



Approved on August 28, 2024, Program Review Committee Meeting
Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2024, at 9:30 AM
Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance	Chair, Monica King; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer (late); Krystie Castillo; Richard Campillo; Dawn Liberta; Renee Podolsky; Ellie Schrot
Members Absent	Melody McDonald; Laurie Sallarulo;
Staff in Attendance	Renee Jaffe, CEO; Judith Merritt, COO; Christine Klima, CAO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Hubert Cesar, CIO; Melody Martinez, Board Liaison; Lizbeth DelVecchio, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Coordinator; Amy Moore, Sr. Director of Family Services and Provider Relations; Allison Metsch, Sr. Director of Education & Quality; Ancel Pratt, III, Sr. Director of Communications & Outreach
Others in Attendance	

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	Chair Monica King called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.
Consent Agenda 1. Approve April 2, 2024, Committee meeting minutes	There was a Motion to move the Consent Agenda by Dawn Liberta and Seconded by Richard Campillo. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.
Regular Committee 1. PRC243RB1 – School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update (Goal 1 of Strategic Plan)	<p>Amy Moore provided updates on School Readiness enrollment and redetermination. ELC Broward is continuing to enroll families in School Readiness services. So far, for this FY, we have enrolled 3,560 new children. AS of this morning we have 685 children on the waitlist. The pace of redetermination has slowed down. Our attrition rate continues to average about 26%. However, the pace of new enrollments consistently overcomes attrition month to month.</p> <p>Howard Bakalar, CPO, added that we surpass every other coalition to enroll new children. Our efficient waitlist and enrollment process moves families from their initial application to enrollment quickly, which has a benefit to the overall childcare system locally and statewide. Maintaining children in the program contributes to the stability and our overall enrollment census. We expect to have approximately 16,000 children in care by July, compared to 15,168 children in the last payment cycle in April.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer asked if there is any benchmark to the attrition rate. Is 26% standard around the state? Is it normal?</p> <p>Amy Moore added that we don't have state figures to compare them to. However, in comparison to ourselves, our attrition rate was approaching 29% during the summertime, when we stopped enrolling completely. Subsequently, we partnered with our communication and outreach department, where we send additional reminders to families from our ELC email address; even though they do get reminders</p>

<p>2. PRC243RB2- VPK Enrollment Update</p> <p>3. PRC244RB3- Education/Quality (Goals 3 and 4 of Strategic Plan)</p> <p>a. ARPA Discretionary Funds Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings • A Day in K • School Readiness Learning Computer Software 	<p>from the state, we noticed a better response from parents submitting documentation. We noticed that over the last two quarters, we landed around 26%. If 26% attrition is our average, considering how many children we have in services, we haven't seen it move to much lower than that percentage point over the last two quarters. We want to reduce it as much as possible, so we are reaching out to families and reducing caseloads to keep our attrition rate in check. We see that our enrollments have outpaced that attrition, so it's not significantly impacting the numbers of our overall census.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer asked if we are able to get out of EFS reasons for the case closures or the attrition?</p> <p>Amy Moore replied that yes, we are able to see. We don't have many families falling out because they are over income. We see families get to their redetermination date and no longer meet the specifications. We do have the ability to track that.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer added that maybe at some point, we could see where we are and what the most common reasons are, just to see if it's anything we need to worry about.</p> <p>Howard and Amy said that we will bring a more detailed attrition report at the next PRC meeting.</p> <p>Amy Moore provided updates on VPK. Last FY, we ended with 13,959 enrollments. As of May 16, we have approved 15,283 applications.</p> <p>We are on track to meet the estimated conference enrollment for both program year 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>For the 2023-2024 school year, the VPK Estimating Conference forecasts 14,211 VPK children enrolled in Broward County. Currently, we have 13,760 children enrolled, representing 97% of the estimate. For 2024-2025 school year 13,817 is estimated.</p> <p>While enrollments for 2024-2024 have yet to commence, we anticipate meeting or surpassing that estimate.</p> <p>Training and Professional Learning Activities:</p> <p>Allison Metsch reported on Education and Quality. We are currently working with 10 external contractors to supplement trainings facilitated by our staff. Our trainings are via Zoom and in person at various times and even on both weekend days. We have a high number of providers who want to participate in our training. Due to the high amount, we are experiencing issues in which educators share Zoom links with each other without official registrations. This leads to problems for those who did register. We will be increasing the amount of training offered through Zoom, in addition to several in-person training courses and on-site Making the Most of Classroom Interactions (MMCI) at several schools across the country to support the high demand for training.</p>
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b. CLASS Observations Update

