



Location: 1130 N Eglin Pkwy, Shalimar, FL 32579

Date: 2.19.2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Board Approved: 5.5.26

Program Committee Meeting Minutes

Program Committee Members Present:

Amanda Colwell, Okaloosa County Health Department Appointee - (Zoom)
Kim Cox, Private Sector, Origin Bank
Julie Webb, Private Sector – Advanced Sacred Hope Academy (ASHA) - (Zoom)
Amy Bowles, Okaloosa County Schools Appointee - (Zoom)
Kathy Curry, Representative of faith-based childcare providers

Program Committee Members Absent:

Lindsay Roberts, Private Sector - Osprey Title
Emily Edge, Representative of an Agency Serving Children with Disabilities
Kristen Murdy, Representative of private for-profit childcare providers – Chair
Jeff Brown, Private Sector, Bridging Analytics

Coalition Staff Present:

Dana Hodges, CEO
Angie Strumeyer, COO
Deanna Hernandez, Executive Administrator

Public Present:

Tammie Bowyer
Nick Bowyer

I. Call to Order – Kim C. called the meeting to order at 10:08 am

II. Consent Agenda

Kathy C. made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda with edits.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

III. New Business

a. Enrollments Update

VPK enrollments for the 2025–2026 school year are comparable to the prior year; however, current registrations are lower than they were at this time last year.

SR enrollments have decreased by more than 100 children compared to this time last year.

An investment of \$35,000 has been approved to increase program awareness and advertising efforts, including:

○ Six billboards:

- Two in Ft. Walton Beach (Eglin Pkwy/Racetrack Rd and Beal Pkwy near Walmart)
- One in Crestview (Hwy 85 near Walmart)
- One in Freeport (Hwy 331 near the bridge)



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- Two in DeFuniak Springs (Hwy 331 near Walmart)
- Radio commercial on 93.3
- Yard signs
- Geofencing initiatives

b. Summit Information

The 2026 Early Childhood Education Summit scheduled to take place on May 16, 2026, at The Island Resort from 9am to 12pm. We are celebrating the professionals who help children learn, grow, and thrive. The event includes professional development sessions with keynote speaker and national movie star, Rachel Giannini, an awards ceremony, and light hors d'oeuvres. Come dressed to "spill the tea"- floral attire is suggested and hats are required.

Kim C. made the motion to charge a \$25 admission fee for the Early Childhood Education Summit. Additionally, a minimum of quarterly trainings will be offered by the Education Team.

Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

c. 5k Sponsorship

The Run 4 Health 5K presented by the Okaloosa County Community Health Improvement Partnership (OCHIP). Proceeds from this year's race will support the SAFE Start Grant, which helps childcare providers enhance security at their facilities. There are sponsorship opportunities, board participation is highly encouraged.

d. Training Statement Discussion

Due to low attendance and repeated no-shows for scheduled trainings, the Education Department has requested that the Program Committee review and approve the following statement to be included on all training invitations and calendars.

"Out of consideration for training staff and individuals on the training waitlist, participants are asked to notify the Coalition at least 24 hours in advance if they are unable to attend a registered training. Notification should be submitted via email to education@elc-ec.org.

Please note: Repeated no-shows may result in loss of eligibility to attend Coalition-sponsored professional development for a period of six (6) months."

Amanda C. made a motion to add the statement on all training invitations and calendars as presented.

Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

e. Hatch Table Submissions*

Two Ignite Tables by Hatch are currently available from Family Childcare Home Providers who are not using them at this time due to the ages of the children in their care. Providers were invited to submit written requests for consideration. All submissions were redacted and presented to the Committee for review. Deliberations took place until 2 recipients were chosen.



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Julie W. made a motion to award submissions #3 & #6 to receive the Hatch tables.
Motion is carried by unanimous vote.

f. Board Member Update

It is announced that Kristen Murdy, our current Provider for-profit representative, is resigning her position on the Board of Directors and the Program Committee, which also leaves a vacancy in the Chair position. Private for-profit childcare providers who wish to be considered for the role are invited to submit their nomination to the Executive Administrator.

g. Cost of Care Presentation

Tammie Bowyer, Owner of The Stepping Stones Early Learning Academy, presents a Cost of Care Estimator PowerPoint. The presentation identifies the true cost of delivering quality childcare services and helps identify the gap between the actual cost of providing care and the revenue received from tuition and reimbursements.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Adjournment

Kim C. adjourns the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Hernandez

Executive Administrator