CEO Presentation

September 8, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Slide Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Plan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OEL CARES Act: Phase III Grants</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Response and Updates</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Updates</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recon Project Update</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Readiness</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion and Assessment</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe County Updates</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development Institute</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Updates</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Plan
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.
Early Education. Lifelong Success.

Our 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.

Our vision:
Children First: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe
2017-2022

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 believe partnerships are critical to our work. We work closely with family 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 learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.
- 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.

Priority initiatives:

**Needsiest 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 benchmark marks.
- Establish the Performance Funding Program platform as the statewide quality, tiered reimbursement and pay for performance model.
OEL CARES Act:
Phase III Grants
September 3, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO:        School District Superintendents
            School District Directors of Elementary Education
            District VPK Contacts

FROM:      Shan Goff, Executive Director

SUBJECT:   COVID-19 Grants to Early Learning/Child Care Providers: Phase III

The Office of Early Learning is announcing Phase III grants which provide an additional $16,886,271 in CARES Act support for Florida's early learning/child care providers.

The Phase III: Reopening Support Grants for Contracted Early Learning/Child Care Providers (CLASS Exempt and VPK Providers) will support the 3,137 School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education providers, including CLASS Exempt contracted private providers and public/charter school providers, that were closed on April 30, 2020, and reopened by August 31, 2020, consistent with local ordinances or restrictions and DOE approved school district reopening plans. Funding for public/charter school providers is based on number of SR and VPK children served, not DCF capacity. A summary chart for the statewide allocations is attached.

Also attached, is the application for these funds. Districts may submit one application with a listing of eligible schools. Please contact your local early learning coalition for more information.

Cc:        Jacob Oliva, K-12 Chancellor, DOE
            Mark Eggers, Bureau Chief, School Business Services, DOE
            Coalition Executive Directors
            Coalition Finance Directors

Attachments: CARES Phase III Allocations by Provider - Statewide
            COVID-19 Grant Application: SR/VPK Provider
## CARES Phase III Allocations by Provider

### Statewide

Guidance 240.21 - Attachment 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providers (Unduplicated)</th>
<th>Providers w/ Inf, Todd, SPN</th>
<th>Base Grant Funding</th>
<th>Bonus Funding for Serving or Offering Services for Infant, Toddler, and/or Special Needs</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ / Provider</td>
<td>Allocation</td>
<td>$ / Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,137</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>$16,450,271</td>
<td>436,000</td>
<td>$16,886,271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Phase III: Child Care Reopening Supports Grants

#### Closed SR CLASS Exempt Providers (Non-Gold Seal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Capacity Range</th>
<th>742</th>
<th>212</th>
<th>$5,668,793</th>
<th>$424,000</th>
<th>$6,092,793</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 - 12</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>$1,496</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$126,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$74,131</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$12,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 - 20</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$2,494</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$21,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$19,950</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 - 74</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$3,990</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$939,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$805,980</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$805,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75 - 149</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$7,980</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,152,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,002,980</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,152,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150+</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>$11,970</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,851,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,765,070</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,851,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Closed VPK Private Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Capacity Range</th>
<th>764</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>$5,494,230</th>
<th>$2,000</th>
<th>$5,496,230</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 - 12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$1,496</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$14,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$14,963</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$14,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 - 20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$2,494</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$84,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$84,788</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$84,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 - 74</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$3,990</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,115,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,115,210</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,115,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75 - 149</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$7,980</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,995,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,995,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,995,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150+</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$11,970</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,286,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$2,286,270</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,286,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Closed Public/Charter Public School Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>FY 19-20 Children Served Range</th>
<th>1,631</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>$5,287,249</th>
<th>$10,000</th>
<th>$5,297,249</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0 - 12</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$1,496</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$605,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$597,004</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$597,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 - 20</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$2,494</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$788,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$788,025</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$788,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 - 74</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$3,990</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$3,407,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$3,407,460</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$3,407,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>75 - 149</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$7,980</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$496,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$496,760</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$496,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$11,970</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COVID-19 Response and Updates

First Responder and Healthcare Workers Program, Provider Closures and VPK
VPK and School Readiness September Updates

School Readiness Providers Open in September
1. For the September Service Period, School Readiness Providers will continue to be reimbursed based on enrollment rather than attendance which includes intermittent closures.
2. For September, School Readiness Providers will continue to be reimbursed for parent co-payments, therefore, parent co-payments should NOT be collected.

