



ELC Board of Directors Meeting
November 7, 2022; 8 A.M.
Meeting ID: 930 5272 6890
Passcode: ELC110722

MINUTES

Board Attendees: Matthew Bruno; Rick Beasley; Dr. Daniel Armstrong; Loreen Chant; Jenni Roig; Gladys Montes; Richie Tandoc; Denisse Barrera; Sandi Bisceglia; Dr. Eileen Fluney; James Haj; Chuck Mohr; Iris Strachan; Gilda Ferradaz; Chereen Coile; Lisa Taylor; Marisol Diaz; Aaron Slavens; Suzette Frazier

Board Absentees: Dr. Mara Zapata; Alex Soto

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Pam Hollingsworth; Sandra Gonzalez; Michelle Meilan; Jacqueline Dominguez; Ahmed Mitwalli; Miguel Alfonso; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Anabel Espinosa; Ana Sejeck; Belkis Torres; Ileana Vallejo; Diana Lane; Ana Rodriguez; Aileen Suazo; Lisney Badillo; Casie Haines; Larisa Salerno; Laurie Dunn; Vanessa; Aguilera-Viera; Lissandra Curbelo; Matthew Zaldivar; Lucy Schrack; Isabel Afanador; Thalia Daumy; Vernise Casimir; Dialina Quintanal; Jose Hernandez; Kristine Gregory; Jessica Parra; Laurie Bravo; Pamela Malval; Marisleidy Briguez; Iliana Alvarez; Belinda Jeanty-Gauthier

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; Priscila Hazrun; Lorena Suarez; Grace Ramos; Rachel Spector; Carlos Garcia; Da-Venya Armstrong

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- A. M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- B. Quorum was established with 20 voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- A. Motion to approve the October 3, 2022 Board of Directors Annual meeting minutes.
 - o L. Chant moved to approve the minutes.
 - o J. Haj seconded the motion.
 - o Motion passed unanimously

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

- A. M. Bruno announced that Gladys Montes will be retiring. Gladys was thanked for her service and a plaque was presented. Several people spoke and thanked Gladys for her work in early childhood education
- B. M. Bruno announced that Sandi Bisceglia has agreed to a second term on the board. Her first term ends March 3, 2023. M. Bruno thanked Sandi for her dedication to the Coalition. Her second term was confirmed with a unanimous vote.
- C. M. Bruno introduced Pamela Hollingsworth who spoke about Dr. Carmen Medrano, the ELC's Professional Development Institute's Early Education Chair who is a highly regarded early education expert. Dr. Medrano has now added published author to her resume.

IV. Outreach Partners Presentation

Michelle Meilan

- A. M. Meilan introduced the three advertising agencies working with the Coalition. All three agencies presented their campaign to the board.

- M Network
- Armstrong Creative
- Getting the Attention Media

Grace Ramos
Da-Venya Armstrong
Carlos Garcia

V. Chairman's Distinguished Service Award

Matthew Bruno

- Will be presented at a later date.

VI. Making a Difference

Matthew Bruno

- Will be presented at a later date.

VII. Chairman's Partner Spotlight

Matthew Bruno

- Will be presented at a later date.

VIII. Executive Committee Report

Matthew Bruno

Resolutions from Executive Committee Meeting to Vote on:

- **10182022-01** The Children's Trust Amendment
Authorize the President and CEO to execute an amendment with The Children's Trust, as outlined in the background, and to receive additional funds.
- **10182022-02** Assessment Materials and Training



Authorize the President and CEO to release a Public Solicitation for Assessment Materials and Training. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute contracts with the selected vendors.

- **10182022-03** Consultation and Training
Authorize the President and CEO to release a Public Solicitation for Consultations and Training. This resolution also requests authorization and approval for the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.

M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.

o Motion to approve by C. Mohr

o Motion seconded by J. Haj

o Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Guest Speaker: The Children’s Trust

Rachel Spector

- R. Spector presented on the Thrive By 5 program.

X. Finance Committee Report

Loreen Chant

Finance Resolutions

- **11072022-01** Amended Budget FY 2022-2023
Approval of the Early Learning Coalition’s Second Amendment to the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2022-2023.
- **11072022-02** Carryover of Funds
Authorize the President and CEO to request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families a carryover of Early Head Start 2021-2022 funds.
- **11072022-03** Comprehensive Office Cleaning (Award)
Approval of the Evaluation Committee’s award recommendation for Request for Proposal (RFP) #ELCMDM2022-09 (Comprehensive Office Cleaning Services) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.

L. Chant asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.

o Motion to approve by C. Coile

o Motion seconded by J. Roig

o Motion passed unanimously.



XI. Committee Reports

A. Litigation Committee Report

Aaron Slavens

Mr. Slavens provided a report from the Litigation Committee meeting that took place October 18, 2022. Legal counsel was present at the committee meeting to discuss a pending case.

