



Approved March 3, 2025, Program Review Committee Meeting
Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Meeting Minutes
December 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Members in Attendance | Chair, Monica King; Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer; Richard Campillo; Dawn Liberta; Renee Podolsky; Ellie Schrot |
| Members Absent (Excused) | Laurie Sallarulo; Krystie Castillo |
| Members Absent (Unexcused) | |
| Staff in Attendance | Renee Jaffe, CEO; Christine Klima, CAO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Hubert Cesar, CIO; Melody Martinez, Board Liaison; Amy Moore, Sr. Director of Family Services and Provider Relations; Allison Metsch, Sr. Director of Education & Quality; Ancel Pratt, III, Sr. Director of Communications & Outreach; Erica Accilon, Outreach Specialist Communications & Outreach; Gracy Haladjian, Dir. of Family & Customer Services; Renier Potts, Financial Analyst |
| Others in Attendance | |

| Item | Action/Discussion |
|--|--|
| Welcome & Call to Order | Chair Monica King called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The roll was called, and a quorum was established. |
| Consent Agenda 1. Approve August 28, 2024, Committee meeting minutes | There was a Motion to move the Consent Agenda by Ellie Schrot and Seconded by Dawn Liberta. Unanimously approved. Motion Passes. |
| Regular Committee 1. PRC252RB1 - School Readiness Enrollment/Redetermination Update (Goal 1 of Strategic Plan) | School Readiness Amy Moore provided an update on School Readiness enrollment and redetermination efforts. This year, we successfully enrolled 1,816 children from the School Readiness waitlist. However, due to projected budget deficits, we have paused further enrollments. As of November 25, there are 1,812 children still on the waitlist. While enrollment has stopped, we continue to analyze attrition data to identify trends and areas for improvement. In collaboration with Miami-Dade ELC, we discovered that they categorize attrition differently. Specifically, they use the termination code "Failure to Revalidate" to identify families that did not submit the necessary documentation for redetermination, meaning they did not even begin the process. This is distinct from other termination reasons, where families either engaged in the process but did not complete it or were deemed ineligible. By excluding "Failure to Revalidate" families, Miami-Dade ELC significantly reduces their overall attrition rate, particularly for families who did not complete the process or were found ineligible for other reasons. |

Upon further analysis of our data, we observed similar trends. Excluding the 375 children (30%) who were terminated for "Failure to Revalidate," we found that the termination rate for families not completing the process for other reasons is around 20%. This insight helps us refine our approach to reducing attrition. We have implemented a mechanism in our CRM that allows us to communicate directly with families about missing items in their redetermination packets, enabling us to target these families more effectively. We aim to reduce attrition by addressing this issue. Additionally, we plan to examine families who have not yet started the process to identify any emerging trends.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer expressed her appreciation for the insight, noting that this information is valuable and will allow us to address and resolve the issue effectively.

Chair Monica King requested that, of the 859 children in the blue category, we identify and remove those who failed to provide the necessary documentation or were deemed ineligible. She inquired if this type of data, along with age and geographic information, is typically included in the reports. Additionally, she asked what other factors are being considered in the analysis.

Amy Moore stated that with Hubert's assistance, we can further analyze the data.

Renee Jaffe, CEO, noted that it is unclear whether parents are choosing not to redetermine because they believe their income exceeds eligibility, or if they are withholding income information. As a result, these families remain in the program but are not reflected in the fiscal cliff population.

While we will continue to report overall attrition figures, breaking down these numbers allows us to target specific areas for improvement. For example, we plan to investigate families who fail to submit required redetermination documentation and explore potential trends related to child age or other demographic factors that may affect families' completion rates.

Our primary focus is on maintaining care for eligible families, managing the growing waitlist, and providing resources to families seeking affordable childcare options while they await enrollment into School Readiness services. Enrollment in smaller programs, such as at-risk and other mandated categories, remains stable. Additionally, local programs funded by CSC, such as those for vulnerable populations, have shown steady enrollment. These children are often in the program longer than in the past, with the goal of transitioning families into School Readiness funding or supporting those who are stable enough to pay for childcare. We anticipate an increase in overall program enrollment as we continue accepting new referrals.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer inquired about the predominant barriers to enrollment. She noted that, since this process has just begun, the primary concern may be families transitioning from School Readiness to SR Plus. She asked if there are any specific

replacing maladaptive behaviors, will be repeated. Additional training covers ASQ, ASQ-SE3, and Full Circle Classroom Strategies to reduce challenging behaviors.

Help Me Grow Florida

ELC Broward applied to become an affiliate of Help Me Grow Florida (HMGF), which will allow us to expand developmental screening services to all families with young children, not just those receiving childcare subsidies. HMGF partners with pediatricians and primary care providers to promote awareness of developmental stages, guiding families to use screenings like ASQ, ASQ SE, PSC, and the (Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers) M-CHAT-R/F. HMGF funding will support outreach, follow-up, and guidance for families with developmental concerns. We are pleased to announce that ELC Broward was selected as a successful applicant, and services will begin once the contract is signed. Two staff members will focus on expanding relationships with families, healthcare providers, and referral sources.