- School Readiness
- VPK

We are nearing the end of our latest Broward Bonuses and Stipend program for educators. We hosted a large webinar on May 4th called May the CLASS Be With You, and had about 2,500 educators. It was such a hit that we temporarily crashed the system to apply for stipends. And, PNC launched a new and free 3 T's training and we offered it to our Educators who couldn't attend the large Saturday training. We used it as part of our Bonus plan.

A Day in K:

We have partnered with the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) and have planned an event called A Day in K, which will take place June 11. Families will come with their future kindergartners and have a glimpse of what an actual day in kindergarten will be like while offering parents guidance on how to prepare their children for kindergarten. There will be activities for parents and children.

Renee added that one of our vendors, MarcoPolo will be at A Day in K and is donating 500 subscriptions to a new tool they have. It's called Kindergarten Transition, and it has activities that parents can do with their kids to prepare them for Kindergarten.

Childcare Classroom Management and Learning Technology Services:

We are working with two vendors, MarcoPolo and Age of Learning. We had our kickoff meeting with both groups and will be launching our Sharing information of the two technologies with our providers. They are two different technologies; one is more like the FAST VPK assessment that we use, as it's adaptive. The other is meant for the teacher to build up her language, and it asks questions for them to get engaged with the children.

CLASS Update:

Allison shared that the CLASS scores up to date. So far, our education team has observed approximately 359 School Readiness providers and 1089 classrooms since July 1, 2023. Our current School Readiness CLASS average is 5.40. Last FY, our CLASS average was a 5.16.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK):

To date, our education team has observed 895 VPK classrooms. 45 of the classrooms were at Public Schools, and 387 were private provider VPK sites. Our current CLASS average for VPK is 5.50; last FY, our CLASS average was 5.32.

Howard Bakalar added that in our strategic plan, our 5 year goal was to reach an average of 6, which we thought was a huge stretch goal.

4. PRC243RB4- Update on 211 Broward services

Howard Bakalar shared that ELC Staff has been facilitating discussions about business skill trainings they most need to help them be successful. Providers were interested in some real concrete everyday skills and supports. ELC worked closely with BLI to ensure the program series was able to pivot in the face of the pandemic. The vast majority of the responses concerned help with Human Resources management issues and employment law.

There was a discussion regarding overtime in childcare centers. Krystie Castillo shared that training will be necessary.

	A Motion was made by Ellie Schrot and Seconded by Renee Podolsky Approve the program concept to move forward with a procurement for Business Skills Training Courses and Supports for Childcare Directors and Administrators. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.
Unfinished Business	Ellie Schrot wanted to follow up on the special needs categories and the FL special needs rate metrics of services tool. Howard replied that it was presented at the PLAN meeting to the childcare providers the introduction to the matrix to get them used to it and informed them that it would be a regular thing. Also, anyone already in the system will be grandfathered in, and current special needs rates will not be altered.
New Business	Howard shared that our enrollment budget for next year is looking good. In the last couple of weeks, DEL has clarified that they have been holding two pots of money for waitlists and to help sustain enrollments in ELC. The second pot of money is \$40M, and we are hoping to get a portion of that because the budget does not sustain our 16K or so children. Some legislators seem to be thinking of holding those dollars until the 4th quarter of next year. We don't want to be in the predicament of having to disenroll. There was a discussion on what could happen and what we could do to help.
Matters from the Chair	None
Matters from the Committee	None
Public Comments	None
Next Meeting	TBD
Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM by Renee Podolsky.

These minutes contain the action items of the Board meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward. They do not include all of the Committee's discussions or comments on each matter or issue raised during the meeting. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Committee will be taken before approval at the next meeting.