



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

August 2, 2021; 8:00 a.m.

2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 210

Zoom Meeting ID: 988 3718 0216

Passcode: 08022021

Board Attendees: Matthew Bruno; Rick Beasley; Richie Tandoc; Jenni Roig; Denisse Barrera; Chereen Coile; Mara Zapata; Daniel Armstrong; Iris Strachan; Loreen Chant; Aaron Slavens; Sandi Bisceglia; Chuck Mohr; Gladys Montes; Joycelyn Lawrence; Eileen Fluney; Marisol Diaz; Jane McQueen; Alex Soto; Raeann Bacchus; Bob Eadie

Board Absentees: James Haj; Alex Soto; Lisa Taylor; Stephanie Scuderi

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Lisney Badillo; Lissandra Curbelo; Pam Hollingsworth; Ana Sejeck; Fiorella Christie; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Diana Lane; Victor Caballero; Ana Rodriguez; Belkis Torres; Sandra Gonzalez; Alex Sanchez; Michelle Meilan; Laurie Dunn; Aileen Suazo; Maria Schrack; Miguel Alonso; Ahmed Mitwalli; Alex Uribe

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Dave Lawrence Jr; Vance Aloupis;

I. Welcome and Introductions

Matthew Bruno

1. M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. J. Russell called roll and a quorum was established with twenty (20) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called for the approval of the meeting minutes from June 2021.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the minutes.
 - D. Armstrong seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno announced that Florida State Representative Vance Aloupis would be joining the meeting and providing an overview of recently passed legislation from the last legislative session.



- M. Bruno announced that anyone with a conflict of interest on an item coming before the board would need to declare the conflict and to complete a conflict of interest form.
- M. Bruno reminded board members that a copy of the board attendance roster was included in the meeting packet to help eliminate any confusion regarding members' attendance.
- M. Bruno stated that he, Evelio, and ELC staff participated in a call with a representative from the Florida Chamber Foundation regarding foundation's Prosperity Project. They have set a goal of cutting childhood poverty in Florida by half by 2030. As part of the project, they are looking at the impact of early education and the gaps in access to quality early learning programs. We will be discussing how the ELC board can play a part in this initiative in both Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.
- M. Bruno discussed the pending expiration of the federal eviction moratorium and the serious effect this will have on the families we serve. ELC staff have been providing information on housing and rental assistance programs available in both counties to help families access resources and services they may need.
- M. Bruno discussed that ELC staff continue to hold monthly provider meetings via zoom to provide updates from the different ELC departments. Providers are also encouraged to attend the monthly Provider Services Committee meetings, where they have the opportunity to participate in an Early Education Partners Roundtable with their provider representatives.

IV. Executive Committee Report

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno stated that the Executive Committee met on June 23 and approved the following resolutions:
 - A. Resolution 06032021-01 authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract PSA 20-32 with Lehtinen Schultz, PLLC for Legal services.
 - B. Resolution 06032021-02 Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an extension to Contract C18-17 with UKG INC. f/k/a Ultimate Software Group, Inc. to extend the date of the contract and prorate the total contract amount.
 - C. Resolution 06032021-03 Authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment for approval to the Florida Office of Early Learning, for updates to the Waitlist and Program Assessment Policies.
- M. Bruno asked for a motion to take a block vote to ratify these resolutions if no one had any questions or discussion.
 - Motion to approve resolutions in a block vote by S. Bisceglia
 - Motion seconded by R. Beasley
 - Motion passed unanimously.



- M. Bruno stated the board will have a presentation by Representative Vance Aloupis. E. Torres introduced Representative Aloupis.

V. Representative Vance Aloupis

Vance Aloupis

- V. Aloupis discussed several bills related to early learning that were passed in the most recent legislative session. The bills related to early literacy, teacher supports, and additional resources for parents.

VI. Presidents of the Family Child Care Home Association

Evelio Torres

- E. Torres discussed recent meeting held with representatives of Family Child Care Home Providers. The discussion focused on some of the challenges that the family child care home owners are having with recruiting and maintaining quality staff in their programs. One of the issues addressed was their inability to raise the amounts they charge for their services. Many have had the same rates for years and don't feel that they can raise them, because the parents cannot afford to pay more and may leave their programs if the rates are raised. Explained how school readiness reimbursement rates are set and that the ELC cannot pay them more than what they have as their published rates.

VII. Audit Committee Meeting Report

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno stated that the Audit Committee met on July 29 and ELC staff presented:
 - An overview of the programmatic monitoring that is completed by the Division of Early Learning was provided, that included the scope and methodology. The overall monitoring was positive, with the majority of the elements reviewed resulting in no findings.
 - Staff also shared Information on the School Readiness program internal controls, that included a very broad overview of all the efforts that are made to ensure that eligibility determination process remains in compliance with state and federal guidelines.
 - In response to news reports of potential financial fraud at the Monroe Boys and Girls' club, and because the club receives School Readiness funding; the loss prevention unit conducted a review to identify if any of the funds from the coalition were involved. The review did not find any misappropriation of School Readiness funds.

