



# Minutes

Provider Services Committee Meeting  
November 23, 2010; 2:00 p.m.  
ELC Board Room

- Committee Attendees:** Gina Cortes-Suarez; Shaleen Fagundo
- Committee Absentees:** Danny Armstrong, Ph.D.
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres; Jackye Russell; Leeana Pena; Mary Williams (attended via conference call)
- General Attendees:** Sherray Coto, Caran's Learning Center; Terry T. Rutherford, TOUCCH, Inc; Brian Sheafer, YMCA; Shawna Pointville, Excel Kids; E. Maloney Simon, YMCA; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE

<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b> <b>Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- G. Cortes-Suarez welcomed everyone to the Provider Services Committee meeting.

<b>II. Approval of Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Minutes</b> <b>Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- G. Cortes-Suarez called for the approval of the minutes from Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
  - Motion made by S. Fagundo
  - Motion seconded by G. Cortes-Suarez
  - Motion unanimously passed.

<b>III. Child Safety Licensing Policy</b> <b>Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- G. Cortes Suarez stated this is a continuation of an item from their last meeting.
- E. Torres stated they took the old policy and separated it into two policies.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the violations were separated, which she thinks makes it easier to understand. At the last meeting they were getting confused between the two. One issue is that they are requiring providers to be licensed.
- S. Fagundo stated that this is the best way to go and it is clear now.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked if they are ready to take this to the full Board.



- M. Williams stated on page 17 it says “Miami-Dade County/Wesley House Family Services”. From her understanding, this draft proposal pertains to Miami-Dade. Therefore, she thinks Wesley House should be stricken.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated it would be stricken from the document.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated this policy states that they will only fund providers that are licensed with three exceptions: school based, faith based and informal.
- S. Fagundo made a motion to recommend approval for the School Readiness Funded Provider Policy.
  - Motion seconded by G. Cortes-Suarez.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- E. Torres stated they had a couple of meeting with providers form the YMCA and YWCA. Their concern is that they are operating on school sites. In order for their programs to become licensed, licensing will have to come out into the school system and license them. That may or may not be possible. They are addressing another issue later in the agenda having to do with some of these programs that are operating on school property that are not licensed and serving four year old children.

<b>IV. Provider Suspension Policy Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina</b>	<b>Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- G. Cortes-Suarez stated this policy would take place in case of licensing violations.
- S. Fagundo stated staff would be looking at trends in violations to see if there is anything they can do to be more progressive. They could have trainings with providers to educate them.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the policy should state if such and such happens, the Coalition would take the following steps. That’s how they could address the trends.
- E. Torres stated all of these are here for a particular reason. He does not want to just dismiss these as not a big deal.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated it becomes a big deal when something happens.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked S. Fagundo if they are ready to take this to the full Board.
- S. Fagundo moved to recommend the Provider Suspension Policy to be taken to the full Board
  - Motion seconded by G. Cortes-Suarez
  - Motion unanimously passed.

<b>V. School Age Providers Repayment</b>	<b>Jackye Russell</b>
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- J. Russell stated staff identified some providers that were serving children 5 years old and younger and the programs were not licensed. The facility must be



licensed unless it is a school-based program and directly supervised by school personnel. There is a list of the providers that were serving children that are ineligible. Staff sent letters to each of the providers notifying them that they had children not eligible to receive school readiness funding and those children would need to be transferred. Miami-Dade County has worked with the parents of the children to find alternative approved providers to transfer those children to.

- E. Torres stated there are a number of such programs operating on school sites at elementary schools. The Superintendent of schools was notified and is now requiring the principals of those schools to provide supervision for those children instead of the children going to those unlicensed afterschool care programs.
- J. Russell stated those children that are at a public school in a VPK program, they will go into an afterschool program at that school that is operated by school personnel.
- E. Torres stated the school system believes it would be better for those children to remain at that school and have the principal be responsible for providing staff to take care of them.
- E. Torres stated those providers would probably receive a fine for not carrying a license. From time to time they find out about facilities that are caring for young children without a license. There is usually a neighbor or someone that will call it in to DCF.
- S. Fagundo asked how much they are talking about as far as repayment.
- J. Russell stated they do not have a dollar amount yet. The County is working on it.
- E. Torres stated the County would mirror what they did with the Gold Seal and establish a repayment plan. We checked with the Agency for Workforce Innovation and they were adamant that they needed to work out a repayment plan because it is a disallowable expense.

<b>VI. Summer Camps</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres</b>
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- E. Torres stated they had a very serious situation in Palm Beach County that a child was left in a van and unfortunately the child died. The center had to close down. It was a very difficult situation for the family and that community. Also, a number of summer camps that are funded by the ELC are operating without a license and with staff that may not have done background checks. The other big story is faith-based providers operating without a license. In addition to that, there is a committee that was put together by Secretary George Sheldon including members from all over the state, members from provider organizations, the children services council and even Judge Lederman. They are making some recommendations to the legislature on a number of issues including licensing, accreditation and quality rating systems. Very high on that list of recommendations is a requirement for licensure of providers all around the state. That may include the exempt faith-based providers. Many other states



require licensure for faith-based providers. The leadership tied it into workforce and economic development.

