



Minutes

Program & Strategy Committee Meeting
December 2, 2009; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board Room
2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd Suite 500
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Committee Attendees: David Williams Jr., Chair; Elizabeth Bezos, Co-Chair; Jacqui Colyer (via conference call); Dr. Silvia La Villa (via conference call)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Alina Soto; Jackye Russell; Yvette Medina; Bethany Sands; Kristina Alonso; Mary Williams (via conference call)

General Attendees: Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Suzette Frazier, Department of Children and Families

I. Welcome and Introductions

**David Williams, Jr.
Committee Chair**

- David Williams, Jr. welcomed the committee members and attendees to the Program Policy and Strategy Committee.
- David Williams, Jr. began a discussion on how to get committee members to attend since there was no quorum for this meeting again.
- Evelio Torres suggested combining Program and Strategy with the Provider Services Committee.
- David Williams, Jr. suggested changing the members of the committee and pointed out that voting members are able to attend and vote via conference call.
- Elizabeth Bezos opposed combining the committees because they each serve separate purposes. Also, lengthy meetings would not help in getting board members to attend. She pointed out that the scheduling was an issue. The confirmation of this (12/2) meeting was not sent out until the afternoon of 12/1.
- David Williams, Jr. made the recommendation to change voting members of the committee and will discuss at the next board meeting.

II. Approval of Agenda

**David Williams, Jr.
Committee Chair**

- David Williams, Jr. called for the approval of the agenda..
 - Due to no quorum, motion was tabled.

III. Approval of Aug. 29th, Sept. 9th and Sept, 30th Minutes

**David Williams, Jr.
Committee Chair**

- David Williams, Jr. called for the approval of the minutes for August 29th, September 9th and September 30th.
 - Due to no quorum, motion was tabled.



IV. Monroe Update

Mary Williams

- Mary Williams presented the Monroe update.
- A correction to the report is to be made indicating that the number of children with “red flags” who receive an individual improvement plan should be 31 out of 31. 6 of the 31 with valid red flags have received the Battelle screen. For the remaining 25 children, 4 were pending parental consent, 5 did not receive any consent, 12 are already receiving services, 1 received a hearing referral, 1 received a vision referral and 2 have Battelle screenings scheduled during the month of November.
 - David Williams, Jr. inquired as to why the 5 children whose parents did not consent to the Battelle screening are kept on the report. He suggests that by keeping the children on the report there will not be a true indication of target.
 - Jackye Russell suggested adding a different measure that specifies the number of children with consent who receive a Battelle screening.
 - Evelio Torres suggested not to remove them completely so that we would continue to reach out to the parents of these children.
 - David Williams, Jr. suggested to add a column indicating non-consent children so that they would still be a goal, but separate from the original target.
- Notes on item 2: The pre assessment period is September through November using the Creative Curriculum Assessment Tool. The post assessment period is March through May so there will be no data until then.
- Notes on item 3: Mary Williams notes that the health screenings began only in October so these figures reflect only 1 provider.
- Notes on item 7: VPK monitoring was just starting in November. Therefore, data regarding the VPK monitoring tool will not be available until the next report.
- Notes on Item 8: 365 out of 411 children have been enrolled in VPK for an increase of 5% in comparison to the 08-09 school year. There were 438 VPK certificates issued for the 2009-2010 school year.

V. Miami-Dade Update

Jackye Russell

- Jackye Russell presented the Miami-Dade County update.
- Notes on item 1: Children who have been assessed using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire total 7,931 of a target of 20,500. 376 children with “red flags” have received an Individual Improvement Plan from the target of 2,000.
 - David Williams, Jr. asked at what point these children receive an IIP.
 - Bethany Sands explained that a child will receive a plan if a concern has been identified as a result of an ASQ. A teacher interview and child observation takes place to determine whether the concern is valid. Once a verified concern is established an 8 week intervention plan/Individual Improvement Plan (IIP) is implemented.
 - Elizabeth Bezos asked if the target number of 2,000 children is necessarily a real number or an estimate of the number of children that might be identified throughout the year. Bethany Sands clarified that the contract states that the program will serve up to 2,000 children based on a national statistic that indicates that 10% of children will show a concern.
 - David Williams, Jr. expressed that the number of children in this measure is misleading and does not show real data in regards to progress towards a target.
 - Elizabeth Bezos recommended that the target reflect the actual number of children that are red-flagged and show a concern on a month-to-month basis. The explanation that 2,000 is a national average should be added to the



comments section of the measure. Blythe Robinson agreed to remove the 2,000 as the target and only indicate it as a national average in the description section of the measure.

- Evelio Torres discussed how the method of recording measures and their respective targets are constantly changing. He suggested that in lieu of a board meeting in January, a meeting to discuss how measures are recorded should take place.
- Notes on Item 2: Post assessments will not be completed until April 2010, reflecting no data until then.
- Notes on Item 5:
 - Elizabeth Bezos asked why there were no more slots available if the target of 1168 children had not been met.
 - Angelo Parrino explained that CCPP was over budget but CCEP, still had slots available.
 - Alina Soto added that when the fiscal year began in July there was low participation due to the time of year when children are not generally in centers.
 - Ms. Bezos shared that the City of Hialeah Gardens would like more information in regards to becoming a participant of CCEP. She suggested reaching out to other businesses that are non-child care services.
 - Evelio Torres indicated that the coalition has been in contact with several local businesses. He adds that there has been great difficulty finding employers that are willing to contribute additional dollars and additional benefits given the state of the economy at this time. Other counties are having similar difficulties.
- Item 9: Jackye Russell shared that the VPK enrollment of 19,182 children is a record high.

VI. AWI Eligibility Review	Yvette Medina
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- Yvette Medina explained that the AWI Eligibility review was based on monitoring conducted the 1st week of June, primarily to review VPK provider and child files and School Readiness eligibility files. 134 VPK provider files, 41 VPK child files and 58 School Readiness eligibility case files were reviewed.
- In October, AWI provided the ELC with a very thorough monitoring report and various recommendations regarding implementing sound practices and resolving some of the findings.
- The majority of the school readiness findings were income miscalculations or missing information. There were 10 findings in total to which Miami-Dade County Child Development Services submitted all of the documentation for corrections to AWI.
- The majority of findings in VPK files were related to attendance in the public school system.
- Edith Humes-Newbold clarified that Miami-Dade County Public Schools submits their attendance electronically. There is an agreement with the public schools which indicates that they do not receive pre-payment and that they submit actual attendance. This explanation was submitted to AWI.

VII. 2010 Meeting Schedule	David Williams Jr.
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- David Williams Jr. proposes discussing this with the board in order to secure a committee with active members.
- Elizabeth Bezos suggested only setting a January meeting until the discussion has taken place.



- Evelio Torres expressed that the biggest issue is the commitment of the board members and it will be discussed at the following board meeting.
- David Williams, Jr. recommended that the committee members be polled as to where they stand. If need be, committee members need to be changed so that there is a greater possibility of having a quorum.

VIII. Old Business	David Williams Jr
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- Retroactive Payments:
 - Jackye Russell reminded the committee of the providers who submitted late agreements that were allowed by AWI to be paid retroactively. AWI required that an amendment be signed. The understanding was that this would be a one-time event only and would not be paying retroactively going forward.
 - Elizabeth Bezos expressed that this was not her understanding and that it was even discussed in the Provider Agreement Committee meeting.
 - Evelio Torres explained that allowing retroactive payment going forward would cause providers to not submit agreements on time. Mr. Torres also recommended that going forward if providers wanted retroactive pay they would have to follow a formal appeal process with the Provider Services Committee.

IX. New Business	David Williams, Jr.
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- David Williams, Jr suggests adding a section addressing a CEO update to the agenda.
- Evelio Torres shared the following updates:
 - There is confirmation from AWI that the base budget will not be restored. The budget went from approximately \$118 million to \$112 million which was replaced with stimulus dollars. There will be no more stimulus dollars after 2010-2010. Between 5.4 and 6 million dollars are carried to next fiscal year to make up for the deficit in the budget for the 2010-2011 year. There is no mention of the 38 million dollar restoration of the state-wide coalitions' base budgets in the AWI Legislative Budget Request. AWI is very much aware that coalitions will be heavily advocating for the restoration of the budget.
 - The provider rate alignment is January 1st and will be scheduled for the 1st of January every year.
 - The establishment of a foundation is underway. Mr. Torres expressed that the foundation needs to be board driven.

X. Adjourn	David Williams, Jr.
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- Meeting was adjourned by David Williams, Jr.