



# Early Learning Coalition Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Board of Directors Meeting  
 Date/Time: Tuesday, April 18, 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 (V), Linda Graham (V), Dee Helbig, Caitlin Rice, Phil Scarpelli, Audrey Wanich (V), Jana Bauer, Traci Klinkbeil, Vince Donato, Priscilla DeNino, Althea Puzio (V),

Excused/Unexcused Absent: Michael Blake, Linda Halpin, Patrick Culhane, Bill Drexler

Staff Present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario, Sylvia Thomas

Guest/Public: Verdaja

| Agenda Item          | Summary/Discussion  | Action/Follow-up   |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Called to Order:     | Alan Bergman called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm   |  |
| Mission Moment       | Student Artwork Presentation  | No Action  |
| Public Comment       | None  |  |
| Chair Report         | Minutes March 21, 2023  | Caitlin Rice makes the motion to approve the March 21, 2023 minutes. Jana Bauer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. |
| Nominating Committee | Chair reviews results of Nominating Committee and announces the results of the Private (for Profit) Provider. James Box of Just for Kids and Just for Kids East has been elected to fill the vacant 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. After presentation of new Parent copays on the sliding fee scale the decision was to table until further guidance was received. Chair recommends a hardship clause.  | No Action  |
| CEO Report           | <p style="text-align: center;"><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>• Weekly ARPA Spend Plan call AELC/DEL</li> </ul> |  |

### ELCB Coalition Update:

- Legislative developments focused on additional funding for ELC statewide and predominantly on House and Senate debate around (1) continuation of prior award allocations or (2) increase of funding for designated DOE/VPK/SR programming. AELC monitoring the movement of bills and education funding requests. Last day of session May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Division of Early Learning customer service survey as mandated by Florida statute. The email will come from a University of Florida email address; watch for the email and check spam folder if needed. See update from CEO report March 2023: ***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.***
- Logo Launch and Marketing Plan is being developed with shared services agreement with the ELC Manatee. The new logo is attached for Board. A press release is finalized and all marketing efforts on this will begin April 21, 2023. Marketing plan will include all elements of traditional plan including print, promotional, media, social media, banners etc.
- Melbourne Training Room – Teleconferencing A/V set-up has been procured and installation is estimated to be the week of April 24.
- American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) II - 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. DEL issuing additional ARPA spend plan for 2020-2024 fiscal year.
- 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:** Ongoing.
- 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.

- 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. **ACTION ITEM.**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> – Provider Appreciation Day. We will be hosting an appreciation luncheon for all providers on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 12noon to 2pm at Melbourne office. Working on special recognition, fun activities and possibly a county commission proclamation.
- STEM for Early Learning initiative with the University of Miami in the preliminary stages of review as a project for ELCB. ONGOING
- 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.
- 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 cost analysis for submitting local CDBG grant from local municipal and county partners.
- ELC Brevard Local Outreach
  - Space Coast League of Cities Monthly Meetings, Second Monday each month
  - Children’s Week Tallahassee – March 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

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|----------------|--|---|
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Melbourne Chamber of Commerce – Nonprofit Panelist 4/4 &amp; Podcast 4/20/23</li> <li>○ Family Engagement/Outreach - #2 events on April 29<sup>th</sup></li> <li>○ Melbourne Spring Fling May 9<sup>th</sup> at Viera Shoppes 5-9 pm</li> <li>○ FSU 10 Components Train the Trainer held in Melbourne February</li> </ul> |   |
| Finance Report | Monthly Budget Report  | Amaris Rosario  |
| New Business   | Move June meeting to June 27, 2023   |   |
| Adjournment    | Meeting was adjourned at 4:45  | Caitlin Rice makes a motion to adjourn.<br>Priscilla DeNino seconds the motion.<br>The motion passed unanimously. |

April 18, 2023 Board minutes were approved at the May 17, 2023 meeting: