



Location: 1130 N. Eglin pkwy., Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: December 14, 2023

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00PM

Provider Meeting Minutes

Thank you to those who attended our Quarterly Provider meeting on December 14th! Here is a recap of what we covered.

- I. **Staffing Updates** - Dana Hodges (CEO) provides updates on staffing. Sondra Moffit (Current CFO) is moving out of the area and will work remotely until a new CFO is able to be hired. The position has been listed and the ELC is currently accepting applications. Kendrick Rattray has joined as an Education Specialist. Updates will be sent to providers in regard to who their specialist will be. ELC team morale is continuously improving. The first holiday party in many years occurred and the team is participating in 12 days of Christmas in an effort to promote a positive climate.
- II. **Marco Polo**
 - a. Danit and Megan from Marco Polo presented on how their application can benefit the classroom. There were two components demonstrated during the presentation; Marco Polo for educators and Marco Polo for families. Kari Malone was featured and a testimonial was presented on the benefits of Marco Polo. For more information providers can email Education@ELC-EC.org and a member of the education team will reach out and assist them.
- III. **Provider Updates**
 - a. **Storybook Village:** Kristen Murdy (Childcare Representative on ELC-EC Board) presented on Storybook village which was hosted on November 4th, 2023 with 3000 books being distributed into the local community. 6 Providers attended this year and the ELC is hoping to increase the amount of providers as this is a great opportunity to market and recruit families.
 - b. **ECE Advisory Committee:** Kristen presented on this working group. This committee is in partnership with Northwest Florida State College and ELC of the Emerald Coast. This group covers topics such as workforce development, legislative changes, and connecting resources in the Okaloosa and Walton counties. Current committee members shared how excited they are that the committee is continuing in its current direction. If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please reach out to Dana Hodges at DHodges@ELC-EC.org.
 - c. **Provider Participation:** Kristen led this discussion: Provider giveaway day provided materials to all 113 eligible providers and only 82 providers participated in the event and of these 82 providers, 11 did not show up to pick up their materials. The Curriculum Expansion grant was a short turnaround and had limited participation. Of the 103 eligible providers only 41 participated. There was discussion regarding why providers may not participate. Suggestions regarding marketing, outreach, and attention grabbers were offered by providers. Providers in attendance offered to support reaching Crestview and Walton counties.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support the success of every child and their family through quality education and care.



Location: 1130 N. Eglin pkwy., Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: December 14, 2023

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00PM

- d. **Children’s Week in Tallahassee:** Kristen discussed that last year 2023, the ECLA group drove to Tallahassee on a bus provided by Kids Discovery, they partnered with the Association to tour the Capitol and visit Storybook village. The hope is to offer a similar experience February 28th, 2024. This will be open to teachers, directors, and owners. Families are encouraged to attend. More information will be sent out in January, 2024. Kendrick discussed the hanging of hands event and that the coalition will be providing the materials for centers to participate in. The hands will be formatted on the same-colored paper to help make them easily identifiable. More information will be coming soon.

IV. Department Updates

a. Family Services

- i. Sharon Pierce, Family Services Manager discussed the status of her team. The Family Services department is fully teamed up and has greatly reduced the number of families in processing. The priority for the Family Services department is to increase enrollment. The coalition would like to help families apply and find out if they qualify for services. Providers should reach out to FamilyServices@ELC-EC.org if they are interested in allowing the family services to assist their families. The methodology for allocating funds is being revised and may be based on ELC full time enrollment, the census data, and the current waitlist. VPK applications for families will begin January 1st, 2024, and there will be a flyer sent out to spread the word. Provider profiles must be completed by May 31st, 2024.

b. Compliance

- i. Lori Monson, Compliance Manager discussed the monitoring that the compliance team has started working on. Not all providers will be selected for monitoring but those that are, will receive on-site monitoring. The compliance team will also begin rolling out the implementation of the non-compliance policy. Beginning in January, providers will receive notifications of their performance in relation to their non-compliant actions. In February, non-compliances will start being tallied and tracked. Non-compliance tallies will start over with the start of each fiscal year. Any questions should be directed to Compliance@ELC-EC.org. Dana shared that the ELC hopes that providers will continue to communicate the difficulties that they have so that the ELC can avoid assigning any non-compliances.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support the success of every child and their family through quality education and care.



Location: 1130 N. Eglin pkwy., Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: December 14, 2023

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00PM

c. Education

- i. Nicole Malawong, Early Education Specialist provided an update on upcoming training and past events. The transition to kindergarten event co-hosted with the Okaloosa County Schools and the ELC of the Emerald Coast was a successful collaboration of VPK teachers and Kindergarten teachers. The ELC will be hosting a book buddy event with the Fort Walton Beach Library and hope to offer similar events quarterly. The May conference will be held May 4th and will feature speakers including Carri Miller, Chancelor of Early Education, Pam Phelps, Creative Play School, and Molly and Jess of the Association of Early Learning Coalitions. The conference will be held at Bayshore church for the first 300 participants who sign up.

d. Finance

- i. Daniella Engeldinger, Finance Administrator discussed the 1099's that will be sent out at year end. All of those that have received money from the ELC of the Emerald Coast should update Accounting@ELC-EC.org if they have made changes to Name, FEIN, or Address as soon as possible.

e. Community Outreach

- i. Kendrick Rattray, Early Education and Community Outreach Specialist discussed the rally for reading book project which is placing books in the hands of children across the service area. Suggestions for placement of bookshelves were solicited. 2024 CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK, FLORIDA! was presented and providers were informed that the theme is "Believe in your shelf." More information will be provided as it becomes available.

V. Program Committee

- a. Dana presented that the program committee is starting to focus on ARPA, conference planning, and quality improvement. If anyone is interested in joining the Program Committee to contact Dana at DHodges@ELC-EC.org.

VI. CEO Updates

- ALERT system: Actions are still being taken to implement this program with childcare providers. The ELC has hit a few roadblocks and is continuing to push the program along.
- Provider Facebook page is open to providers and the ELC is encouraging everyone to join. Reach out to Communications@ELC-EC.org with any questions.
- Strategic planning has begun with the board of directors and stakeholders are working on what the next three years will look like. The strategic planning will be open to provider and public input.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support the success of every child and their family through quality education and care.



Location: 1130 N. Eglin pkwy., Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: December 14, 2023

Time: 12:30 PM – 2:00PM

VII. ARPA

- a. Dana covered the educator stipends, new hire stipends, and the free staff and director credential program the ELC will be operating. Questions about the ARPA grants should be directed to ERAGrant@ELC-EC.org

VIII. Open Forum Discussion

- a. There were no discussions.

IX. Public Comments

- a. Anthony McKinney with Stepping Stones presented a gift for Dana Hodges, CEO for the holidays and expressed his thanks on behalf of the providers of the ELC of the Emerald Coast.

X. Adjournment



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to support the success of every child and their family through quality education and care.