



Program Review Committee Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2022 – 10:30 AM
Virtual Meeting

Meeting Call-In Number: +1 309 205 3325

Meeting ID: 854 7586 8560 Passcode: 925129

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85475868560?pwd=ZjZlcU8xTGxYQlZ4UWR3V1daTmhqQT09>

Members are reminded of conflict-of-interest provisions. In declaring a conflict, please refrain from voting or discussion and declare the following information: 1) Your name and position on the Board, 2) The nature of the conflict, and 3) Who will gain or lose as a result of the conflict. Please also fill out form 8B prior to the meeting.

PAGE			
1.	Call to Order	Monica King, PRC Chair	
2.	Roll Call	Melody Martinez, Board Liaison	
3.	Consent Agenda 1) Approve April 20, 2022, meeting minutes	2 Monica King, PRC Chair	
4.	Regular Business 1) PRC231RB1 – School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update (Goal 1 of Strategic Plan)	5 Amy Moore, Director of Family Services; Ancel Pratt, III, Senior Director of Communications & Outreach	
	2) PRC231RB2 – VPK Enrollment (Goal 2 of Strategic Plan)	6 Amy Moore, Director of Family Services; Ancel Pratt, III, Senior Director of Communications & Outreach	
	3) PRC231RB3 – Education/Quality (Goals 3 and 4 of Strategic Plan)	Allison Metsch, Director of Education and Quality Initiatives; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Hubert Cesar, CIO	
	a) Current CLASS Score Deep Data Dive		7
	b) Broward Above and Beyond Update		8
c) VPK and CLASS Update	9		
4) PRC231RB4 – Additional Stimulus Funds Update	10 Howard Bakalar, CPO		
5.	New Business Matters from the Committee Matters from the Chair Public Comment Next PRC Meeting: TBD Adjourn		

Please Note: Agenda is subject to revisions and additions per the discretion of the Chair of the Coalition. Notification will be sent of any such revisions or additions. **Members of the Public:** Please sign up at the entry desk for public comments to be made on particular agenda items no later than five minutes after the Coalition meeting has been called to order.



Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022 – 1:30 pm
 Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance	Chair, Khalil Zeinieh; Dawn Liberta; Richard Campillo; Renee Podolsky; Laurie Sallarulo; Laurie Rich-Levinson
Members Absent	Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer
Staff in Attendance	Renee Jaffe, CEO; Christine Klima, CAO; Hubert Cesar, CIO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Judith Merritt, COO; Lizbeth Juan, Executive Assistant; Amy Moore, Senior Director of Family Services and Provider Relations; Allison Metsch, Director of Education & Quality Initiatives; Stephanie Templin, Education Manager; Aygun Yeakey, Coaching Specialist; Joleen Steadman, Coaching Specialist; Andrew Soto, Coaching Specialist; Joleen Steadman, Coaching Specialist; Dana Dumont, Quality & Education Coaching Specialist; Elvira Duarte, Coaching Specialist; Monica Olmos, Coaching Specialist;
Others in Attendance	Carol Hylton

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	<p>Chair Khalil Zenieh called the meeting to order at 1:39 PM. Roll was called, and a quorum was not established.</p> <p>Because a quorum was not reached, Committee Chair suggested that Howard Bakalar, CPO, discuss regular business.</p> <p>A quorum was established when Renee Podolsky and Laurie Sallarulo arrived soon thereafter.</p>
Chair Report	Nothing to report.
CONSENT AGENDA a. Approve November 10, 2021, meeting minutes	There was a Motion to approve Consent Agenda by Renee Podolsky and Seconded by Dawn Liberta. Motion Passes. Unanimously approved.
REGULAR BUSINESS a. PRC222RB1 –Above and Beyond/Workforce Initiative	Howard and Allison provided an update on Above and Beyond. Child care providers are facing ongoing recruitment, upskilling, and retention issues. Many workers have either been let go from childcare facilities that were not serving nearly as many children or had closed and they had chosen to leave and search for other jobs. DEL updated its focus on distributing federal stimulus grants to assist childcare businesses to recruit, upskill, and retain a workforce. Licensing was seeing classroom violations and inappropriate discipline. ELC Staff has created the concept of its Broward Above and Beyond initiative, which primarily focuses on upskilling and retention of staff in approximately 50 childcare facilities. We set up an interactive job Bord which is on our website. We have more than 120 positions posted. The Children’s Services Council generously agreed to fund a marketing campaign to attract potential child care educators. ELC and CSC staff worked with

	<p>the CSC’s public relations vendor, M Network, to create commercials, which have now started airing, that direct potential job seekers to childcarecareers.org.</p> <p>Chair asked if the Job Board is linked to the CareerSource job board.</p> <p>Howard said no, what we do is that once we asked providers if they want to post on our website, we ask them to post on career source as well and provided them with the link.</p> <p>We were able to connect with Nova Southeastern University and created an agreement that allowed new child care educators to take the mandatory 40 + 5 hours of instructions, including child care health and safety instruction. Our educators sign up with us and then they are registered with Nova and nothing is out of pocket for the providers. We are also offering first aid/CPR for \$10 per participant.</p> <p>The only piece we are still working on is HR support. We plan to procure an HR consultant to be able to do some HR modules with the Above and Beyond centers. We are still working on how to incorporate the High Schoolers as the fellowship and mentorships into childcare careers.</p>
<p>b. PRC222RB2 –ARPA grant discussion</p>	<p>Hubert provided an update on the ARPA grant. We were approved for about \$62 million dollars and \$59 million of it is for the providers. So far, we have approved 445 applications, we are leading the state by miles on the application that was approved and paid. All the money from the grant must be spent by September 2023.</p>
<p>c. PRC222RB3 –Bookworms</p>	<p>Allison presented Bookworms update. We have launched Broward book worms again and have had over 4,000 families signed on. We are also expanding our reach to include both the North and South Hospital Districts. We are also looking to launch a baby bookworm. Families giving birth at any of the hospitals will be given a “book for Baby Bookworm,” and will be encouraged to register to receive additional books once home. The staff has also created a “Bookworms in Your City” sign-up for municipalities interested in having a family reading events. To date, the cities of Lauderhill and Parkland have signed up to have an ELC visit. We are expanding our Bookworms funds</p> <p>Renee Podolsky added that this is fantastic and if this information could be shared with our WIC clients?</p> <p>Renee Jaffee said yes we can. We want as much reach as possible.</p> <p>Allison added that we are also in south family life. We can drop off flyers if you’d like. We can also send the QR code.</p>

<p>d. PRC222RB4 – School Readiness Enrollment</p>	<p>Howard informed the committee that for the first time in decades there is no waitlist for School Readiness. As the charts attached show, while we have enrolled a record number of income-eligible children, the amount of children coming through our “side doors”—our mandated referral sources, has slowed steadily over the past few years.</p> <p>Allison presented Help me Grow.</p>
<p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS</p>	<p>There was no discussion.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>There was no discussion.</p>
<p>MATTERS FROM CHAIR</p>	<p>There was no discussion.</p>
<p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>There was no comment.</p>
<p>NEXT MEETING DATE</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>A Motion was made to adjourn at 2:43 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 prior to approval at the next meeting.

DRAFT

ITEM #:	PRC231RB1/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Amy Moore, Ancel Pratt III

Background

In FY 2019-20, the Office of Early Learning (OEL), gave ELC Broward additional funding to clear its waitlist for child care for income eligible families. At the time, there were thousands of children waiting for child care. OEL and its successor, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) continued to fund the elimination of the waitlist. Last year, with some staffing additions and modifications, ELC was able to enroll a record 4,255 children—almost double the amount of children from the year before. Last April, the ELC staff announced it had finally cleared the waitlist, and both the Board and DEL encouraged continued enrollment of income eligible families.

Current Status

ELC Broward is continuing to enroll families as they complete their initial applications for School Readiness services. In part due to the addition of new staff conducting a robust outreach strategy, we continue to receive hundreds of applications each week, which is evidence of the continued unmet child care needs of a substantial portion of Broward’s income eligible population. Since July, we have enrolled almost 1,500 children, and last week we enrolled a record 196 children.

Staff is also devising new strategies on how to keep as many eligible children/families receiving child care in the system as possible. Traditionally, annual attrition rates hover at approximately 20 percent of all families. The new strategic plan envisions a rate of 15 percent within 5 years. This quarter, staff is beginning to implement new technology approaches and case management approaches to move this needle forward.

ITEM #:	PRC231RB2/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	VPK Enrollment Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Amy Moore, Ancel Pratt III

Background

Florida’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) Program is free for all 4 year-old children living in the State of Florida. During the school year, 540 instructional hours (usually, 3 hours per school day) are allotted for VPK learning. While the vast majority of families who take advantage of VPK do so during the school year, Summer VPK is also available in a much smaller amount of preschools and School District sites. During the summer, 300 hours are allotted for learning.

Before the pandemic began, Broward County had 15,022 children enrolled school year VPK in FY 2018-19, and 15,928 children enrolled in FY 2019-20. During the pandemic, these numbers dropped to 11,813 children enrolled in school year VPK. Last year, as schools began a new sense of normalcy, 14,018 children enrolled in school year VPK.

Current Status

Each year, a statewide Estimating Conference is convened to predict the percentage and number of expected VPK enrollments in the Stat of Florida and county by county. This Conference publishes its initial predictions at the beginning of each school year. This year, the Conference has predicted a school year participation rate of 73 percent of all eligible 4 year-olds, or 15,491 children, which generally falls in line with where Broward was pre-pandemic.

VPK got off to a bumpy start throughout the State this school year for a number of reasons. Although the legislature last year increased Base Student Allocation (BSA) by \$317 and agreed to give a premium allocation with non-continuing funding of \$631.80 in additional BSA to any VPK provider who agreed to pay their staff at least \$15 per hour, there was a lot of confusion around this additional increase. Details concerning the actual amount, the specific payment requirements, and the process for registering for the premium were not released by DEL until the first week of VPK in Broward.

Additionally, Increased requirements passed in legislation for VPK educators and directors were rolled out slowly, and there were issues at the State level concerning the amount of available trainings being offered to staff, and the types of trainings that would fulfill the new requirements. This resulted in due date for having to meet these requirements changing twice.

There are also increased accountability/quality measures being implemented by DEL for VPK classrooms this year. Providers are using a new screener (FAST) for children, which replaces the old AP1-3. This screener is completed three times during the VPK year. Additionally, all VPK classrooms will be CLASS assessed for the first time this fiscal year.

ELC Broward has targeted meeting or exceeding the Estimating Conference’s predictions in its strategic plan. We will come close to achieving that this year, and we hope that as schools get used to the new requirements placed on them, we will be able to continue to achieve this goal.

ITEM #:	PRC231RB3(a)/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	CLASS Scores 2021 - 2022
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Allison Metsch, Hubert Cesar, Howard Bakalar

Background

As required by the Division of Early Learning, all ELC's use the CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) tool to assess School Readiness (SR) Providers who have more than 20% School Readiness enrolled children and/or those who have received a CLASS 1 violation. The tool looks at the interactions between the children and the teachers, and overall classroom management. We observe 50% of each care level and schools receive a composite score between 1 and 7. Any school scoring less than a 4.0 cannot contract with the ELC. A provider may receive an additional Quality Performance Incentive (QPI) differential payment for each enrolled School Readiness child based on their score.

Composite Score	Quality Performance Incentive Differential
4.0 to 4.49	Do not receive a differential but are able to contract
4.5 to 4.99	4%
5 to 4.99	7 %
6 to 6.99	10%

Current Status

Last fiscal year, the Education Team successfully observed approximately 320 School Readiness providers and 721 classrooms across the county. We used a variety of staff and private contracted CLASS assessors. Our Broward community's average score was a 5.03. We will be engaging in a deeper data dive at the Program Review Committee meeting, using Tableau to overlay CLASS scores, Gold Seal designation, and Kindergarten Readiness scores, among other data points to examine Broward provider scores across the County.

As part of our effort to begin to address the strategic plan goal of a countywide average of a 6 for School Readiness CLASS scores, we are currently providing targeted training for those schools that scored between a 4.0 and 4.49 to help them increase and receive the differential, as we have now begun with fy 2022-23 assessments. We are also conducting monthly zoom trainings, offering access to our asynchronous CLASS course and providing walkthroughs and onsite trainings upon request and when providers are in their assessment window.

ITEM #:	PRC231RB3(b)/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	Broward Above and Beyond
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Allison Metsch

Background

During the 2021 – 2022 Fiscal Year, the Division of Early Learning (DEL) distributed federal stimulus grant dollars to focus on recruiting, retaining, and upskilling the childcare workforce. The ELC board then approved the development of an ad hoc board committee to work with staff to plan the best way to use these dollars. With the consensus of that committee, we created the Broward Above and Beyond initiative. The focus of the initiative is to provide intensive and personalized coaching and technical assistance in 50 childcare centers and to provide mentoring to new and current staff. We provide quarterly stipends, bonuses for employee referrals, site specific trainings and an in-depth director program called Directors in Action. We also are focused on upskilling our childcare community and created Career Guidance Counselors to support and connect educators to TEACH (scholarships used for CDA classes, college tuition, etc.) and INCENTIVE\$ (wage supplements awarded to child care educators for reaching certain educational levels) to promote a career ladder.

Current Status

The ELC has established a team of six coaches and two Career Guidance Specialists that support 50 schools (approximately 500 classrooms). We have conducted multiple onsite trainings on various topics such as CLASS, Challenging Behaviors and Developmentally Appropriate Practices. We are finishing up our first round of retention stipends of \$250 for over 500 educators. These stipends will repeat quarterly as one strategy to retain good staff. In terms of upskilling, we are currently developing content to be able to offer the National Child Development Associates Credential (CDA). We are planning to have an English and Spanish cohort.

While we have received positive feedback anecdotally, we will be sending a survey to all Above and Beyond participants by the second week of October to get their feedback on what they feel is working well, and what we can improve upon. Aside from receiving this feedback to better deliver our current programming, we expect to expand Broward Above and Beyond in the near future, and we want to utilize the feedback receive to modify our services for a new cohort, if necessary.

ITEM #:	PRC231RB3(c)/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	VPK and CLASS
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Allison Metsch

Background

During the 2021 – 2022 legislative year, House Bill 419: Early Learning and Early Grade Success was passed. In addition to increasing the reimbursement amount per child and training requirements for VPK educators and directors, this bill revised the Readiness Rate calculation of Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) to now include a program assessment, which measures teacher-child interactions. Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), the tool that is used in School Readiness, was chosen as the required assessment. Starting with the 2022 – 2023 Fiscal Year, the ELC will be responsible to conduct CLASS assessments in **ALL** VPK classrooms in the county, including Broward County Public Schools.

Current Status

There are approximately 1,050 VPK classrooms in Broward County. Currently, we are concentrating on educating/preparing our VPK Only contracted childcare providers and School Readiness (SR) Exempt providers who have not been exposed to CLASS before. SR Exempt providers have not participated in CLASS previously if they served less than 20% SR children and/or never received any CLASS 1 violations. We are reaching out to these schools to introduce and familiarize them on CLASS content and what to expect during an observation. We are providing monthly zoom trainings, publicizing our asynchronous CLASS course, and are providing on-site trainings for schools upon request. We estimate that VPK assessments will begin in October as the state prepares the technology needed for ELC's to conduct these assessments.

House Bill 419 also introduced a new progress monitoring tool, Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Early Literacy. This replaces the VPK Assessment and will be used in the new Performance Metric calculation for a VPK program. The assessment is administered three times a year and is done so on a tablet or iPad device. We have been distributing Lenovo tablets to our VPK Providers thanks to dollars from DEL.

ITEM #:	PRC231RB4/Program Review Committee Meeting
MEETING:	Program Review Committee
MEETING DATE:	9/22/2022
SUBJECT:	Additional Stimulus Update
FOR ACTION:	No
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	None
FINANCIAL IMPACT:	None
AS RECOMMENDED BY:	N/A
ELC STAFF LEADS	Howard Bakalar

Background

As stated in the September board meeting CEO report, now that ARPA stabilization grants are entering their third installment with little change, and unfortunately, little change expected for the second round of ARPA grants, DEL has shifted its focus on spending plans and activities for ARPA discretionary funds (which also includes remaining funding from CARES and CCRSA) in the amount of **\$316,452,171**. These funds are to be utilized by the close of FY 2024.

DEL had created a 23-page plan to implement quality improvement programming and stipends, including additional stipends for recruitment and retention, bonuses for higher CLASS score attainment, available dollars for accreditation and infrastructure support, training stipends, and a number of other initiatives. They had been working with various groups to obtain feedback on the drafted plan and had a preliminary approval from DOE etc. to get feedback from ELCs, child care providers, and other related partners and then bring the finalized plan to legislators for approval. The final plan was supposed to be provided to Coalitions at or before the time of the Program Review Committee. DEL has a deadline of 9/30 to submit their plan for approval.

Current Status

At this time, there has been no official notification concerning the approval/rollout of the ARPA discretionary funds. Staff has been strategizing how to implement different pieces of the plan, if it is approved. We will share thoughts if we receive any information concerning approval of a plan by the time the Program Review Committee meets.