VIII. Finance Committee Meeting Report

Loreen Chant

- L. Chant stated that the Finance Committee met on July 25 and approved the following resolutions:



- A. Resolution 07292021-01 authorize the President and CEO to execute an amendment with The Children’s Trust, as outlined in the background and to receive additional funds once the amendment is approved.
 - B. Resolution 07292021-02 authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment to the Division of Early Learning for approval of changes to the Coalition’s bylaws.
- L. Chant asked for a motion to approve the resolution in a block vote.
 - Motion to approve by C. Mohr
 - Motion seconded by M. Bruno
 - Motion passed unanimously
 - L. Chant discussed that the financials look to be in good shape. All program budgets are expected to close out the year balanced. School Readiness enrollment and payment snapshots reflect that there are no waitlists in either Miami-Dade or Monroe County and eligible children are being enrolled in the program in a timely manner.
 - L. Chant stated that the Early Head Start credit card reports for May and June were reviewed and travel expenses for Early Head Start staff to attend out-of-town training was noted.
 - L. Chant asked F. Hicks to say a few words on cybersecurity updates.

IX. Policy Council Committee Report

Kisline Timothee

- A video by K. Timothee was played.

X. Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee Report

Jackye Russell

- J. Russell read the report from the July 26 Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee meeting:
- Early Head Start Updates:
 - The average daily attendance has continued to remain at 92%.
 - Updates on the Early Head Start Self-Assessment Improvement Plan reflect that the program has completed 3 of the 8 goals. Completion of the remaining five (5) goals is well underway and expect to be completed by October 2021.
 - The Early Head Start Corrective Action Plan shows that 20 of the 25 required action steps have been completed. The remaining five (5) have started and are in progress until the end of the corrective action period, which is August 15, 2021.
- Development Screenings Updates
 - As of March 31, 2021, the Inclusion, Screening and Assessment team have been supporting partner’s transition to the new system for the management of the Developmental Screenings.
 - There have been some challenges with the transition that impact compliance and increase audit exposure but the team is communicating concerns to the Division of Early Learning, designing work arounds and requesting support as needed.



- Despite challenges the Miami-Dade and Monroe teams have shown growth and excellence in Quality Assurance reviews in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Dr. Espinosa will report on the outcome of the reviews during the CEO report.
- Professional Development Institute and Equity Institute Updates
 - 71 training sessions were offered in June with a total of 832 attendees participating.
 - The Children's First Equity and Inclusion Series is being recognized as a best practice training program in the Children's Movements' Built to Thrive 21 summit scheduled for September.
 - ELC Talks: Features the Impact of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Education and Child Development August 19, 2021. The Equity Institute will be presenting a session with Vice-Chair of the School Board of Miami-Dade, Dr. Steve Gallon III and Marla Russel, Early Childhood Coordinator/Supervisor Monroe County School District.
- Professional/Workforce Development
 - Early Childhood Apprenticeship and Internship programs are expected to launch in Fall 2021.
 - Child Development Associate Preschool Courses in English and Spanish to start Fall 2021

XI. Provider Services Committee Meeting Report

Rick Beasley

- Rick Beasley indicated that the Provider Services Committee met on April 29, May 27, and July 29. The following items were reviewed and discussed:
 - Little Yvena's Garden Learning World Center was reviewed. The provider did not administer VPK Assessment Period 1 for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 School Year. As a result, provider was in non-compliance with their VPK contract.
 - After reviewing all documents and hearing the provider's testimony, the committee voted to uphold staff's recommendation and terminate the VPK contract and revoke eligibility to participate in the VPK program for five years. **It should be noted that the committee does not have any leverage in these cases which involve providers who do not administer the VPK assessments. Staff have elevated such cases to the Division of Early Learning (DEL) and have been told that the only recourse for these providers is to have their contracts terminated and to revoke eligibility for a period of five (5) years.**
 - K. C. Kiddie Care II was reviewed on July 29. This provider failed to administer both the VPK Assessment Period 1 and Assessment Period 3 for the 2020-2021 School Year.
 - After reviewing all documents and hearing the provider's testimony, the committee voted to uphold staff's recommendation and terminate the VPK contract and revoke eligibility to participate in the VPK program for five years. This case was also elevated to DEL and staff were informed that the termination and revocation are the only options available for this provider.



- **Apprenticeship & Internship Programs** are moving right along. We are pleased to announce that both programs are on track to launch in the fall. Both programs will greatly increase the pool of quality employees who have been trained to work with children in early learning programs. These programs come at a critical junction, because the other topic of much discussion during the committee meeting was that of the inability of child care providers to attract and retain qualified staff. Many of the providers who participated in the meeting echoed the challenges they are facing as they lose teachers and potential applicants to large companies that can afford to pay a higher hourly rate. There was brainstorming around how different agencies can partner to address this and I'm sure Evelio will be sharing more with the board as the discussions continue.

XII. Community Presentation

Evelio Torres

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Community%20Report%2008-2021%20rev15.pdf>

XIII. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

XIV. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno