



# Minutes

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 7, 2021; 8:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 960 5853 6757

Passcode: 09072021

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

**Board Absentees:** Aaron Slavens; Raeann Bacchus

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Sandra Gonzalez; Mercy Castiglione; Pam Hollingsworth; Michelle Meilan; Fiorella Christie; Alex Sanchez; Adelina Gross; Diana Lane; Paloma-Lopez-Barcena; Fred Hicks; Ana Sejeck; Ana Rodriguez; Ileana Vallejo; Jose Hernandez; Anabel Espinosa; Laurie Dunn; Natalia Gamundi; Lillian Amador; Victor Caballero; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Belkis Torres; Matthew Zaldivar; Cindy Cabrera; Ida Linares,

**General Attendees:** Bob de la Fuente (Board Counsel); Dave Lawrence, Mercedes Medina, Danish Williams, Maria Sosa-Quintanilla, Arleny Estenozl, Rhonda Smith, Terrie Osman, Melissa Lorenzo, Claudia Cubillos, Vanessa Gomez, Antoinette Patterson, Valrine Cato, Aida M Ferreiro, Cynthia Hereford, Theslyn Brown, Ebony Johnson, Fania Mederos, Ruby White, Tatiana Gomez, Onika Rapley, Rosalyn Laney, Anaida Valdes

### I. Welcome and Introductions

**Matthew Bruno**

- M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- C. Pollard called roll and a quorum was established with twenty (20) voting members.
- D. Lane gave instructions to attendees on how to access the Spanish translation services on Zoom.
- M. Bruno announced that a copy of the board attendance roster is included in every board packet.



- M. Bruno thanked the former chair Mr. Adrian Alfonso for his tireless service and leadership of the board. A plaque was presented to Mr. Alfonso from the Coalition.
- M. Bruno acknowledged special guests, Mr. Mark Wilson, President and CEO of the Florida Chamber and Dr. Brittany Birken, Principal Adviser at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. D. Lawrence introduced Mr. Wilson.

## II. Florida Chamber of Commerce

**Mark Wilson**

Mr. Wilson presented on chamber initiatives to unite and unify the business community to push early learning outcomes. His presentation included the Florida 2030 blueprint and the strategies to reach the goal of improving Florida's talent pipeline and making the state the 10th largest economy in the world. The Florida Gap Map, showing elementary school reading levels were shared to emphasize the importance of quality early learning and raising awareness among business leaders (<https://www.flchamber.com/floridagapmap/>).

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Mark%20Wilson%20Presentation.pdf>

## III. Federal Funding Benefits Cliff

**Dr. Brittany Birken**

Dr. Birken shared about the work the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta is doing to improve economic mobility and resilience for low-income families. Her presentation included data on the impact of the federal benefits cliff and the challenges families may face in achieving long-term gains. She shared that efforts for change include, mapping the benefits cliff, leading the congressional charge to maximize employment and engaging in partnerships to support community and state efforts to improve economic security for families.

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Miami%20ELC%20Benefits%20Cliffs.pdf>

## IV. Chairman's Report

**Matthew Bruno**

- M. Bruno stated that we received a letter of thanks from Mr. Matt Mears, Chancellor of the Division of Early Learning for his most recent visit with the Coalition and early childcare providers.
- M. Bruno informed everyone that Ms. Edeline Fleurant, Early Head Start Policy Council Vice Chair passed away unexpectedly. He shared that she was a dedicated and loving mother and Early Head Start parent and Policy Council member. He gave condolences on behalf of the Board.
- M. Bruno also announced that the community also lost another member of our early learning family, Ms. Karina Chacon Diaz who worked as a teacher at The Creative Learning Center in Kendall. He shared that Ms. Diaz lost her life, along with her mother and husband, in a traffic accident. Condolences were also offered on behalf of the Board.



- M. Bruno appointed Stephanie Scuderi to the Strategic Planning Committee as the Vice-Chair and thanked her for her willingness to help move the board's strategic initiatives forward.
- M. Bruno appointed Dr. Jonathon Gueverra to the Monroe Advisory Committee. Dr. Gueverra is the President of the College of the Florida Keys and has an interest in working with the other committee members to address early education issues in Monroe County.
- 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. M. Bruno stated that the ELC is providing several opportunities for providers to participate, provide input, and interact with their provider representatives. He shared that we are also including our very valued Family Childcare Home partners.
- M. Bruno shared that new calendar invitations with updated Zoom links for all scheduled board and committee meetings through December would be sent by C. Pollard following the meeting.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

**Matthew Bruno**

- M. Bruno called for the approval of the meeting minutes from August 2021.
  - R. Beasley moved to approve the minutes.
  - A. Soto seconded the motion.
  - Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Finance Committee Report**

**Loreen Chant**

L. Chant stated that the Finance Committee met on September 2 and the following updates were given:

- The financials are in good standing and we are foreseeing the year ending with a balanced budget.
- Snapshots were presented and there is no waitlist in Miami-Dade or Monroe County. Children are being brought in every two weeks in Miami-Dade and daily in Monroe. The Title V program will end in September.
- An update on cybersecurity was given and we are aware that another Coalition is under an active cyber-attack. The coalition will post-pone the table top exercise and EFS MOD has transitioned to a new version.
- The EHS credit card report for July have no charges.
- Recent reports were presented and show increased COVID cases among children.