B. Legislative Committee Report

Alex Soto

Mr. Soto provided a report from the Legislative Committee meeting that took place October 18, 2022. Evelio Torres and Victor Caballero updated the committee on the latest Advocacy/Legislative Priorities.

A. Priorities

Amend the School Readiness program eligibility criteria for low income working families to align with Florida’s growing economy by adopting income requirements based on the State Median Income instead of the Federal Poverty Level. In response to inflation and the workforce shortage, employers have increased wages which has resulted in many low-income working families no longer qualifying for the School Readiness program. The current eligibility policies create affordability challenges and benefit cliffs that act as barriers to family economic self-sufficiency. The School Readiness program provides a subsidy to help low-income working families pay for the high cost of childcare. Florida will be well served by providing access to affordable childcare so low-income working families can continue to enter and remain in the workforce. **A solid investment for Floridians: families work while children learn.**

Restore non-recurring School Readiness funds reduced with the implementation of the funding formula. Statewide, approximately \$40.7M of the base School Readiness funding was reallocated across early learning coalitions. Some coalitions had their funding increased, while others had it reduced. Unless the funding formula is reassessed, children of working families in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties will be disenrolled from the program and placed on a waiting list. Additionally, quality supports and professional development opportunities for early learning teaching personnel will be significantly impacted.



- B. M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the Alfred Sanchez as Legislative Committee Co-Chair.
 - o Motion to approve by Dr. Armstrong
 - o Motion seconded by J. Roig
 - o Motion passed unanimously.

- C. A. Soto asked for a motion to approve the Legislative item presented.
 - o Motion to approve by C. Mohr
 - o Motion seconded by J. Haj
 - o Motion passed unanimously.

A. Nominating Committee Report

Marisol Diaz

Marisol Diaz reported that the Nominating Committee meeting was held November 20, 2022. New board composition requirements from Department of Early Learning were provided.

- Elimination of At Large Member
- Addition of Local Licensing Administrator

Board vacancies are currently being advertised.

The Nominating Committee interviewed four candidates. The committee is recommending Alfred Sanchez to the board. Alfred Sanchez was confirmed with a unanimous vote

B. Program Committee Report

Chereen Coile

Chereen Coile reported that the Program Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting was held Monday October 24, 2022 where Early Head Start statistics were given. Important Incident Report information was provided as well. The Memorandum from the Office of Head Start was given to provide clarification on reporting significant incidents affecting the health and safety of program participants.

C. Monroe Advisory Committee Report

Sandi Bisceglia

Sandi Bisceglia reported that the Monroe Advisory Committee met on October 11, 2022. She provided updates in reference to the Children's Summit in Miami on October 7, 2022 hosted by Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and members of the Blue-Ribbon Commission for Children. The event was to develop a comprehensive roadmap for child success. She shared pictures of the well-attended event and thanked Evelio Torres and Dr. Anabel Espinosa for speaking at the Summit.



Partner Updates were provided. Jeff Hurst discussed the mandatory Mandated Reporters Training.

Laurie Dunn provided the results of the Monroe County Needs Assessment. The data was broken down into 5 categories for the committee to review at each meeting.

- Cost of Living, Living Wage and Teaching Salary in Monroe County.
- ALICE data, Assets & Income, Homeownership & Housing, Migration Flows
- Professional Development and Teacher Shortage
- Determining School Readiness (Kindergarten Readiness Screener), Children with disabilities
- Community Resources and Surveys

Laurie Dunn provided a report:

- Enrollment data Enrollment Date- Sandra Gonzalez shared that the SR enrollments have decreased to 279. Laurie Dunn researched the drop in 20 children and reported the top 3 reasons were that the parent failed to rede despite multiple attempts by ELC staff, there was no purpose for care or that the family moved.
- VPK enrollments are at 445. At risk referrals are currently at 40.

Laurie Dunn reported on the “Be the Star of your Own Life” Monroe Early childhood conference that was held on September 24, 2022 at Marathon High School. There were 115 participants registered and 82 attended. Participants loved the speakers, content, vendor raffles and being able to network face to face to once again. A video of the conference created by Kishanda Burns, Social Media and Communications Coordinator was shared. VPK Readiness Rates information was discussed. Professional Development Institute Updates were discussed.

Ana Sejeck stated that the Professional Development Institute has had 119 sessions to date this year and 160 attendees from Monroe. In September there were 26 training sessions and 128 participants from Monroe.

Monroe Inclusion and Assessment Updates were provided. Anabel Espinosa reported that This fiscal year there have been 89 children screened in Monroe using the Ages and Stages questionnaire (ASQ) and 26 using the social emotional screener. 5 have been referred for further evaluation. There are 4 Voluntary Pre-K Specialized Instructional Services (VPK-SIS) approved providers in Monroe County and to date, there have been 4 children enrolled in VPK SIS services.



II. Community Report

Evelio Torres

- A. American Rescue Plan Act updates were provided by E. Torres.
- B. Early Head Start updates were provided by E. Torres.

III. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

IV. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno