



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.21.25

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.16.25

Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Amanda Grandy, Private Sector - Gubernatorial Appointee, Chair
Lindsay Roberts, Private Sector - Osprey Title, Vice-Chair
Beth Brant, Private Sector - Poly, Inc. (Via Zoom)
Dr. Sandy Arteaga, Northwest Florida State College President's Appointee (Via Zoom)
Ardelle Bush, Private Sector - Healthy Start
Shea Boykin, Private Sector - Okaloosa County Teachers Federal Credit Union, Secretary (Via Zoom)
Kathy Curry, Representative of faith-based childcare providers
Bambi Sealy, DCF District Administrator Appointee (Via Zoom)
Jeff Brown, Private Sector - Bridging Analytics, LLC (Via Zoom)
Kim Cox, Private Sector - Origin Bank
Kristen Murdy, Representative of private for-profit childcare providers (Via Zoom)
Melissa Sidoti, DCF Services Regional Administrator Delegate (Via Zoom)
Michele Burns, CareerSource Okaloosa Walton (Via Zoom)
Ashley Murray, Early Steps, Agency Serving Children with Disabilities (Via Zoom)
Amy Bowles, Okaloosa County Schools Appointee (Via Zoom)
Victoria Ebert, Private Sector - RC Hospitality (Via Zoom)
Sarah Davis, Private Sector - Gubernatorial Appointee

Board Members Absent:

Gretta Barrett, Private Sector - Coldwell Banker Realty
Julie Webb, Private Sector - Advanced Sacred Hope Academy (ASHA)
Kim Gillis, Head Start Appointee
Caroline Durkee, Walton County Commissioner's Appointee
Amanda Negrón, Private Sector - HSU Foundation
Amanda Colwell, Okaloosa County Health Department Appointee

Coalition Team Present:

Dana Hodges, CEO
Sondra Moffit, CFO
Angie Strumeyer, COO
Tawanda Brown, Education Manager
Lori Monson, Compliance Manager
Sharon Pierce, Eligibility & CCR&R Manager
Deanna Hernandez, Executive Administrator

Public Present:

Rich Cassidy - Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC
Nick Pereda - Moss, Krusick & Associates, LLC

Quorum:

Quorum established 8:02 a.m.

- I. Call to Order – Amanda Grandy, Chair
Amanda called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.21.25

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.16.25

II. Consent Agenda*

- a. Motion to Accept the agenda.
- b. Minutes Coalition Board Meeting, November 15, 2024
- c. Minutes Program Committee Meeting, November 21, 2024
- d. Minutes Finance Committee Meeting, January 31, 2025
- e. Summary of Executed Contracts
- f. Status of Agency & Monitoring

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

III. Treasurer's Report

- a. Quarterly Financial Report*
 - i. Financial Dashboard
Sondra presents the financial dashboard stating that as of December 2024, the financial report shows we are at 50% completion of the program year.
 - ii. Statement of Activities
Sondra highlights some of the targets that are over or under budget.
 - iii. Statement of Financial Position
Sondra points out that the increase in operating accounts and deferred revenue is due to keeping two months' worth of advance this fiscal year.
- b. Local SR Match Report
Sondra reports on local match stating we have expended \$36,515 of our match funding.

Kathy made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

IV. New Business

- a. Auditor's Report
Rich presents the Auditor's report. He states there were no deficiencies, no weaknesses, and no findings to disclose.

Lindsay made the motion to accept the Auditor's Report as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

- b. Board Member Application

Dana explains that the position that Ashley Murry will be filling is a state-mandated position for a representative of a program under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This seat has been vacant since the last board member filling it departed, and we have been actively searching for someone to fill it since it is very specific to the people who can take that position.

Kathy made the motion to accept Ashley Murray's Application as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

c. Emerald Coast 2025 Children & Competitiveness Forum

Dana stated that she has created a partnership with the Florida Chamber and the Children's movement to facilitate a conversation between stakeholders and the community. Discussions took place regarding the needs for Okaloosa and Walton counties regarding childcare. The first task will be to recruit more teachers to the industry and help them understand that it is a career pathway.

The Tri-county partnership initiatives group that Dana is co-chair of has set their focus on the retention of teachers through a united and combined effort within the military and the civilian sectors.

Dana gives an overview of the Quality Achievement, Recruitment, and Retention Stipends policy that was approved by the Program Committee on 2.20.25. She asks the Board to approve an allocation of \$200,000 for the stipend program.

Kim C. made the motion to allocate \$200,000 towards stipend payments as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

d. Committee Updates

Amanda Grandy informs the Board that Ray Sansom has resigned leaving the Treasurer seat vacant and asks for nominees.

Kristen, the newly appointed chair of the Program Committee, gives a quick overview of some of the topics that were discussed at the Program Committee Meeting.

V. Old Business

a. I.A. Board Membership Updated

Amanda asks the Board to please review their information in the report to ensure that everything is correct and up to date.

Lindsay made the motion to accept the Board Membership with edits as presented.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

VI. Department Updates

a. Eligibility

Sharon gives an update on enrollments and Provider profiles. Her team is calling all the providers that have not completed their Provider Profiles.

b. Compliance

Lori advises that we have 2 new providers and an existing contracted provider opening another location providing more openings for enrollments. There is also an existing Family Child Care Home provider who has converted to a Large Family Child Care Home which will help increase enrollments. Mandatory Contract meetings will be held throughout both counties with several dates and various times to enable more providers to attend to help reduce non-compliances.



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.21.25

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.16.25

c. Education

Tawanda states that the department is working to increase contacts and are focusing on behavioral training. Director's huddles are being held to address many topics, including non-compliances. She advises the Board that we will need volunteers for the Spring Conference in May.

VII. CEO Updates

a. Team Updates

Dana provides updates on our team stating that offices are currently occupied.

b. Event Updates

Dana talks about the different upcoming events and encourages the Board members to volunteer at the various events. She discusses some scholarship opportunities that are available through the Children's Forum and JP Morgan stating that in our community, there were 24 people that completed the application process. Other topics discussed include the Educator Spotlight, VPK designations and Kindergarten Readiness rates. Legislative updates are also discussed.

Dana talks about Children's Week and storybook village encouraging everyone to attend.

VIII. Action Items

c. Increase SR & VPK Enrollments

d. Early Educator Workforce

e. Leverage Community Partners

VIII. Public Comment

Sarah Davis announces that she is opening her own mental health counseling practice. Davis Counseling Consulting Service.

IX. Adjournment

Amanda G. adjourned the meeting at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanna Hernandez
Executive Administrator