School-Year VPK Providers Open in September
1. School-Year VPK Providers will be reimbursed for the September Service Period based on enrollment after the students’ first day of attendance and for intermittent closures.
First Responders and Healthcare Workers Program
Children Enrolled in Miami-Dade/Monroe

![Graph showing the enrollment of children in the program from May 5, 2020, to August 18, 2020, with enrollment numbers ranging from 275 to 3,113.](image-url)
Open & Closed Early Learning Programs

All Providers

**OPEN**

1002

**CLOSED**

442

- 218 – MDCPS Districts (Precautionary closure)
- 7 – Monroe County Districts (Precautionary closure)
- 70 – YMCA/YWCA, & After School Care providers located at MDCPS sites. (Following district’s reopening plan)
- 147 – Private Providers (Fear of exposure, following district’s reopening plan, pending county approval for reopening)

Total: 1444
Miami-Dade/Monroe Open Early Learning Programs

- May 5, 2020: 32%
- May 7, 2020: 62%
- May 8, 2020: 68%
- May 12, 2020: 61%
- May 13, 2020: 62%
- May 18, 2020: 62%
- May 19, 2020: 62%
- May 20, 2020: 62%
- May 22, 2020: 62%
- May 27, 2020: 63%
- May 29, 2020: 63%
- June 2, 2020: 64%
- June 3, 2020: 64%
- June 5, 2020: 65%
- June 8, 2020: 65%
- June 11, 2020: 64%
- June 17, 2020: 64%
- June 19, 2020: 65%
- June 22, 2020: 65%
- June 24, 2020: 65%
- June 29, 2020: 69%
- June 30, 2020: 69%
- July 1, 2020: 72%
- July 6, 2020: 72%
- July 7, 2020: 72%
- July 8, 2020: 72%
- July 9, 2020: 72%
- July 13, 2020: 63%
- July 15, 2020: 63%
- July 16, 2020: 63%
- July 17, 2020: 63%
- July 20, 2020: 63%
- July 21, 2020: 63%
- July 22, 2020: 63%
- July 23, 2020: 63%
- July 24, 2020: 63%
- July 27, 2020: 63%
- July 28, 2020: 63%
- July 30, 2020: 63%
- July 31, 2020: 63%
- August 4, 2020: 63%
- August 6, 2020: 63%
- August 11, 2020: 63%
- August 18, 2020: 63%
- August 20, 2020: 63%
- August 24, 2020: 63%
- September 4, 2020: 63%
IT Updates

Fred Hicks, CIO
EFS MOD

• Version 4.4.5 (Stability)
• Changes for VPK Classes
• Reconciliation of the 5045 Report (Consistent, Reliable, Repeatable)
Online Meetings
Cyber Security

• Mandatory Cybersecurity training for all staff and contractors to the ELC this September and October
• New attack vector firewalls for all sites
MIA MI-DADE COUNTY, Fla. – A 16-year-old student was arrested early Thursday morning in connection with the cyber attacks against Miami-Dade County Public Schools, school officials confirmed to Local 10 News in an email.

According to district spokeswoman Jackie Calzadilla, the teen is a junior at South Miami Senior High School.

Calzadilla said Miami-Dade Schools Police traced an IP address responsible for the attacks to the student, identified in an arrest report as Daved Oliveros.

The police department investigated the cyber attacks, along with the FBI, the Secret Service and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

According to Calzadilla, Oliveros confessed to “orchestrating eight Distributed Denial-of-Service cyber attacks, designed to overwhelm District networks, including web-based systems needed for My School Online.”

She said the student used an online application to carry out the attacks.

Oliveros was arrested on charges of computer use in an attempt to defraud, which is a third-degree felony, and interference with an educational institution, which is a second-degree misdemeanor.

Calzadilla said the school district has been the target of more than a dozen cyber attacks since the 2020-2021 school year began.

“We believe, based upon our investigation, that other attackers are out there,” M-DSPD Chief Edwin Lopez said in a statement. “We will not rest until every one of them is caught and brought to justice. Cyber attacks are serious crimes, which have far-reaching negative impacts. Our message to anyone thinking of attempting a criminal act like this is to think twice. We will find you.”

Superintendent of Schools Alberto Carvalho also released a statement commending the investigative efforts of the police department and other law enforcement agencies. “It is disheartening that one of our own students has admitted to intentionally causing this kind of disruption, however, I am confident that the M-DCPS family will continue to show its resilience and commitment to education, in the face of adversity,” he said.
On Wednesday, Carvalho said the attacks were partially to blame for the massive slow down students and teachers have been facing since Monday when it comes to online learning. “Yesterday’s attacks, we know some of them came from outside of the country (and) we know some of these attacks came from local entities,” he said.

