



APPROVED AT MARCH 17, 2021 PRC MEETING
 Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Inc.
Program Review Committee Minutes
September 2, 2020 – 2:00 PM
 Virtual Meeting
 Via GoToMeeting

Members Attendance	in	Chair, Khalil Zeinieh; Renee Podolsky; Richard Campillo; Laurie Rich Levinson; Dawn Liberta, Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer, Cara Cerchione
Members Absent		Laurie Sallarulo
Staff in Attendance		Renee Jaffe, CEO; Christine Klima, CAO; Hubert Cesar, CIO; Howard Bakalar, CPO; Judith Merritt, COO; Keisha Dunn-Pettis, Director of Family Services; Allison Metsch, Director of Education and Quality; Pablo Calvo, Director of Community Engagement; Elsy Silvestre, Executive Assistant
Others in Attendance		Jacob Jackson, General Counsel

Item	Action/Discussion
Welcome & Call to Order	Chair, Khalil Zeinieh called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Roll was called and a quorum was established.
CONSENT AGENDA a. Approve December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes	A Motion was made by Dawn Liberta to approve the ELC of Broward Program Review Committee meeting minutes from December 4, 2019. Seconded by Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer. Unanimously approved. Committee Chair, asked that his name be corrected on page 2 of the December 4, 2019 meeting minutes.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a. PRC201RB1 –Strategic Plan Quarter 4 & YTD Progress Summary

PRC201RB1 Strategic Plan Quarter 4 & YTD:

- Howard introduced Judith Merritt, COO to the Program Review Committee.
- Q4 shows ELC was on track to achieve all the pillars.
- ELC did not meet its annual goal for call answering. We are at 84% overall, instead of 85%, due to the heavy volume from the 1st quarter.
- This is a challenging year due to the pandemic. There is a transition process as providers start reopening.
- We changed our business model in different ways, including conducting virtual trainings for child care staff, virtual story time for families (conducted in three languages), focus on payment of stipends to individual educators and stimulus grants to child care owners, and call center operations completely virtual.
- We have faced some challenges, one being, obtaining banking information from individual teachers to pay stipends. The percentage of contracted centers opened, as of next week will be around 95%. The providers are facing major challenges with re-opening and the CDC guidelines.

b. PRC201RB2 –Strategic Plan 2020-21

PRC201RB2 Strategic Plan 2020-21:

It is expected the strategic plan for the FY 20-21 will be presented to the full Board at the September 23, 2020 meeting.

For the current year, the ELC was on track to complete all pillars, however, due to the pandemic the ELC had to dramatically alter the way it delivered much of its programming in response to the pandemic.

We evaluated the strategic plan and looked at all the outcomes and the state of childcare now. Some things had to be put on hold, we are looking forward to our next iteration of the strategic plan.

Three years ago the plan was more operational because we were bringing everything in house. There will be higher level outcomes for the next strategic plan.

Proposed changes to the 3-Year Strategic Plan will be presented at the next Executive Committee Meeting on September 10, 2020 and then to the Board on September 24, 2020.

<p>c. PRC201RB3 –Virtual Learning Engagement for Waitlist Families</p>	<p><u>PRC201RB3 Virtual Learning Engagement for Waitlist Families:</u></p> <p>During the pandemic we had the opportunity to offer both childcare centers/facilities and families the opportunity to join an online learning platform.</p> <p>We have continuously been talking about things to offer families while they are on the waitlist. ELC will plan to procure a small pilot project for families on the waitlist to engage in online learning experiences.</p> <p>There was a discussion about ELC doing fundraising and the ELC doing their own platform. Richard wants to see more content/participation from dad’s. Howard mentioned that as soon as we can do it in-house, we would.</p> <p>Committee Chair gave a shout out to the ELC for the virtual learning engagement that ELC has provided, and Committee Member Cindy complimented staff on moving forward with what has been a goal of providing additional services to families on the waitlist for years.</p> <p>Committee member Cara discussed the success of her center’s use of the DOC platform while her center was closed. She commented that there was amazing feedback and great participation, not just by mom’s but dad’s and grandparents as well. She mentioned it was very user friendly and was widely successful with all families.</p>
<p>d. PRC201RB4 –Learning Pod Funding for School Age Children</p>	<p><u>PRC201RB4 Learning Pod Funding for School Age Children:</u></p> <p>Because Broward Schools announced that school would begin entirely virtually, there was an immediate need for thousands of working families to find a safe place for their children to attend virtual classes.</p> <p>We are hopeful to have some learning pods within the next week or so.</p> <p>The Learning pods are following CDC guidelines with 9 children and 1 adult that will provide assistance to the students as well as provide after care.</p> <p>The various public and private funders got together and were very quick to respond to the need. They all had the same goals which was to get families help. ELC staff is working with United Way, the Children’s Services Council, and the AD Henderson Foundation to prioritize the list of child care facility applicants to make final funding decisions. The collaborative funders have tentatively committed approximately \$1.5 million toward this project. There are approximately 130 applications from child care centers.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of School Readiness Eligibility Redeterminations 	<p>Keisha noted that it was a tremendous effort and that we are second in the state for the number of children we were able to serve in this program.</p> <p>Funding was specific to first responders and healthcare workers, this program enabled them to serve the needs of the community. She spoke about eligibility requirements. Initial referrals have ceased since July 31. Anyone that is in the program will be able to continue with services. ELC Broward enrolled over 3,000 children.</p> <p>The program has challenges it has posed for our staff in terms of workloads.</p> <p>Committee Chair mentioned that it is important to have an expansion of ideas for first responders. This was a great initiative for first responders, however, people that work in other venues like Publix are also in need of help.</p> <p>ELC continuously asked Broward to reconsider their definition of “first responders” and to consider other essential workers as well. However, OEL determined the rules and we had to adhere to the rules.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of School Readiness Eligibility Redeterminations <p>Back in March when we transitioned to teleworking, OEL authorized the extension of redeterminations for all families receiving SR funds. The purpose was to give relief to families. They provided two 60-day extensions and one 30-day extension. As of August 15, the extensions ceased. Redeterminations show over 6,000 children who require an update. In the last five months preceding the pandemic we were looking at an average redetermination of 1,700 children. Currently it is 6,000. We had to reach out to OEL because it was a huge undertaking. Howard and Keisha were on a call with OEL and were told to do whatever was necessary to re-determine these families.</p> <p>Staff is working nonstop making sure that cases are updated. State is supporting our efforts. We will be doing these as quickly as possible. We will be sending out a communication to providers and families as well. We are pleasantly surprised that OEL listened and were on board.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p>No discussion.</p>
<p>MATTERS FROM CHAIR</p>	<p>No discussion.</p>
<p>MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Laurie Levinson thanked ELC for all the work that is being done. She mentioned that many parents are worried about managing virtual learning</p>

	<p>and having to work. In August, Broward County Public Schools launched Parent University in which more than 65,000 parents participated in four live webinars. 65,000 parents watch webinar live. The program was featured on Good Morning America. An online learning management system taught parents how to use Microsoft Teams. Next series is September 10 for Pre-K - 1. September 14 is for grades 2 – 5; and September 17 is for Grades 6 – 12. Information can be found on browardschools.com/parentuniversity.</p> <p>Chair thanked Renee and team for keeping everyone informed with everything that has been going on through various communications sent out to Board.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no comment.
NEXT MEETING DATE	TBD
ADJOURN	Cindy motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.

These minutes contain the action items of the Board meeting of the Early Learning Coalition of Broward. They do not include all 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 prior to approval at the next meeting.