



Approved on August 28, 2023, Program Review Committee Meeting
Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
June 02, 2023, at 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance	Chair, Monica King; Dawn Liberta; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer; Melody McDonald; Renee Podolsky
Members Absent	Richard Campillo; Laurie Sallarulo; Ellie Schrot
Staff in Attendance	Renee Jaffe, CEO; Judith Merritt, COO; Christine Klima, CAO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Melody Martinez, Board Liaison; Lizbeth Juan, Executive Assistant; 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; Ayme Hamoui, Director of Education Program Assessment;
Others in Attendance	

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	Chair Monica King called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM. The roll was called, and a quorum was established.
Consent Agenda 1. Approve April 11, 2023, Committee meeting minutes. 2. PRC234CA1- Approval Business and Leadership Institute (BLI) Program Continuation 3. PRC234CA2- Approval of Scholastic (Bookworm Program) Continuation	There was a Motion to move both Consent Agendas by Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer and Seconded by Dawn Liberta. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.
Regular Committee 1. PRC234RB1 – 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. Since July 1, 2022, we have enrolled over 4,900 children. The pace of enrollment has slowed due to budgetary guidance by DEL. Our average monthly attrition rate is about 25%. There are 4,476 children due for the redetermination process, so we expect to lose more than 1,000 children on that front. Because there are unknowns about the level, timing, and funding from DEL for childcare slots for FY 24, we would like to review the range of options from which we have to choose in setting enrollment strategies for FY 24.</p> <p>Howard Bakalar, CPO, shared that we are creating plans B & C while we wait for the budget. Pausing enrollments for a week or 2 will not have many implications, but any lengthier pauses will cause a waitlist to generate.</p> <p>Renee Jaffe, CEO, shared that we are creating contingency plans so that we are</p>

<p>2. Education/Quality (Goals 3 and 4 of Strategic Plan)</p> <p>a. PRC234RB2(a)- Beyond Above and Beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening of model • Continuation of Stipends • Educator bootcamp • Apprenticeships 	<p>prepared to move forward, come what may. This year the legislature increased the SR budget by \$100 million and included in the budget \$77 million for expansion services on the SR front. We are in limbo as we wait to hear how that \$77 million will be allocated. DEL has agreed to quickly go through the de-obligation/re-obligation process.</p> <p>Melody McDonald asked if the pause would affect every level, like provider match etc., or are certain fundings are still being approved. What about the families who have started the process?</p> <p>Renee Jaffe, CEO, assured us that we would not pause something that’s already in motion, and wherever possible, we would use attrition.</p> <p>Allison began the Broward Above and Beyond update by sharing the success of the program. We launched our CDA academy, which has 25 students enrolled and we bring the program to the school itself to take away the barrier. We worked with 55-60 schools by running training programs for directors, stipends, etc. We brought a career guidance specialist position to Above & Beyond. We have never had hands-on support in Broward County to help with the TEACH scholarships applications, and those numbers have increased. CLASS Scored have also increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.52 Above & Beyond VPK Averages • 5.32 All Community VPK (Including Above and Beyond Classrooms) out of a 7 • 5.30 All Community VPK (NOT Including Above and Beyond Classrooms) <p>During the next fiscal year, we also plan to begin a “Bootcamp” for potential new educators, an apprenticeship program for educators who want to move up the career ladder, and a mental health consultation component to childcare centers. The apprenticeship program will mentor early childhood educators to the next level.</p> <p>Renee shared that ELC is working with CareerSource for the apprenticeship program. We came up with the concept for this kind of program, and they think that they can fund a portion of the apprenticeship program which would be very helpful.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer asked if Above and Beyond was the implementation of the ARPA building a world-class workforce?</p> <p>Allison responded that Above and Beyond was funded through CRSSA dollars. Above & Beyond was about recruiting, upscaling, and retaining the workforce. The last group of funds was the ARPA word class workforce money, where new staff got paid for the 3 weeks of employment, the 45 hours, and the series of training for both directors and staff.</p>
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b. PRC234RB2(b)- System of care status/ advances

- Inclusion
- Peer specialists
- Mental health consultation
- Help Me Grow

Allison shared that the ELC, along with Maria Juarez Stouffer has been meeting monthly to discuss systems of care. We have added 2 additional inclusion specialists and a coordinator. AD Henderson has now agreed to fund two Peer Support Specialists—parents/caregivers of children with special needs who “have been there.” These Specialists have experience navigating the system and will provide necessary emotional and other support to families.

The statewide Help Me Grow program promotes early identification of developmental, behavioral, and educational concerns, then links children and families to community-based services and support. ELC Broward wants to be the next Help Me Grow delegate in Broward County and we have initiated conversations with 211 to garner their support in this endeavor. Monica King shared that this item is contingent on the availability of funds, but we want to move forward if those funds become available.

ELC Broward is hoping for the opportunity to add a small cadre of mental health consultation staff to the Early Care system with its anticipated stimulus funds. While these consultants would not provide direct clinical services, because it is out of the scope of services we provide, this would offer parents and educators opportunities and strategies to address specific behaviors. Howard shared that we anticipate this to fund under the stimulus dollars that we expect to get.

c. PRC234RB2(c)- Approve Continuation of the Children’s Forum’s INCENTIVE\$ Wage Supplements, pending Availability of Funds

There was a **Motion** to approve the Continuation of the Children’s Forum’s INCENTIVE\$ Wage Supplements, pending the Availability of Funds by Dawn Liberta and **Seconded** by Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer. **Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.**

d. PRC234RB(d)- Approval of Education technology supports procurement concept (Approval Item)

ELC Broward is continually implementing new innovative programs and services to serve our families and children. As early learning education has evolved and technology has become more prevalent in classrooms, the availability of web-based learning programs for children has increased.

The Age of Learning Program has been in recent use in Palm Beach County. For FAST Assessments, VPK students have been able to go from an average of children scoring in the 50th percentile during the first assessment to the upper 70th percentile on the third assessment. The program staff at the ELC of Palm Beach attribute much of this progress to the technology supports being instituted.

Monica King asked if this was a subscription to an online platform.

Allison responded that it was and that we would give access to the schools and we would be paying for a subscription-

	<p>In procuring technology aids, ELC Broward will advertise a product that:</p> <p>It is geared to progress at the pace of each individual child; involves childcare educators, involves parents/caregivers, addresses the literacy and math domains that should help children’s FAST scores rise; and could potentially raise the CLASS scores of the classrooms using the technology.</p> <p>This technology procurement will be subject to the availability of stimulus funds.</p> <p>There was a Motion to Approve Concept of Procurement of Education Technology Aids by Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer and Seconded by Melody McDonald. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.</p>
Unfinished Business	None
New Business	Ancel announced that M-Network submitted one of the ad campaigns for Bookworms for a Tele Award, and the campaign won.
Matters from the Chair	None
Matters from the Committee	None
Public Comments	Renee Jaffe, CEO, mentioned that there are some really exciting components to the mental health consultant plan. This model has been done in other places and has proven to have a huge impact on the children, the families, and the classrooms. We are hoping we can pilot this on a small scale once we get clarification on the funding.
Next Meeting	<u>Tentative August 28, 2023</u>
Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

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.