



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 4, 2021; 8:00 a.m.
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 210
Coral Gables, FL 33134
Zoom Meeting ID: 987 5316 4023
Passcode: 10042021

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

Board Absentees: Joycelyn Lawrence; Chuck Mohr

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Mercy Castiglione; Sandra Gonzalez; Michelle Meilan; Fred Hicks; Alex Sanchez; Lisney Badillo; Belkis Torres; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Diana Lane; Ana Sejeck; Jose Hernandez; Victor Caballero; Anabel Espinosa; Laurie Dunn; Ileana Vallejo; Casie Haines; Cindy Cabrera; Ahmed Mitwalli; Ana Rodriguez; Natalia Gamundi; Thalia Daumy; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Lillian Amador

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; David Lawrence Jr.; Lynne Hernandez; Sue Ellen Bennett; Natalie Rodriguez; Priscilla Hazrun; Lorena Suarez; Magaly Diaz; Carmen Medrano; Nuvia Ruiz; Katherine Uribe; Olga Teran; Monica Rivas; Barbara Alvarez; Yasmani Perez; Grettel Carreno

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- C. Pollard called roll and quorum was established with twenty (20) voting members.
- M. Bruno shared that translation services were available for the meeting.
- M. Bruno announced that a copy of the board attendance roster is included in every board packet.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called for the approval of the minutes from September 7, 2021.
 - S. Bisceglia moved to approve the minutes.
 - A. Soto seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

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.





- M. Bruno announced special guests Ms. Lynne Hernandez, Executive Director, Miami-Dade and Monroe Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Ms. Sue Ellen Bennett of St. James Children’s Center and Children’s Trust Scholarship recipient Ms. Natalie Rodriguez.
- M. Bruno shared that on September 27th, the Coalition facilitated the “Promising Practices” follow-up discussion with Mr. Mark Wilson, President and CEO of the Florida Chamber. E. Torres sent all board members a summary of the discussion.
- M. Bruno appointed Dr. Eileen Fluney as Vice Chair of the Program, Policy and Strategy Committee.
- M. Bruno stated that The ELC staff continues to hold monthly provider meetings via Zoom to provide updates from the different ELC departments. Providers are also invited to attend the monthly Provider Services Committee meeting where they have the opportunity to participate in an Early Education Partners Roundtable with their provider representatives.

IV. Chairman’s Partner Spotlight

St. James Children’s Center

E. Torres shared that the Chairman’s Partner Spotlight is an opportunity for the Coalition to recognize a childcare partner for their innovative service to children and families. E. Torres introduced Ms. Sue Ellen Bennett of St. James Children’s Center in Monroe County who was recognized for the October spotlight. Ms. Bennett shared information about her childcare program and the initiatives that have been implemented to provide quality services. E. Torres thanked her for her leadership and dedication.

V. Children’s Trust Child Scholarship Testimonial

Natalie Rodriguez

P. Lopez-Barcena shared that The Children’s Trust Child Scholarship is awarded to families who do not qualify for School Readiness subsidy but are still unable to afford the high cost of quality childcare. She introduced Ms. Natalie Rodriguez, a scholarship recipient. Ms. Rodriguez shared about the tremendous financial aid and positive impact the scholarship has had on her family. J. Haj and D. Lawrence shared more about the scholarship origin and opportunity.

VI. Child Development Associate (CDA) Recipients Recognition

Pam Hollingsworth

P. Hollingsworth shared that the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential was launched by the Professional Development Institute (PDI). Both Miami-Dade and Monroe graduated a total of 11 teachers from the first cohort. Dr. Carmen Medrano announced the list of CDA recipients, which are included in the Community Presentation.

VII. Hope Florida – A Pathway to Prosperity

Raeann Bacchus

Board member, R. Bacchus shared about Hope Florida, a new initiative spearheaded by First Lady Desantis and implemented by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). She shared that the goal of Hope Florida is to reduce families in crisis and assist individuals to overcome identified barriers that prevent them from seeking vital services.

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Hope%20Florida%20PPT.pdf>

VIII. Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

Lynne Hernandez

M. Bruno introduced Ms. Lynne Hernandez, Executive Director, Miami-Dade and Monroe Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association (FRLA). Ms. Hernandez gave a presentation on the FRLA, its purpose and the members the association serves. E. Torres shared the benefits of partnering with FRLA. He included that member hotels have employees that can possibly receive School Readiness services to reduce barriers to work.



