To participate in this meeting via teleconference, register using the link below:
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/172405293

Our Vision Statement
Children and Families in our community will have access to quality early learning programs that nurture their learning potential and prepare them for their educational success.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
November 4, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

Call to Order
Roll Call
Chair Report – Presentation UWMC/Publix
Consent Agenda

ACTION ITEM
Private Child Care Center Representative
By-Laws
2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget (2B)
2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget (3B)

DISCUSSION
DEL Update
MCPS Early Learning Academy
Finance Committee Update
Give4Marion Summary
Good Beginnings for Children Breakfast 2022

INFORMATION
Community Partner Roundtable Updates
FLAEGC

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT
Public Comment
Adjournment

MEETING SCHEDULE for FY 2021 – 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
<th>Finance Committee</th>
<th>Help Me Grow Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM, Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 AM, Thursday</td>
<td>8:30 AM, Thursday</td>
<td>11:00 AM, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-18-21</td>
<td>11-4-21</td>
<td>12-9-21</td>
<td>1-20-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-9-21</td>
<td>12-3-20</td>
<td>1-7-22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-13-22</td>
<td>2-24-22</td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-10-22</td>
<td>2-24-22</td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
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<td>3-10-22</td>
<td>2-24-22</td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-14-22</td>
<td>4-28-22</td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5-12-22</td>
<td>6-23-22</td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9-22</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-21-22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• ALL meetings will be held at ELCMC, 2300 SW 17th Road, Ocala, FL 34471 or via conference call
Section

1
Consent Agenda

- August 26, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
- Financials for August 2021
- Current Events through September 2021
Early Learning Coalition of Marion County  
Annual Board Meeting Minutes  

Date/Time: August 26, 2021, at 8:30AM  
Location: ELCMC Office, Board Room and via Go to Meeting  

Members Present: Robert Colen, Earlene Carte, Doug Day, Brenda Ford, Todd Panzer, Thomas LoBianco, Elizabeth Chryst, Evan Pitts, Cecil Wilson, Judy Johnson  
Via Go to Webinar: Jeanne Henningsen, Richard Forrester, Maritza Alejandro, Karen Vega  
Members Absent: Commissioner Michelle Stone, Cindy LeCouris, Cara Meeks, Mark Lander, Jennifer Beck, Kathy Robbins  
Guest: Escarlin  
Staff Present: Roseann Fricks, Chief Executive Officer; Elizabeth Deola, Chief Programs Officer; Beatriz Montalvo, Administrative Services / HR Director; Marcelle Easter, Business Information Director; Chrissy Vickers, Success By 6 Coordinator; JoLynn Rathel, Literacy Outreach Advocate; Janet Honor, Quality Coordinator I; Wendy Williams, Community Relations Advocate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
<th>Summary/Discussion</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Call to Order</td>
<td>Board meeting called to order. Beatriz Montalvo called roll. A quorum was present.</td>
<td>Robert Colen called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair Report</td>
<td>Robert welcomed new Board members: Evan Pitts, Cecil Wilson, and Elizabeth Chryst to the Full Board or Directors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Story</td>
<td>Chrissy introduced Escarlin as she shared her heartfelt success story with the Full Board of Directors and staff.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consent Agenda</td>
<td>The June 24, 2021, Full Board minutes, preliminary financial reports through June 2021, Current Events for 2020 – 2021, and Current Events through July 2021 were included in the consent agenda for Board approval.</td>
<td>ACTION ITEM: Doug Day moved to accept the consent agenda and Brenda Ford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 – 2021 Budget Revision – 8B</td>
<td>Roseann asked to ratify the 2020 – 2021 budget revisions to reallocate line items based upon the factors listed on the Ratification Sheet.</td>
<td>RATIFICATION: Brenda Ford motioned to accept the ratification. Thomas LoBianco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 – 2022 Proposed Budget – 1B</td>
<td>Roseann asked for approval of the 2021 – 2022 proposed budget, as listed on the Action Sheet.</td>
<td>ACTION: Todd Panzer motioned to accept the action. Thomas LoBianco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEL Update</td>
<td>Effective July 1, 2021, the Office of Early Learning (OEL) is now the Division of Early Learning (DEL) within the Department of Education. Chancellor Matthew Mears’ focus will be on adding values and setting priorities.</td>
<td>DISCUSSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form</td>
<td>The Executive Committee signed a Conflict-of-Interest Agreement Form for FY 2021 – 2022 on August 26th. For compliance purposes, a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form was distributed to the remaining Full Board of Directors members for signatures.</td>
<td>DISCUSSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panzer Concierge Medicine</td>
<td>Todd Panzer humbly encouraged all to consider getting vaccinated for COVID-19.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECM Companies</td>
<td>Evan Pitts was acknowledged for being the gateway to a successful Business After Hours event in partnership with CEP and the Florida Credit Union.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agenda Item</td>
<td>Summary/Discussion</td>
<td>Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tender Care Medical Services</td>
<td>Thomas shared that due to COVID exposure, his site has been closed until next Monday.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith-Based Child Care Provider</td>
<td>Earlene had to reduce the size of the classrooms due to the shortage in staff.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Children and Families</td>
<td>Richard Forrester in his absence shared DCF reports included in the Board packet for informational purposes. Reports are available at <a href="http://www.myllfamilies.com">www.myllfamilies.com</a>.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monarch Leadership Group</td>
<td>Jeanne shared about her daughter's book, “Shop Pets of Ocala”. She will have a book signing on September 15th at the Marion Cultural Alliance.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion County Public Schools</td>
<td>The press release on the “MCPS Principal Appointed to Serve on Department of Education’s Task Force”, was included in the packet for informational purposes.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 – 2021 Community Impact</td>
<td>Roseann discussed the VPK numbers and the 2020 – 2021 Community Impact flyer included in the packet.</td>
<td>INFORMATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO Update</td>
<td>None at this time.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjourned</td>
<td>The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported by: Beatriz Montalvo, Administrative Services / HR Director

Approved by: [Signature]

Date 11/4/20

NOTE – For additional information on any of the above items, please contact Chief Executive Officer, Roseann Fricks at rfricks@elc-marion.org.
# Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc.

