

MINUTES

Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition
Board of Directors Mtg.
March 22, 2004

BOARD ATTENDEES: Vickie Burley, Marisel Elias-Miranda, Leonie Hermantin, Chuck Hood, Willie F. Ivory, Patricia G. Johnson, Yvonne T. Johnson, Betsy H. Kaplan, Robert H. Kelly, Silvia La Villa, Dave Lawrence, Harve Mogul, Jane Robinson, Lourdes C. Rovira, Jackye L. Russell, Gerald Schwartz, Natacha Seijas, Dean Taylor, Lucia Vicencio, Barbara Weinstein,

STAFF ATTENDEES: Ana Alfonso, Ivonne Anton, Paula S. Bender, Christina Clowdus, Karen Basha Egozi, Guimel Martinez, J. Henry Neyra, Mercy Nyman, Mina Prado, Bethany Sands, Ileana Vallejo.

GENERAL ATTENDEES: Carole Abbott, Modesto E. Abety, Ardene A. Bachoo, Howard Bakalar, Maria E. Binelo, Phillip Campbell, Ann de las Pozas, Nelly Garrido, Iris Gerena, Walter J. Harvey, William Hill, Barbara Jordan, Karen Liederman, Donald Manning, Guillermo Martinez, Eric Moreno, Ramiro S. Moreno, Rose Mary Moreno, Eduardo Rivera, Ana Sejeck, Rick Signori, Gloria Simms, Robyn Yglesias, Hollis Young.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	- Patricia Johnson welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.	
REVIEW & APPROVAL OF JAN. 29 & FEB. 9, 2004 MINUTES	- The Jan. 29 and Feb. 9 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed and approved. - Dave Lawrence asked if the enhancement project expenses still	- A motion was made by Jerry Schwartz for the approval of the minutes with the understanding that changes could still be given to the coalition staff at a later date. SECOND: Willie F. Ivory - Dave Lawrence made a motion to amend the Jan. 29 minutes. The change is on page 5, last paragraph, and sentence number six. It should read “the numbers were <i>not</i> looking as good as we wanted.” SECOND: Jerry Schwartz ABSTENTION: Barbara Weinstein

	<p>forthcoming are going to closely match the revenues? Does the coalition think we are going to be all right when the two sides come together?</p> <p>- Paula Bender answered: Yes we are working right now on actual month to date. We should align.</p>	
<p>FINANCIAL REPORT</p>	<p>- Paula Bender introduced J. Henry Neyra as the coalition's new controller.</p> <p>- Henry Neyra, presented to the January 2004 financials which were reviewed and approved at the March 17, 2004 Finance, Audit and Personnel committee meeting.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi presented to the board the Forecast Summary Page for both central agencies through the month of February. These are the spending reports that are presented by the central agencies monthly at the Spending Plan meetings, which gives us an idea of where we stand monthly in surplus or deficit. This is in response to the board's request to have more timely financials. We are currently working on updating our accounting software so we can be able to provide the board with more timely financials.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi also informed the committee that the South Florida Workforce met on March 16, 2004 and approved the \$2.3 million dollars for their TCC clients. This has begun as of March 1 and it is on a reimbursement basis. This also appears on the Financial report.</p>	
<p>ENROLLMENT & ACCREDITATION REPORTS</p>	<p>- Karen Egozi presented to the board the following documents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weekly Enrollment Census Report which helps us keep a handle on deficits, enrollments and to know where we stand on a weekly basis on a timelier basis. The report breaks down by category. An explanation of each category was given. 2. Children Served charts which show by central agency targeted (contracted) and what was met. 	<p>- Patricia Johnson recommended that a historical trend be added under each category to be able to see historically from today forward what we have done. Also, an optimum for each category will also be added.</p>

	<p>3. Accreditation Report which shows that as of March 2004, we now have 198 accredited centers.</p> <p>- Paula requested Karen to give the board an update of transition.</p>	
<p>TRANSITION UPDATE</p>	<p>- Karen Egozi reminded the board that at the February 9 board meeting a motion was passed that would require transition from one agency to the other. On March 3 after the conclusion of the second day of the court hearing, the coalition was able to begin the transition. The transition is now completed, and 13000 children were effectively transferred to CDS from Family Central. The coalition had the incredible help from the Florida Partnership for School Readiness who came down with Gladys Wilson the Executive Director, and their legal help. The property department of AWI came to do a physical inventory of the property that needed to be transferred. The county was able to negotiate with the Miami Lakes property landlord and assume the lease to the property so the majority of the equipment was not moved. The purpose for the county leasing the Miami Lakes property is to be able to continue service to the providers in that area. There are a couple of issues still outstanding, but nothing that has in any way interrupted the service for the children or providers, and we are still working on those issues.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi made the board aware that a public relations issue did occur during the transition. There has been a lot of misinformation to both providers and parents in the community. Providers and parents have been misdirected. We as a coalition need to develop a plan to avoid this kind of misinformation surfacing in the future.</p>	
<p>UPK - UPDATE</p>	<p>- Dave Lawrence informed the board of the status of the UPK. Dave asked the board to consider a resolution supporting high quality provisions in the UPK that Paula Bender could take to the school readiness Executive Directors meeting in Tallahassee. The resolution should be sent to Dade county legislators, the board, and everyone in attendance at this meeting.</p>	<p>- Dave Lawrence made a motion to pass a resolution for UPK. The resolution will consist of the Early Learning Legislation Key Principles (pink paper), plus allow the flexibility so Public Schools could be full partners. SECOND: Lourdes Rovira</p>

	<p>- Marisel Elias-Miranda expressed her concern in regards to the reimbursement rate being less than what Dade County Public Schools need in order to support the certified teachers program. She also expressed her concern that right now the school systems has certified teachers, but by the year 2005 the school systems is going to be forced to change their model into a CDA model because Title I funds might not be available to do what is being done at the present time.</p>	
<p>NEW BUSINESS – STAR RATING ITN</p>	<p>- Paula Bender informed the board that the coalition submitted the 5 Star Rating ITN to The Children’s Trust. The coalition worked with a grant writer and Abt Associates on this project. Also, a diverse team of community people have committed to help in the process, should we receive the contract. It will be eight months of planning and then the implementation.</p>	
<p>ATTORNEY CLOSED SESSION</p>	<p>- Patricia Johnson deferred the meeting to the coalition attorneys Walter Harvey and William Hill to conduct the closed session to discuss the pending litigation pursuant to Florida Statutes 286.011 (8).</p> <p>- Patricia asked that anyone on the board with a conflict should excuse themselves.</p> <p>- Natacha Seijas asked Walter Harvey if she is allowed to speak to the county’s attorney in conjunction to the litigation.</p> <p>- Walter Harvey replied that with regards to what is discussed in open meetings she can discuss that with the county attorney. But anything in closed session she should advise the attorney to speak with the coalition attorney.</p> <p>A closed session was conducted and the open meeting re-convened at 5:15 p.m.</p>	<p>- Barbara Weinstein agreed to excuse herself by nodding her head.</p>

OTHER	<p>- The board discussed the issues of an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN).</p> <p>- Dave Lawrence asked if the following made sense. The coalition could extend the county's responsibility for the 62% that it has for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004. Then the coalition could say that we would have an ITN at the earliest reasonable moment no later than six months from now that would cover the portion of the county recently moved to CDS. About 38% of the children. Is this something the attorneys are comfortable with?</p> <p>- Walter Harvey replied yes if it was the will of the board to bid out the 38% that was previously under Family Central. He reminded the board that the county would be in its third year of the contract and under the state law you must then bid out the services for that remaining time. In July 1, 2005, we need to have had a full process for the whole county.</p> <p>- Paula Bender asked Walter Harvey that if we want to do changes in these contracts, and we are only going to do an ITN based on certain zip codes, will the new contract be consistent.</p> <p>- Walter Harvey replied that the contracts should remain consistent. They should be parallel.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi asked the board if the ITN that we will do in six months will then be for eight months and then July 1, 2005 we do this all over again?</p> <p>- Jerry Schwartz replied yes.</p> <p>- Dean Taylor asked when would the package be out advertising the ITN?</p>	
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	- Jerry Schwartz replied around July or August.	- Jerry Schwartz made a motion for an ITN for the area or zip codes first awarded to Family Central, Inc., at the earliest possible date, but no later than six months from April 1, 2004. SECOND: Dave Lawrence OPPOSED: Leonie Hermantin, Dean Taylor
		- Meeting adjourned @ 6:15 p.m.

Signed and approved by:

Vickie Burley
Board Secretary

Date