“It’s something that we have never dealt with, not only internally, but our local law enforcement partners haven’t either,” Lopez said.

The cyber attacks were part of the reason why it was announced Wednesday that teachers in grades 6 through 12 no longer had to use the K12 platform and are being allowed to now use Microsoft Teams to conduct online learning. Records show that Oliveros has no prior arrest history in the state of Florida.
Recon Project Update
2018-2019 Provider Reconciliations Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Underpaid providers</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overpaid providers</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Letters Sent</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Letters Sent Each Week

Reconciliation Timeline

- **PHASE 1:** Reconcile Providers
  - Status: Completed
- **PHASE 2:** Send Letters to Providers
  - Status: Completed
- **PHASE 3:** Reach Agreement with Providers
  - Status: In Progress
- **PHASE 4:** Collect Funds
  - Status: TBD
2018-2019 Reconciliations Agreed Upon by Provider
9/3/2020 Snapshot

Overpaid Providers Recap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid ELC Full Amount</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted Amount/Agreed*</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disputed Amount</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awaiting Approval for Extension</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>807</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Underpaid Providers Recap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted Amount/Agreed*</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disputed Amount</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These providers are pending review for payment.
School Readiness
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coalition</th>
<th>SR Waiting List as of July 1, 2020¹</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Waiting List²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Alachua County</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of the Big Bend Region</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Brevard</td>
<td>832</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Broward County</td>
<td>3,394</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Duval</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of the Emerald Coast</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Escambia County</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Flagler and Volusia Counties</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Florida’s Gateway</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Florida’s Heartland</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Hillsborough County</td>
<td>1,382</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Indian River, Martin, and Okhechobee Counties</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Lake County</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Manatee County</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Marion County</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Miami-Dade/Monroe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of the Nature Coast</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of North Florida</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Northwest Florida</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Orange County</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Osceola</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Palm Beach County</td>
<td>1,802</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Pinellas</td>
<td>1,317</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Polk County</td>
<td>1,213</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of St. Lucie</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Santa Rosa</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Sarasota</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Seminole County</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELC of Southwest Florida</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCMA</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>20,583</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Footnotes / Data Sources:

¹From EPS Modernization as of July 1, 2020. Number of children on the School Readiness Waiting List on July 1, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

²Each early learning coalition (ELC)’s proportionate percentage of children on its wait list compared to the total school readiness wait list statewide total.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Early Learning Coalition Executive Directors and Finance Directors

FROM: Shan Goff, Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2020-21 General Appropriations Act - $60 M Waiting List Verification Memo 2020-024

The Office of Early Learning (OEL) was provided a $60 million dollar allocation in Specific Appropriation 85 of Chapter 2020-131, Laws of Florida, to expand school readiness services to families currently on the school readiness waiting list. To be eligible for this funding, an early learning coalition (ELC) must have children on its Waiting List as of July 1, 2020. OEL pulled the attached School Reading Waiting List, reflecting the number of children by the coalition on the waiting list as of July 1 at 12:01 a.m. OEL convened a workgroup on August 21, 2020, comprised of a representative group of ELC Executive Directors across the state to discuss the waitlist data and verification process. The workgroup members confirmed that the attached waitlist is an accurate representation of the children on the waiting list in accordance with the legislative provisions.

The purpose of this memo is to provide instructions for all ELCs and ROA to review and verify the number of children on the School Readiness Waiting List as of July 1, 2020. ELCs are instructed to review the attached waiting list file to verify the number of children on the waiting list, and either confirm the total number of children or provide documentation to support any discrepancies within fourteen (14) calendar days and contact Rob Pope, Rob.Pope@SchoolMyFlorida.com. OEL will coordinate with ELCs as needed in order to complete review and verify data. The outcomes of the verification process will be incorporated into OEL’s allocation plan and methodology.

OEL’s allocation plan must be submitted to the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee by October 1, 2020.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter, and we look forward to allocating these funds to serve additional children on the waiting list.