- G. Cortes-Suarez stated she does not think this is going to die down. This is one of the issues they can get a lot of press time and a lot of time in the House and the Senate.
- E. Torres stated that in Florida we already have some issues with education. But the bigger issue is that people do not want to come to Florida because they do not feel their children will be safe in childcare facilities.
- M. Williams asked if there has been any specific reference that allows registered childcare homes.
- E. Torres suggested that we need to come up with a plan just in case this happens. He can't imagine that Monroe would receive an exemption from this. E. Torres stated Monroe County has been highlighted in having iffy situations in most registered childcare homes.
- M. Williams stated that's about 52% of their providers are registered homes. Most of which are located in apartment complexes, which are not eligible for licenses. It will severely impact their capacity.
- E. Torres stated that is what they will have to talk to Ron Saunders about.
- S. Fagundo stated when she went down to the Keys for the listening sessions; her eyes were opened to the registered childcare homes. Are there a lot of families that have the exception?
- E. Torres stated he doesn't know how many there are but it is a common choice.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked how there came to be so many registered childcare homes in Monroe County.
- M. Williams stated it's because of the land use regulation. That's why they have so few centers.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked if these are taking the place of regular homes.
- M. Williams answered yes. Most of the family childcare homes do not own their residence, they are renting. To go through licensing, there is no outdoor space available. Even if they would qualify, many may not be willing to go through that process. Out of the 33 that are current, only a handful would be eligible to be licensed.
- E. Torres stated that if you ask some of the childcare centers in Monroe, they would probably appreciate the opportunity to serve these kids in some of the other childcare centers.
- M. Williams stated the real problem Monroe faces is for infant/toddler care. They don't have the capacity to handle that.



- E. Torres stated those are important issues they need to take to the advisory committee.

<b>VII. 2011 Committee Schedule Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina</b>	<b>Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- L. Pena stated the idea was to have committee members look at their calendars and pick some tentative dates.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked about the next meeting location in the keys. M. Williams stated if they schedule it for the middle Keys, there would be limited attendance. It would be better to do it in the upper or lower Keys.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated they should do February in the upper keys. They will get a date real soon.

<b>VIII. New Business Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina</b>	<b>Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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<b>IX. Public Comments Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina</b>	<b>Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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- E. Maloney from the YMCA stated she wanted to discuss some of the positions where the YMCA and YWCA have been working with the school system on the issue of this 4 year old licensing. There appears to be a glitch. They are not opposed to licensing. There became a glitch between the school and DCF based on a facilities issue. The way the school's fire code was interpreted versus the DCF interpretation. The provider that's an outside provider has no control over the facilities. They can't install, modify or do anything. It was over a year and a half worth of argument between DCF and Dade County Schools. What got elevated was the exemption of schools from licensing since there was no middle ground that could be reached. As a result, the providers that are providing afterschool programming on site at Miami-Dade County public schools became exempt from licensing. Shortly thereafter, VPK happened and then the definition of what constituted what schools were exempt for 5 years and above. Dade County Schools as well as others have moved into creating primary learning centers on site. After 2:00pm, if you are a private provider on Dade County School property, the contract with the school as a result of the RFP issued, requires them to provide after school programming for 4 year olds. They have met with the superintendent and have provided the number of children they are serving. It was YMCA's and YWCA's recommendation that they craft a separation for a period of time until they can resolve the issue. They are going to try to help with the cost of taking on this new bridge of responsibility. There may be some things that they just need to work out.
- E. Torres stated he appreciates E. Maloney's comments. The ELC is trying to do the same and has complete transparency. They also notified their full board shortly after they met so they are aware of the issue as well.
- L. Carmona suggested looking at ways to train providers as to what the classifications are, what they mean and how they will be interpreted. For example, last month her licensing inspector came to her facility. She was not



present when the inspector came but was written up for not having enough moist towellettes in the first aid kit. Enough is not in the statute and there is no definition as to what enough is. It was a Class 2 violation for not having a complete first aid kit. The inspector came back and said she had to issue another violation for her first aid kit because the newly purchased packets of wipes were not anti-septic individually wrapped wipes. That is not in the statute. The point is, whatever standard is going to be applied, providers need to know.

- L. Carmona stated that providers just need to be better informed. They should also keep in mind when there are conflicting policies between state licensing regulatory agencies.
- M. Williams stated she just looked on the DCF childcare information website regarding the registered family daycare homes. Only 11 counties currently have ordinances requiring the licensing for family daycare homes.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the legislature would probably use those counties to set the precedent.
- S. Coto stated she is a 2-year provider located in the shopping plaza in Miami Gardens. She recently purchased it in August. She is renovating the center because everything is 30 years old. She chose to close things down in order to bring things up to par. But now she is considered new and will not be able to have kids in the building based on the letter sent out.
- E. Torres stated it was a temporary policy put in place until these two policies put in place today went into affect. It will be lifted hopefully at the next Board meeting.

<b>X. Adjourn Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina</b>	<b>Cortes- Suarez,</b>
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