



Approved on May 21, 2024, Program Review Committee Meeting
Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2024, at 12:00 PM
Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance	Chair, Monica King; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer; Krystie Castillo; Richard Campillo; Melody McDonald; Renee Podolsky; Ellie Schrot
Members Absent	Laurie Sallarulo; Dawn Liberta
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; Kasey LaFrance, Contract Administration Manager.
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 January 12, 2024, Committee meeting minutes.	There was a Motion to move the Consent Agenda by Renee Podolsky 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 2,707 children. We are maintaining approximately 74% of children in the redetermination process.</p> <p>Last FY, we enrolled a total of 5,171 children. Recent legislation introduced the “SR Plus” program to address the “fiscal cliff” for families reaching 85% SMI, allowing families to remain in the program up to 100% SMI. We expect to receive a portion of the \$23 million allocated to support this initiative. The impact of this initiative on our overall census depends on corresponding rules and allocation, which are yet to be determined.</p> <p>Our ongoing enrollment strategy focuses on continuing to outpace attrition rates, increasing our overall census, and serving as many eligible children as our allocation will allow.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer added that there was a billion-dollar increase in childcare in the federal budget that was just passed for the remainder of this FY. Since the new DEL Chancellor will be here; if we can discuss with her how much will be allocated to Florida, and for what..</p> <p>Renee Jaffee added that those dollars will be effective next FY in October, starting in the federal FY, and FL would be receiving \$20 million of that pot. She will get</p>

<p>2. PRC243RB2- VPK Enrollment Update (Goal 2 of Strategic Plan)</p> <p>3. PRC243RB3- 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>b. CLASS Observations Update School Readiness VPK</p>	<p>clarification from the Chancellor when she is here. She will be meeting with the Chancellor at the AELC meeting in a few weeks in Orlando.</p> <p>Amy Moore provided updates on VPK. Last FY, we ended with 13,959 enrollments. As of March 26, we have approved 15,265 applications.</p> <p>We are on track to meet the estimated conference enrollment for both program year 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>Since the availability of applications for the year 24-25, we have approved 8,080 since yesterday's report. VPK is steady.</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 training facilitated by our staff. Our trainings are in zoom and in person at various times and even on both weekend days. We have high number of providers who want to participate in our trainings. 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 trainings 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. Over the past 4 days we approved a thousand stipends requests that will be sent out to educators this week.</p> <p>We are hosting a special Saturday zoom event on May 4, 2024, called May the CLASS Be with You. At the moment we have a little over 1600 educators registered. This will be a large-scale webinar event.</p> <p>A Day in K:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CLASS Update:</p> <p>Allison shared the CLASS scores up to date. So far, our education team has observed approximately 334 School Readiness providers and 1010 classrooms since July 1, 2023. Our current CLASS average is 5.41. Last FY, our CLASS average was a 5.16.</p> <p>Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK):</p> <p>To date, our education team has observed 701 VPK classrooms. 25 of the classrooms were at Public Schools, and 387 were private provider VPK sites. Our current CLASS average for VPK is 5.52; last FY, our CLASS average was 5.32.</p> <p>Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer shared that they have been funding Reading and Math Inc., which is a program that provides tutors in pre-K classrooms in reading and math. They have funded 20 tutors, and they had a federal grant and ARPA grant that was doing</p>
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<p>4. PRC243RB4- Update on 211 Broward services</p>	<p>15 additional ones. She shared that the CSC is trying to get them where they are needed more. She asked Allison to follow up with Laurie and Liza to see where it is needed.</p> <p>Howard Bakalar shared that 211 Broward/First Call has been a great partner, and we couldn't have had a smooth transition for our front-end services and our call center without their assistance. ELC has evolved in the last couple of years, and we are suggesting changing the contract amount to reflect the level of service currently more accurately being received from 211. Additionally, we would be moving from subrecipient of funds to vendor status, which is more in line with the services they provide. This will give them more flexibility in utilizing these funds to cover the overhead costs of providing back-up call center services for the ELC.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding 211 Broward/First Call for Help Funding Amount.</p> <p>A Motion was made by Cindy Arenberg-Setzer and Seconded by Ellie Schrot to recommend to the Executive and Finance Committee to decrease funding from \$462,000 to \$125,000 over an 18-month period beginning next fiscal year. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes.</p>
<p>Unfinished Business</p>	<p>Ellie Schrot wanted to follow up on the special needs categories and the FL special needs rate metrics of services tool.</p> <p>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 will current special needs rates would not be altered.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Matters from the Chair</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Matters from the Committee</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM.</p>

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.