Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children’s chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting
February 9, 2021
1 pm.

https://zoom.us/j/95965965586?pwd=S1AvaHZmTVV6NzJjK1hmdi9BNW56UT09
Meeting ID: 959 6596 5586
Passcode: 676671

I. Welcome & Introductions
   Heather Carruthers, Chair

II. Approval of Agenda
    Heather Carruthers

III. Approval of December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
     Heather Carruthers

IV. FL Keys Chamber Connection Updates
    Sandi Bisceglia

V. ELC Update
   Evelio C. Torres
   A. Program Update
      Laurie Dunn
      Pam Hollingsworth
   B. Conference/Training

VI. Monroe County Needs Assessment
    Dr. H. Nolo Martinez

VII. Partner Updates
    A. Child Care Provider Update
       Sue Ellen Bennett, Provider Representative
    B. District Head Start/VPK Update
       Marla Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor
    C. DCF Licensing Update/MDCC Update
       Ann Gleason, DCF

VIII. Public Comments
      Heather Carruthers

IX. Adjourn
    Heather Carruthers
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-Martín, Pamela Hollingsworth, Fiorella Altare Christie, Michele Morgan, Amber Keller Dessiree Aguiler, 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 two (7) 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 applications
   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
Strategic Plan

Lead Manager: Jackye Russell, Sr. VP for Administration

Jrussell@elcmdm.org
Mission and Vision

Mission
To promote high-quality inclusive school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children’s chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages birth through age 5.

Vision
Children First
To ensure a comprehensive and integrated early learning system for all families and their children, birth to 5 years, ensuring high-quality programs throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, so children enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

Early Education. Lifelong Success.
Children First: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe
2017-2022

OUR VALUES

- **CHILDREN** - Children are at the heart of all we do. We believe that all children, regardless of circumstance, are capable of educational excellence and personal growth, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.

- **COMMUNITY** - We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote high quality early education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.

- **PARTNERSHIP** - We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.

- **ADVOCACY** - We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing early education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by our collective passion, strength and dedication to children.

- **EXCELLENCE** - When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community.

- **CUSTOMER SERVICES** - We strive to meet the needs of our parents, families, providers and partners by providing comprehensive customer service in a professional, timely and courteous manner.

- **EQUITY** - Equity, inclusion and cultural competence is embodied in our values, practices and programming so that children, parents, families and providers may fully benefit from our priority initiatives, while keeping children first.

NEEDEST CHILDREN

- Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, including children with developmental and other delays and disabilities, by improving the quality of early learning programs

- Target neediest areas
Identify centers in distressed zip codes and those serving children with, or at risk for, developmental delays & provide extra support for them to meet higher standards

- Increase the Number of Children
Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities

YOUNGEST CHILDREN

- Offer a continuum of care throughout childhood, with a particular focus on infants and toddlers

- Age-based Rates
Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children

PROVIDERS

- Strengthen Coalition relationship with providers and support providers meeting higher quality performance requirements

- Improve Provider Selection and Contracting Process
Establish local provisions that support parental choice and ensure providers serving children receiving subsidies meet contract and quality requirements

- Teacher Education
Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials

- Quality Providers
Drive incentives to higher performing providers

- Technical Business Assistance
Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas

- Educate Providers
Provide program directors/staff with training and resources to provide high quality care to all children, including children with disabilities

EDUCATE ALL

- Educate families and the community at large about the benefits of quality early learning

- Parental Choice
Develop innovative strategies to help parents choose child care programs that ensure better outcomes for their children

- Visibility
Achieve increased visibility of the importance of early learning throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals

- Advocacy
Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children

- Early Child Care Education Systems Building
Establish regular meetings with partners to strengthen cross-sector investments and policies for children birth through age five

FUNDING

- Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals

- Public
Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve

- Monroe County
Establish a Permanent Funding Model for Social Services

FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS

- Develop widely accepted state-wide benchmark marks of quality (e.g. Child assessments, accreditation, learning environment, etc.)

