I. Welcome & Introductions (9:15-9:20) Mara Zapata
II. CEO Report (9:20-9:50) Evelio Torres
III. Presentation (9:50-10:10) Abby Thorman
IV. Breakout Sessions (10:10-10:55)
V. Break Out Group Reports (10:55-11:55)
VI. Next Steps (11:55-12:15) Adrian Alfonso
VII. Public Comments Mara Zapata
VIII. Meeting Adjourn Mara Zapata
Children First
CHILDREN FIRST: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe
2015-2016

OUR MISSION
To promote high-quality inclusive school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten 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 before birth through age 5.

OUR VISION
CHILDREN FIRST
To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

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 education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.
PARTNERSHIP - We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.
ADVOCACY - We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by their passion, strength and dedication to children.
EXCELLENCE - When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. 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 SERVICE - 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 - In working with parents, families, providers, and partners, we are committed to the principle of equity and balance, so that all may benefit from the work we do, while keeping children first.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

NEEDEST CHILDREN
Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, and include children with developmental and other delays and disabilities

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

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN
Receiving subsidies to permit higher quality services to those enrolled

PARENT/FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY
Identify methods of encouraging self-sufficiency

YOUNGEST CHILDREN
Offer a continuum of care from before birth to age 8, focusing on the youngest

TARGET AGES
Set targets for after school care for children over 9 and 6-8 years of age

AGE-BASED RATES
Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children

PARENT ACCOUNTABILITY
Offer incentives for parents to become more accountable

EDUCATE ALL
Educate all families and children about the benefits of early learning

PARENTAL CHOICE
Educate parents to choose child care centers that ensure better outcomes for their children

VISIBILITY
Achieve increased visibility throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information

PROVIDERS
Improve ELC relationship with providers and provider performance

CHILD CARE PROGRAM STANDARDS
Establish standards for child care providers and enforce them

PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT RATES
Determine optimum rates to attract higher quality providers

TEACHER EDUCATION
Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials

FEWER PROVIDERS
Drop low-performing providers

TECHNICAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE
Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas

EDUCATE PROVIDERS
About responsibilities to include children with disabilities, and provide them with the training and resources to do so

QUALITY COUNTS
Enroll all centers wanting to participate in the ELC program

INTERNAL CAPACITY
Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals

ADVOCACY
Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children and promote community awareness of the ELC

COUNCIL OF PARTNERS
Establish regular meetings with partners

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 Children’s Services Council with dedicated funding

Good Progress
Some Progress
No Progress
Requires Policy Change
NEEDIEST CHILDREN
Target Neediest Areas

- **1400 invitations sent to families on the waitlist** for potential enrollment in School Readiness program.
- **17 providers in high need zip codes receive contracted slot funding** to align their infant/toddler rates to 10% above the 75th percentile of the market rate.

All licensed or religious license-exempt early learning programs in Miami-Dade County are eligible to participate in **Quality Counts. However, the focus is on the priority programs.**

A priority program is located in a low income census tract {LICT} and/or serving 30% or more of children receiving SR funds.

**Support Grants** are available only for programs that provide services to children receiving subsidy from School Readiness.

To be eligible to apply for QC
1. Program must have been in operation for at least 1 year (licensed for over 1 year)
2. Program must meet the ELC Child Safety Licensing Policy
   - May not have one (1) Class I licensing violation or more than three (3) Class II licensing violations of the same substandard in the past 12 months
3. Program cannot have a probationary license
New Enrollments Processed for FY 16-17

- Invitations Sent: 885 Families (900 Children)
- Invitations Returned: 675
- Invitations Not Returned: 210
- Approved: 417 (62%) Families
- Ineligible: 196 (29%) Families
- Pending Documents or Revision: 62 (9%) Families
Quality Counts Programs
Total: 407
Miami-Dade County, Florida
Accredited Programs
Total: 6
Monroe County, Florida

Please note: Treasure Village & St. James are very close together. They are shown as one check mark on this map.

Source: ELCC
Updated: 1/1/2016
Target Neediest Areas

• Early Head Start serves 750 children and families in high poverty zip codes designated by the federal government, including Opa-locka, Liberty City, Brownsville, Overtown, Little Havana, Homestead, Naranja and Goulds.

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<th>33034</th>
<th>33054</th>
<th>33127</th>
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<td>33147</td>
<td>33150</td>
<td>33176</td>
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• Early Head Start Expansion Grant
  • The expansion grant will serve 250 additional children in 14 high poverty zip codes (below) located in Hialeah, Homestead, Little Havana, Liberty City, Miami-Gardens, North Miami, and Opa-Locka.

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<th>33012</th>
<th>33030</th>
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<th>33034</th>
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<td>33147</td>
<td>33157</td>
<td>33161</td>
<td>33170</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Target Neediest Areas

Quality improvement accomplished in the following ways in Early Head Start:

- Lower adult-child ratios
- Higher education opportunities for teachers
- Facilities improvement
- Sensory screenings for infants and toddlers
- Ongoing assessments of infants and toddlers
- Identifying risks and protective factors of families through a family assessment
- Establishing family goals
- Coordination of comprehensive services through professional and personalized case management
- Referrals and treatment for children with developmental delays and/or medical concerns
- Research-based parenting curriculum
- Research-based educational curriculum for infants and toddlers
- Support with NAEYC accreditation
- Community improvement through community consortiums and EHS Parent Policy Council
Increase the Number of Children (Special Needs)

- The percentage of children with special needs participating in both the Early Head Start and School Readiness programs has increased.

- Procedures have been implemented to identify children with special needs at intake and during the developmental screening process.

- Provider training and capacity to care for children with special needs remain challenges.
Reduce the Number of Children (Quantity vs. Quality) Discard

- Enrollment of new children is closely aligned with the state mandated enrollment priorities. This limits the age of new children from income eligible families who enter the School Readiness program.

- Children end their participation in the School Readiness Program at kindergarten entry to allow for younger children on the waitlist to access services.
Parent/Family Self-sufficiency

- Change in federal requirements allow families to receive services for 12 months before a redetermination is required.
- Families who lose their job or their educational program are provided an additional 3 months of care to re-establish eligibility for the program.
- Early Head Start provides career assistance and support for gainful employment to families who are unemployed.
- Children from families transitioning from cash assistance to a work program are maintained in care until they are eligible for entry into kindergarten.
Target Ages

Discard

- School Readiness program policy aligned with state enrollment priorities and focuses on children birth to the age of kindergarten entry
- Federal law requires that children from a family receiving cash assistance continue services until their 13\textsuperscript{th} birthday
- Enrollment priorities are set forth in Florida Statute 1002.87

Monroe County Age Groups
- BG8 (Working Poor): Eligible up to age 9 at program entry; retain in the program up to age 13
- BG1 (At-Risk): Eligible up to age 13
1002.87 School readiness program; eligibility and enrollment.—
(1) Effective August 1, 2013, or upon reevaluation of eligibility for children currently served, whichever is later, each early learning coalition shall give priority for participation in the school readiness program as follows:
(a) Priority shall be given first to a child younger than 13 years of age from a family that includes a parent who is receiving temporary cash assistance under chapter 414 and subject to the federal work requirements.
(b) Priority shall be given next to an at-risk child younger than 9 years of age.
(c) Priority shall be given next to a child from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, and may include such child’s eligible siblings, beginning with the school year in which the sibling is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. until the beginning of the school year in which the sibling is eligible to begin 6th grade, provided that the first priority for funding an eligible sibling is local revenues available to the coalition for funding direct services. However, a child eligible under this paragraph ceases to be eligible if his or her family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
(d) Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.
(e) Priority shall be given next to an at-risk child who is at least 9 years of age but younger than 13 years of age. An at-risk child whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program within an eligibility priority category listed in paragraphs (a)-(c) shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph.

(f) Priority shall be given next to a child who is younger than 13 years of age from a working family that is economically disadvantaged. A child who is eligible under this paragraph whose sibling is enrolled in the school readiness program under paragraph (c) shall be given priority over other children who are eligible under this paragraph. However, a child eligible under this paragraph ceases to be eligible if his or her family income exceeds 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

(g) Priority shall be given next to a child of a parent who transitions from the work program into employment as described in s. 445.032 who is younger than 13 years of age.

(h) Priority shall be given next to a child who has special needs, has been determined eligible as a student with a disability, has a current individual education plan with a Florida school district, and is not younger than 3 years of age. A special needs child eligible under this paragraph remains eligible until the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2.

(i) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a)-(d), priority shall be given last to a child who otherwise meets one of the eligibility criteria in paragraphs (a)-(d) but who is also enrolled concurrently in the federal Head Start Program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program.
Age-based Rates

- **Contracted Slots** funded with $1.9 million dollar allocation increases provider’s infant and toddler reimbursement rates.

- Last **rate increase** provided the highest percentage to the youngest children.
## Age-based Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
<th>Avg. Reimbursement Rate</th>
<th>Percent of 75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
<td>$128.58</td>
<td>71.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>$195.00</td>
<td>$145.10</td>
<td>72.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>$160.00</td>
<td>$138.80</td>
<td>71.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$116.11</td>
<td>72.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>83.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>$185.00</td>
<td>$127.39</td>
<td>68.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>$227.63</td>
<td>$143.84</td>
<td>63.19%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: Florida Department of Education – 2015 Market Rate Report
Age-based Rates

Toddler

Source: Florida Department of Education – 2015 Market Rate Report
Age-based Rates

Preschool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>75th Percentile</th>
<th>Avg. Reimbursement Rate</th>
<th>Percent of 75th Percentile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
<td>$95.56</td>
<td>68.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>$159.25</td>
<td>$114.66</td>
<td>72.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>$140.75</td>
<td>$93.31</td>
<td>66.29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>$130.05</td>
<td>$92.07</td>
<td>70.79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$101.94</td>
<td>67.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
<td>$97.56</td>
<td>69.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>$180.00</td>
<td>$102.60</td>
<td>57.00%</td>
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</table>

Source: Florida Department of Education – 2015 Market Rate Report
The most prominent discussion has been about paying the parent copayment so that parents have a monetary incentive to place their children in high quality programs.

- Funding, politics and policy have been the main barriers to implementation.
- Many parents continue to select child care based on two main factors: cost and convenience.

Educating parents on the benefits of choosing an accredited or Quality Counts program continues to be a priority and a challenge.
EDUCATE ALL
Parental Choice

• Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) provides preferred provider list (accredited or QC) to every family. Preferred providers are those that are accredited and/or participating in Quality Counts.

• Ongoing community outreach efforts.

• Contracted with Public Relations firm to assist in development of public information campaign to promote the benefits of high-quality programs.

• Limited high-quality choices and depressed reimbursement tuition and School Readiness reimbursement rates in high need communities continue to be challenges for many families.

