



Early Learning Coalition

Of Brevard County, Inc.

Minutes: Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
 Date/Time: September 16, 2025 3:00pm
 Location: 2671 W Eau Gallie Blvd Suite 102, Melbourne FL, 32935
 Members Present: Alan Bergman, Terri Barlow, Michael Blake (V)
 Absent: Caitlin Rice
 Guests
 Staff present: Laura Gambino, Jeannie Williams, Amaris Rosario
 Start Time: 3:00pm

| Agenda Item | Summary/Discussion | Action/Follow-up |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Welcome and Call to Order | Alan Bergman called the meeting to order at 3pm. | No Action |
| Chair report | Approval of Exec/Finance June 17, 2025 | Terri Barlow makes a motion to approve the June 17, 2025 special meeting minutes. Michael Blake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. |
| CEO Report Laura Gambino | <p><u>State Board of Education and Division of Early Learning Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Florida Grade-Level Reader July 2025 DEL Summer Literacy Conference July 2025 Florida Chamber Foundation Learners to Earners June 2025 PanAmerica Conference June 2025 Department of Education Division of Early Learning - Rule Workshops <p><u>ELCB Coalition Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Division of Early Learning 2025-2026 Budget discussions being held in Tallahassee. Both the Senate and House are reflecting a decrease for education and early learning funding. Preliminary – AELC and statewide initiative to educate and advocate for full funding. AELC (statewide coalition association) 2025 Legislative Priorities attached. UPDATE: June budget projected award reflected 22.9% decrease (estimated \$6.4 million lost); July and August waiting period to | No Action |

measure the revert and reappropriate funding. August 27th final award after AELC Compression Model projections shared with DEL and SR funding **reverted to \$8.3 million** new award amount (amount includes June monthly SR payment from prior year).

- Legislative Session begins January 12th, 2026 with ELC Brevard represented during session. Additionally, James Box able to initiate ELCB speaking to the Brevard Legislative Delegation at their meeting on September 30th from 2pm to 6pm. The Request to Speak has been submitted in conjunction with Senator Mayfield's office and aide.
- Developing local county, state and federal legislative relationships to increase ELCB awareness, successful outcomes and funding support post-election shift. **DISCUSSION:** Developing multi-year strategic planning and partnership with Results 1st to develop a defined Results Framework.
- Age of Learning program, modeled after Palm Beach County success, estimated to begin October 1st. Presentation to Board September 16, 2025.
- Community Conversation event held August 22nd at the Center for Collaboration with 35+ attending. Building a series of events as community awareness campaign for legislators and community leaders – next proposed event partnership with WeVenture at FIT as a Business Briefing in Oct/Nov.
- Developing and promoting Soar by Four in conjunction with VPK program assessment models now release from DEL. Initiative includes Launch into Literacy events, Little Free Libraries and Learning Trails (initial trail in Provost Park in Cocoa). Key sponsors identified Orlando Health and Nemours Children.
- Space Coast Health Foundation grant application in process with the request of \$250,000. The grant process has been enhanced with an expanded application process that identifies organizational and impact results as a priority. We are able to work with Results 1st partner to bring training and engagement with a focus on results and impacts of the grant/programs.

