



Monroe Advisory Committee
Meeting
February 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 959 6596 5586; Passcode: 676671

Committee Attendees: Heather Carruthers, Marla Russell, Christine Patterson, Sue Ellen Bennet, Aleida Jacobo, Sandi Bisceglia, Gilda Ferradaz, Lisa Taylor

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Sandra Gonzalez, Laurie Dunn, Laura Toman, Pamela Hollingsworth, Fiorella Altare Christie, Michele Morgan, Dessiree Aguilera, Adelina Gross, Ana Sejeck, Jackye Russell, Lisa Sanabria, Anna Woods, Maria Valliant, Jennifer Walker, Lissandra Curbelo, Ann Gleeson, Jonathon Gueverra, Ariana Nesbitt, Danielle Luchtenburg, Dr. H. Nolo Martinez

I. We Welcome and Introductions

Heather Carruthers

- a. H. Carruthers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- b. Quorum was established with eight (8) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Heather Carruthers

- o Motion to approve minutes by S. Bisceglia.
- o Motion seconded by G. Ferradaz
- o Motion unanimously passed.

III. FL. Keys Chamber Connection Updates

Sandi Bisceglia

- a. S. Bisceglia stated that she continues to work with the Monroe County Chambers to advertise the ELC. She is working to meet with the new director of the Key West Chamber.

IV. ELC Updates

Evelio Torres

- E. Torres gave an update on legislation and stated that the ELC is watching several bills and are especially interested in what happens with the early learning bill and how it impacts the ELC going forward.
- L. Dunn gave an update on Monroe County enrollment:
 - o 362 children receiving School Readiness funding
 - o 359 children with a VPK voucher enrolled
- P. Hollingsworth gave an update on PDI:
 - o December Sessions: 58; Number of Attendees Monroe: 19

- YTD Sessions: 468
- Number of Attendees: Monroe: 92
- Upcoming event - April 23/24, 2021 -Monroe County Early Childhood Conference “It Takes a Virtual Village”
- F. Christie gave an update on CARES Act Grants:
 - Phase I & II-15 Contracted programs received \$136,300; 5 Non-contracted programs received \$11,500
 - Phase III-20 Contracted programs received \$110,772
 - Phase IV-30 Contracted programs received \$54,500; 6 Non-contracted programs received \$4,250
 - Phase I -IV- Total Investments \$317,332
- J. Russell gave an update on Communications:
 - Early Learning Partners Facebook Group, One Monroe County Member. Efforts are being made to recruit additional members.
 - Provider/Community Outreach-1,012 total attendees for the January 2021 Early Care and Education and Partners Meetings (609 in English and 403 in Spanish); 13 News Alerts sent to Monroe County Providers; Books distributed – 800

V. Monroe County Needs Assessment

Dr. H. Nolo Martinez

- H. Nolo Martinez gave an overview presentation the Monroe County Needs Assessment his company is conducting. H. Nolo Martinez reviewed his company’s impression of some of the census information they have looked at and discussed how the pending survey will be helpful in providing a more focused direction for the assessment based on what the community would like to see.

VI. Partner Updates

- S. Ellen Bennet gave an update on providers in Monroe County. She stated that providers are struggling financially, there is no room in aftercare programs, recruitment for childcare workers has been difficult and there is a concern over the new minimum wage.
- M. Russell stated that VPK is still reflecting low enrollment.
- A. Gleason stated that DCF is offering testing every other month in Monroe County. She stated that the biggest problem they are facing is limited space and no-shows.

VII. Adjourn

Heather Carruthers