



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.20.2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.16.25

Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Program Committee Members Present:

Kathy Curry, Representative of faith-based childcare providers - Zoom
Amy Bowles, Okaloosa County Schools Appointee - Zoom
Amanda Colwell, Okaloosa County Health Department Appointee
Victoria Ebert, Private Sector - RC Hospitality - Zoom
Kim Cox, Private Sector, Origin Bank
Kristen Murdy, Representative of private for-profit childcare providers
Dr. Sandy Arteaga, Northwest Florida State College President's Appointee
Jeff Brown, Private Sector, Bridging Analytics
Lindsay Roberts, Private Sector - Osprey Title

Program Committee Members Absent:

Julie Webb, Private Sector – ASHA

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:

None

I. Call to Order – Kim C. called the meeting to order at 10:02 am

II. Consent Agenda

Lindsay made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

III. New Business

a. Non-Compliance Policy Enforcement

Angie introduces the revised corrective action plan as a method to address violations before harsher penalties are imposed. The discussion centers on contract non-compliance, outlining consequences like temporary reimbursement withholding and contract termination. The importance of clear communication and proactive measures, such as checklists and contract meetings, are suggested to improve compliance. It was suggested that we include information that references the documents we sourced from. Angie stated a revision that includes references to rule/statute will be sent out for review.

b. Communication

Angie speaks about how the current communication system, primarily email via Constant Contact, is deemed insufficient due to emails being overlooked or lost in spam. The addition of texting capabilities to Constant Contact is proposed to enhance communication reach and effectiveness. Updating contact information and exploring alternative communication methods are discussed to ensure timely and effective information delivery.

c. Enrollments Discussion

Angie tells the Committee that current enrollment numbers are positive, exceeding last year's figures, with a focus on increasing school readiness enrollment. Strategies to improve communication regarding redetermination, including multiple email and portal reminders, are highlighted. Sharon emphasized the importance of proactive communication to prevent families from losing services due to missed redetermination deadlines.

d. Provider Profiles

Sharon discusses focusing on improving the timely completion of provider profiles, instead of waiting until the last minute. Strategies such as setting earlier deadlines, providing incentives, and clarifying required documentation are discussed. Lori stressed the need for clear communication about profile requirements and proactive outreach to providers. A new single sign-on (SSO) system is being implemented by DEL, requiring updates to email addresses and contact information. The transition to the new system will involve changes to the login process and access management so it is important to use consistent email addresses.

e. VPK Registration

Sharon shares with the Committee that we have 1197 VPK applications for the 2025-26 School year that have been approved, and her team is going through the list to make sure there are no applications for 5-year-olds who have already received VPK services. We have a provider who is taking steps to become a VPK SIS (specialized individual services) provider. Lori provides an overview of how the program works and differs from regular VPK classes.

f. Stipend Discussion*

Dana presents a stipend program to improve teacher retention, focusing on classroom teachers with at least three years of experience. Dana proposes allocating \$200,000 for the stipends.

Kim C. made a motion to approve the Teacher Stipends policy. Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

Kristen M. made a motion to request that \$200,000 be allocated for the stipends. Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

IV. CEO Updates

a. Childcare Workforce Taskforce

Dana talks about the Emerald Coast 2025 Children & Competitiveness Forum. The program aims to address teacher shortages and improve the quality of early childhood education. Recruitment strategies, such as marketing and scholarships, are discussed as part of a broader effort to attract new teachers. Dana also provides some legislative updates.



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.20.2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.16.25

It is brought to the attention of the Committee that Ray Sansom has resigned his position on the Coalition board, so we need a new chair for the Program Committee. Dana asks if there is anyone who would be interested. Kristen and Kim C. put their names forward for consideration.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Adjournment

Kim C. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

Kim C. adjourns the meeting at 11:43am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanna Hernandez
Executive Administrator