to Martin County School District to provide the same service in Martin County. Ms. Powers indicated there may be an opportunity to reach out to donors to provide transportation in the much-needed areas such as Indiantown, Port Salerno and Pinewood. There is a pay-to-ride system in Martin County.

- B. **Quality Initiatives / Fundraising – Partnerships Update** – To date, Ms. Houston has hosted three meetings with community partners who have indicated there is a need to focus on behavioral health needs. Indian River County has specifically requested an Inclusion Specialist. It was suggested contracting with Early Steps to provide behavioral training. Indian River County also expressed an interest in offering the VPK Completer's Program in their high-needs areas.
- C. **Child Care WAGE\$** - Due to the workforce issue, the Child Care WAGE\$ program may be an opportunity to entice good teachers to continue in early education. Stipends for professional development are being offered as well as the T.E.A.C.H. program.

- D. Performance Funding Project (PFP) 2018-19 Update** – The program is very similar to last year. Assessments are being done. Composite scores will drive the contract, which will be fully executed by September 1. ELCIRMO had 32 providers who applied this year compared to 26 who applied last year, 19 of whom completed all deliverables.
- E. House Bill 1091 Update** – Providers not in the PFP will be participating in a similar tier-based program. OEL has launched a new platform for online training for the CLASS tool which will kick off on September 15th. MMCI training is not part of this program. There is no pay differential for providers attached to this program. Ms. Clowdus questioned why providers would not register to participate in the PFP in order to receive the pay differential. Ms. Houston explained the challenges providers encounter for each of the programs.
- F. House Bill 7055 Update** – Ms. Houston provided a brief overview referencing Mr. MacKinnon's email which provided guidance to coalitions until rule is promulgated. The bill allows coalitions the authority to refuse to contract with providers who have received a Class I violation. All coalitions are required to develop a policy on how to deal with providers who have Class I violations. Two policies have been included in the agenda packet for the Committee's review. Ms. Powers offered to review the policies with Ms. Houston and submit a recommendation to the Committee at the September meeting. The Committee may review the policy and make any changes/additions, which can then be submitted to the Board at the September meeting. Committee members were encouraged to email Ms. Powers or Ms. Houston with any thoughts on the policy in advance of the September Committee meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. ELC Provider Rep Initiatives** – Information was shared by Rhi Forker regarding VPK Readiness Rates. She provided a history of FLKRS, observations and potential consequences of the new STAR Early Literacy exam and encouraged providers and boards to write to legislators. A Provider Rep Organization has been formed, organized by a provider representative for Broward County ELC, which held their first meeting in July in Tampa. The organization will serve as a platform for providers' voices to be heard. ELC's are encouraged to provide time during board meetings and provider meetings for the provider representative to share information and request feedback. Ms. Powers commented on the importance of this statewide issue, noting that all coalitions should come together, becoming part of the legislative platform.
- B. Program Updates** - Ms. Houston provided the following updates:
- Results from the 2017-18 PFP will be shared at the next meeting.
 - The 2017-18 VPK Completer's Program just finished. Data will be shared at the next meeting.
 - There has been a slight delay in the implementation of the Bridges to Continuity program due to the state's data migration issues.
 - ELCIRMO was awarded a grant in the amount of \$56,606 for the program, "Facilitating Language Development in Young Children" in Indian River County, effective October 1.

Ms. Powers expressed excitement with the award of the early literacy grant. She noted that additional funding may be required to find someone with that expertise. Ms. Houston suggested that program funding received for assessments performed may be an option to cover any additional funding required.

Ms. Houston inquired whether the Program Committee members should be surveyed as to whether the date/time of the Program Committee meetings continues to work with everyone's schedule, as there has not been a quorum for the past few meetings. The members will be surveyed.

- VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Ms. Clowdus welcomed Ms. Powers to ELCIRMO. Ms. Clowdus indicated she will begin attending the Finance Committee meetings in order to have a closer association between both finance and programs.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

IX. ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved 9/10/18

Barbara Clowdus, Chair
BC/lt