**Budget vs. Actual**

**As of August 31, 2021**

### GL Acct. Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GL Acct.</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Current Month To Date % of Budget</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Year to Date % of Budget</th>
<th>Balance of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contracts, Grants, and Other Financial Assistance</td>
<td>17,541,264.20 $</td>
<td>$1,096,229.02 $</td>
<td>11.31%</td>
<td>$1,994,653.86 $</td>
<td>$15,646,610.34 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings</td>
<td>8,500.00 $</td>
<td>$708.33 $</td>
<td>14.70%</td>
<td>$1,249.71 $</td>
<td>$7,250.29 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>47,800.00 $</td>
<td>$3,083.33 $</td>
<td>4.83%</td>
<td>$2,310.54 $</td>
<td>$45,489.46 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,697,564.20 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,098,403.16 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>74.48%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,474,797.02 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,699,350.09 $</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Budget (1B)</th>
<th>Current Month % of Budget</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Year to Date % of Budget</th>
<th>Balance of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer Provided Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>1,886,286.37 $</td>
<td>136,901.32 $</td>
<td>87.00%</td>
<td>157,357.20 $</td>
<td>1,622,405.21 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>10,000.00 $</td>
<td>130.00 $</td>
<td>15.60%</td>
<td>833.33 $</td>
<td>9,853.32 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Services</td>
<td>163,859.70 $</td>
<td>7,675.00 $</td>
<td>56.21%</td>
<td>13,654.98 $</td>
<td>152,038.70 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Services - Child Care</td>
<td>15,107,820.77 $</td>
<td>884,640.87 $</td>
<td>70.27%</td>
<td>1,258,985.06 $</td>
<td>13,450,925.17 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage, Freight, and Delivery</td>
<td>4,766.95 $</td>
<td>130.00 $</td>
<td>15.60%</td>
<td>833.33 $</td>
<td>9,853.96 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Leases</td>
<td>4,317.32 $</td>
<td>279.00 $</td>
<td>77.55%</td>
<td>558.00 $</td>
<td>3,759.32 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>23,043.33 $</td>
<td>763.89 $</td>
<td>39.78%</td>
<td>1,920.28 $</td>
<td>21,157.30 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>19,401.84 $</td>
<td>2,862.89 $</td>
<td>177.07%</td>
<td>1,616.82 $</td>
<td>16,327.10 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>33,825.25 $</td>
<td>2,799.08 $</td>
<td>81.59%</td>
<td>1,003.00 $</td>
<td>23,459.17 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible Personal Property</td>
<td>9,750.00 $</td>
<td>- $</td>
<td>81.59%</td>
<td>1,003.00 $</td>
<td>8,375.00 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality Initiatives</td>
<td>257,027.94 $</td>
<td>9,535.58 $</td>
<td>44.52%</td>
<td>21,419.00 $</td>
<td>245,964.46 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other OEL Initiatives</td>
<td>9,750.00 $</td>
<td>- $</td>
<td>44.52%</td>
<td>21,419.00 $</td>
<td>245,964.46 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>9,000.00 $</td>
<td>665.92 $</td>
<td>88.79%</td>
<td>750.00 $</td>
<td>6,469.61 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expenses</td>
<td>69,619.59 $</td>
<td>1,125.00 $</td>
<td>48.52%</td>
<td>2,318.55 $</td>
<td>55,406.64 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Program Expenses (Success by 6)</td>
<td>28,632.54 $</td>
<td>1,125.00 $</td>
<td>48.52%</td>
<td>2,318.55 $</td>
<td>25,221.24 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>46,854.94 $</td>
<td>3,904.60 $</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>3,904.58 $</td>
<td>39,045.74 $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,778,913.54 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,056,280.11 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>71.30%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,000,700.43 $</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,777,403.11 $</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net Income

| Net Income | (81,349.34) $ | 42,123.05 $ | (6,711.61) $ | (2,486.32) $ | (78,053.02) $ |

**NOTE:**

1. Building depreciation - $32,511 - unallowable under Federal funding
2. Initial NOA - 07/01/21 - SR Allocation
3. NOA - 07/01/21 - QPI Allocation
4. NOA - 07/01/21 - VPK Allocation
5. Rev 1 NOA - 08/03/21 - SR Match Allocation - Match allocation of $196,744 but no PDG award yet which was included in initial budget. Net effect is ($26,461)
2021-2022 YTD COMMUNITY IMPACT
July 1 - Sept 30

2,245 Monthly Avg. Children Served by 100 School Readiness Providers
1,559 Monthly Avg. Children Served by 96 Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Providers
367 Children on Waitlist (as of Sept. 30)
208 Teachers Trained

27 Emergency Pack 'n Plays Distributed Success By 6
4,582 Children's Books Distributed + 475 Read Aloud 15 Minutes Partners
2,380 Diapers Distributed + 4,608 Diapers Collected Success By 6
14 Emergency Car Seats Distributed Buckle Up for Life

30 New Children Served and 88 physicians reached by Help Me Grow
Participated in 10 Community Events
4 Community Presentations
54 Parents Attended Classes Success By 6

9,777 Website Users
4 Media Mentions
1,558 ELCMC Facebook Likes with 5,321 Avg. Monthly Reach
0 Fraud Reports

For more information, contact Wendy Williams, Community Relations Advocate, wwilliams@elc-marion.org, 352-369-2315 x202
Section 2
Action Sheet

FULL BOARD
November 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Board of Directors Private Child Care Center Provider Representative Nomination

PROPOSED ACTION

Approve recommendation of nomination to ELCMC Board of Directors for:

- Traci England, Private Child Care Center Provider – Term November 4, 2021, through June 30, 2025

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The vacancy was advertised on the Coalition website, announced at Provider Meetings, and included in regularly distributed emails to all Marion County Child Care Providers. A total of four applications were received by the Coalition. All applicants are eligible to be considered for a child-care representative on the Board.

Traci England is the Owner & Director of Ocala Play Academy, a private-for-profit enterprise (child-care center) in Marion County. Traci is a strong children’s advocate and interested and eligible to be considered for this position.

A poll was sent electronically to all providers with all interested applicants to represent Private For-Profit Child-Care Providers. Based on the votes/responses collected from both polls the above provider is being recommended for representation on the Board of Directors.

On October 14, 2021, the Executive Committee approved as stated above.

Supporting Documentation Available:

- ELCMC By-Laws
- Board of Directors Nomination Form for all applicants
Section 3
SUBJECT: By-Laws Revision

PROPOSED ACTION

Approve the modifications of the Coalition By-Laws as attached.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

By-Laws were revised in 2017 to be in compliance with Florida Statutes.

Changes are required at this time to ensure compliance with Florida Statutes and Coalition practices. Recommended changes are in red font and strikethrough and are being submitted for your consideration.

On October 14, 2021, the Executive Committee approved as stated above.

Supporting Documentation Included:
- Revised By-Laws, dated March 2019
BY LAWS OF
EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF
MARION COUNTY, INC.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND LOCATION OF ORGANIZATION

Section 1.1. NAME OF COALITION

The name of the organization shall be the, “Early Learning Coalition of Marion County”, a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Florida, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the Coalition.

Section 1.2. LOCATION OF THE COALITION

The principal office of the organization shall be located at 2300 SW 17 Road, Ocala, Florida 34471 in Marion County. The Coalition may have other offices within the county as the members may determine or as the affairs of organization may require.

ARTICLE II

VISION AND MISSION, AND PURPOSE

Section 2.1. VISION AND MISSION OF THE COALITION

Vision

Children and families in our community will have access to quality early learning programs that nurture their learning potential and prepare them for their educational success.

Mission

To provide leadership and foster partnerships to optimize a quality early learning environment for our children through child care, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and parent education.

Section 2.2. PURPOSE OF THE COALITION

The purpose of this Coalition shall be to coordinate, administer and implement the provisions set forth in Chapter 1002, Part V and Part VI, Florida Statutes (VPK Program and SR Program) as amended from time to time. The Coalition shall establish an integrated and efficient service delivery system for all publicly funded early education and
care programs for eligible families, including Voluntary Pre-kindergarten in Marion County.

The Coalition may not impose requirements on a childcare or early childhood education provider that is not contracted with the Early Learning Coalition.

The general purposes are to:

A. Prepare students for early literacy.
B. Enhance the age-appropriate progress of students in attaining the performance standards adopted by the Department of Education.
C. Prepare students to be ready for kindergarten based upon the statewide kindergarten screening.
D. Enhance the cognitive, social and physical development of children.
E. Provide extended-day, extended-year services to the maximum extent possible within funding limitations to meet the needs of parents who work.
F. Coordinate staff development and teaching opportunities.
G. Provide expanded access to community services and resources for families to help achieve economic self-sufficiency.
H. Provide a single point of entry and unified waiting list.
I. Serve the maximum number of children possible with funding limitations.
J. Develop a community plan to address the needs of all eligible children.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.1. NUMBER OF MEMBERS

The Coalition shall be composed of at least 15 members but not more than 30 members. The members shall be the directors of the corporation.

The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other members of each Early Learning Coalition, who must each meet the same qualifications as private-sector business members appointed by the Coalition under Section 3.3.1.

The gubernatorial appointees may remain as private sector business members, subject to Section 3.3, following the expiration of their gubernatorial appointment.

Section 3.2. MANDATED MEMBERS—GOVERNATORIAL APPOINTEES

The Governor shall appoint the chair and two other members of each Early Learning Coalition, who must each meet the same qualifications as private-sector business members appointed by the Coalition under Section 3.3.1.
The gubernatorial appointees may remain as private sector business members, subject to Section 3.3, following the expiration of their gubernatorial appointment.

Section 3.3 STATUTORILY MANDATED MEMBERS

Thirteen members of the Coalition are mandated by Florida Statute. These individuals serve continuously while they are in their respective positions. A member who no longer represents the constituency he or she represents shall notify the Chair in writing and their seat shall remain vacant until a new representative is identified by the organization or group they represent. These are:

CHANGE SECTION NUMBERS

3.2.1. The Department of Children and Family Services regional administrator or his or her designee who is authorized to make decisions on behalf of DCF.

3.2.2. The Marion County School district superintendent of schools or his or her designee authorized to make decisions on behalf of the School District of Marion County.

3.2.3. The regional workforce board executive director or his or her designee.

3.2.4. The county health department director or his or her designee.

3.2.5. A Florida College System Institution president or a permanent designee.

3.2.6. One member appointed by the Marion County board of county commissioners or the governing board of a municipality.

3.2.7. The Head Start or Early Head Start director.

3.2.8. Two private for-profit childcare provider representatives, one representing private for-profit childcare providers and one representing for-profit family day care homes., including private for profit family day care homes. (2 representatives, 1 member for private for -profit childcare provider and 1 member for profit family day care homes). These members should regularly communicate with their constituents and must regularly provide reports to the Board regarding the needs of its constituency.

3.2.9. Representative of faith-based childcare providers. This member should regularly communicate with their constituents and must regularly provide reports to the Board regarding the needs of its constituency.
3.2.10. Representative of programs for children with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. This member should regularly communicate with their constituents and must regularly provide reports to the Board regarding the needs of its constituency.

3.2.11. Chair appointed by the Governor. See 3.1. is this necessary here?

3.2.12. Two private sector business members appointed by the Governor. Same as above

Section 3.4. PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS MEMBERS

Including the Chair and two Coalition members appointed by the Governor, Private sector business members must comprise more than one-third of the Early Learning Coalition’s Board membership, based on the total number of seated board members positions. No person who is from the private sector may serve as a Member if either such person or such person’s relatives (as defined in F.S. 112.3143) has a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program created under part V of Chapter 1002 of the Florida Statutes.

Change Section numbers
3.3.1. A private sector business member of the Early Learning Coalition shall:
3.3.1.1. Reside in Marion County, Florida; and
3.3.1.2. Be an employee, manager or owner of a business entity, as statutorily defined for these purposes, that operates in Marion County.

3.3.2. A private sector business member of a Coalition shall not be an employee, manager or owner of an organization that is not a business entity as defined for purposes of this guidance. For example, an individual may not be an employee, manager, or owner of:

3.3.2.1. The Early Learning Coalition or of the fiscal agent, service provider, contractor, or subcontractor of the Coalition;
3.3.2.2. A School Readiness provider, private Prekindergarten provider, public school, or school district;
3.3.2.3. A child care facility, family day care home, large family child care home, nonpublic school, or faith-based child care provider;
3.3.2.4. A state university, community college, or other public educational institution;
3.3.2.5. The federal or state government; a state, county, or municipal government; or a public agency; or
3.3.3. A private sector business member may not have a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the VPK Program or an Early Learning Coalition’s School Readiness Program.

Section 3.5. COMMUNITY AT LARGE OPTIONAL MEMBERS
The Coalition may appoint up to two (2) additional optional members.

CHANGE SECTION NUMBERS

3.4.1. An optional community at large member must reside in, or must represent a legal entity located in Marion County.

3.4.2. The optional member and the member’s relatives must not have a substantial financial interest in the design or delivery of the VPK Program or the Coalition’s School Readiness program.

3.4.3. The appointment of an optional community at large member must not duplicate the representation of an organization or of a required, conditional, or private sector membership position listed above.

3.4.4. The Coalition may is encouraged to appoint as one of its Community at Large an optional members, a parent of a child enrolled in the VPK Program of the Coalition’s school readiness program.

Section 3.6. MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Serving on the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County will require a commitment of time including regular Coalition meetings, committee involvement, reading and becoming educated about many aspects of Early Childhood Development and School Readiness. When a vacancy occurs in an appointed position, the Coalition must advertise the vacancy.

Vacancies: The Board of Directors may appoint members to fill existing vacancies on the board or to fill a vacancy that arises due to resignation, removal, death or expiration of a Member’s first or second term.

3.6.1. Appointed Private Sector Business Members and Optional members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. Private Sector members may be nominated to serve additional terms after a one-year break in service. The terms must be staggered and must be a uniform length that does not exceed four years per term. Representatives Mandated members may serve a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms. Private Sector members may be nominated to serve additional terms after a one-year break in service. Do we want to consider adding “Initially the members shall serve two-, three- or four-year terms as determined by the Chair. Subsequently all terms will be four years; thus, there will always be three classes of approximately equal size, with the term of each class ending n consecutive years.”

3.6.2. Any representative or appointed member may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the members whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the organization would be served. Notice of proposed removal
shall be given in writing to the members by the Secretary prior to the next Coalition meeting.

3.6.3. Absences from one-half three (3) consecutive of regularly scheduled meetings or six (6) meetings within a twelve month period by a representative or appointed private sector/mandated member, without excuses, may be considered equivalent to resignation from the Coalition.

3.6.4. Mandated members absent from one-half of regularly scheduled three (3) consecutive meetings or six (6) meetings within a twelve month period without due cause may be notified by the Chair that their membership is not in good standing.

3.6.5. Any member may resign by giving written notice to the Chair. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified in the notice and the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

ARTICLE IV

MANAGEMENT

Section 4.1. POWERS AND DUTIES

The powers, management, and control of the Coalition, and all of its affairs, shall be vested in the members as outlined in “The Early Learning Act.”

4.1.1. Each member of the Early Learning Coalition is subject to Florida Statute 112.313, 112.3135, and 112.3143. For purposes of Florida Statute 112.3143 (3) (a), each voting member is a local public officer who must abstain from voting when a voting conflict exists.

4.1.2. Members will not receive any compensation for their services; however, members may be reimbursed for travel expense in accordance with Florida Statute ss.112.011-112.218.

4.1.3. The Board shall select a Chief Executive Officer based on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Board will adopt a job description outlining responsibilities. The Chief Executive Officer shall be evaluated annually.