**VII. EHS Policy Council Report**

**Kisline Timothee**

- Ms. Kisline Timothee, 2020-2021 Early Head Start Policy Council Chair and a representative for Little Ones Academy, reported the following via a recorded video (<https://youtu.be/mlIJgnS7Po>):



- The Policy Council received updates on:
  - Program’s Corrective Action Plan:
  - Self-Assessment; and
  - August 2nd Board meeting.
- The following reports were reviewed with the Policy Council:
  - The May and June expenditures: The program had spent 85% of the budget by the end of June.
  - The credit card reports for May and June: There was a total of \$1,093 charged for both months for staff training and attendance to a virtual conference.
  - The meals, enrollment and attendance reports for June and July: Between June and July attendance dropped to 716 children due to early transitions. The average daily attendance for June was 92% and 91% for July.
- Ms. Timothee informed the Board that the 2020-2021 Policy Council Board will transition its duties to the 2021 – 2022 Policy Council Board in September. Ms. Timothee thanked the Board for their support to the Policy Council, children, families, and childcare partners.

#### **VIII. Program, Policy and Strategy Committee Report**

**Gladys Montes**

G. Montes stated that the Program, Policy & Strategy Committee met on August 30 and approved the following resolutions:

- A. Resolution 09072021-01 – Self Assessment  
Authorize the President and CEO to proceed with the implementation of the Early Head Start 2021-2022 Self-Assessment Plan.
- B. Resolution 09072021-02 – Early Head Start  
Authorize the President and CEO to submit a request allowing Early Head Start to provide comprehensive services through a Family Childcare Home option.
  - G. Montes asked for a motion to approve the resolution in a block vote.
    - Motion to approve by D. Armstrong
    - Motion seconded by R. Beasley
    - Motion passed unanimously

G. Montes stated that the following updates were given:

- Early Head Start:
  - Average daily attendance in July was 91%, which includes hybrid children.
  - Six (6) Early Head Start partners did not renew their contracts for the 2021-2022 program year.
  - A summary of Early Head Start program compliance was shared and the steps taken to address the programs recent non-compliance.
- There were no new updates to the administration of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.
- Professional Development Institute:
  - The Institute started the fiscal year with a new robust training schedule. The institute rolled out Quick Response (QR) codes for ease of training registration.
  - Child Development Associate (CDA) course enrollment is almost closed and program begins soon.



- The Early Childhood Apprenticeship and Internship Program will launch on November 1.
- Equity Institute
  - The Children First Equity and Inclusion Series will be featured at the Built to Thrive 21 Summit sponsored by The Children’s Movement of Florida September 21.
  - Poverty Simulation is coming soon.
  - The work continues for the Language Equity Group
  - ELC Talks “Conversation on Learning Loss in the Wake of COVID-19” took place on August 19 and featured Dr. Steve Gallon III. The next ELC Talks about “Body Shaming and Trauma in Young Children” is on September 16.
- The Division of Early Learning (DEL) Disaster Relief Funding deadline will be extended again.
- The next round of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Grants will be geared toward retention and recruitment of Providers.

**IX. Provider Services Committee Report**

**Rick Beasley**

R. Beasley stated that the Provider Services Committee met on August 26 and discussed the following items:

- A summary of Early Head Start program compliance was also shared in the Provider Services Committee meeting. The significance of the program’s recent non-compliance was emphasized.
- Conversations with Department of Children and Families continue regarding employment in child care programs for individuals participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families welfare to work program, particularly parents.
- Plans to engage individuals with disabilities in the workforce and early childhood education field.
- An update on the Apprenticeship & Internship Programs were given.
- Providers participated in an Early Education Partners Roundtable with their provider representatives. Retention of early education professionals and wages were discussed.
- It was shared that education initiatives are being prioritized at next legislative session.

**X. Governance and Bylaws Committee Report**

**Chuck Mohr**

C. Mohr stated that the Governance and Bylaws Committee met on July 14 and reviewed several changes and updates to the bylaws:

- C. Mohr shared that the majority of the revisions were related to changes in state law; including edits to the name of the Office of Early Learning to reflect the new Division of Early Learning title.
- Other changes included removing any specific reference to the date of the board’s annual meeting and the removal of the requirement that the coalition’s board of directors must be comprised of more than one-third private sector members.
- C. Mohr asked for a motion to approve the revised bylaws.
  - Motion to approve by G. Montes



- Motion seconded by E. Fluney
- Motion passed unanimously

**XI. Monroe Advisory Committee Report**

**Sandi Bisceglia**

S. Bisceglia stated that the Monroe Advisory Committee met on August 10 and discussed the following items:

- The CEO Update was given and included:  
Information about Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Grant payments, Disaster Relief Funding through Division of Early Learning, Advance Child Tax Credit for 2021 and School Readiness local quality bonuses. An update was given regarding the work to engage Monroe County Chambers of Commerce.
- Recent reports on Monroe County rent crisis were shared and current discussions include wages of local employees.
- ELC Updates were provided by ELC staff and included:
  - Information on the enrollments for School Readiness, VPK and at-risk referrals in Monroe County.
  - An update was given on the Apprenticeship and Internship program.
  - An update on the number of email blasts sent out to Monroe.
- Providers in Monroe County continue to face challenges with teacher retention and wages.
- The Children’s Movement of Florida presented information on the organizations work to advocate for high quality early learning opportunities through engaging the business community.
- Monroe County Needs Assessment: NOLO is in the process of collecting primary and secondary data. A report was given on the number of survey responses received from providers and families.
- S. Bisceglia shared that COVID cases among children in Monroe County has increased and the virus has been fatal among some prominent community figures.

**XII. Community Presentation**

**Evelio Torres**

<https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Community%20Presentation%2009-2021%20rev11.pdf>

**XIII. Public Comments**

**Matthew Bruno**

**XIV. Adjourn**

**Matthew Bruno**