



Monroe Advisory Committee
Meeting
April 13, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 946 9941 5278; Passcode: 551443

Committee Attendees: Heather Carruthers, Sue Ellen Bennet, Aleida Jacobo, Sandi Bisceglia, Gilda Ferradaz, Lisa Taylor, Bob Eadie

Committee Absentees: Marla Russell

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, Anabel Espinosa, Lissandra Curbelo

General Attendees: Jonathan Gueverra, Amanda Pinkley, Christine Patterson, Jeff Hurst, Sean Martinez, Chuck Mohr, Jennifer Walker

I. We Welcome and Introductions

Heather Carruthers

- a. H. Carruthers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- b. Quorum was established with seven (7) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Heather Carruthers

- o Motion to approve minutes by G. Ferradaz.
- o Motion seconded by S. Bisceglia.
- 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 and they beginning to have in-person meetings, which she will be attending. S. Bisceglia welcomed Stephanie Scuderi to the board.

IV. ELC Updates

Evelio Torres

- E. Torres gave the following update on legislation:

- On April 9, 2021, Commissioner Richard Corcoran signed Executive Order 2021-EO-02 which authorizes the 2021 Summer VPK programs to constitute a minimum of 200 hours (instead of 300 hours) with funding prorated.
- For VPK School Year providers, from January – June 2021, you will be reimbursed for temporary closures due to COVID-19 that are more than the allowable 5-days per program year/session. This payment will be processed after all closures for a quarter have been verified.
- For VPK Summer providers, from May – June 2021, you will be reimbursed for temporary closures due to COVID-19 that are more than the allowable 5-days per program year/session. This payment will be generated after your summer classes have ended and all closures for the summer classes have been verified.
- For SR providers, from May - June 2021, you will be reimbursed for the required parent copayments for all reimbursable days. Do not collect copayment from families for this time period.
- F. Christie gave an update on Florida’s Plan for the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funds.
- S. Gonzalez presented an overview of the School Readiness Eligibility process.
- F. Christie stated that the School Readiness Program Assessments (SRPA) would begin.
- L. Dunn gave an update on Monroe County enrollment:
 - 283 children receiving School Readiness funding
 - 364 children with a VPK voucher enrolled
- A. Espinosa gave the following updates on Developmental Screening, Inclusion & Assessments:
 - Management of Developmental Screenings (ASQ-3) has moved to the Single Statewide System (EFS MOD). Effective March 31, 2021.
 - Proposed Implementation of the Special Needs Rate for eligible providers and eligible children. Providers who want more information about the Special Needs Rate or the BPIECE Support Service Program can contact the Warm-Line
- P. Hollingsworth gave an update on PDI:
 - March Sessions: 53; Number of Attendees Monroe: 14
 - YTD Sessions: 588 Number of Attendees: Monroe: 133
 - Child Development Associate Graduation
 - April 23/24, 2021 -Monroe County Early Childhood Conference “It Takes a Virtual Village”
 - Equity Institute Launch
 - Children First Equity and Inclusion Training Series
- J. Russell gave an update on Communications.

V. Monroe County COVID 19 Update:

Bob Eadie

- B. Eadie stated that they are seeing an estimate of 10 new positive cases daily but with fewer hospitalizations.

VI. Monroe County Needs Assessment

Angelo Parrino

- A. Parrino stated that negotiations with NOLO were completed. We will have updates when assessment are finalized.

VII. Partner Updates

- S. Ellen Bennet gave an update on providers in Monroe County. She stated that providers continue to struggle with teacher retention.
- MJ. Walker stated that VPK is still reflecting low enrollment.
- J. Hurst stated that all ratio restrictions were lifted in Monroe County.

VIII. Public Comments

Heather Carruthers

IX. Adjourn

Heather Carruthers