SG/gp

Attachment
Inclusion and Assessment: Voluntary Prekindergarten Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS) and Teletherapy

Anabel Espinosa, Ph.D., Director
Research, Evaluation and Assessment
Florida VPK: Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS)

**Eligibility**
- Have a current Individualized Education Plan from local school district
- Age 4 before Sept. 1 of program year
- Florida resident
- Not Gardiner Scholarship recipient

**Applying**
- Collect proof of residency, child’s proof of age and child’s IEP
- Call Warm-Line
  - Miami-Dade Warm-Line
  - (786) 433-3095
  - Monroe Warm-Line
  - (786) 417-4021

**Preapproved Services**
- Licensed speech pathologists
- Licensed occupational therapist
- Licensed physical therapists
- Licensed clinical social workers
- Licensed psychologists
- Other specialized services as identified in IEP

**Service Provision**
- Group therapy
- Individual therapy
- Face to Face
  - Home Based
  - Clinic Based
  - Center Based
- Virtual/Telehealth

**Time Frame**
- School Year
  - No earlier than 14 days before Labor Day until June 30
- Summer
  - No earlier than May 1 ending 15 days before Labor Day

**Payments**
- Parent certifies that services were received by dating and initialing schedule of services
- The provider pays SIS provider once service invoice is received.
Teletherapy

• What is Teletherapy?
  ▪ Therapy treatment provided through a live, audio-visual connection over the internet.

• What are the benefits of teletherapy?
  ▪ Helps ensure consistent treatment
  ▪ Parent caregiver involvement is promoted
  ▪ Promotes carry over of functional skills in child’s natural environment
  ▪ Delivery model allows for more flexibility
  ▪ Provides greater access to qualified providers
  ▪ Fills gaps in service areas
Monroe County Updates
Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)
• As of August 27 there were 353 approved VPK certificates for Fall 2020-2021. VPK classes in the Monroe school district will all resume face to face instruction by Sept 11.
• All VPK programs in private centers are expected to be open by Sept 8.

School Readiness (SR)
• Pending SR applicants in the queue are pulled daily in Monroe to expedite the process.
• 56 First responder families (total of 81 children) are currently receiving services.
• All Monroe contracted sites are open except school-based locations.
Grants/Meetings/Misc.

• Recently distributed a thermometer and 2 bottles of hand sanitizer to all School Readiness providers in the Keys.
• Health department donated 100 child sized masks for the childcare centers in the County.
• Recently started discussions with community partners about the possibility of Holiday Helpers this year. Wesley House will not be spearheading the effort and has asked individual organizations to manage their own database of needy families. Monroe staff will develop a list of high need SR families and collaborate with the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office and other community partners to acquire toys/bikes/gift cards etc.
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Educate All
- Neediest Children
- Providers
Professional Development Institute

Train With PDI 2020
#LetsTrainTogether

For more information please visit http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
Virtual Children First Conference 2020

Register at:

http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
COVID-19 Charting the Course for Child Care Summit

4 hrs.
302 Participants
Early Child Care Business Owners Panel led by Robyn Perlman BLI

Three Sessions:
- Budget Planning and Forecasting: Surviving and Thriving in Spite of Covid-19
- Emergency Planning and Messaging
- Business Risk and Resiliency: Taking Care of You and Your Business

Recording and Resources available at: http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
Professional Development Institute
Miami-Dade/Monroe Training Participants

Dec 2019 - March 15, 2020
1096 Monroe Participants

March 16 - June 30, 2020
7327 Monroe Participants
Online Professional Development

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

Resources and Courses for COVID-19

- What Early Childhood Professionals Need to Know About COVID-19 Coronavirus: 1.5 Hours (In-Service Hours)
- Food Safety During COVID-19 Coronavirus: 1.5 Hours (In-Service Hours)
- Domestic Violence Issues and Awareness: 30 Minutes (In-Service Hours)
- Behavioral and Mental Health Considerations: 1.5 Hours (In-Service Hours)
- Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting: 2 Hours (In-Service Hours)
- Reopening Your Program After Coronavirus - Operational and Legal Considerations: 2.5 Hours (In-Service Hours)

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

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

English and Spanish
Starting Date: 10/13/2020

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

National CDA Credential para Hogares de Cuidado y Educación Infantil (Edades 0-5)

Registración abierta

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

Number of Slots Available: 40
Monroe Providers Registered: 2
Virtual Instruction for Teachers
(English and Spanish Courses available)

Register at:
http://trainings.elcmdm.org/
MyTeachingStrategies™ Subscriptions

Teachers and caregivers explore the Creative Curriculum and GOLD® 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
MyTeachstone™ Subscriptions

For more details on how to obtain access please contact the Professional Development Institute email at:
professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org
PDI Contact Information

Visit our website: trainings.elcmdm.org

Email us: professionaldevelopment@elcmdm.org

Call us: 305 646-7220 ext. 2350, 2320 or 2511
Belkis Torres
Vice President for Early Head Start

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Educate All
• Neediest Children
• Providers
July 2020 Enrollment

JULY 2020

ENROLLED

VACANT

750
### July 2020 Attendance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>America's Little Leaders</td>
<td>29.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Academy</td>
<td>7.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Of The Sun Academy</td>
<td>29.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's A Small World II</td>
<td>50.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's A Small World VII</td>
<td>26.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Small World Learning Center</td>
<td>48.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinder Kids Academy III</td>
<td>14.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinderland 4 Kids</td>
<td>15.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty Academy</td>
<td>34.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Marti - 102</td>
<td>30.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Marti - 450</td>
<td>48.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Marti - 905</td>
<td>50.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ones Academy</td>
<td>12.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Red School House</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORD'S Learning Center, Inc.</td>
<td>49.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Gardens Learning Center</td>
<td>40.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Little Angels Day Care Center</td>
<td>22.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narainji Prep Academy Annex</td>
<td>40.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Aladdin Learning Center</td>
<td>20.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Little Hands Of Love</td>
<td>33.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink And Blue Academy</td>
<td>55.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prodous Moments Learning Ctr.</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Intergenerational</td>
<td>48.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheyes Of Miami #3</td>
<td>33.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheyes Of Miami Learning Center</td>
<td>48.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shores School</td>
<td>51.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springblow Academy</td>
<td>19.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Above</td>
<td>65.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Carter Academy I</td>
<td>57.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Carter Academy II</td>
<td>50.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wynwood Learning Center II</td>
<td>36.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Learning Coalition</td>
<td>77.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Snack</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>America's Little Leaders</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cambridge Academy</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children Of The Sun Academy</strong></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It's A Small World II</strong></td>
<td>242</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>It's A Small World VII</strong></td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kids Small World Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindergarten Academy I</strong></td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kindergarten Academy III</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liberty Academy</strong></td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln Marti 102</strong></td>
<td>176</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln Marti - 450</strong></td>
<td>685</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lincoln Marti - 905</strong></td>
<td>161</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Little Ones Academy</strong></td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Little Red School House</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LORD's Learning Center, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>239</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miami Gardens Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>228</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>My Little Angels Day Care Center</strong></td>
<td>277</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Naranja Prep Academy Annex</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Aladdin Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>370</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Our Little Hands Of Love</strong></td>
<td>103</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pink And Blue Academy</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Precious Moments Learning Ctr.</strong></td>
<td>401</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rainbow Intergenerational</strong></td>
<td>177</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheyes Of Miami #3</strong></td>
<td>171</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sheyes Of Miami Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>342</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shores School</strong></td>
<td>332</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Springview Academy</strong></td>
<td>302</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step Above</strong></td>
<td>82</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Carter Academy I</strong></td>
<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Carter Academy II</strong></td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wynwood Learning Center II</strong></td>
<td>260</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Learning Coalition</strong></td>
<td>5,715</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>5,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Report Totals</strong></td>
<td>5,715</td>
<td>5,724</td>
<td>5,688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Report Totals**

- **Breakfast**: 5,715 meals
- **Lunch**: 5,724 meals
- **Snack**: 5,688 meals

**July 2020 Meals**
“Li’l Foodies” Cook-Along Class

• Early Head Start has introduced virtual cooking class for entire family, streaming live on YouTube
• Sessions 1 and 2 took place on July 24th and September 4th respectively
• Recipes with list of ingredients, along with suggested activities for children (mashing, mixing, measuring, spreading, etc.), in English and Spanish are sent in advance for participants to prepare and follow along
• Sessions are held in both English and Spanish
**Pita Pizza**

These pizzas are quick and easy, kid friendly and will get your whole family prepping away, even the little ones will get to pile on toppings, spoon the sauce and taste test this recipe!

**Ingredients:**
- 2 pita breads/flatties
- ¾ cup pizza sauce (pasta sauce or marinara sauce)
- 2 oz mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1 cup arugula
- Other toppings as you wish (peppers, colorful bell peppers, olives, etc.) to taste

**Directions:**
1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Spread ¼ cup pizza sauce on top of the pits about ⅛ inch away from the edges.
3. Place your chosen toppings on top (except for arugula, it should go on after the pizza is toasted/baked).
4. Sprinkle shredded cheese on top.
5. Bake in the oven for 10-15 minutes.

**Activities for children:**
- Stir the sauce in a measuring cup
- Spoon and spread the sauce on the pita
- Sprinkle toppings
- Spread the cheese over the pizzas

---

**Yogurt and Berry Parfaits**

Healthy and delicious dessert which can also be a breakfast or any time snack! Yes, packed with protein for growth, vitamins and minerals for health and whole grains as a source of heart-healthy fiber, this treat will become your family’s new favorite.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1 Tbsp honey or maple syrup
- 1 cup mixed berries (sliced strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, blackberries or sliced peaches)
- 1 cup granola

**Tools:**
- Glass or clear plastic glasses

**Directions:**
1. In a small bowl, whisk yogurt and honey (or maple syrup) until smooth. Spoon ¼ of the yogurt-honey mix into each glass. Top with ¼ cup berries, followed by 1 Tbsp granola.
2. Repeat layering process with remaining yogurt, berries, and granola. When you are done, you should have 2 layers of yogurt, berries, and granola.

**Activities for children:**
- Measure out and stir yogurt with honey or maple syrup
- Place layers of each ingredient into glasses
Percentage of Identified Children with Special Needs

Early Learning Coalition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/1/20</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSP</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (IEP + IFSP)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Funded</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Social Emotional Support

2019-2020 Program Year

- Hours of Mental Health Professional on Site: 385 Hours
- Number Child Specific Consultations: 178 Consultations
- Number Classroom Consultations: 97 Consultations
The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start offered a new support group for parents in June to help navigate the current COVID-19 crisis. It included facilitated discussion to explore how to manage the various emotional and psychological difficulties that are arising in response to this event. Parents shared emotions, felt validated, as well as gained strength and encouragement from each other. A common thread of emotions parents shared experiencing is fear of obtaining the virus and sending children to child care centers.
The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start offered a new support group for EHS teachers in July to help navigate the current COVID-19 crisis. It included facilitated discussion to explore how to manage the various emotional and psychological difficulties that are arising in response to this event. Teachers shared emotions, felt validated, as well as gained strength and encouragement from each other. The support group ended with a mindfulness practice.
The Self-Care September Action Calendar was shared with staff and families to remind them self-care isn’t selfish, it’s essential. Self-care increases our resilience and helps us get more out of life. See the calendar for ways to practice self-care.
Diaper, Clothes, Wipes, and Formula Distribution

Thanks to our partners at the Miami Diaper Bank, the program was able to provide diapers to 114 families within the past 3 weeks. Of the 114 families:

- 62 also received clothing;
- 60 received wipes; and
- 4 received formula

(this is what parents are sharing)

Thanks so much for this help that is needed at this time.

I greatly appreciate the pampers, wipes and all the help and support from this program. Thank you.

I would like to thank you for this donation since we haven’t been working for a while.

Thank you so much. During these times, diapers are so appreciated! Thank you.

As a parent this donation has come in great need and I truly appreciate it. Thank you so much.

Thank you so much! This is a blessing and we are all extremely grateful.

Grateful for the program. This is a big help especially during this time.

Your agency has truly been a blessing to my family. From the bottom of my heart we want to thank your team for what you are doing in the community! XOXO

Thank you all for this donation. It is truly appreciated, during these hard times. God Bless.

Thank you for everything!! This will go a long way.
State Lawmaker, CEO Of Early Learning Nonprofit: Child Care Providers 'Need Help'

WLRN 91.3 FM | By Jessica Bakeman
Published September 2, 2020 at 11:00 AM EDT

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the child care sector. Child care providers throughout Florida are in crisis, facing declining enrollment, lost revenue and the threat of having to close their doors for good.

Reflected nationwide, this financial crisis is exacerbated here because of a technical glitch two years ago that led the Florida Department of Education to issue overpayments to providers — money that now has to be paid back.

While child care centers are private businesses, some of them also receive public funding, both for administering state-funded Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten classes and for offering a federal program that helps kids from low-income families get ready for school.

Vance Aloupis recently spoke to WLRN about the challenges facing these businesses. Aloupis is CEO of The Children’s Movement of Florida, a nonprofit advocating for better education and health care for young kids, and a Republican member of the state House of Representatives — whose district includes a part of Miami-Dade County.
There’s another complicating factor for child care providers in Florida. Because of a data glitch at the state level in recent years, providers received overpayments and soon they'll have to pay that money back.

Yeah. So in 2018, the [Florida Department of Education’s] Office of Early Learning released a data system that, essentially, is supposed to be used to track attendance for our early learning system. And through the last year, because of glitches in that system, they were not able to get accurate numbers. So they were paying child care centers out based upon enrollment rather than attendance.

Now that the system is apparently working, they're going back and looking to see: Do the attendance numbers line up with the enrollment numbers? And because the enrollment numbers are significantly higher — because obviously, if a child misses five or six days, you're not going to be paid those five or six days, if it's based upon attendance — the state is now asking for those dollars back.

WLRN: The CARES Act, one of the federal stimulus bills during the pandemic, included more than $200 million for child care providers in Florida. The state has decided to keep about [$70 million] of that in reserve. And I understand your group is advocating for the state to distribute that money as soon as possible. Can you explain why?

VANCE ALOUPIS: The dollars that are coming in — we believe that those need to be pushed into the communities as quickly as possible, because what we're hearing from the providers is: 'We need help.' Their enrollment is down tremendously. At one point, in Miami-Dade County — which was a higher rate than elsewhere in the state — almost 80 percent of our child care was closed.

They still have to pay the rent for their space. They're still trying to pay their teachers. They still have to pay their insurance. They have to pay for the cleaning of the facility. So all of the expenses that come with running an early learning center remain. But the revenue has gone away, because the centers are now trying to operate on an enrollment that is, you know, 40, 50 percent less than what it was five or six months ago.

The following is an excerpt of the conversation, which has been edited for length and clarity:
So what I would be asking lawmakers to do now is, from a financial standpoint, making sure that the system has the dollars it needs to survive these next six months. The legislative session for 2021 is not going to start until March. Do you think the Legislature should consider a special session to deal with these economic realities?

The financial issue, the funding issue, I believe is going to be a federal issue. The amount of money that the system is going to need to make its way through this pandemic — it is a multi-billion dollar investment.

As we move into 2021, and we move into the legislative session, I think we're going to have to have a serious conversation about the more structural challenges of early learning, the quality challenges. But I think the necessity right now is doing everything we can to advocate at the federal level to make sure those dollars are available.

Now, my understanding is that they are going to defer the payments out until 2021. And that, rather than having to pay back dollars that some of these centers may not have, they may withhold payment. The department has agreed that they will not withhold more than 10 percent of a center's total revenue for a given month. But it could not come at a worse time. With every child care center really struggling day-by-day, for the state to now ask for dollars back is just another burden that they have to overcome.

So in addition to being a children's advocate, you're also a member of the state Legislature. What can lawmakers do to help child care providers survive?

The same challenges you're seeing in the K-12 space — they're somewhat exacerbated in the early learning space because: Your 17-year-old may be able to stay home while you go to work. You can't leave your 3-year-old at home if you're called back to work. And people are going to need high-quality child care. There is a necessity for it.
Communications Updates
Communications

• Creation of Facebook Group for Early Learning Partners
  ▪ [https://www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyLearningPartners/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyLearningPartners/)

• Early Care and Education Partners Weekly Update Webinar
  ▪ Meetings conducted in English and Spanish

• Univision Facebook Live event
  ▪ Board Members Gladys Montes and Jenni Roig were panel participants
  ▪ Event was on August 13 and focused on COVID impact on early learning and virtual learning for pre-school children
When COVID-19 hit, most of Miami-Dade’s child care centers were forced to close, crippling an industry whose workers are already among the lowest paid. Many have since limped back.

More than 900 of the 1,448 programs under contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELC) are up and running, with the remaining 532 closed until further notice.

The award-winning Liberty Academy Daycare has managed to keep the lights on for almost the entire time. Enrollment may be half of what it was pre-pandemic, but its commitment to providing the highest quality early childhood education hasn’t wavered.

“We thought that opening an early childhood education program in an underserved community would be the best way for us to give back,” said Liberty Academy co-founder and chief operating officer Maurice Brazier. “It’s just a commitment that we have to our students – we don’t just give up on [them].”

The center closed for two weeks in March, just until it obtained enough personal protection equipment for staff. It now serves about 80 students.
Unlike the Braziers, most program owners did not have the resources to keep operating during the pandemic, made worse by murky or nonexistent guidelines from the state.

Notwithstanding warnings released by the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Governor Ron DeSantis has emphasized what he believes to be the “low risk” of children contracting COVID-19. His position is reflected in the lack of pandemic regulations and protocols at early learning facilities. Many early learning coalitions took it upon themselves to create plans of action as the normal school year approaches.

“In terms of any state regulations or rules on how the childcare program can operate in a pandemic, there really aren’t any,” said Jackye Russell, senior vice president of communications at the ELC.

The organization released a “New Normal Guide” in June detailing instructions for students and teachers to follow, including operating classrooms with 10 or fewer students and disinfecting touch points every two to three hours.

“Sarah [Brazier’s wife] and I operate this program like a business, whereby you know we’re customer and family focused,” said Brazier. “I think we really maintain a very clean and very safe facility.”

Liberty Academy has served approximately 1,700 children since it opened in 2006. Sarah, a former assistant vice president at Lucent Technologies, frequently volunteered at the St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth & Families in Washington, D.C., before she and Maurice got married. He volunteered alongside her whenever she spent time there.

The couple was looking for a way to serve a similar community when they came upon an opportunity to start their own program in Miami. That’s how they landed in Liberty City. The Braziers have prevailed on offering high-quality education and experiences for its students for the past 14 years, earning them a program of the year designation in 2015 by The Children’s Trust.
That’s all still to be worked out,” said Russell.

The local ELC currently offers a special voucher for free care exclusively for first responders and healthcare workers but stopped accepting new applications for such applicants as of July 1.

While the pandemic continues to impede its enrollment numbers, Liberty Academy is offering alternate ways for parents to access educational materials. Parents can choose to enroll their children in strictly virtual learning, a hybrid model where students can come in some days out of the week, or full-time in-person instruction.

“It’s really hard what we’re going to do for the rest of the year,” said Brazier. “But safety is going to be our number one concern.”

HELPING HANDS

The faces and stories of those who are feeding the community during COVID-19 - and those who are dealing with the impact firsthand

Helping Hands | Interview With Belkis Torres, Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

The Miami Diaper Bank works with partner organizations to identify families in need. The Early Learning Coalition is one of those organizations.
Countywide VPK Options Not Yet Rolled Out

Many parents of pre-K students are weighing their options for how to get the best and safest education for their kids. Though many parents are opting to keep their preschoolers home this year, countywide virtual VPK options have not yet been rolled out. NBC 6's Sasha Jones reports.

Here We Come!

Family Activities Calendar

2020 The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe 2021
Welcome to VPK!

December marks the beginning of the academic year. As the first day of VPK (−Prekindergarten) CM begins, glad to welcome you and your child. The VPK skill-related activities included in this calendar can help to encourage your child to take an active interest in learning and will help you guide your child to a successful transition to kindergarten.

School readiness is more than counting 123, knowing your ABCs, or identifying colors and shapes. Children who are ready for kindergarten demonstrate independence, are social and resilient to others their age, and can communicate with purpose and understanding. They are engaged and show the development of a love of learning. It is important to understand that no two children are the same. All children develop these skills in their own time.

Included in this calendar you will find an introduction to important skills your child needs to be successful in kindergarten. We hope you will enjoy using this resource to help strengthen your child’s development, parenting, and child care resources, and recommended books to read to your child.

Board of Directors

Officers
Adrian Nineca, Chair
Kheelan Ross
Osbaldo Perez, Vice Chair
Department of Children and Families
Robert Ballester, Treasurer
Monroe County Health Department
Mauro L. Paredes, Secretary
Miami-Dade County Deputy Mayor

Ex-Officio Member
Linda Taylor
Monroe County School District

Members
Raphael A. Alvarado
Concrete Science Foundation
Lorenz Cervi
Eastman South Florida Program for Children with Disabilities Representative
Harold D. Coggin
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Jamie Hay
The Children’s Trust

Jane MacQueen
Miami Dade County
J. Pablo Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Centro Maternal Child Care Services
Fiscal Board Representative
June H. Rill
Child Care Public Representative
Joyce Simson
Miami Dade College

Private Sector Business Members
Sandra Swiney
SouthEast Leadership Network, Inc.
Matthew Burns
MedStar Jamaica, NY
Joyce R. Lawrence, M.D.
Jacee T. Community Health Center

Chuck Mix
Ferndale LLC
Oseley Montessori
United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education

Dana Hagan-Hendry
State Director

Diane M. Stovall
Stovall Children’s

Carole K. Schreiner
Cathy H. Schwartz

Ariana Silber
Helena H. Kright, LLP

Alexander Sato
WEA International Finance Bank

Community at Large Member
Francis A. Alexander, M.D.
Early Head Start Policy Council

Founding Chair
David Larson
The Children’s Movement of Florida

www.cldmd.org