



# Early Learning Coalition Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting  
 Date/Time: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 4:00 p.m.  
 Location: Early Learning Coalition of Brevard, Conference Room, 2671 w Eau Gallie Blvd. Suite 102, Melbourne FL 32937

Members Present: Alan Bergman, Robin Buckmaster, Terri Barlow, Bill Drexler, Linda Graham (V), Dee Helbig, Caitlin Rice, Phil Scarpelli, Linda Halpin, Audrey Wanich, Khaled Jarrah, Patrick Culhane (V)

Excused/Unexcused Absent: Jana Bauer, Traci Klinkbeil, Vince Donato, Michael Blake, Althea Puzio, Priscilla DeNino

Staff Present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario

Guest/Public:

Agenda Item	Summary/Discussion	Action/Follow-up
Called to Order:	Alan Bergman called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm	
Mission Moment	Treehouse Learning Center	No Action
Public Comment	None	
Chair Report	Minutes January 17, 2023	Audrey Wanich makes the motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes. Bill Drexler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Nominating Committee	Chair ask Nominating Committee members: Audrey Wanich, Priscilla DeNino, Phil Scarpelli and Caitlin Rice for an early April meeting to review For Profit provider replacement as Khaled Jarrah announced his resignation. Also Althea Puzio will be retiring and steps need to be taken to fill her seat.	No Action
Sliding Fee Scale	Chair announces the current Sliding Fee Scale will be submitted to DEL and an amendment will be uploaded when necessary.	No Action
CEO Report	<p><b><u>State Board of Education and Division of Early Learning Updates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEL Executive Director update calls – bi-weekly</li> <li>• Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC)</li> <li>• AELC Quarterly Meeting and Boot Camp</li> <li>• Division of Early Learning Rule Workshops</li> <li>• Weekly ARPA Spend Plan call AELC/DEL</li> </ul>	

### ELCB Coalition Update:

- Division of Early Learning appointed new Chancellor of Early Learning, Cari Miller. Cari comes from reading and literacy organizations as well as a short time previously at OEL. She has served as the Vice Chancellor of Literacy for DEL.
- American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) II **Update:** DEL Notice of Award (NOA) received September 30<sup>th</sup> in amount of \$17,985,966 for ARPA Phase II. Recommended itemized spend plan in review and waiting for further guidance from DEL; preliminary spend plan documents have priority of funding dedicated to stabilize Florida's providers; expand access to high quality providers for families and invest in quality childcare.
- Workforce Needs Initiative grant has been approved for additional funding opportunity with DEL. Funding will continue to support workforce and employment recruitment/retention efforts for child care and education professionals. Working with FACCM and Broward county for support with DCF training and credentialing costs and developing a FTE dedicated to Workforce Initiatives. **UPDATE:** Notice of Award and Re-Appropriation of \$1,437,295 in addition to \$523,000.
- Division of Early Learning – VPK Readiness Rates and Program Assessment directives are effective with this contract year. Additional training and monitoring efforts are being developed and executed daily. **Update:** VPK \$15/hour minimum wage initiative approved 8.5.22 and Notice of Award received 8.12.2022 in amount of \$2.6 million. Developing Program of Action for DEL on how ELCB will address increasing VPK Readiness Rates. Additional resources and staff needed for coaching, training and provider support.
- Early Learning Outcomes – Closing the Gap Data Report. The Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) is a quality improvement system for teaching. CLASS not only defines teaching quality through the lens of interactions, but it also provides the ability to measure and improve the interactions that matter most for student outcomes. It provides opportunity for

continuous improvement that is data-driven and focused on what matters most for student outcomes, interactions.

- Sliding Fee Scale - Section 1002.85(2)(b)5, Florida Statute states that each coalition is required to adopt, as part of its school readiness plan, a “sliding fee scale and policies on applying the waiver or reduction of fees in accordance with s. 1002.84(9).” The sliding fee scale must be set at a level that provides economically disadvantaged families equal access to the care available to families whose income is high enough not to qualify for school readiness and it may not exceed 10 percent of the family income. **Recommendation:** Submit the 2023/2024 sliding fee scale as is (no change from fiscal year 2022/2023) to DEL by 4/1/23. Will complete a full review in the next 60 days, make any necessary changes and submit amendment to DEL. **NO ACTION; INFORMATION ONLY.**
- Division of Early Learning will begin conducting Customer Service Calls to providers, families, vendors and Board member as outlined in previous legislative action. Estimated to begin in May/June 2023.
- STEM for Early Learning initiative with the University of Miami in the preliminary stages of review as a project for ELCB.
- Bezos Academy with FIT WeVenture programming. The executive director of WeVenture has asked for community support and lead agency support. Initial calls have been held and follow up with Bezos Academy representatives and City of Cocoa scheduled for late March.
- Marketing Strategy Plan beginning April 1<sup>st</sup> with successful new logo introduction as well as a comprehensive marketing plan with ELC Manatee as a shared services initiative.
- Marco Polo Learning agreement is complete. Marco Polo subscription program for all providers will meet the worldclass workforce Continuous Quality Improvement and Family Engagement directives for CLASS and VPK Readiness improvement standards.
- Submitted additional grant application with Space Coast Health Foundation for \$20,000 and in process for upcoming United Way grant cycle request. Additionally, staff is exploring value and

	<p>cost analysis for submitting local CDBG grant from local municipal and county partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELC Brevard Local Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Space Coast League of Cities Monthly Meetings, Second Monday each month</li> <li>○ Children’s Week Tallahassee – March 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Melbourne Chamber of Commerce – Nonprofit Panelist 4/4 &amp; Podcast 411 /321</li> <li>○ Family Engagement/Outreach held #4 per month</li> <li>○ AELC Boot Camp – ELCB with #10 attendees</li> <li>○ FSU 10 Components Train the Trainer held in Melbourne February</li> <li>○ Junior League Event 4/29</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Finance Report	Monthly Budget Report	Amaris Rosario
New Business	None	
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 4:45	Khaled Jarrah makes a motion to adjourn. Caitlin Rice seconds the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

March 21, 2023 Board minutes were approved at the April 18, 2023 meeting: