



Meeting Minutes
Wednesday – April 29, 2020
Zoom Conference Call 11:30am-1:30pm

Board Members Present:

Dr. Tom Connolly
Marian Wilcher
Amber Holley
Carlos Esquivia- Lee
Jacquelyn Green
Amy Buggle
Dr. Pauline Rolle

Marcus Rowe
Karen Feagins
Saralyn Grass
Theresa Little
Sandy Ramsey
Dana Kriznar
Bruce Ferguson
Dana Ferrell-Birchfield

Michelle Braun
Amanda Baggett
Sunny Gettinger
LaTanya Wynn Hall
Jason Roth
Curtis Hart
Dr. Tara Haley

Board Members Absent: Miriam Williams

ELC Staff Present : Denise Marzullo, Cheryl Benveniste, Angel Carro, Johnna Daniels, Danielle DeCastro, Jennifer Agnew

Coalition Chair, Marcus Rowe, called the meeting to order followed by roll call of all board members.

Marcus Rowe asked the members to review the draft minutes from the February 26, 2020 meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Connolly made a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 26, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion was seconded by Theresa Little and approved

The consent agenda was presented next for the signing of a new lease for our Northside office. There was a discussion on safety and it being a secure location for staff and families. The new location is on Dunn Avenue between 95 and 295 with a bus stop right out front. Marcus asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Curtis Hart made a motion.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA –
SIGNING OF THE NEW NORTHSIDE LEASE**

Motion was seconded by Theresa Little and approved

A COVID-19 update was shared by Denise Marzullo. ELC staff are working 100% from home at this time. We have a comprehensive work from home plan that we update every 3 weeks. This document will be used to share all the work that has been done during the pandemic if ever needed in the future.

We have extended the work from home plan through May and will look at June towards the middle of next month. We will await CDC guidance before making a decision to reopen the ELC offices. OEL is paying centers for their SR and VPK children whether they are open or closed at this time. They began paying parent fees as of April 1st. Thanks to KHA we will be able to pay providers parent fees from March 16th through April 1st which is the original date OEL sent out communication to stop collecting parent fees.

We have about 46% of our centers closed at this time including DCPS programs. We currently have more open than the state average as of today.

ELC of Duval is leading the state in the First Responder/Healthcare Worker Program enrollment in which OEL pays full childcare for first responders and healthcare workers. We have had several new providers come aboard to take advantage of this program. Our staff have been very busy assisting these parents and processing their applications within 3 days as required by OEL.

The RICE Foundation showed interest in filling the gap to help providers who are needing assistance at this time. OEL is also considering issuing mini grants for centers that are open. We will submit a proposal to RICE to fill in the gaps for those centers that were forced to close or do not meet criteria for the OEL mini grants.

Several providers applied for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) through the CARES Act and are still awaiting funding. ELC has a small task force of staff available to assist providers in the application process for PPP.

A board member asked about the guidance on the readiness rates is at this time. The answer given is that there will be no assessments or testing for the 2019-2020 school year thus no readiness rates for 2019-2020 year.

A board member asked about children attending VPK next year, and is that an option like the DCPS to hold their child back. Denise has no guidance at this time however will put the question in writing and seek an answer from OEL.

Since OEL has been paying for ongoing VPK through the VPK calendar year, they will not have funding available to extend VPK into the summer months.

OEL has waived the VPK transfer policy so that parents who need care can take their child/ren to centers that are open and offering the program.

The Financial update was given next.

- ELC numbers are up since we are paying 100% of attendance.
- All parent fees are waived at this time.
- We are showing a deficit currently, however applied for the funding from OEL to cover the expenses due to all the changes with COVID-19 and funding.
- Our rough draft budget is very rough draft. We used current information and kept funding the same. We will have a final draft budget in June.

Appeal Committee: Amanda Baggett explained the Appeals Committee Provider Probation list and reviewed the provider document.

DELND: Theresa Little gave a brief update on DELND. The summer conference has been postponed until the fall due to COVID-19. March and April trainings were cancelled.

CEO Report was given by Denise sharing the following information:

- HB1013 did not pass.
- The Census 2020 will be extended and we will be sending out the Bounce for the Count Beach Balls to providers once centers reopen. We continue to promote filling out the Census through social media and other avenues.
- The 20 Year Celebration has been postponed. The committee decided that now is not the best time to host the event. We will look at possibly hosting 25 years in 2025.
- May 8th is provider appreciation day. ELC is working on a thank you video for providers. Please feel free to submit a short clip 2-8 seconds long thanking providers to be added to the video.

The floor was open for public comment following the CEO report.

LaTanya Wynn-Hall commended all open providers for all they are doing for Duval.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Benveniste