• Higher quality providers concerned that market saturation without pay for performance encourages race to the bottom. No minimum criteria other than licensing to obtain a SR contract. Need change in policy.
Visibility

- **CEO outreach in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties include:**
  - Rotary Clubs
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - Provider Visits
  - Media Interviews
  - ELC Videos
  - Legislative Visits to Miami-Dade and Monroe legislators

- **Community outreach activities include:**
  - Read for the Record
  - Book Distribution at all ELC Service Centers
  - Book Distribution to community groups such as Miami Children’s Initiative and Read to Learn Book Club
  - The Children’s Trust Family Expo
  - Children’s Week at Miami Children’s Museum
  - Collaboration with Univision: *Pequenos y Valioso*
Childcare Program Standards

- **BOD established a licensing violations review process** that can lead to providers receiving technical assistance, being placed on probation or contract termination.

- **Compliance requirements have been incrementally increased** by the legislature.

- **Public Policy:** Early learning Health and Safety bill failed to pass in 2014 and 2015. Quality bill was scheduled for 2016 but was not filed.

- Board should explore **increasing local requirements** to obtain a School Readiness contract.
98.40(b)(1) specifically states that a Lead Agency (DOE/OEL) is not prohibited from imposing more stringent standards and licensing or regulatory requirements on child care providers serving children receiving subsidies. Pursuant to 45 CFR §98.41, Lead Agencies must also establish health and safety requirements applicable to child care providers that serve children receiving subsidies. A Lead Agency may incorporate licensing, health and safety requirements, and other quality standards for child care providers within its jurisdiction (including those that serve children receiving subsidies) into a quality improvement system. **In fact, CCDF regulations at 45 CFR§98.33 require Lead Agencies to collect and disseminate to parents and the general public consumer education information that will promote informed child care choices across a range of providers.** To the extent that quality improvement systems assess and rate the quality of child care settings, these systems provide an important mechanism for meeting this requirement.
Parental choice provisions within CCDF regulations are intended to guarantee parents ability to choose from different categories of care (center, group, family, and in-home) and types of providers (non-profit, for-profit, sectarian, and relatives). However, the parental choice provisions do not require Lead Agencies to pay for child care that does not meet jurisdictional standards of high quality that support children’s health, safety, and development. For many Lead Agencies that have established quality improvement systems, a rating level of 1 (or its equivalent) is often associated with minimum licensing and regulatory requirements for child care providers. CCDF regulations at 45 CFR § 98.40(b) specifically permit Lead Agencies to establish higher standards, above minimum licensing requirements, for providers serving children receiving subsidies. A Lead Agency may choose to incorporate those standards into a quality improvement system.
Provider Reimbursement Rates Tied to Performance Standards

• **Performance Funding Program Pilot** established performance criteria that rewards providers who meet certain performance standards.

• Program is voluntary.

• **Performance Funding Program Pilot** may lead to policy change if effectively implemented with the quantifiable outcomes the legislature has requested.

• Contracted Slots rules require providers who are in the Performance Funding Program to remain in good standing in that program to receive the contracted slots funding.
Provider Reimbursement Rates

Discard

See Age Based Rates section
Teacher Education

- Quality Counts training for 2,007 teachers
- VPK training for 2,002 teachers
- ‘Let’s Move’ training for 600 teachers
- Structured Physical Activity Training: 150 teachers
- Inclusion training for 488 teachers
- Specialized training for 135 teachers in Monroe County
- More than 750 teachers received training at the Children First Conference
- 110 teachers, directors and owners attended the Monroe conference in May 2016
- Communitywide Training 346 early childhood practitioners
Fewer Providers

- Providers who do not meet state requirements or performance standards can be terminated for a period of five (5) years.
- Local policy allows for termination of providers who receive one (1) Class I or three (3) or more Class II violations in the same substandard during the fiscal year.
- Determinations on provider terminations are under the sole purview of the Board’s Review Hearing Committee.
- Creating barriers to entry continues to be a challenge in the legislature, but support continues to grow from providers and provider associations.
- Common definition of Quality continues to be elusive.
Technical Business Assistance
Small Business Workshop sponsored by Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Shultz, FP&L, Wells Fargo, Becker & Poliakoff and others

• Four intensive Saturday sessions followed by a Saturday conference and graduation ceremony. The last graduation was held on June 11th at the Broward County Convention Center.

Coursework focuses on:
• Roadmap to Early Learning Business Planning
• Best Practices in Labor and Employment Law
• Operating Early Childcare Businesses in Underserved Communities
• Linking School to Community: Working with Your Elementary Principals
• Taking the Next Step: Buying or Selling an Early Learning Center
• Early Childhood Investment in Florida: Advocacy and A Call To Action
• Negotiation and Real Estate: Five Tips for Success
• Marketing with Social Media
• Seminars/ Consultation

Data
• 39 providers from Miami-Dade have participated (sponsored by The Children’s Trust and the Early Learning Coalition.)
Technical Business Assistance

Early Childhood Program Administrator’s Institute (ECPAI)
Designed to elevate the quality of early childhood programs by enhancing management and leadership skills geared to Directors and Administrative staff. The leadership program is a three-course management and business training offered in English and Spanish for credit and Continuing Education Units (CEUs). Credit courses are provided through Miami Dade College and Nova Southeastern University at southern and central locations in Miami Dade County.

Coursework focuses on:
• Enhancing management and leadership skills
• Fiscal administration of an early childhood program
• Recruiting, selecting, and orienting staff
• Implementing shared decision making and participative management
• Understanding, conducting, and evaluating the effectiveness of meetings
• Finance, marketing, technology, programing and organizational structure

Data
Total number of programs including Family Child Care graduating this year is 68
Total number of participants currently completing the program this year is 104
Educate Providers

ELC Staff designed specialized training for providers:

• Inclusion Training: 488 Teachers (FY 2015-2016)
• Inclusion Training: 638 Teachers (FY 2016-2017)

Examples of courses include:

• Differentiating Instruction in the Classroom
• Special Education Laws and You
• I Spy: Red Flags in Preschoolers
• From Negative to Positive: Managing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom
Quality Counts

Discard
Advocacy

• Chair led effort for disclosure of carryover funding held by DOE/OEL. A good portion of that funding has now been released. Maintained good relationship with OEL leadership.
• CEO advocated for Performance Funding and Contracted slots.
• Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)
• Advocacy Partners: CMF, UW, TCT, AELC, ELAC and others led to policy changes and additional resources.
• Association of ELCs: Local and State Advocacy
• Early Learning Advisory Council: Local and State Advocacy
• Florida Chamber/Florida Chamber Foundation: State Advocacy
• First 1,000 Days Collaborative: State Advocacy
• Ongoing legislative advocacy by CEO and Leg. Committee.
Council of Partners

- Interagency Meetings (Department of Children & Families, USDA Child Care Food Program, Florida Department of Revenue Services)
- Quality Counts Partners
- Early Head Start Policy Council
- Miami Children’s Initiative Community Table
- Quarterly Monroe Advisory Committee Meetings
- Overtown Children and Youth Coalition
- Refugee Taskforce
- Early Head Start Interagency Meetings
- Owner’s Advisory Group
FUNDING
<table>
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<th>Funding Sources: 13</th>
<th>Grants: 19</th>
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<td><strong>Department of Education</strong></td>
<td><strong>School Readiness</strong> $115,207,859</td>
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<td><strong>Voluntary PreKindergarten</strong> $58,762,769</td>
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<td><strong>VPK Outreach</strong> $143,133</td>
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<td><strong>Performance Funding Pilot</strong> $978,017</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Children and Families</strong></td>
<td><strong>Refugee Services</strong> $2,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Quality Counts</strong> $3,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Quality Counts Administration</strong> $1,200,000</td>
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<td><strong>Child Care Executive Partnership</strong> $480,000</td>
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<td><strong>Early Head Start Match</strong> $650,000</td>
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<td><strong>The Children's Trust</strong></td>
<td><strong>Teenage Parent Program</strong> $1,000,000</td>
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<td><strong>Teenage Parent Program</strong> $45,000</td>
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<td><strong>Miami-Dade County Public Schools</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taking Steps to Healthy Success</strong> $281,556</td>
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<td><strong>Monroe County Public Schools</strong></td>
<td><strong>Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Children</strong> $150,000</td>
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<td><strong>CDC/Nemours Foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Learning Florida</strong> $157,000</td>
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<td><strong>University of South Florida</strong></td>
<td><strong>Classroom Mentoring for Upper and Middle Keys</strong> $30,000</td>
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<td><strong>University of Florida</strong></td>
<td><strong>Structured Physical Activity</strong> $78,717</td>
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<td><strong>Bainum Family Foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Upper Keys Professional Development</strong> $1,981</td>
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<td><strong>Health Foundation of South Florida</strong></td>
<td><strong>Annual Conference</strong> $6,500</td>
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<td><strong>Rotary Club of Upper Keys</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Head Start</strong> $9,694,650</td>
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<td><strong>Ocean Reef Foundation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong> $193,867,182</td>
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<td><strong>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grants: 19</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong> $193,867,182</td>
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Monroe County CSC

- Vote on adding a non-binding referendum to the November 2016 ballot on a tax on served alcohol and tobacco products to fund human services **tabled by Monroe Board of County Commissioners (MBOCC) on August 17, 2016.**

- Monroe BOCC realizes there is a better way to provide funding for Monroe’s most vulnerable citizens and **directed staff to pursue.**

- **Two years to prepare for a county-wide vote.**

- Monroe County **Mayor Heather Carruthers** continues support.

- **Poll** indicates some voters would support.

- As with any new publicly funded initiative, **concerns about higher taxes** expressed by community and some elected officials.
Community Outreach
50 Years of Early Head Start

Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason and Commissioner Vince Lago hosted The Early Learning Coalition of Miami- Dade/Monroe, a “super grantee” for Early Head Start, for planting of a rosebush to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Head Start

The planting ceremony took place on June 18 at the Coral Gables War Memorial Youth Center, 405 University Drive
Miami Gardens Trolley

The ELC petitioned to get a trolley stop designated for the North Service Center

With the support of Miami Gardens Councilman and former Early Learning Coalition board member David Williams, Miami Gardens approved the free trolley stop
On Wednesday, July 8, 2015 and Thursday, July 9, 2015 the Leading for Equity Institute held a two day Leading for Equity Retreat for our partners and sub-contractors in the Board Room of the main office.

This two day retreat included a total of seventy four (74) participants.
Leading for Equity Institute

The retreat included a *The Poverty Simulation: UNlte! Partners* (Unified Toward Equity) and a series of thought provoking discussions and purposeful group activities centered around poverty and educational equity. The responses from the retreat were overwhelmingly positive and many of the participants enjoyed the experience and were motivated to be proactive as leaders for equity in our community.
Photo gallery: 5th annual Overtown Music & Arts Festival | Sat., July

Maria Ledesma with her daughter Dana Valle, 8 months, left, talks with Delfina Ledesma, (no relation), during the 5th annual Overtown Music & Arts street festival on Saturday, July 25, 2015. Delfina Ledesma is a family advocate for the Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start, a division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade and Monroe.

AL DIAZ / MIAMI HERALD STAFF
OVERTOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Despite the rain, the turn out was great. The Early Learning Coalition participated in a great community event, registered children and distributed back to school calendars literature.
ELC Billboard Located on the Palmetto Expressway
The Children’s Trust Family Expo

**The Children’s Trust Family Expo**

*SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12*

10 AM – 5 PM

Miami-Dade County Fair & Expo Center

Entrance on Coral Way at SW 199th and 112th Avenues

FREE!

Resources, education and fun for the whole family!

Call 211 or visit thechildrenstrust.org for more info.

Miami Herald and Miami Herald South Florida

Baptist Health South Florida

Sign language interpreters will be provided.

Early Learning Coalition of South Florida
The ELC presented on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at the First 1000 Days Conference in West Palm Beach.

The presentation, “Look Who’s Talking”, focused on ways positive interactions lead to social-emotional development as well as strategies to increase language development with infants and toddlers.

The participants also gained knowledge on appropriate strategies for book selection and labeling environments.
This year’s celebration for Read for the Record® was even more successful!

Total readers: more than 28k and counting. More than 10k over our original pledge of 18k

The Early Learning Coalition is now the recognized leader for this global literacy event for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties!

Key partner: Miami Dade Public Library System with events in 9 branch locations.

Books distributed to:
- Miami-Dade Public Library System
- Miami Children’s Initiative
- Family Learning Partnership/Reach out and Read
- Miami-Dade County Public School all pre-K and Head Start Classrooms
- The Children’s Trust/Read to Learn Book Club
- Reading Pals/United Way of Miami-Dade
- Childcare Centers and Family Childcare Homes
- Monroe County: Head Start, Childcare Centers and Family Childcare Homes
Read for the Record®

Read for the Record- Commissioner Carruthers
@ The Learning Center, Key West
Read for the Record®

Univision and the Early Learning Coalition at the Hispanic Branch Library
BOD Chair, Adrian Alfonso and a team from PAAST participated in an Early Head Start events at Liberty Academy and Excel Learning Center on October 30, 2015
Children’s Day
Our Monroe team participated in Children’s Day events on November 1, 2015
Children’s Day

Our Monroe team participated in Children’s Day events on November 1, 2015.
• Participated in Miami-Dade’s Premier Literary Event
• Sponsored the Tot Lot Learn and Play Tent which featured activities geared toward children 0-5
• Additionally, operated booth to provide families with information about Early Learning Coalition Services
• Distributed 40 Boxes of Children’s Books to Families and Hundreds of Activity Calendars
• Increased Social Media Visibility on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook By Directing Families to Our Sites
Give Miami Day

• Participated in County’s Annual Non-Profit Giving Day
• Circulated Social Media Posts and Raised $2,120 in the 24-hour period which will be matched by the Miami Foundation
• Increased Social Media Visibility in the 24 Hour Period
• Staff Helped Circulate Social Media Collateral and Pledge Cards
• Received a Total of 24 Online Gifts
January 15, 2016
MLK Business Expo
January 17, 2016
MLK Family Literacy Fair

Celebrate the legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
at The MLK Legacy Family Literacy Fair

There will be interactive games, and light snacks served. We welcome children and families to this unique event to honor the continued legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All participating children will receive a book.

Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Mandela

St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall
1328 NW 3rd Avenue,
Miami FL 33136

Sunday January 17, 2016
noon – 1:00 p.m. (immediately following services)

Event is open to the public.
January 27, 2016
Celebrate Literacy, Florida!
Centro Mater Health and Resource Fair
(2/11/16)

The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe participated in this event sharing information about programs and services and providing families with a book per child
The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe participated in the United Way Baby Fair sharing information about early learning programs and services with families at the Betty T. Ferguson Complex.
Monroe: Friendship in the Park (2/26/16)

- The 2nd annual Friendship in the Park was held on Friday, February 26th at Nelson English Park in Key West
- The ELC joined a host of local community agencies to provide an enjoyable, educational morning for approximately 200 children
- In keeping with the theme, at the ELC booth, children were able to make a friendship bracelet, which utilized fine motor skills
- Program information was distributed along with a flyer “101 Ways to Praise a Child.”
Children’s Week Celebration

3/18/16

Celebrate Children’s Week with Us!
PASSPORT TO LEARNING

We will have live guest readings, activities, interactive exhibitors, costumed characters, lots of books and more!

Join us for this free early literacy event in Celebration of Miami-Dade/Monroe’s youngest residents.

Miami Children’s Museum
980 MacArthur Causeway,
Miami, FL 33132

Friday, March 18, 2016 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

See you there!
Celebrating 10 years of preparing Florida’s 4-year-olds for kindergarten
A picture is worth 1,000 words! Dr. Rosa Martin, conducted dental exams and administered treatment to 13 of our Early Head Start Children toddlers on March 8, 2016. Services were provided on site (via a Department of Health dental van) at two of the Neighborhood Place Partnership sites: Kinderland4Kids and Our Little Hands of Love.

Dr. Burkhalter, EHS Medical Director, was on site and she reports that several children are suffering from 'bottle mouth' and other issues that we can correct/address over time through parent education and improved health practices.