Other System Supports

The AD Henderson Foundation has supported several initiatives to assist children and families:

- **Mobile Eye Exams:** Over 700 Pre-K to 3rd-grade children received free vision exams and glasses and replacement glasses if necessary through Miami Lighthouse for the Blind.
- **Mobile Hearing Screenings:** Around 300 children (ages 3-8) have received hearing screenings in 15+ childcare facilities, funded by AD Henderson and provided by the Center for Hearing and Communication.
- **Expanded Assessment Options:** Nova Southeastern University's Unicorn Children's Foundation offers free developmental assessments for children with autism-related behaviors, now increasing capacity with a new psychologist.
- **Peer Support Specialists:** Funded by AD Henderson, assist families referred for evaluations or assessments through Child Find. They help families stay engaged throughout the emotional and sometimes challenging process. Both FDLRS and Early Steps have praised the Specialists for improving follow-through, fostering collaboration with teachers, and supporting children's progress.
- **Other Classroom Supports:** include Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs) and Board-Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), funded through parents' insurance. These professionals provide therapy in the classroom and one-on-one, based on each child's individual needs.

Richard Campillo shared that he runs a program called Glasses for the Homeless, which is seeing an increase in the number of homeless children. He also highlighted the need for hearing amplifiers for homeless individuals. He suggested scheduling a meeting to explore ways to help fill these gaps.

Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer asked to please include CSC in that when you meet since we are funding the lighthouse for the blind as a match for the school-age kids.

Renee Podolsky expressed that she would like to be included when you meet because there are other opportunities through the relationship with Broward schools.

Ellie Schrot added that it was a great report and is happy with everything happening. She also shared that last Fiscal Year, 23-24, their monthly average of referrals was 33. I had only had 2 months in data for this FY, July, and August, and we are up to 51 monthly referrals. The other thing is that the percentage of children we connect with and get evaluated has increased by 9%. We are excited and continue tracking the referrals and what happens. Thank you, and great work.

CLASS Observations Update:

Our current SR CLASS score average is 5.59, and we have completed 389 of approximately 1000 SR observations.

We also observe every VPK classroom in the county, including our public school classes. No payment differential is currently associated with the VPK CLASS score.

We have completed 241 of an estimated approximately 950 VPK observations to date. We are comfortable with this number, and we are confident we will have all VPK CLASS scores completed on time. The current VPK CLASS score average is 5.57.

Additionally, Allison Metsch reported on the VPK Performance Accountability Update. The state Board of Education approved a new Rule 6M-8.622, which details procedures for DEL to calculate each VPK provider's accountability using performance metrics and assign performance designations. The rule outlines the methodology for assigning performance designations to VPK providers, using metrics like quality, achievement, and learning gains. This new accountability system will begin at the end of the 2024-25 VPK year. DEL must calculate performance metrics and assign designations within 45 days after the program ends.

Florida's Committee for Early Grade Success has developed a more accurate Kindergarten Readiness scoring system, replacing the old method that combined VPK and kindergarten data. The new progress monitoring holds providers accountable for quality instruction and student growth. School year programs assess children three times using the FAST Star Early Literacy test (PM1, PM2, and PM3). Summer programs assess at the start and end of the program. Scores are used to provide targeted support to students, and a score of 707 or higher at PM3 indicates kindergarten readiness. The combination of FAST scores, CLASS scores, and growth from PM1 to PM3 determines the provider's designation.

Starting in January, we'll conduct workshops for Providers to understand Performance Accountability scoring. We're collaborating with Age of Learning, Inc. and Marco Polo Learning to enhance VPK children's education, with 101 in Age of Learning and 87 in Marco Polo. Both programs are offering on-site and Zoom training. Most VPK programs have completed Progress Monitoring 1, and we'll use this data to set baselines and track progress through PM 2 and PM 3. We'll analyze data from schools using the technologies and those that didn't and conduct a general review to better support the county.

| | |
|---|---|
| 4. PRC251RB5- Outreach/Advocacy Update | <p>Howard Bakalar added that overall, we like these measures. It underscores for the providers the importance of getting a good CLASS Score since CLASS is 50% of the overall measurement. It also brings learning games, like for children who start far behind; it's not just that they get to 710; it's the gains they've made.</p> <p>Monica King asked if there were consequences for those who scored unsatisfactory.</p> <p>Allison Metsch replied that yes, there is. It's called a POP, "Provider on Probation," like an action plan. It's not that immediately you lose your VPK program, it's more of lets give you an improvement plan, with our support, and see how you do next year.</p> <p>Outreach/Advocacy Update</p> <p>Ancel Pratt provided an update on outreach and Advocacy.</p> <p>ELC services and building community relationships, securing additional School Readiness match grants through local outreach and municipal presentations.</p> <p>ELC Broward is excited to join the Help Me Grow Florida network, offering free developmental screenings, care coordination, and parenting resources. A landing page will launch in December 2024, providing families with key tools for child development. The team is preparing through training and collaboration with the Education team.</p> <p>In November, Family Engagement Month was celebrated with a social media campaign to inspire parents with learning tips. The Outreach team has also engaged with the community to promote ELC services.</p> <p>The Broward Bookworms program has distributed 24,000 books in three months, with 4,921 orders processed. For the first time, Scholastic offers bilingual Creole books. Currently, 65% of the program's budget has been spent for the fiscal year.</p> |
| Unfinished Business | |
| New Business | Howard Bakalar, CPO announced we will be having our first in-person conference since COVID on Saturday, Feb 22, 2025, at Boyd H. Anderson High School. |
| Matters from the Chair | None |
| Matters from the Committee | None |
| Public Comments | None |
| Next Meeting | Last week of February 2025 |
| Adjourn | The meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM |

These minutes contain the action items of the Board meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward. They do not include all of the Committee's discussions or comments on each matter or issue raised during the meeting. A tape recording of the meeting is held in the Coalition office. Corrections from the Committee will be taken before approval at the next meeting.