

# ELC Business Breakfast Results in Creation of Task Force to Tackle Childcare Shortage



In a compelling display of community unity, Sarasota County business, philanthropic, and civic leaders gathered for the Early Learning Coalition's Business Breakfast on November 30, 2023. The event, marked by a full house and an air of optimism, proved to be a pivotal step in addressing the pressing issue of the local childcare capacity crisis.

Inspired by a panel of insightful speakers, attendees engaged in a collaborative conversation that delved into the root causes of the shortage and dug deeply into strategic ways to fix it.

The childcare industry is unique. With little-to-no similar business templates to rely on, tackling a capacity crisis presents a daunting challenge. But the ELC Business Breakfast demystified that dilemma and replaced it with tangible takeaways and practical ideas. The consensus: this crisis IS fixable. However, the fix demands creative, out-of-the-box thinking and a steady approach of one idea, one step, one goal at a time.

At the Breakfast, the Coalition announced the formation of an ELC Childcare Business Task Force—a council of dedicated individuals from various sectors poised to analyze current challenges, identify innovative strategies, and implement actionable plans to increase childcare capacity. With its primary focus on addressing the crisis in south county, the task force aims to make a substantial impact where the need is most profound.

The event illuminated the strong skill set within our community; a community that possesses the tools, tactics, drive, and determination— and let's not underestimate cleverness— to transform challenges into opportunities.

"The event showcased a remarkable level of engagement and enthusiasm, emphasizing the public-private partnerships we need to effectively address this critical issue. Our creation of the task force signals our commitment to turning ideas into action," says Janet Kahn, CEO of Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County.

Brittany Lamont, President & CEO of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance and an ELC board member, will lead the task force.

"I am honored to lead this task force to help expand childcare facilities in Sarasota. As a working mom of three, I know firsthand the struggle working families are experiencing. Additionally, it has become a workforce issue for local employers looking to fill positions. We need to support families who want to enter the workforce by providing high-quality childcare for their children," states Lamont.

Working together to propel the community towards a better future for working parents and their young children.

A huge thank you for the support and partnership of our Event Sponsor: Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation. Your support played a key role in making the event a success!

Individuals interested in joining the Childcare Business Task Force, sharing ideas, investing in its work, or learning more about the initiative are encouraged to contact the ELC team at [mail@elcsarasota.org](mailto:mail@elcsarasota.org)



# BUSINESS BREAKFAST OF *Champions*

11.30.23



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