- Change state policy to allow ELCs to contract only with childcare programs that meet state-wide quality bench marks

- Establish the Performance Funding Program platform as the statewide quality, tiered reimbursement and pay for performance model
December 2020 COVID-19 Stimulus Package
Early Care and Education Highlights
December 2020 COVID-19 Stimulus Package Early Care and Education Highlights

• Includes $10 billion for child care. About $624 million for Florida.
• The funds are meant to supplement, not supplant, general revenue funds for child care assistance.
• Funds may be used to provide relief from co-payments and tuition payments from families.
• Ease the burden of decreased enrollments or closures related to COVID-19.
• Support providers to remain open or reopen – including funding for fixed costs and increased operating expenses.
• States are encouraged to place conditions on payments to ensure child care providers use a portion of funds received to continue to pay the salaries and wages of staff.
• States are encouraged to implement enrollment and eligibility policies that support the fixed costs of providing care by delinking provider reimbursement rates from absences and provider closures due to COVID-19.
December 2020 COVID-19 Stimulus Package Early Care and Education Highlights

• States are authorized to use funds to provide child care assistance to health care workers, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farmworkers, and other workers deemed essential by public officials without regard to income eligibility requirements.

• States shall use a portion of funds to assist eligible child care providers who did not receive CCDBG assistance before the public health emergency (for cleaning sanitation, or maintain/resume the operation of programs – fixed/increased operating costs).

• Funds may be used to provide technical assistance to child care providers to help implement practices and policies in line with state and local health departments.

• Funds may be used to restore amounts, either directly or through reimbursement, for obligations to prevent, prepare, or respond to coronavirus.

• No later than 60 days after the date of this act, each state shall submit a report describing how the funds appropriated under this act will be spent. And no later than 90 days.

• An additional $250 million for Head Start & Early Head Start
Legislative Updates
SB724 Education

- Sponsor: Senator Annette Taddeo
- Co-sponsor: Senator Jose Rodriguez

- This bill requires the VPK Assessment and FLKRS to be administered in additional languages (the top two most prevalent languages after English in the State). It also gives parents of dual-language VPK students the right to determine if the assessment and screener are appropriate for their child. If they choose not to make that determination, then the teacher will make that decision. It requires the Department to develop a timetable and an action plan to phase in the development and adoption of the native language assessments. It contains some other elements but those are only relevant to K-12.

- [https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/724](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/724)
HB 419 - Early Learning and Early Grade Success

• Sponsor: Representative Erin Grall

• Early Learning and Early Grade Success: Deletes Office of Early Learning; creates Division of Early Learning within DOE; revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions; VPK & school readiness programs; & DOE responsibilities & duties relating to early learning and Gold Seal Quality Care Program.

• https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=70613
SB 0252 Child Care Facilities

• Sponsor: Senator Linda Stewart

• Child Care Facilities; Citing this act as the "Child Safety Alarm Act"; requiring certain vehicles, by a specified date, to be equipped with a reliable alarm system that meets specified criteria; requiring the Department of Children and Families to adopt by rule minimum safety standards for such systems and to maintain a list of approved alarm manufacturers and alarm systems, etc.

• https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/252
SB 0380 Child Restraint Requirements

• Sponsor: Senator Keith Perry

• Child Restraint Requirements; Increasing the age of children for whom operators of motor vehicles must provide protection by using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device; increasing the age of children for whom a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a child booster seat may be used, etc.

• https://www.flSenate.gov/Session/Bill/2021/380
Monroe Updates
Laurie Dunn, Monroe County Supervisor
ldunn@elcmdm.org

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:
• Neediest Children
• Youngest Children
• Providers
Monroe Key Points

SR Monroe Numbers
- 362 children receiving School Readiness funding

VPK Monroe Numbers
- 359 children with a VPK voucher enrolled

Community Collaboration
School Readiness Enrollment - Monroe

*Pending Family Acceptance number for these months

Source: EFS MOD
VPK Enrollment - Monroe

Source: EFS MOD
Monroe – First Responder Program
Monthly Enrollment (BG1-ESS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April-20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-20</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June-20</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July-20</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August-20</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September-20</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October-20</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November-20</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December-20</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January-21</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: EFS MOD
AT Risk Enrollment - Monroe

*Paid Numbers

Source: EFS MOD
School Readiness Program Promotion

- Key West Chamber features School Readiness in Chamber Chatter and School Readiness information sent to chamber members
- Islamorada Chamber includes School Readiness information in newsletter
- Greater Miami Chamber website ad (runs for 12 months)
- Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association disseminating School Readiness flyer.
- The Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West was provided School Readiness flyer to share with their members
- Information on child care assistance availability shared at weekly provider meetings
- Coalition website banner created to announce child care assistance availability
- Weekly social media posts provide information on how to apply for School Readiness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Accountability</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade and Monroe Chamber Meetings Evelio Torres and other Executive Leadership members to participate in chamber meetings and promote the SR and VPK programs.</td>
<td>ELT Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Torres has participated in various Chamber Meetings to promote the SR and/or VPK programs. We have also shared links to our website during chamber meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe Chamber Meetings</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Supervisor, Laurie Dunn participates in all Chamber Meetings and continuously provides information on ELC Programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPK COE Calls to Monroe Families Not Enrolled Make Calls to all Monroe families that were approved a COE but did not enroll their child in a VPK program. List contains 75 Monroe children.</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Summary of findings: 1) Concerns about Covid-19 2) Felt their child was not ready 3) Other reasons: unable to reach the family after 3 attempts (phone and email)/they moved/ or child was in an ESE program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC Weekly Provider Meetings Eligibility team to participate in weekly provider meetings to promote the SR and VPK programs to participating providers.</td>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Eligibility team has participated in weekly provider meeting to promote SR and VPK Programs to all participating providers. Participating dates: 03/2020 05/2020 07/2020 08/19/20 09/09/20 09/23/20 10/07/20 12/02/20 12/16/20 01/06/21 01/20/21 01/27/21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Monroe SR and VPK Promotional Efforts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Accountability</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 4 yr. old SR children not in VPK                                           | Eligibility    | Ongoing  | Summary of findings: Partial for Monroe  
The top 5 main reasons for not having their child in VPK so far:  
1) VPK is only 3 hours and if there is no aftercare available and they have nowhere to take their child  
2) No transportation from school to a childcare center  
3) Most centers want a child FT  
4) Child has been at center since infancy and they want them to stay until school age  
5) Child has siblings at center  |
| Eligibility team to call families that have their 4 yr. old in SR but not in VPK to promote the VPK program. List contains 581 children. |                |          |                                                                                                                                                 |
| Monroe Flyer Distribution                                                  | Eligibility    | Ongoing  | Monroe staff to distribute SR and VPK flyers to Dr. offices, churches and Monroe agencies. List of distribution available                           |
| Distribute SR and VPK flyers to Dr. offices and churches in Monroe County. |                |          |                                                                                                                                                 |
| Monroe Marketing Agencies                                                  | Eligibility    | Ongoing  | Monroe eligibility staff are in the process of contacting Monroe agencies to establish a contact to send an informational email on SR and VPK with flyer. Follow-up to agencies asking if they have any questions. Agencies include restaurants and hotels. |
| Contact major agencies in Monroe County to send email on SR and VPK and attach informational SR and VPK provider listing Flyer. Purpose is for agency contact to send our information to their employees. |                |          |                                                                                                                                                 |
| Monroe Meeting with Marla Russell- Monroe School District                  | Eligibility    | Ongoing  | Communication with Marla Russell- discussed promoting the SR and VPK programs on their Facebook and Website.  
Follow-up meeting 1/28/21:  
Will separate flyers by lower/middle/upper providers  
Marla will distribute to respective teachers to place in their Google Classrooms and Remind Apps  
will send flyers to be added to school news letters  
will post flyers on Facebook/website  |
| Contact Marla Russel to brainstorm ideas on how the Monroe School District can help promote the SR and VPK Programs. |                |          |                                                                                                                                                 |
| SR and VPK Informational flyer to be shared with Providers                 | Eligibility    | Feb. 2021 | Provide SR and VPK flyers in various languages to Providers so they may distribute to their families.                                             |
| Provide SR and VPK Flyers to providers so they can distribute to their families. |                |          |                                                                                                                                                 |
### Monroe SR and VPK Promotional Efforts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Accountability</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Status/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SR Billboard Communications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Turnpike at US1 (Florida City) 12/16/20-3/9/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys Weekly Communications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Upper/Middle/Lower Keys 1/7/2021</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US1 Radio Communications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Key West to Islamorada Pending approval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Thunder Radio</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Marathon to South Miami Pending approval</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Out Magazine</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Key West Pending</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Communications</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>30 Day Social Media Ad 1/26/21-2/26/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>31 Day Social Media Ad 1/26/21-2/26/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>32 Day Social Media Ad 1/26/21-2/26/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SR Open Enrollment Flyer</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>For distribution Pending Translation to Spanish and Creole completed 2/4/21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add Signature Line on all ELC Staff Email**

All ELC staff will add ELC Portal link as a signature line to emails for families to have direct access when they receive our emails.

**Add SR to ELC Newsletter**

Communications Ongoing

Communications will send out an ELC portal link signature line for all ELC employees to add to their emails. This will allow direct access to our ELC Portal when families receive our emails.

---

**Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Partners:**

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe is providing financial assistance for child care through our School Readiness Program. If you or someone you know needs help to pay child care costs, please submit an application at [http://bit.ly/ELCFreeChildCare](http://bit.ly/ELCFreeChildCare)

Currently, there are waivers in place that relax the requirements for applying for services. The waivers allow:

- Individuals who are unemployed and seeking work to submit an application
- Individuals who have seen a decrease in the number of hours they work each week can submit an application

Some parents may not be aware of these waivers and think that they do not qualify to apply for assistance. It is important to submit an application and our family support services team will make the determination of eligibility upon review of all required documentation.
Monroe Updates – Misc.

• The service centers in the Key Largo and Key West are open to the public Mondays and Thursdays and in Marathon by appointment.
• Staff are providing technical assistance and support by phone and via zoom as needed and requested.
• Planning Monroe County virtual conference scheduled for April 23-24, 2021.
• Marketing plan throughout the Keys to bring awareness to services offered by the Coalition.
Communications Updates
Lead Manager: Jackye Russell, Senior VP for Administration
jrussell@elcmdm.org
Communications Summary

Early Learning Partners Facebook Group

One Monroe County Member

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

School Readiness Marketing & Outreach
# School Readiness Outreach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marketing</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billboard</td>
<td>Turnpike @ US1 (Florida City)</td>
<td>12/16/20 - 3/9/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keys Weekly</td>
<td>Upper/Middle/Lower Keys</td>
<td>1/7/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 1Radio</td>
<td>Key West to Islamorada</td>
<td>Pending Ad Creation</td>
</tr>
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<td>Country Thunder Radio</td>
<td>Marathon to South Miami</td>
<td>Pending Ad Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Out Magazine</td>
<td>Key West</td>
<td>Pending Approval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Email Open Rate

Miami-Dade

Open Rate (%)
31.75

Januray 2021

Monroe

Open Rate (%)
23.3

Jan-21

Benchmark 18%

Source: Constant Contact analytics
## Books Distributed (FY20-21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Number of books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marathon Halloween Drive-through Event</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key West Halloween Drive-through Event</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Educate All
• Neediest Children
• Providers

• Lead Manager: Pam Hollingsworth, M.Ed., Sr. VP for Strategic Initiatives and Program Development
• phollingsworth@elcmdm.org
Professional Development Institute Key Points

Online Training Sessions/Attendees:
- December Sessions: 58
- Number of Attendees: Miami-Dade: 624
  Monroe: 19
- YTD Sessions: 468
- Number of Attendees: Miami-Dade: 5,275
  Monroe: 92

Upcoming Events:
- Provider Training on Market Rates
- OEL Stipends Program for ECE Teachers and Directors.
- April 23/24, 2021 - Monroe County Early Childhood Conference “It Takes a Virtual Village”

National Credentialing Upcoming Training
- **SPRING 2021**
  - National CDA® Credential for Preschool (Ages 3yrs. – 5 yrs.) English/Spanish
  - National CDA® Credential for Family Child Care (Ages Birth-5yrs.) English
Number of Training Sessions Offered FYTD M-D/Monroe

- Jul-20: 36.00
- Aug-20: 39.00
- Sep-20 / FY21-Q1: 28.00
- Oct-20: 26.00
- Nov-20: 26.00
- Dec-20 / FY21-Q2: 27.00

- Actual
- English Trainings
- Spanish Trainings
- Benchmark
- Training in a Series

Note: The chart shows an upward trend from July to December.
Number of Participants Monroe County FYTD

- Jul-20: 9.00
- Aug-20: 13.00
- Sep-20 / FY21-Q1: 17.00
- Oct-20: 17.00
- Nov-20: 17.00
- Dec-20 / FY21-Q2: 19.00

Legend:
- FYTD
- Actual
- Benchmark
It Takes a Virtual Village
Monroe County Early Childhood Conference
April 23rd and April 24th 2021

Featured Speakers:

Ron Shuali, MS Ed
(Yogarate)

Katja von Elbe, MS Ed and
Jonathan Eastman, MS
(Brainheart Guidance)

Lucy Recio, MPA
Senior Analyst, Public Policy
and Advocacy NAEYC

Ian Humphrey
Motivational Speaker

The Hon. Jim Mooney
Monroe County State Rep.
Florida Early Childhood Educator Training Stipends

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) in partnership with Panhandle Area Educational Consortium (PAEC) is excited to share that Florida early childhood educators are eligible for a $75 stipend upon the successful completion of any of the eligible classes by June 30, 2021, or until the stipend funding is depleted.

The maximum stipend an eligible participant can receive is $225 (3 courses/events x $75 = $225).

Classes Only Available in English

*Successful completion may include an end of course assessment or certificate of completion.
Courses Available from:

- myTeachstone
- Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services: BEESS Portal
- Department of Children and Families: Child Care Training System
- TEACH or DOE websites
- FLAEYC Training

Stipend Orientation Schedule

- Thursday February 4th 1:00 PM
- Friday February 5th 10:00 AM

Zoom Link for Registration:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsdeCprDwqG9IMmhhjBB8pEusgize8gppS](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwsdeCprDwqG9IMmhhjBB8pEusgize8gppS)
Preschool Development Birth through Five Renewal Grant (PDG-R)

The Preschool Development Birth to Five Renewal Grant (PDG-R). Through the initial Preschool Development Birth to Five grant, Florida has been working to implement measures that build on existing framework and infrastructure to increase the quality, alignment and efficiency of Florida's early childhood care and education mixed-delivery system of programs and services. Expected outcomes of the grant include:

- Improving data-driven system coordination and policy decisions
- Increasing family access and engagement
- Creating a high-quality comprehensive system of early childhood care and education
- Providing equitable access to quality
- Quality improvement and professional development
ELCMDM PDG-R Initiatives

Professional Development
- HighScope Training to build internal capacity in both age levels (Infant/Toddler and Preschool)
- Creative Curriculum Cloud Subscriptions for Early Childhood Providers (Infant Toddlers and Preschool in English and Spanish)

Mental Health and Social Support
- Trauma and Resilience Certification for Early Childhood Educators
- Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Trainings
- Mindfulness and Restorative Practices Trainings
Teachers and caregivers will obtain access to explore the Creative Curriculum® in depth and learn how to plan individualized routines and experiences that are responsive to young children’s needs and that support their development and learning in all areas.

For more details on how to obtain access please contact the Professional Development Institute email at: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org
Virtual Trainings for Teachers, Administrators, Parents Workshops
(English and Spanish Available)

Register at:
http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
Courses Available

National CDA® Credential for Infant and Toddlers (Ages Birth- 3yrs.)
  Spanish
National CDA® Credential for Preschool  English

Starting Spring 2021

Register at:
http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
Online Professional Development for Monroe County

For information on Quorum Online access contact:
Professional Development Institute at:
professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org

Subscriptions Available
For more details on how to obtain access please contact the Professional Development Institute email at: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org
Specialized Trainings

Creative Curriculum
All Age Levels Training

GOLD ASSESSMENT
Training

CLASS & MMCI
All Age Levels Training
Extended professional development support services for PDI students. You can call or email the PDI Helpdesk or join an interactive session with one of our experts to access:

- Training Support
- Technical Assistance
- Answers to all your questions
PDI Contact Information

Visit our website: trainings.elcmdm.org

Email us: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org

Call us: 305 646-7220 ext. 2350, 2320 or 2511
CARES Act Grants
Summary of Phase I-IV

Lead Manager: Fiorella Altare Christie
faltare@elcmdm.org
Key Points

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
Monroe County Needs Assessment Feedback

1. Support pathways through local high school programs continuing to College of the Florida Keys to enhance skill development in areas of plumbers, electrician HVAC technicians, MOS certifications, etc. These pathways should be offered in multiple languages with an English support class if needed. The availability of these programs needs to be advertised in high traffic common community areas in several languages so interested people know about the programs. Department of Motor Vehicles, grocery stores, Unemployment offices, etc.