Section 4.2. VOTING

All members of the Coalition shall have equal voting rights and equal privileges. A majority of the seated voting membership of the Coalition constitutes a quorum required to conduct the business of the Coalition.
4.2.1. Fifty-one percent (51%) of the seated voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Coalition. If less than fifty-one (51%) percent of the seated voting members are present at said meeting, in person or using any method of telecommunications, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

4.2.1 A voting member may send a representative to any meeting of the Coalition, but such representative cannot vote, nor shall the presence of such representative be considered for purposes of establishing a quorum. When a regional administrator for the Department of Children and Family Services appoints a designee to the ELC, the designee is the voting member of the ELC, and any individual attending in the designee’s place does not have voting privileges.

Section 4.3. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place to be decided by the members.

4.3.1. Special meetings of the members may be called by or at the request of the Chair or any ten members. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings may select any publicly accessible place within Marion County as the place for holding any special meetings called by them.

4.3.2. The agenda and order of business at all Coalition meetings shall be determined by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Coalition.

4.3.3. The annual meeting of the Coalition will be held each year in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

4.3.4. Minutes of all Coalition meetings shall be kept.

Attendance by Communications Technology The Coalition may use any method of telecommunications to conduct meetings, including establishing a quorum through telecommunications, provided that the public is given proper notice of a telecommunications meeting and reasonable access to observe and, when appropriate, participate.

Section 4.4. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert’s Rule of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Coalition in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Coalition may adopt.

ARTICLE V
OFFICERS

Section 5.1.  ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A Coalition member in good standing shall be eligible for nomination and election to elective office of this Coalition.

The Governor shall appoint the Chair.

5.1.1. A Nominating Committee, appointed by the chair and approved by the members, shall convene for the purpose of nominating officers and to prepare an official slate of nominees. Any person so nominated shall have given prior consent to nomination and election as an officer. The Chair and Vice Chair may not be an individual or have a family member whose agency or operations would receive funding from the Coalition.

5.1.2. Each elected officer must meet the same qualifications as private-sector business members in compliance with Florida Statutes and shall take office at the end of the fiscal year and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is duly qualified and elected. Officers may serve in the same position for a maximum of two consecutive years.

5.1.3. If an office is vacated prior to the completion of a one-year term, except for the office of Chair, a member in good standing may be appointed by the Chair and approved by the members to fill the vacancy until the term ends.

Section 5.2.  OFFICERS OF THE COALITION

5.2.1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Coalition. The Chair shall appoint, with the approval of the Coalition, Chairs of all committees and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Coalition.

5.2.2. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair is absent and may have such other responsibilities as designated by the Chair or in the absence of a gubernatorial appointment of the Chair.

5.2.3. The Treasurer shall cause to be maintained an account of monies received and expended for the use of the Coalition and shall make a report at the annual meeting or when called upon by the Chair. The Treasurer will also ensure an independent audit is conducted on an annual basis on recommendation of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall preside at all Board meetings of the Coalition in the absence of the Chair and Secretary and perform all such duties usually pertaining to the office of the Treasurer and serve in any capacity as designated by the Chair.

5.2.4. The Secretary shall ensure that notice required by these Bylaws is given and keep records of all proceedings of the Coalition. The Secretary shall perform any other duties incident to the Office of Secretary or assigned by the Chair of the Coalition. The Secretary shall preside at all Board meetings of the Coalition in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair and perform all
such duties usually pertaining to the office of the Secretary and serve in any capacity as designated by the Chair.

ARTICLE VI

COMMITTEES

Section 6.1. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Standing and/or special committees may be established by the members, as they deem necessary.

6.1.1. The Chair of each committee will be a private-sector business member of the Coalition and shall be appointed by the Chair of the Coalition and approved by the membership to serve for one year. Committee Chairs may serve more than one term. Each Committee Chair shall also serve on the Executive Committee.

6.1.2. Each committee shall consist of the Chair and at least two (2) additional members of the Coalition appointed by the Chair of the Coalition. Representatives from the community are encouraged to serve as members of appropriate committees as needed to carry on the work of the committee.

6.1.3. Each committee shall meet as necessary at meeting times designated by the committee Chair but no less than quarterly.

6.1.4. The committee Chair shall submit a written report to the members before the next regularly scheduled meeting if official action is required by the Coalition.

6.1.5. Notice of all committee meetings will be made pursuant to Florida Statute 286.011. See suggested language in 4.3 — if added this can be deleted.

Section 6.2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed each year by the members of the Coalition. The nominating committee Chair will be appointed by the Chair of the Coalition and approved by the members.

6.2.1. The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating officers and members for election one month prior to the last meeting of the fiscal year, except for the positions appointed by the Governor.

6.2.2. The Nominating Committee Chair shall submit a written slate of nominations ten (10) days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the members for distribution to the members in preparation for said meeting.
Section 6.3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.3.1. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the four officers, the Chairs of Standing Committees, and Past Vice Chair.

6.3.2. The purpose of the Executive Committee will be to act on behalf of the Coalition on administrative matters and when a decision is required before a meeting of the full Coalition can reasonably be held. The Executive Committee shall keep minutes of all its meetings. The Executive Committee shall have and exercise all the powers and obligations of the Coalition subject to such limitations as the laws of the State of Florida or resolutions of the full Coalition may impose. All decisions of the Executive Committee must be ratified by a majority of the Coalition at their next scheduled meeting.

6.3.3. The Executive Committee will hear and decide any appeals and make administrative decisions related to client compliance issues and provide a full report to the Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors. The Committee will also have the responsibility of reviewing client grievances and make reports on provider non-compliance issues who have signed the Early Learning Coalition’s Provider Contract (statewide Contract) and bringing recommendations to the full Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors.

