



# Early Learning Coalition

Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Executive/Finance Committee Meeting  
 Date/Time: June 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.  
 Location: 2671 W Eau Gallie Blvd Melbourne, FL 32935  
 Members Present: Alan Bergman, Terri Barlow, Michael Blake (v), Caitlin Rice  
 Absent:  
 Guests  
 Staff present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario  
 Start Time: 3:00 p.m.

| Agenda Item                      | Summary/Discussion   | Action/Follow-up  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Welcome and Call to Order</b> | Alan Bergman called the meeting to order at 3:05 a.m.  | No Action   |
| <b>Chairman Report</b>           | <p>Board meeting minutes May 21, 2024</p> <p>Anti-Fraud Plan Updated</p> <p>Preliminary FY 24/25 Budget</p> <p>Annual Employee Bonus</p> | <p>Terri Barlow makes the motion to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes. Caitlin Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Michael Blake motions to accept the prosed changes to the Anti-Fraud Plan. Terri Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Michael Blake motions to accept the prosed changes to the Preliminary FY 24/25 Budget. Terri Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Maichael Blake made a motion to chose option A of the Employee Annual Bonus. Caitlin Rice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.</p> |

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| <p><b>CEO/Chief Executive Officer Report</b></p> | <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) Meetings – Annual Board Meeting Melbourne</li> <li>• Weekly ARPA Spend Plan call AELC/DEL</li> <li>• Department of Education Division of Early Learning - Rule Workshops</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ELCB Coalition Update:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) 2023-2024 Grant Funding allocation is \$5,141,312 for additional support to stabilization of childcare and provider support. The application for ELCB approved and included seven “funding” buckets for items including curriculum, professional development, building supply and others. <b>UPDATE: ARPA Funding will no longer be available (pending any late award from federal funding sources). Developing sustainability plan and program for Providers.</b></li> <li>• Creating Partnership and Community Impact Exchange event to bring Family and Children leadership for discussion on continuum of care, early education and supporting families in Brevard county. Tentatively scheduling August 8<sup>th</sup> date; details to follow.</li> <li>• Division of Early Learning 2024-2025 Notice of Award expect to generate after the start of the fiscal year. There have been numerous legislative and General Appropriations Act approvals from the Governor’s office and DEL/AELC are working to confirm the allocations for the following: \$46 million for ongoing support SR, \$20 million for Wait List assistance, \$40 million for SR Plus which is a Workforce/Existing Client support program and additional funding for Homelessness Programs.</li> <li>• <b><u>Outstanding issues</u></b> – 1<sup>st</sup> – Provider who not contracted in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 due to quality and compliance issues has requested to contract with ELCB for 2024-2025. ELCB staff has conducted quality and on-site observations and determined that Provider is not providing a quality environment and continues to fail to meet</li> </ul> |  |

contracting expectations. Decision upheld to not contract with this provider. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parent with School Readiness services for three children has been terminated and case has been submitted to the Office of Inspector General and Department of Public Assistance Fraud (DPAF). The parent is not happy and has made claims of racism and discrimination by staff and has stated in written record that she will be filing a lawsuit. All appropriate action has been taken and ELBC Board Chair and ELCB Attorney of Record have been updated and notified as well as the Division of Early Learning Program Integrity Unit Manager.

- Lease Agreements in process of amending due to Corrective Action Plan items identified in the Fiscal Monitoring Report 2022-2023. Finalization of both expected by July 2024.
  
- Little Free Libraries are being built and installed all over Brevard county. We have installed #4 Little Free Libraries including the most current one in Taylor Park in City of Cocoa. We have #5 more installations planned for next three months.
  
- The Dolly Parton Imagination Library program will also be launched by summer. With a population of 27,000 of children under age of 5, the program will enable every child who registers to receive a FREE book delivered to the home each month emphasizing reading and literacy in the home. Estimated participation is 4,000-6,000 in the initial project year. Launch date July 2024.
  
- Annual ELCB Provider Conference is Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Rialto Melbourne.
  - Space Coast League of Cities Monthly Meetings, Second Monday each month
  - Viera Business Regional Alliance Networking – Urban Prime May 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Mayor’s Breakfast May 17<sup>th</sup>
  - March – National Reading Month and Women’s Month – Green Eggs and Ham Reading!
  - Women Who Rock – WeVenture Event
  - Family Literacy Events and Outreach

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| <b>New Business</b> | No July, August meeting.<br>Next meeting September 17, 2023 |   |
| <b>Adjournment</b>  | Meeting was Adjourned at 3:35 p.m.                          | Michael Blake motioned for the adjournment of the Executive/Finance Committee meeting. Terri Barlow seconded the motion. The motion passed Unanimously. |

June 18, 2024 Exec/Finance Committee Meeting Minutes approved at the September 17, 2024 Exec/Finance Meeting