



Monroe Advisory Committee  
Meeting  
December 8, 2020, 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Call/1-415-655-0003

**Committee Attendees:** Heather Carruthers, Marla Russell, Christine Patterson, Sue Ellen Bennet, Laura Toman, Aleida Jacobo, Sandi Bisceglia, Jeff Hurst

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Sandra Gonzalez, Laurie Dunn, Wilhelmina Lopez-Martin, Pamela Hollingsworth, Fiorella Altare Christie, Michele Morgan, Amber Keller Dessiree Aguilera, Adelina Gross, Ana Sejeck, Jackye Russell, Dr. Anabel Espinosa Lisa Sanabria

**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 M. Russell.
- o Motion seconded by S. Bennet.
- o Motion unanimously passed.

**III. 2021 Monroe Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule** **Heather Carruthers**

- o Motion to approve schedule by S. Bennet.
- o Motion seconded by C. Patterson.
- o Motion unanimously passed.

**IV. ELC Updates** **Evelio Torres**

- a. E. Torres stated that the Monroe Advisory Committee was add to the ELC Bylaws. All members will be appointed by the Chair of the ELC Board of Directors. The Chair may also appoint optional members. The required members are as follows:
  - i. A Committee Chair
  - ii. A Committee Vice Chair
  - iii. A Department of Children and Families Services regional administrator or designee
  - iv. The Monroe County district superintendent of schools or designee
  - v. An executive director of the Regional Workforce Development Board or designee
  - vi. The director of the Monroe County Health Department or designee
  - vii. The Executive director of the Community-Based Care Case Management Agency

- b. E. Torres stated that he and S. Bisceglia had attended the Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. The chamber is currently promoting School Readiness and VPK. Will ask other Monroe Chambers if membership discounts can be given to providers that would like to join.
- c. F. Christie discussed the following
  - i. Cares Act Phase III - Office of Early Learning approved \$,16,886,271 in CARES Act support for Florida’s early learning/child care providers. Miami-Dade/Monroe’s Notice of award was \$2,764,932 Monroe – 23 application
  - ii. Cares Act Phase IV - Office of Early Learning approved an additional \$,19,797,000 in CARES Act support for Florida’s early learning/child care providers. Miami-Dade/Monroe Notice of award was \$2,972,000 Applications opened on Nov. 24 and will close on Dec. 14, exceptions will be made on a case by case basis.
- d. L. Dunn discussed the following:
  - i. Monroe Updates – School Readiness Monroe Numbers are 351 children receiving School Readiness funding – enrollment is on a downward trend. VPK Monroe Numbers 358 children with a VPK voucher enrolled – calling families that have not used the voucher.
- e. A. Espinosa discussed the following:
  - i. Developmental Screening Ages & Stages - Protocols for monitoring of the Screening of Children in the School Readiness Program have been updated to reflect daily monitoring of compliance. A new functionality on the ELCMDM Provider Portal called, “COVID Status” will allow us to manage screenings for children who are receiving School Readiness. Corrective Action Plans have been introduced as a way to help providers stay compliant with the screening requirement.
- f. A. Parrino discussed the Monroe County Needs Assessment. He asked all members to please send some feedback on what they would like assessed.

**V. Presentations**

- a. Alpha Behavior Solutions Jessica McClung
- b. Business Leadership Institute Robyn Perlman

**VI. Monroe Updates**

- a. Child Care Provider Updates – S. Bennett stated that there was still a problem in hiring teachers.
- b. District Head Start/VPK Updates – M. Russell stated that enrollment in VPK had increased
- c. DCF Licensing Updates – J. Hurst gave a brief update on DCF licensing

**VII. Adjourn**

**Heather Carruthers**