2. Increase mental health resources and Guidance Care Center availability.

3. Increase the availability of free hot spots to support virtual instruction and pathways of advancement for families.

4. Premise: The ELC Centers in the Keys have a lot of "successes"
   Survey idea: Are we doing enough to publicize the successes of our ELC Centers to attract additional families/students to utilize them? Are we getting the word out? What can we do to get the word out more?

5. Premise: The ELC Centers are vital to the success of a child's early learning development, but some reports seem to indicate that only 45% of our youngest learners in Monroe are "ready for Kindergarten".
   Survey idea: What is lacking or what can be done in addition to present efforts and initiatives to increase the numbers of children enrolled in ELC Centers so then they can learn and be cared for at optimal levels, and how can we promote these successes more to the public?

6. Premise: The ELC Centers need qualified employees and "consistent staff"
   Survey idea: What can be done to put more qualified longer term employees into the System here in Monroe? What do they need to be supported and be retained? Is it more in-service, more coaching? internship programs, shadowing, career ladder, assurances of continued on line learning for licensing, more monetary incentives, what would help support this effort to recruit and retain employees who work with our youngest learners?

7. Premise: Parents with young children can benefit from more utilization of the Centers
   Survey: What can be done to entice more parents to utilize the Centers? More advertising? More anecdotal success stories of families who use the Centers? Transportation assistance? Social Media
   Utilization to keep in closer touch with parents? Parent Education (though I know much of this is certainly already available through ELC - not faulting ELC, just asking about ways to continue to reach parents.

8. Premise: There are many organizations in the Keys advocating for children.
   Survey: What can be done to increase collaboration across agencies and partnerships to bolster ELC and perhaps entice more families to utilize ELC services and "get the word out"? Is it a health care connection? Personal contacts?
9. Key West and Lower Keys areas need more full time closure programs for school age children available to families funded by ELC. Boys & Girls club currently serves only 40-50 children. Before COVID, they were the “go to” program for families in summer. Working families cannot afford camps at the cost of 200-300 dollars a week for a 10-12 week period.

10. Monroe County schools need to provide aftercare for children with IEP’s (Individual Education Plan). Parents of pre-school children (3-5yr) often have to choose if their child begins services at the school district at an early age or do they wait until they begin kindergarten because there is not aftercare available to these families at 1:00pm when schools dismiss. It is unfortunate that parents are put in this position- but it is a reality.

11. Availability of training/testing to increase the employment pool for child care teachers. Our employment pool is shrinking, but if there could be a way to work with the school district or college to create a training program for child care teachers in our county that may help. If child care programs cannot find staff, they are forced to close and families loose even more ability to remain in our community.

12. Mental health support for children and families separate and apart from traditional therapy.

13. Parent education and support.

14. The decreasing number of health care providers and solution options to this challenge.

15. Childcare for children with disabilities after school program hours. Many of the children cannot attend regular afterschool programs due to the level of care needed/not being toilet trained. Parents have to pay private babysitters or not work it seems.

16. Availability of pediatric specialists without going to Miami, such as neurologists.

17. Alcohol abuse and cultural norms of excessive drinking.
## Monroe County Public School Enrollment for Pre-Kindergarten

### February 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Site</th>
<th>Head Start Class(es)</th>
<th>HS Students per Site</th>
<th>HS/VPK Blended Class(es)</th>
<th>HS/VPK Blended Students</th>
<th>VPK Only Stand Alone</th>
<th>VPK Stand Alone</th>
<th>Pre-K ESE Class(es)</th>
<th>*Pre-K ESE Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Adams Elementary</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>AM/PM</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horace O'Bryan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Largo School</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plantation Key School</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AM/PM</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poinciana Elementary</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>AM/PM</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stanley Switlik School</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sugarloaf Elementary</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>AM/PM</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>Column Totals:</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>172</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>137</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>90</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Key: AM/PM = Double Session

### Total Funded by Head Start: 172

### Total ESE PRE-K MCSD: 90

### Total Enrolled MCSD Stand Alone VPK: 137

### Pre-K Total MCSD: 399

### #Students using VPK Vouchers: 202

*The Pre-K ESE numbers are increasing as placements are made.*

### Pre-K Enrollment MCSD

- **Total Enrolled MCSD Stand Alone VPK:** 137
- **Total ESE PRE-K MCSD:** 90
- **Total Funded for Head Start:** 172 (38% Blended VPK/HS)