



Monroe Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
June 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting ID: 934 9672 7269; Passcode: 736654

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

**Committee Absentees:** Bob Eadie

**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, Jennifer Walker

**I. 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**

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

**III. FL. Keys Chamber Connection Updates**

**Sandi Bisceglia**

- a. S. Bisceglia stated that the work to engage the Monroe County Chambers of Commerce continues. She is planning on sharing maps that were created by ELC staff with several of the chambers to give them a visual representation of what child care services are available in the county.

**IV. ELC Updates**

**Evelio Torres**

- E. Torres gave the following updates:

- House Bills (HB) 419 and 7011 are now Florida Law
  - HB 419 is the Early Learning and Early Grade Success bill which provides sweeping changes to the School Readiness and VPK programs, as well as several modifications to coalitions' governance.
  - HB 7011 is the Student Literacy bill that requires for the creation of systems and regulations to improve student literacy skills.
- The 2021-22 Legislative Committee weeks and the start of the legislative session was also shared. Committee meetings begin September 20, 2021.
- The ELC received approval from the Office of Early Learning to provide bonus payments to early learning programs. The funds will be distributed in mid-August and providers are encouraged to use some of the funding they receive to provide bonuses and incentives for teachers in their programs.
- L. Dunn gave the following updates:
  - 288 children receiving School Readiness funding
  - 361 children with a VPK voucher enrolled
  - 26 children with an at-risk referral enrolled
- Developmental Screening, Inclusion & Assessments:
  - Management of Developmental Screenings (ASQ-3) has moved to the Single Statewide System (EFS MOD). Effective March 31, 2021.
  - Some challenges with the new system have been identified and work-arounds put in place
  - Families will now have option of completing their own children's developmental screening questionnaires online
- Professional Development Institute (PDI) and Equity Institute
  - May Training Sessions: 80; Number of Attendees Monroe: 23
  - YTD Sessions: 588 Number of Attendees: Monroe: 197
  - ELC Talks: Conversation with members of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Community was held on May 20. Confederate Statues discussion is scheduled for July 15
- Professional/Workforce Development
  - Work continues on the Apprenticeship and Internship Programs:
    - Apprenticeship Program will be a 12-month placement with a mentor teacher, while earning a National CDA® (Child Development Associate
    - Internship Program will be a four (4) month classroom placement, with a mentor teacher and completion of the Department of Children and Families' 45-hour training requirement

## **V. Monroe County Needs Assessment**

**Angelo Parrino**

- A. Parrino stated that NOLO is creating a survey that will be distributed to child care providers and parents in order to elicit their feedback on needed services in the county.

## **VI. Partner Updates**

- S. Ellen Bennet gave an update on providers in Monroe County. She stated that providers continue to struggle with teacher retention.
- J. Hurst stated that all ratio restrictions were lifted in Monroe County.

**VII. Public Comments**

**Heather Carruthers**

**VIII. Adjourn**

**Heather Carruthers**