



COALITION BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2016

The Early Learning Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties (Coalition) held their board meeting in Fort Walton Beach, Florida in the CareerSource Conference Room.

Coalition Members Present:

Amanda Stevens (Okaloosa County Health Department)
Beth Brant, Private Sector – Gubernatorial Appointee Chair (Polyengineering, Inc.)
Don Edwards, Private Sector (Trustmark Bank)
Dr. Julie McNabb, Rep. of Agency Serving Children with Disabilities (Horizons of Okaloosa Co.)
Dr. Kenya Wolff, Northwest Florida State College President's Appointee
Dr. Susan Van Buren, Private Sector (CHELCO)
Jeanne Martin, Department of Children and Families (Licensing Office)
Kathy Curry, Faith-Based Provider (Trinity United Methodist Preschool)
Linda Sumblin, Workforce Development Board's Appointee
Lisa Drake, Private Provider (Kid's Discovery)
Paul Sirmans, Private Sector (Emerald Coast Title Services)

Members Absent:

Allyson Oury, Private Sector (Saltmarsh, Cleaveland, and Gund)
Alexis Walker, Private Sector (Jacobs Technologies, ASG Group)
Beverly Sandlin, Optional Member
Debbie Haan, School District of Okaloosa County Superintendent's Appointee
Debbie Riley-Broadnax (Okaloosa County Head Start)
Evie Fox, Healthy Start Community Coalition
Caroline FitzGerald – Gubernatorial Appointee (Dr. Mauri Lunderman's Office)
Louis Svehla, Walton County Commissioner's Appointee
Phyllis Gonzalez, Department of Children and Families

Guests:

Rodney MacKinnon, Executive Director, Office of Early Learning
Katie Cholcher, Okaloosa County Health Department

Coalition Staff:

Renea Black, Executive Director
Janna Carroll, Finance Director
Connie Watson, Executive Assistant

Call to Order/Introductions

Beth Brant called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and noted there was not a quorum at this time.

Katie Cholcher and Amanda Stevens of the Okaloosa County Health Department conducted a presentation on the Healthiest Weight Florida and 5-2-1-0 initiatives.

Rodney MacKinnon, Executive Director from the Office of Early Learning provided legislative updates:

- Changes to the SR Program
- DCF Inspections for childcare providers
- Eligibility period – 1 year with an extended phase out period, Mr. MacKinnon noted the eligibility period will result in:

- Continuity of care for children
- More stability for providers
- Higher wait list numbers

Mr. MacKinnon also noted that there will likely be an increased focus on serving children birth to 5 years. He discussed the potential for additional funding if the Legislative Budget Commission convenes during the summer. VPK eligibility changes:

- Children 4 to 5 years and 7 months may qualify
- Eliminated funding for Teaching Strategies Gold
- Providers on Probation program is on hold

Discussion on provider ratings followed. Kathy Curry expressed concerns that children are rated by the school system three (3) months after they leave the VPK program. The ratings do not take into consideration:

1. Progress made from the time the child enters the VPK program until they complete the program,
2. If the child is non-English speaking when entering the VPK program

Mr. MacKinnon shared that providers do have a “Good Cause Exemption” process in place to appeal provider ratings.

Quorum Established at 9:00 a.m.

Board Membership

RESULT:	ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	LINDA SUMBLIN
SECONDER:	SUSAN VAN BUREN

A motion was made to accept the application of Beverly Sandlin as an Optional Member of the Board of Directors for the Early Learning Coalition (ELC).

Consent Agenda

RESULT:	ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	SUSAN VAN BUREN
SECONDER:	LISA DRAKE

- A. Minutes - January 13, 2016
- B. Summary of Executed Contracts
- C. Status of Agency Audits & Monitorings

Financial Statements

RESULT:	ADOPTED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	PAUL SIRMANS
SECONDER:	KATHY CURRY

Financials - Janna Carroll shared the agency financial statements for January and February 2016. Following discussion on financial statement dates it was noted that monthly financials are reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Director noted that financials will be sent to the full Board of Directors for Executive and Coalition Board Meetings one week prior to the meeting. A motion was made to adopt the financials as presented for January 2016 and February 2016.

Slot Utilization – Janna Carroll shared the ELC Utilization Report FY 2015-16 School Readiness and VPK as of March 2016. Mr. MacKinnon encouraged caution on new enrollments due to the 1-year eligibility determination rule.

Status of Match Waiver Request – Renea Black shared that the Board and the ELC staff are working to develop match locally. The ELC’s Match Waiver Request is expected from OEL for this fiscal year.

Quorum ended at 9:50 a.m.

Chair’s Report

ELC Calendar – The ELC calendar for May and June meetings and activities were provided.

Executive Director’s Report – Renea Black shared updates on the Financial Management System Assurance Section Monitoring, CCDF Reauthorization and other Legislative Updates, Policies and Procedures, Operations, Resource Development Updates and Activities/Events. The ELC will terminate contracts for Human Resource and IT services in July 2016. Renea requested the board review strategies for developing match locally. The ELC will be conducting a book fair at Barnes & Noble in Destin on May 20th and 21st.

The proposed calendar for 2016-2017 Board meetings was presented.

Public Comment

Jeanne Martin shared concerns that HB1125 will become law on July 1st. One of the changes effective July 1st is providers who have a criminal history exemption will be required to be re-screened and some offenses will no longer be eligible for an exemption. Information will be sent to owners, directors and ELC’s on May 19th.

Renea Black explained the rule on 1-year eligibility re-determinations will reduce the number of eligibility staff required and she is working on strategies to reassign staff or reduce staff as necessary.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Watson
Executive Assistant