



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 3.14.2024

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Board Approved: April 26, 2024

## Program Committee Meeting Minutes

### **Program Committee Members Present:**

Don Edwards, Private Sector - Renasant Bank

Ray Sansom, Private Sector - Radar Group - Chair - Via Zoom

Amanda Colwell, Okaloosa County Health Department Assistant Director – Via Zoom

Kristen Murdy, Representative of private for-profit childcare providers - Director of Operations-  
Via Zoom

### **Program Committee Members Absent:**

Kathy Curry, Representative of faith-based childcare providers - Director

### **Coalition Staff Present:**

Dana Hodges, CEO

Angie Strumeyer, COO

Tawanda Brown, Education Manager

Lori Monson, Compliance Manager

Sharon Pierce, Eligibility/CCR&R Manager

Deanna Hernandez, Executive Administrator

### **Public Present:**

Valerie Bogar

I. Call to Order – Don Edwards calls the meeting to order at 11:04 am

II. Agenda

Motion Result: Motion to approve the Agenda as presented- Unanimous

Motion – Amanda Colwell

Second – Kristen Murdy

III. New Business

a. Non-Compliance Policy Enforcement

Lori provides an update stating that after rolling out the non-compliance enforcement, only 18 non-compliance emails have been sent out to providers. She gives examples of the most common offences.

Dana assures the Committee that our goal is to NOT have providers with non-compliances. We will always provide technical assistance on all first offences to avoid having to issue a non-compliance notification. A Non-compliance will be initiated if the issue becomes repetitive and the action is sustained.

b. SR Enrollments Update

Sharon states that we have over 1200 children enrolled and advises the committee about the various visits throughout both Okaloosa and Walton counties. The team is reaching out to parents to increase enrollments.

c. VPK Update

Sharon tells the committee that the VPK enrollments are decreasing since it is getting close to the end of the program year, and most are beyond 70% completed.

Dana mentions that we have a new Community Out-reach Specialist starting April 1<sup>st</sup> and she will be tasked with getting the Coalition's name out in the Community so we can reach more children throughout both Okaloosa and Walton counties.

d. Match

Dana talks about being in deficit due to receiving less funding than in previous years. Going into next year, you will see that our requests for match funding will be significantly less than in the past to help re-align the match funding.

e. Monitoring Update

Lori gives an overview of the findings and trends found during the monitorings. When scheduling the monitoring, they took into consideration the VPK end dates to ensure those are completed before the program's end date.

f. ARPA Discussion

Amy talks about ARPA funding and says that we paid over 900 stipends to teachers. She also talks about the other pieces of the ARPA grant that are designed to encourage enrollments through classroom expansion and reopening infant rooms as well as the curriculum.

g. ECE Advisory Update

Dana says that ELC is still chairing the board and will continue to work towards bridging the gap in the community to uncover the true needs of childcare, the different populations that need childcare and the workforce needs to make that all happen.

h. 2024 Conference

Tawanda reminds the Committee that the conference is scheduled on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, she talks about the theme and asks what topics the providers would like to hear the keynote speaker discuss for the conference. Some feedback is provided. There are still spots available for more vendors.

i. ELC Storybook Village 10/26/24

The ELC will partner with United Fidelity Bank to put on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Storybook Village. Tawanda asks for theme ideas.



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IV. Old Business

a. Children's Week

This year Children's week is scheduled for February 25, 2024 - March 1, 2024, in Tallahassee. The hanging of the hands takes place February 25<sup>th</sup>. Kristen has volunteered a bus to drive any childcare providers to Tallahassee to attend Storybook Village.

V. CEO Updates

a. Legislative updates

Dana provided updates on some of the legislative changes that are coming.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Don adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deanna Hernandez  
Executive Administrator