6.3.4. The Executive Committee will be responsible for personnel issues related to the CEO, including but not limited to: recruitment, salary and benefits package, annual evaluation and compliance with any needed improvement plan. Authority to hire and terminate the CEO is retained by the Board of Directors. ADD: The annual evaluation shall be completed on forms adopted by the Division or Early Learning, Department of Education, which must be submitted to the Commissioner by August 30th of each year. ALSO DO WE NEED TO CLARIFY THAT THE CEO IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE ELC AND EMPLOYMENT IS NOT CONTINGENT/DEPENDENT ON A CONTRACT TO ENSURE A CONTRACT IS NOT A PART OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THIS INDIVIDUAL?

6.3.5. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Coalition shall be Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

PROGRAM
Section 7.1.  PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

The School Readiness program shall be established for children from birth until the child reaches the age of 13. The program shall be administered by the Early Learning Coalition. Within funding limitations, the Early Learning Coalition, along with all contracted childcare providers, shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of children for extended-day and extended-year services without compromising the quality of the program. See Page 1 -- Purpose of Coalition -- is the below appropriate here? If so, we need to modify to conform with the purpose.

7.1.1. The School Readiness program must meet the program expectations and implementation guidelines as outlined in the Florida Statutes and in any subsequent legislative revisions.

7.1.2. The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program shall be available for children who will have attained the age of four years on or before September 1 of the school year. The child remains eligible until the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under Florida Statute 1003.21(1) (a) 2., or until the child is admitted to kindergarten, whichever occurs first.

ARTICLE VIII

BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 8.1. RECORDKEEPING

Correct and complete books and records of the proceedings of the Coalition and its committees are the responsibility of the elected Secretary. Records of the Coalition’s financial accounts are the responsibility of the Treasurer. All records will be kept and maintained at the office of the Coalition and will be subject to the inspection of any member of the Coalition or the public at any reasonable time. The organization shall keep a current and accurate record of the names and addresses of the members.

ARTICLE IX

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 9.1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the organization shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

9.1.1. An audit of the financial books and records of the organization shall be conducted annually by an independent CPA. Selection of auditor will be
through the process designated by the Coalition Board of Directors in compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations.

Section 9.2.  FUNDING

9.2.1.  All state, federal, and required local maintenance-of-effort or matching funds provided to an Early Learning Coalition shall be used by the Coalition for implementation of its School Readiness/Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten plan, including the hiring of staff to effectively operate the Coalition’s School Readiness program. State funds appropriated for the School Readiness program may not be used for the construction of new facilities or the purchase of buses.

Section 9.3.  CONTRACTS

The Coalition shall authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instruments in the name of, and on behalf of and for the benefit of the Coalition. The Coalition may also authorize one or more Officers to execute Contracts, confined to specific instances as required and/or directed.

Section 9.4.  CHECKS AND DRAFTS

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Coalition shall be signed by the Chief Executive Officer. The Coalition may also authorize one or more Officers to sign checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issues in the name of the Coalition.

Section 9.5  DEPOSITS

All funds of the corporation shall be deposited in a timely manner to the credit of the Coalition in such depositories as the members may select and as authorized by statute.

ARTICLE X

BYLAWS

Section 10.1.  IMPLEMENTATION

These Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon adoption. The Coalition’s interpretation of the Bylaws shall be considered the correct interpretation when reached by majority vote.

Section 10.2.  AMENDMENTS
These Bylaws may be altered, amended or appealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by a majority of the members of the Coalition present at any regular meeting or at any called meeting of the members, if at least ten (10) days written notice is given of an intention to alter, amend, or appeal these Bylaws at such meeting and provided the proposed amendment is distributed to all members at least ten (10) days in advance.

10.2.1. The Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws are a part of the Early Learning Coalition’s Plan and any amendment to them constitutes an amendment to the Coalition Plan.

ARTICLE XI
INDEMNIFICATION OF MEMBERS

SECTION 11.01
All persons who were, or shall be directors, officers, employees, volunteers or committee members of the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, but not limited to, those persons serving on the Board of Directors (hereinafter “Indemnified Party”) shall be indemnified, supported, defended and held harmless from all civil actions arising from a complaint for damages or injuries suffered as a result of any act or omission of action of the ELC or any Indemnified Party, present or former, arising out of and in the scope of his/her employment or function. The Early Learning Coalition’s indemnification set forth herein shall be the subject of a resolution adopted by the Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors setting forth any limits or conditions to said indemnification.

When applicable, The Coalition shall adhere to public meetings and records law as it relates to board member communications and board/committee meetings as stated in s.286.011(1), (2) and (6), Florida Statutes commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law.

APPROVED BY

Chair

Date: ______________________

ADOPTED BY COALITION

Secretary

Date: ______________________
Section 4
Action Sheet

FULL BOARD

November 4, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 – 2022 ELCMC Proposed Line-Item Budget revision (2-B)

PROPOSED ACTION

Approve 2021 – 2022 ELCMC Proposed Line-Item Budget revision (2-B).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Revisions in the budget are to reallocate line items based upon the following factors:

Revenue

- Notice of Award dated September 17, 2021
  - Increase PDG – Curriculum – carry-over from FY 2020-21 - $28,530
  - Increase PDG – Mental Health – carry-over from FY 2020-21 - $55,506
  - Increase PDG – Mental Health – additional allocation - $89,557
- Notice of Award dated September 30, 2021
  - Increase SR Waitlist allocation - $3,365,984
- Marion County Board of County Commissioners
  - Adjust for County budget approval of $150,000. Net increase of $19,225.89 based upon carry forward balance of 2020-21 grant of $31,725.89 and 75% of the 2021-22 award $112,500 for a total budget of $144,225.89.
- Early Learning Florida
  - Contract for FY22 (September 1, 2021 – August 31, 2022) – Net increase of $3,500 in the original budget for a total budget of $16,000.

Expenditures

- Reduce Salaries and Benefits – ($21,173.90)
  - Reduction due to delay in filling open positions and staff turnover
- Professional Services
  - Increase Other (Quality) – $114,380 for PDG grant funding contract
- Direct Services - $3,326,697.63
  - Increase for Notice of Award for SR Waitlist allocation
- Postage and Shipping – ($2,500)
  - Reduced due to change in internal procedures for notifying families of child development screenings.
- Quality Initiatives:
  - Quality & Classroom Material – for the PDG grant - $15,000
  - Training Material – for the PDG grant - $35,533.35
  - Consumer Education & Outreach Material – for community events - $2,050
- Other DEL Initiatives:
  - Early Learning Florida Project - $2,750

Approved by the Finance Committee on October 4, 2021.

On October 14, 2021, the Executive Committee approved as stated above.

Supporting Documentation Included:
- 2021 – 2022 ELCMC proposed line-item budget revision
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GL Accounts</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Net Proceeds</th>
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<td>Other Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
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<td>$47,800.00</td>
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**Total Revenue**

| | $(140,032.46) | $17,697,564.20 | $3,566,062.89 | $21,263,627.09 |

**Expenditures**

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<td>Professional Services</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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</table>

**Total Expenditures**

| | $(122,991.24) | $17,778,913.54 | $3,473,172.22 | $21,252,085.76 |

**Net Proceeds**

| | $(17,041.22) | $(81,349.34) | $92,890.67 | $11,541.33 |

**NOTES:**

1. Building depreciation - $32,511 - unallowable under Federal funding
2. Rev 1 NOA - 07/01/21 - Reduce VPK based upon actual Notice of Award - ($175,429)
3. NOA - 08/03/21 - Reduce SR based upon revised Notice of Award - ($26,461) - adjusted for receipt of Match dollars - $196,744 and no receipt of PDG funding as of yet (estimate was included in original budget proposal).
4. Rev 2 NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Curriculum Carry-over from 2020-21 - $28,530
5. NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Mental Health Carry-over from 2020-21 - $55,506
6. NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Mental Health additional allocation - $89,557
7. NOA - 09/30/21 - Increase SR - Waitlist allocation - $3,365,984
8. MCBGCC - County budget approved $150,000. Increase for 3/4 of award (Oct-June) - $112,500 plus carryforward of 31,725.89, net increase $19,225.89.
Section 5
SUBJECT: 2021-2022 ELCMC Proposed Line-Item Budget revision – 3B

PROPOSED ACTION

Approve 2021-2022 ELCMC Proposed Line-Item Budget revision (3B).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Revisions in the budget are to reallocate line items based upon the following factors:

Revenue
- Notice of Award dated October 22, 2021
  - Increase School Readiness - $1,473,389
    • Rate Increase Allocation – To maintain rate increase implemented January 2021
- Notice of Award dated October 29, 2021
  - Increase Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act
    • Phase VI Allocation - $3,827,902
    • VPK Closure Allocation - $29,132
    • Coalition Program Outreach, Awareness and Family Supports Allocation - $74,809
    • Workforce Initiatives Allocation - $531,253
- Kiwanis of Ocala
  - Reading is Fundamental K – 3rd grade - $6,000
  - Pack-n-Plays - $4,500
  - Bugs – Terrific Kids - $1,000

Expenditures
- Increase Salaries and Benefits – $50,692.50
  • Cost of Living Adjustment has been announced at 5.9% increase over 2021 effective January by the Social Security Administration.
- Professional Services: Consultant
  • Increase by $21,000 to extend contact for K. Hart for social media consulting.
- Direct Services – Net increase $502,521
  • Increase for CRRSA VPK Closures and School Readiness rate increase maintenance. Other funds have been diverted to quality initiatives while keeping the School Readiness direct services funding at 78% of the granted funds.
- Tangible Personal Property – $33,000
  • Increase Equipment < $5k - $27,000
  • Increase Furniture < $5k - $6,000
- Quality Initiatives:
  • Quality & Classroom Material – $250,000
  • Training Material – $50,000
  • Consumer Education & Outreach Material – CRRSA - $74,809
  • Consumer Education & Outreach Material - $55,307.50
  • Grants to Providers – CRRSA Phase VI - $3,827,902
  • Grants to Providers – CRRSA Workforce Initiatives - $531,253
  • Grants to Providers – CRRSA Workforce Initiatives - $531,253
  • Grants to Providers – $546,000
- Other Program Expenses:
  • Infant Safe Sleep - $4,500
  • Special Projects - $15,000

Supporting Documentation Included:
• 2021 – 2022 ELCMC proposed line-item budget revision
## Proposed Budget

### Revision 3

**Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Inc.**

**2021 - 2022**

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<th>GL Acct. Revenues</th>
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<table>
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<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>4-Nov-21</th>
<th>4-Nov-21</th>
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<tr>
<td>Employer Provided Salaries and Benefits</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$3,473,172.22</td>
<td>$21,252,085.76</td>
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**Net Proceeds**

<table>
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<th>4-Nov-21</th>
<th>4-Nov-21</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$3,566,062.89</td>
<td>$21,263,627.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$3,473,172.22</td>
<td>$21,252,085.76</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Proceeds</strong></td>
<td>$92,890.67</td>
<td>11,541.33</td>
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</table>

### NOTES:

1. Building depreciation - $32,511 - unallowable under Federal funding

**Rev 1**

- NOA - 07/01/21 - Reduce VPK based upon actual Notice of Award - ($175,429)
- NOA - 08/03/21 - Reduce SR based upon revised Notice of Award - ($26,461) - adjusted for receipt of Match dollars - $196,744 and no receipt of PDG funding as of yet (estimate was included in original budget proposal).

**Rev 2**

- NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Curriculum Carry-over from 2020-21 - $28,530
- NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Mental Health Carry-over from 2020-21 - $55,506
- NOA - 09/17/21 - Increase SR - PDG Mental Health additional allocation - $89,557
- NOA - 09/30/21 - Increase SR - Waitlist allocation - $3,365,984
- MCOBCC - County budget approved $150,000. Increase for 3/4 of award (Oct-June) - $112,500 plus carryforward of 31.725.89, net increase $19,225.89.

**Rev 3**

- NOA - 10/22/21 - Increase SR - Rate Increase Allocation - $1,473,389
- NOA - 10/29/21 - Increase CRRSA - Phase VI Allocation - $3,827,902
- NOA - 10/29/21 - Increase CRRSA - VPK Closure Allocation - $29,132
- NOA - 10/29/21 - Increase CRRSA - Coalition Program Outreach, Awareness and Family Supports Allocation - $74,809
- NOA - 10/29/21 - Increase CRRSA - Workforce Initiatives Allocation - $531,253
Information

Items
2021 Give4Marion Results

Raised $6,260, a 72% increase over 2020

42 Individual Donors
A 180% increase over 2020

2 Peer-to-Peer Champions brought in 7 new donors, raising $1,265

10.9% Email Conversion Rate
15 donors were contacted via Constant Contact, raising $2,950

8.5% Increase in Facebook Likes
122 new Facebook Likes during month-long campaign

50% Repeat Donor Gifts
7 repeat donors gave $2,250, a 50% increase over their 2020 gifts

12 donors accessed Give4Marion platform through Facebook link, representing $1,585

30 New Donors Gave $2,870
2022 Legislative Priorities

KEEP FAMILIES WORKING ... KEEP CHILDREN LEARNING

"Early childhood education is the most efficient way to accomplish these goals: Professor Heckman's analysis of the Perry Preschool program shows a 7% to 10% per year return on investment based on increased school and career achievement as well as reduced costs in remedial education, health and criminal justice system expenditures."

Heckmanequation.org

Early childhood education is the most efficient way to provide tools for upward mobility and build a highly educated, skilled workforce.

7-10% Annual ROI

GOOD BEGINNINGS = GREAT ENDINGS

"Children Educated in Their First Years Are:

- 50% less likely to need special education,
- 70% less likely to be arrested for a violent crime, and
- 50% less likely to become teen parents."

FirstThingsFirst.org (Florida Chamber of Commerce)

Invest in Early Learning Academies through public/private partnerships to support students from the start.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE THE WORKFORCE BEHIND OUR WORKFORCE

"Research on high-quality, intensive early child care education programs for low-income children confirm lasting positive effects—improved cognitive and social abilities and better math and language skills. Quality early child care education and preschool can, therefore, be viewed as an investment—one with good returns."

healthychildren.org

Modify the current School Readiness program payment policy to ensure providers serving high-need communities receive a fair and equitable pay rate.

For more information, contact Roseann Fricks, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Rfricks@elc-marion.org, 352-812-5639
We are so thrilled to announce Ms. Jenny Gallego is the inaugural recipient of Florida’s Early Childhood Educator of the Year award. Ms. Gallego is a Preschool Teacher at the Kinderoo Children’s Academy in Ocala, Florida.

“Once in a while, as educators, we come upon colleagues who are truly extraordinary at their work,” shared Kinderoo Program Director, Ms. Martha Anzola. “Jenny is an inspiration to many educators, not only for her passion but for her skills.”

This recognition comes at a crucial time when the childcare industry is suffering due to the far-reaching impacts of the pandemic including low enrollments, staff shortages and razor-thin margins. FLAEYC Executive Director, Ms. Chris Duggan explained, “While this award was absolutely designed to reward the exemplary service of an outstanding early childhood educator, we hope it will also raise awareness of the critical role this profession plays in the success of our communities’ children and encourage our state and its citizens to support this critical industry.”

The brand-new FLAEYC award was presented in partnership with The Children’s Movement of Florida to recognize an early childhood educator who demonstrates excellence in the field, creates an inclusive learning environment, is committed to professional standards and growth, and serves as a resource for the families she serves.

“It’s an honor to partner with FLAEYC on this award,” said Children’s Movement CEO, Ms. Madeleine Thakur. “Too often, early learning educators are overlooked for the critical brain-building work they do every day with so much passion, patience, and love. We so appreciate FLAEYC’s efforts to celebrate and elevate the early learning profession and recognize Florida’s first Early Childhood Educator of the Year.”

As Florida’s Early Childhood Educator of the Year, Gallego will represent Florida’s childcare industry by speaking to the public about the early education profession, participating in strategic advocacy opportunities at the state and national level, and potentially conducting training sessions for educators.

“At this point in my career, I feel a responsibility to grow leaders in the early childhood profession,” stated Gallego upon receipt of the award. “We do important work and we need to tell our stories in order to grow support for that work. This award will give me the opportunity to inspire more teachers to grow and find new and innovative ways to teach and talk about the impact they are having.”

Originally from Columbia, Gallego holds a Bachelor’s degree in physical education and a Montessori teaching certificate. She has been working at the Kinderoo Children’s Academy for five years and serves as a teacher mentor for her peers and local public school educators in Marion County. Gallego and her family live in Ocala, Florida.