We continue to make a difference in the lives of children and families!
Promoting Literacy at Mini-Me Mondays – 3/14/2016

On March 14, Inclusion and Early Learning Coalition Staff participated in Mini-Me Mondays at the Miami Children Museum. The event allowed for families to learn primarily about VPK and Inclusion services. The March edition featured a brunch that was specifically geared toward celebrating women.
On March 18, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe celebrated its annual Children’s Week event which honors families across Miami-Dade County. More than 1,500 residents attended. Deputy Mayor Russell Benford presented ELC staff with a proclamation from the Mayor’s office, declaring March 18th as Children’s Day. Partners, including Frost Science, the Bass Museum, and Feeding South Florida shared information with families. Each child received a “passport” and travelled throughout the museum enjoying live presentations and interactive exhibitors while families learned about community resources.
On March 19, the Early Learning Coalition participated in the Art of Storytelling Festival hosted by the Miami-Dade Public Library System. The Early Learning Coalition will be participating in all 5 of the festivals sharing information about programs and services. Early Head Start was on-site to take family applications and explain the new program.
Jessie Trice Health Event – 3/24/2016
Early Head Start Outreach in Room 2
Bloom 3/31/2016
Max the ELC Bear Visits Mini Me I, II, III and IV
Storytelling Festival at West Dade Regional Library (4/2/16)

- Quality Counts attended the Miami-Dade Public Library Storytelling Festival at West Dade Regional Library. They distributed books and spoke to families about Early Learning Coalition programs and services.
Overtown Walk a Mile with a Child (4/16/2016)

• The Early Learning Coalition promoted healthier lifestyles for children by participating in the Overtown Walk a Mile Event. Children and families walked and then attended a health and resource fair after.
Storytelling Festival at North Dade Regional Library (4/16/16)

• Early Learning Coalition attended the Miami-Dade Public Library Storytelling Festival at North Dade Regional Library. They distributed books and spoke to families about Early Learning Coalition programs and services.
Storytelling Festival at South Dade Regional (4/30/16)
Univision Familia y Hojar Expo (4/30/16 – 5/1/16)

Emmy Award Winning TV Anchor, Maria Fernanda Lopez, Reads to the Children
North Miami Library Reading with Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph (5/11/2016)

- Mayor Dr. Smith Joseph of North Miami read with a group of children of mixed-ages celebrating Haitian heritage month.
- He also encouraged families to Talk, Read, and Sing with their children in both English and Creole.
Storytelling Festival at Northeast-Dade Aventura Library (5/14/2016)

- The Early Learning Coalition attended the Miami-Dade Public Library Storytelling Festival at Northeast Aventura Library.
- The Early Learning Coalition distributed books and spoke to families about programs and services.
Kindergarten Kickoff Miami Children’s Museum (5/21/2016)

- Early Learning Coalition staff provided families information on preparing for and transitioning to kindergarten.
- Staff promoted early literacy and informed over 200 families about VPK, School Readiness and other programs.
Programs
READY4K!

READY4K! launches on Monday, October 5th at 8:30am EST

Yearlong partnership with Stanford University comes to fruition

18,000 families across Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties will receive 3 texts weekly in English, Spanish or Creole

- Promote Literacy by breaking down information into small actionable steps for parents
- Provide continuous encouragement and support to families over an extended period of time
- Leverage technology to reach as many parents/families as possible

Families receive weekly:

- Fact
- Tip
- Activity
Provider Trainings
Creative Curriculum Training

- Held on October 3, 2015
- 49 teachers/directors for the Infant/Toddler/Twos training
- Training held at Marathon Lutheran School
Children First Conference

- Saturday, September 19\textsuperscript{th}, 2015
- Ronald Reagan High School in Doral
- More than 900 teachers, board members, city officials, early childhood teachers and administrators, community stakeholders, presenters, sponsors and vendors were in attendance
- ELC Board Chair Adrian Alfonso and Founding Chair Dave Lawrence Jr. delivered opening remarks
- Phyllis C. Hunter, nationally known literacy expert delivered the keynote to an enthusiastic audience
- Miami-Dade Provider Sarah Brazier from Liberty Academy delivered the endnote
Children First Conference

- Prizes and raffles included iPads, a laptop, gift certificates and classroom materials
- Conference sponsors included: Lakeshore Education, Kaplan Early Learning Company, Becker School Supplies, WELS, PC Depot, Bluejean, and J.P. Morgan Chase
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools provided the venue and translation equipment
- More than 100 workshops provided
- More than 120 presenters
- With 27 sessions in Spanish
Post conference satisfaction survey has yielded the following results:

- Overall Satisfaction with the Children First Conference: 95.85%
- Would attend the Children First Conference Next Year: 96.16%

Join us next year on Saturday, September 24th at Ronald Reagan High School. The 2016 theme is Early Education. Lifelong Success.
Provider Orientation

Provider Orientations are offered to each Zone. There are two sessions, one in English, the other in Spanish:

- ZONE 5: 10/9
- ZONE 1: 10/16
- ZONE 2: 10/23
- ZONE 3: 11/6
- ZONE 4: 11/13
- ZONE 6: 11/20
Visibility
Liberty Academy Open House

Open house to celebrate the opening of the Liberty Academy Center.

The Brazier’s sought to revitalize their neighborhood by transforming and renovating an abandoned house next their existing center.

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle visited the center and was very impressed with this story and the school.
Family and Community Engagement
National Day of Service

• The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe in partnership with Scholastic Education’s Family and Community Engagement (FACE) hosted the 2015 National Day of Service on October 3, 2015 at Hanan’s Academic Development Center in Opa-Locka

• FACE brings together research-based programs and strategies that equip educators, parents, and communities with the resources they need to boost the literacy skills of all children beyond the classroom
Family and Community Engagement
National Day of Service

• A two-room Family Literacy Center was created at Hanan’s Academic Development Center where more than seventy (70) School Readiness children (ages 6 weeks to five years) and twenty (20) elementary aged children are enrolled.

• The Family Literacy Center is furnished with bookshelves, tables and chairs courtesy of the Early Learning Coalition and more than 1000 books, rugs, bean bags and posters courtesy of Scholastic.
Family and Community Engagement National Day of Service

- ELC President and CEO, Evelio Torres, Scholastic Education President, Greg Worrell and Hanan’s founder and Director, Mrs. Hanan Ali greeted community stakeholders, volunteers, staff, families and children for a ribbon cutting, specially planned literacy events and lunch.
Family and Community Engagement National Day of Service

Clifford, the Big Red Dog, Scholastic’s ‘mascot’ made a very special appearance!
The rooms were prepared the weekend of September 25th

- With the help of community volunteers from Catalyst Miami’s Public Allies program and Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation, walls were painted, furniture was assembled and put in place, posters were hung and the stage was set for reading and learning for children and families to enjoy for years to come.
Sheyes Early Head Start Event

- The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start, a division of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, hosted outreach event at Sheyes Learning Center, on October 15, 2015, to share information and answer any questions regarding Early Head Start.
Science Lab Opening Parkview Elementary

- Celebrated the Grand Opening of the Parkview Elementary Environmental Science Center of Tomorrow
- President & CEO Evelio Torres Participated in the Dedication which was the brainchild of the Councilman and former ELC board member David Williams Jr.
- Environmental Science Center of Tomorrow has partnered with the Audubon Florida
City of Doral Council Meeting

- President & CEO Evelio Torres presented on Early Learning Coalition services and the importance of access to early learning programs to Doral Mayor Luigi Boria and Fellow Council members
- Answered Questions and Discussed Potential Expansion in the Doral Area to Service Doral’s large service-sector workforce
Visit to new EHS classrooms at Room 2 Bloom – Opa Locka
2015 National Day of Service

- The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe in partnership with Scholastic Education’s Family and Community Engagement (FACE) hosted the 2015 National Day of Service on October 3, 2015 at Hanan’s Academic Development Center in Opa-Locka.

- Scholastic Education CEO, Greg Worrell has pledged to provide a home library for all 90 families enrolled at the Hanan Academic Development Center.

- Libraries are being delivered on Wednesday, December 9th, 2015.
The Early Learning Coalition was proud to support the West Perrine's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. We recruited families, shared information on programs and services, and distributed hundreds of copies of *Where the Wild Things Are* with matching crowns to celebrate the upcoming Literacy Week.
Interviewing with Power 96 and Discussing the Importance of Early Learning
Children’s Week: “One Voice for Children”

Advocating for children. Lt. Governor Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Evelio Torres, Board Member Alex Soto
DCF Black History Month Luncheon
(2/19/16)

• The Early Learning Coalition was proud to participate in the Department of Children and Families' annual Black History Month Luncheon
• The keynote speaker, CBS4 Jim Berry, offered an inspiring speech reminding all about the significance of paving the way to a better future for our youth
Hallowed Grounds Bus Tour (2/26/16 and 3/4/16)

- The Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe participated in the Catalyst Miami Hallowed Ground Bus Tour which explored some of Miami's historic African-American communities in honor of Black History Month.
Hallowed Grounds Bus Tour

- In keeping with the National Black History Month theme: ‘Hallowed Grounds’ and as part of an ongoing effort to engage the ELCMDM Board of Directors, funders, partners and community stakeholders in conversations relating to race and equity, The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start, a division of the Early Learning Coalition sponsored two bus tours of historic Liberty City and surrounding neighborhoods
- The Bus Tour was organized and supported by Catalyst Miami
- The Early Learning Coalition hosted more than 100 ‘riders’ between 2/26 and 3/4, 2016
Hallowed Grounds Bus Tour

Organizer
  – Catalyst Miami

Curators
  – Jacqui Colyer, Independent Consultant
  – Vivilora Perkins Smith, Urban Partnership Drug Free Coalition
  – Santiago Bunce, VP of Community Building, Catalyst Miami

Lunch
  – Jackson Soul Food
Hallowed Grounds Bus Tour

Board Attendees:
- Gilda Ferradaz
- Dr. Judy Schaechter
- Dr. Maggie Abrahante
- Gladys Montes

ELCMDM Staff attendees:
- Senior Leadership team
- The entire Early Head Start team
- Managers, supervisors and direct services staff from across the agency
Hallowed Grounds Bus Tour

- Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency
- Jackson Health System
- Help Me Grow
- Miami Dade County Public Schools
- Department of Children and Families
- The Children’s Movement
- The United Way
- The WELS Foundation
- University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning
- Pensarus, Inc.
- Liberty Academy
- Quality Counts Career Center/The Children’s Forum
- Catalyst Miami Public Allies
Monroe Business Community Leaders Outreach

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce - 3/9/16

Upper Keys Rotary Club, 3/22/2016

Key West Rotary Club, 3/10/2016
President & CEO Evelio Torres was invited to take part in a great debate with some of Miami’s future leaders. Aguamarina’s VPK students presented on topics such as taking care of the environment, and taking care of their fellow classmates. They created a class constitution and had a mock election featuring different candidates.
Congressman Carlos Curbelo's Visit, 3/18/16

Congressman Curbelo with Evelio and Adela Barrios, Director, Dolphin Montessori Children's House North
ELCMDM Supports Lauren’s Kids – 3/24/2016

Lauren’s Kids
March 24th
Walk in My Shoes
12.4 Miles

[Map showing route from Legion Memorial Park to University of Miami]
Promoting Early Literacy in Pediatric Primary Care – 3/31/16

• CEO Evelio Torres with Lisa Blair, President, Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership and Dr. Lee Sanders, Stanford University
As part of the Monroe County community outreach initiative to the business community, Evelio Torres made a presentation to the Marathon Rotary Club on April 20th.
Help Me Grow Florida

• Help Me Grow Florida receives $2.5 million in state funds to continue assisting Florida families.
ELC Welcomes Mr. Haj
(4/29/2016)

• The Early Learning Coalition welcomed Mr. Haj.
• Community stakeholders attended to form additional partnerships in early childhood.
From the White House Press Office

Too Small to Fail, in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe County and Univision will launch a new citywide “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing” public awareness campaign in Miami, with an emphasis on reaching families of young dual language learners (DLLs). The campaign promotes early brain and language development by encourage parents to engage in meaningful activities with their young children starting at birth -- like counting toes while giving a bath or singing a song while changing a diaper. Miami is the seventh community with which Too Small to Fail has partnered, with three more expected this summer. Too Small to Fail also promoted a set of parent and early educator resources developed in partnership with HHS and ED—in both English and Spanish - to encourage parents and early educators to talk, read, and sing with young DLLs in their home language.

“We must promote the value of bilingualism, so children see the value in learning languages spoken at home.”
White House Regional Summit on Dual Language Learners and launch of “Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing” Campaign in Miami (6/2/2016)
Educate All
Miami Dade College Poverty Simulation

- ELC performed a Poverty Simulation for 60 pre-service teachers
- 13 ELC staff and 12 Miami Dade College (MDC) staff volunteered for the simulation
Miami Dade College Poverty Simulation

- The simulation was arranged by Dr. Mara Zapata, ELC Board Member and Chairperson of K-12 Teacher Education at MDC
- Inter American Campus President, Dr. Joanne Bashford, welcomed the students and observed the debriefing
ELC CAFÉ. IT’S MORE THAN JUST LUNCH.

Launch of 1st ELC Café on October 15th honored Hispanic Heritage Month

Thirty-six staff participated representing departments across the organization

November 18th, Native American Heritage Month
ELC Café Series Honors National Braille History Month with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind

The Early Learning Coalition hosted its monthly lunch cafe series with honored guests, Virginia Jacko, Carol Brady and Jim Choi. Participants learned about the importance of increasing Braille literacy, saw live demonstrations of Braille equipment and learned some basic Braille. We are thankful for community members and stakeholders joining us for this informative event.
The Early Learning Coalition hosted its monthly lunch café series with honored guests: Participants learned about National Foster Care Month.
Native American Heritage Month
Honored Guest: Dennika Mays, born of the Anishinaabe Tribe in Michigan and now residing on the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation in Florida
Focus of the presentation was ‘multiple knowledges’ and included
- Boarding Schools
- ‘Trail of Tears’
- Native American Identity

January Café (January 13th, 2016) will highlight Braille Literacy
Poverty Simulation at the National School Reform Initiative Winter Meeting

The Early Learning Coalition's Professional Development Institute in collaboration with our inclusion team empowered educators from around the country attending the School Reform Initiative Winter meeting.

Each was challenged to take action in combating poverty one child, one family, and one decision at a time. Forty participants gathered at the Deauville beach resort to engage in a poverty simulation and an authentic conversation about bias, poverty, and social injustice.
Child Abuse Prevention Month (4/8/16)

- Early Learning Coalition Staff sought to raise awareness of Child Abuse Prevention by wearing blue on Friday April 8th and sharing photos via social media.
The Professional Development Institute, provided two Creative Curriculum trainings (Infant/Toddler/Twos and Preschool) on Saturday, February 27th at St. James Children’s Center, Islamorada.

Teachers discover ways to successfully implement The Creative Curriculum, a comprehensive, research-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that addresses the specific needs of the age groups served.

21 teachers attended the Infant/Toddler/Twos session and 18 teachers attended the Preschool session.

These trainings will be repeated on Saturday, March 5th in Key West.
Germene Barnes ELC Lunch Café (2/11/16)

- The Early Learning Coalition hosted its monthly lunch café series with honored guest, Germene Barnes
- Participants learned about the importance of community involvement in redesigning spaces
- Germene Barnes is the architect-in-residence for the City of Opa-Locka
- He has employed community involvement to redesign community spaces and preserve Opa-Locka's unique historic architecture
ELC Café
It’s More than Just Lunch
3/10/16

Each time a girl opens a book and reads a WOMANLESS HISTORY, she learns she is WORTH LESS.
- Myra Pollack Sadker

ELC Café
It’s More than Just Lunch
Celebrating HERstory

The Early Learning Coalition in honor of the 2016 Women’s History Month theme “Working to form a more perfect union: Honoring Women in Public Service and Government” invites you to join us for a curated panel discussion on feminism, leadership, and work-life balance with some of South Florida’s most diverse and innovative leaders.

Join us
Thursday, March 10, 2016
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
David Lawrence Community Meeting Room
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
2555 Ponce De Leon
Suite 300
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Register to participate at http://training.elcmdn.org by noon March 9, 2016
ELC Café – 3/10/2016

Our HERStory Café was a success! Please join us for these insightful conversations monthly.