<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/FRLA%20presentation%20for%20ELC.pdf>

IX. Finance Committee Meeting Report

Loreen Chant

- L. Chant stated that the Finance Committee met on September 30 and approved the following resolution:
Resolution 10042021-01 – Webauthor Amendment – Dr. Fred Hicks
Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute an amendment to Contract PSA 21-25 with Webauthor.com, LLC for Procurement Software.
- L. Chant asked for a motion to approve the resolution in a block vote.
 - Motion to approve by R. Beasley
 - Motion seconded by J. Roig
 - Motion passed unanimously.
- The following updates were given:
 - The financials are in good standing. Only two months of budget numbers were presented. The VPK program is showing a projected surplus due to low enrollment numbers, which is a challenge throughout the state. The Coalition is ramping up promotional efforts for both School Readiness and VPK.
 - Snapshots were presented and children are still being brought in every 2 weeks in Miami-Dade. Children are being brought in daily in Monroe. The Title V refugee program will end in September. Program participants will transition to being served through Youth-Co-Op.
 - The EHS credit card report for August had no charges.
 - The Coalition will facilitate the table top exercise in October. Invitations will be sent out for the event soon.
 - The exchange server upgrade is complete.
 - The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a draft ransomware risk management profile which gives guidance on how both internal and external stakeholders of organizations can manage and reduce cybersecurity risk.

X. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Loreen Chant

- L. Chant stated that the Strategic Planning Committee met on September 23 and the following updates were given.
 - The Coalition’s 2017-2022 strategic plan was reviewed and there was discussion surrounding the strategic initiatives that have been accomplished by the organization. The committee will explore additional long-range goals to present at next month’s annual meeting.
 - The following initiatives were proposed for systems improvements, utilizing a team approach:
 - Expanding Services in Monroe County
 - Civic Engagement
 - Advocacy & Public Policy
 - Professional Development
 - Parent Engagement
 - E. Torres gave a summary of each proposed initiative.
 - The strategic planning committee has additional meetings scheduled this month to continue the planning process.



- Data for the Monroe County Needs Assessment continues to be collected and preliminary results will be available and presented at the end of October.

XI. EHS Policy Council Report

Maria Soto

- The new 2021-2022 EHS Policy Council Chair, Maria Soto and a representative for Springview Academy, reported the following via a recorded video (<https://youtu.be/7KkXWYPQRiU>):
 - Transition of duties from 2020-2021 Policy Council members to the 2021-2022 members occurred on September 15.
 - Names of newly elected officers were shared:
 - Policy Council Chair: Maria Soto
 - Vice-Chair: Jasmin Johnson
 - Secretary: Anais Valdez
 - Assistant Secretary: Kanetra Jones
 - Treasurer: Sheldrika Johnson
 - Parliamentarian: Vanessa Sullivan
 - Dr. Mara Zapata was ratified as the Board Representative.
 - The Self-Assessment Plan Resolution was approved.
 - Updates were provided on the June and July expenditure and credit card reports; August Meals, Enrollment, and Attendance Reports; and Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe September Board meeting.
 - Communication from the Office of Head Start requiring all staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 was shared.
 - Members were informed of a meeting with the Head Start Regional Office regarding a Corrective Action Plan.
 - The results from the Program Information Report and the Health and Safety Screener were reviewed.

XII. Program, Policy & Strategy Committee Report

Gladys Montes

- G. Montes stated that the Finance Committee met on September 27 and the following updates were given:
 - Early Head Start (EHS):
 - Lower attendance in August was attributed to center closures due to COVID exposure.
 - The Program Information Report (PIR) was submitted to the Office of Head Start on August 31. Details were provided in the Community Presentation.
 - The Health and Safety screener revealed that there were eight (8) centers with expired background checks. The centers were reported to the EHS Regional Office and to the Department of Children and Families. Teachers with expired background checks were removed from the classrooms and will not be able to work with the children until they have been cleared.
 - It was shared that The Office of Head Start released COVID-19 mitigation requirements which include the requirement for all Head Start employees to be vaccinated by January



2022 and allows programs to provide virtual and remote services during an emergency closure.

- An update on Early Head Start program compliance was shared. The Early Head Start program had an interview with the Regional Office on August 30 regarding the programs non-compliance. The call included The Coalition board chair, program staff and Policy Council vice chair. A decision will be received within a month.
- Professional Development Institute (PDI):
 - The Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program has reached a salary agreement of \$15 an hour.
 - The Early Educators Internship Program is still set to kick-off in November.
- The Equity Institute hosted ELC Talks on September 16th on the topic of “Body Image, Body Shaming and Trauma in Young Children” and it was a success. The next ELC Talks is scheduled for October 22nd.

XIII. Provider Services Committee Meeting Report

Rick Beasley

- R. Beasley stated that the Provider Services Committee met on September 30 and the following updates were given:
 - Discussion continued on plans to engage individuals with disabilities in the workforce and early childhood education field. Key partnerships with agencies that serve these constituents are needed to move this initiative forward.
 - An update on the Apprenticeship & Internship Programs was given.
 - As stated in the chairman’s report, providers participated in an Early Education Partners Roundtable with their provider representatives. Retention of early education professionals and enrollment is still an ongoing challenge. Community education partners such as Miami-Dade College are also looking to place qualified and trained students in child care centers.
 - The Coalition continues to provide opportunities for our valued Family Child Care Home partners to join the roundtable.
 - The Coalition continues sending ongoing communications to partners with important information.

XIV. Community Presentation

Evelio Torres

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Community%20Presentation%2010-2021%20final.pdf>

XV. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

XVI. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno