



March 2008

Issue No. 8

## Provider News Alert

### Children's Week Event



The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe recently hosted a family event at the Miami Children's Museum on February 15, 2008 in conjunction with the Children's Week Events that will be taking place in Tallahassee

beginning March 29, 2008. Partners of this event included The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Child Development Services, Department of Children and Families, the United Way of Miami Center for Excellence, the Alliance for Early Care and Education, South Florida Association for Young Children. The Miami Children's Museum and Target hosted over 1500 children and parents, waiving regular admission fees for all who attended. There were clowns, face painting, quilt making, and community resource exhibits as well as all of the hands-on experiences offered by the museum. It was an exciting evening, topped off by a special performance, an interpretation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech by Ms Opal Mason's Second Grade Class from the Miami Children's Museum Charter School.

[Join our Mailing List!](#)

### In This Issue

- Children's Week
- Feria de la Salud
- Upcoming Events
- Board Committees
- Monroe County News Briefs
- Keys Children's Task Force
- Florida Faces \$3 Billion Shortfall

### Feria de la Salud Health Fair



On February 23, 2008, the Coalition sponsored the Feria de La Salud Health Fair. With the theme that healthy children make better students, thousands of attendees of all ages received valuable information regarding early care and education in Miami-Dade County. Free services included immunization, glucose tests, blood pressure tests, therapeutic massages, blood donations, and CPR trainings. Among the dignitaries that attended the event were The Mayor of Hialeah, Julio Robiana, and Commissioner Natacha Seijas (pictured above with CEO, Evelio Torres, and Client Services Manager, Alina Soto).

### Upcoming Events

#### "Read Across Miami-Dade"

Read Across America kicked off on March 3 as sites across the nation celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday. In the spirit of this celebration, we want you to Read Across Miami-Dade and Monroe! Select a Dr. Seuss book to read with your children on **Friday, March 28 at 10:00 am**. For more information and fun ideas visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) and

[www.seussville.com](http://www.seussville.com).

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual March For Parks:**

Bring the whole family for food and fun in the outdoors! The March for Parks is a free event taking place on March 29, 2008 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Biscayne National Park located at 9700 SW 328<sup>th</sup> Street. Free lunch, raffle prizes, educational activities, and transportation from certain locations will be included. For more information please call 305-644-9000.

**Children's Week: Tallahassee**

Children's Week events and activities offer families the opportunity to participate in fun, exciting, and educational activities, while focusing attention on important legislative issues that will affect the future of Florida's children. These events bring together thousands of parents, children, professionals, advocates, community leaders and concerned citizens to place emphasis on issues facing our children.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Week will take place in Tallahassee from March 29, 2008 to April 6, 2008. Events include the traditional "Hanging of the Hands", Children's Week Advocacy Dinner and Reception, and the Children's Capitol for a Day featuring a press conference, rally, luncheon and "Kids Only" Town Hall meeting.

**Early Care and Education Provider Business Meetings:**

The March 25<sup>th</sup> and March 26<sup>th</sup> meetings have been re-scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>.

***April 29, 2008:***

South Dade Government Center  
 10710 SW 211 Street, Room 203  
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (English)  
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Spanish)

***April 30, 2008:***

Martin Luther King Building (MLK)  
 2525 NW 62 Street, 2nd Floor, Rooms 1-3  
 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (English)  
**Note: \$4.00 fee to park in MLK garage.**

***April 30, 2008:***

Miami Lakes Office  
 15910 NW 57 Avenue  
 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Spanish)

**Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings:**

Spending Plan	March 18	8:00 a.m.	ELCMDM Board Room
Finance Committee	March 21	8:00 a.m.	ELCMDM Board Room
Board Meeting	March 24	8:00 a.m.	ELCMDM Board Room
Program & Strategy Committee	April 15	1:00 p.m.	TBA
Provider Services Committee	June 6	12:00 p.m.	Hialeah City Hall 501 Palm Ave.

**Board Committees**

**In an effort to encourage participation, we are providing you with descriptions of each Board Committee's responsibilities. If you are interested in attending any of**

these meetings or becoming involved, please refer to the **Upcoming Events** section of this News Alert or check our website at [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for upcoming meetings.

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee is responsible for providing leadership for the Board. This is accomplished by setting policies to encourage effective governance, administration, and legal representation; reviewing and recommending legislative proposals at all levels of government; and resolving conflicts among committees and between the Coalition and other partners.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is responsible for nominating Officers and Members, and nominating replacement Officers when there are vacancies on the Board.

**Program Policy and Strategy Committee:** The Program Policy and Strategy Committee is responsible for evaluating Coalition programs, formulating strategy, and making policy recommendations to improve the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

**Provider Services Committee:** The Provider Services Committee is responsible for addressing the issues and concerns of both School Readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.

**Governance and Bylaws Committee:** The Governance and Bylaws Committee periodically reviews the Coalition's Bylaws, policies and procedures. They are responsible for making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding policies that provide specific guidance and direction to the Coalition and its leadership concerning all significant aspects of governance.

**Audit Committee** - The Audit Committee meets to discuss audits carried out by outside independent entities to make sure the Coalition is in accordance with State Statutes and Laws as governed by the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

**Finance Committee** - The Finance Committee is responsible for providing oversight of the Coalition's financial operations, for reviewing compliance with Coalition policies, procedures and applicable laws and regulations

**Legislative Advocacy Committee** -The Legislative Advocacy Committee is responsible for working with legislators in order to educate and promote funding and support for early care and education.

## Monroe County News Brief

### **Save the Date:**

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Wesley House Family Services Early Childhood Conference** will be taking place Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> ; 7:30 am - 4:45 pm located at Hawk's Cay Resort, Mile Marker 61, Duck Key. All Miami-Dade/Monroe providers are welcome to attend. Attendees will have the opportunity to earn up to 7 hours of In-Service Training and attend workshops focusing on literacy, music and movement, behavior management, make and takes, nutrition and much more. The keynote speaker of this conference will be Dr. Jean Feldman who has been actively involved in education for over 35 years. The registration fee is \$30 and should be received no later than April 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Laurie Citraro-Dunn or Michele Morgan at 305-809-5000 or toll free 1-877-595-5437.

### **Upcoming VPK Trainings:**

"It's Okay to Play in VPK" is a training for District Site Coordinators and VPK Child Care

Center Directors on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm, located at the Monroe Regional Service Center (State Building), Room 104; Mile Marker 48.5, 2796 Overseas Hwy; Marathon. Kerry Allen, the DOE VPK Regional Facilitator for South Florida will be presenting an overview of the publication "It's Okay to Play in VPK" and will be teaching techniques on how to introduce it to VPK parents. Each director/site coordinator will receive a training manual, DVD and a supply of the publication "It's Okay to Play in VPK" for their parents. A 2<sup>nd</sup> opportunity to attend this workshop will be available on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Wesley House Annual Early Childhood Conference. (Check your conference schedule for details)

**"VPK Phonological Awareness Level 2 Standards Training"** for VPK Teachers will take place on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Wesley House Annual Early Childhood Conference. Presented by Kerry Allen, DOE VPK Regional Facilitator for South Florida, this training is for VPK teachers and directors, who have taken the 2005 VPK Education Standards Training. Participants must bring their VPK Standards Book and VPK Standards Training Certificate of Completion in order to participate in the training. This workshop will provide an overview of "phonological awareness" and techniques for teachers to introduce and support language development in young children.

For questions regarding the VPK trainings, please contact Mary Williams, Monroe ELC office at 296-5557.

### VPK Registration Update

**2008 Summer VPK Registration** begins **Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>** at all Wesley House locations. Walk-ins are welcome Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Key West and Tavernier offices and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Marathon office. Evening hours may be available by appointment.

### **2008 - 2009 School Year VPK Registration Round-Ups:**

**Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Wesley House Family Services, located at 1304 Truman Ave; **Key West**

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Tradewinds Shopping Center in the Key Largo Library, , MM 101.4, ; **Key Largo**

**Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm at the Marathon Library, 3251 Overseas Highway; **Marathon**

**2008 - 2009 School Year VPK Registration** begins **Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** at all Wesley House locations. Walk-ins are welcome Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Key West and Tavernier offices and Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at the Marathon office. Evening hours may be available by appointment.

Additional information to follow.

## **The Keys Children's Taskforce**

The Keys Children's Task Force was formed as a result of a May 2007 round table discussion by early education and care stakeholders, and community and state leaders. A core group of community leaders and children's services representatives/advocates began meeting regularly to continue the discussion of critical children's issues in Monroe County. Subsequently, its scope broadened to include all children (prenatal to age 18 or age 22 for children with special needs) with the goal of pursuing sustainable funding to support needed children's services. The task force has completed a community needs assessment and conferred with officials of The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade on the

process of establishing a Children's Services Council. The task force continues to explore options for legislative remedies and public/private funding sources. As per their mission statement, the task force seeks to "Embrace a community culture of awareness, commitment, and generosity so that every child in the Florida Keys will receive the quality care, education, support, and encouragement needed to be successful in life."

## Florida Faces \$3 Billion Shortfall in 2008-09

Summarized from Florida Children's Services Council Capital Connection, March 14, 2008.

Figures from the General Revenue Estimating Conference revealed the state will collect \$1.9 billion less in general revenue for 2008-09 than originally projected. Added to that figure is an increase of an estimated \$1 billion in non-discretionary spending for programs -- mainly education and Medicaid -- that amount to an overall budget shortage of nearly \$3 billion next year.

State agencies were asked to present their recommendations for 2008-09 budget reductions to appropriations committees in the House and Senate last week. Ten percent reductions in school readiness in the Agency for Workforce Innovation would reduce funding for subsidized child care by approximately \$30 million (\$15.7 in state general revenue and \$14.5 million of available federal match).

The House indicated they will try to remain close to the principles that have guided them throughout their budget deliberations, including minimal impacts to programs that receive federal funding and an effort to make more targeted cuts, rather than use the across-the-board approach.

Monesia Brown, Director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI), gave a presentation on the impacts of cuts to School Readiness programs to the House Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council. She described the devastating impact of a potential \$30 million reduction in School Readiness funds. She spoke about the cost to the workforce, as well as the educational impact of children losing their child care placements. She offered a reduction of \$3.7 million, which would not cause the loss of Federal funds, and pleaded with the Council not to cut more. She pointed out that 47,000 children are on the wait list, and more than 7,000 children would lose child care if the deeper cuts are implemented. For a copy of Director Brown's presentation, please visit our website, [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

Please note that for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, the proposed reductions represent approximately \$5.3 million/1,400 children. The Association of Early Learning Coalitions will continue to work with the Early Learning Advisory Council and our other colleagues to ensure that legislators are well informed of the impact that these cuts will have on the children of Florida.

### Forward email

#### ✉ SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org) by [info@elcmdm.org](mailto:info@elcmdm.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe | 2555 Ponce de Leon Boulevard | Suite 500 | Coral Gables | FL | 33134