



## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Wednesday – October 30, 2019**

### **ELC Office 11:30am-1:30pm**

#### **Board Members Present:**

Amy Buggle  
Karen Feagins  
Jacquelyn Green  
Dr. Tara Haley  
LaTanya Wynn Hall  
Jason Roth

Marcus Rowe  
Dr. Tom Connolly  
Bruce Ferguson  
Curtis Hart  
Amber Holley  
Dr. Pauline Rolle  
Carlos Esquivia- Lee

Michelle Braun  
Dana Ferrell-Birchfield  
Amanda Baggett  
Lenora Wilson for Saralyn Grass  
Theresa Little  
Dana Kriznar for Dr. Greene

**Board Members Absent:** Marian Wilcher, Sunny Gettinger, Miriam Williams, Sandy Ramsey

**Guests:** Melanie Clough, Episcopal Children Services; Yolanda Evans, Childcare Provider; Deana Walker, Childcare Provider; Ora Byrden, Childcare provider; Tanya Mayhew, Childcare Provider; Gloria Sims-Cave, Childcare Provider; Mildred Davis, Childcare Provider; Jerusha Johnson, Childcare Provider; Tammy Taylor, Childcare Provider; Joyce Wright, Childcare Provider; Pryman Williams, Childcare Provider

**ELC Staff Present :** Denise Marzullo, Cheryl Benveniste, Angel Carro, Jennifer Agnew, Jim Ungaro, Gwendolyn Carmichael, Lisa Tyner, Danielle DeCastro, Charlene Gross

Coalition Chair, Marcus Rowe, called the meeting to order and opened with introduction of members, ELC Staff and Special Guests.

Marcus asked the members to review the draft minutes from the August 28, 2019 meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Michelle Braun made a motion to approve the minutes.

#### **MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 28, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion was seconded by Curtis Hart and approved with correction to spelling of Christa Henley's name.*

Zero in on Safety Awards presentation followed. We had 14 providers with no violations in five or more years. Each provider in attendance received a plaque and special recognition for the tremendous job they do being violation free.

Angel Carro gave the Finance summary in Sandy Ramsey's absence. Angel shared that we are currently using MOD to process all payments. We did notice some glitches with a few records doubling or tripling payments and we are having staff double check before we make the payments to providers. OEL approved the rate increase for providers. The rate will be effective October 1, 2019. We are currently ahead of pace from last year with 6505 School Readiness and 9144 VPK children. Angel highlighted that our September redetermination rate is at 91% and is the highest he has ever seen. Parents are getting acclimated to using the portal and retuning all paperwork. We will continue to send out funding notifications to the families on our waiting list. In January we may need to do contracted slots again to spend our dollars. We are looking at a small surplus and will hit our 78% required on the tract we are on.

Amanda Baggett reviewed the watch list from the Appeals Committee. We have terminated SR & VPK contracts with two providers since the last report. We have had no appeals to our terminations. We have one center we are awaiting the DCF violation on and will terminate their contract accordingly. In the future we are looking at how to address the centers closing and reopening with same staff under new name and new owners.

Nominating Committee lead by LaTanya Wynn-Hall recommended Joy Stanton's application for the board.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE JOY STANTON TO ELC BOARD**

*Motion was seconded by Jason Roth and denied by majority vote after much discussion on conflict of interest with Joy Stanton being Board Chair of North Florida ELC.*

*Two members, Jackie Green and Theresa Little, abstained from the vote. Theresa Little for conflict of interest and Jackie Green for other reasons.*

The board would like a policy to be drawn up to address the issue of serving on multiple Coalition Boards and possible conflict of interest in the future. Once the policy is created and approved Joy Stanton can reapply at that time.

Theresa Little shared Legislative Committee updates. Denise Marzullo and Theresa Little will be going to Tallahassee in November to start meeting with state legislators. Any Board members who would like to join them please contact Cheryl Benveniste or Denise Marzullo.

Theresa Little presented information on the current DELDN membership. There were 40 in attendance at last meeting/ PEARLS training and 19 new member signed up. DELDN Leadership along with Denise are working on revamping the bylaws and strategic plan to help DELDN grow.

CEO Report given by Denise Marzullo shared the following information:

- ELC held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Service Palooza. It was a huge success and we invite all Board members to join us next year.
- Episcopal Children's Services received the RFP for Program Quality and Workforce Development
- Shann Goff and her team presented three options for the funding formula to the Office of Early Learning. The report did not have any specific allocations by county.
- City council meeting have been going very well. Denise thanked all members who have been attending with her. She will send out emails for upcoming meeting for board members to join as they have time.
- We have worked out a plan with Smartcare to use the money we allocated for 100 centers to pay for a second year for the 50 that actually signed up and are using the program regularly.

With no further business Marcus opened the floor for public comment. Denise was asked if the coalition was participating in the meeting about the Census and counting children. Denise replied that we actually have meeting scheduled to address the issues and help find the best way to count every child in Duval.

Congratulations were given to Amy Buggle for 30 years in the childcare business.

Meeting was adjourned with no further comments.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Benveniste

DRAFT