



ELC Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 2022 at 8:20 a.m.
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
601 SW 8 Avenue
Miami Florida 33130
Meeting ID: 995 3807 6631
Passcode: ELC040422

Board Attendees: Matthew Bruno; Rick Beasley; Daniel Armstrong; Loreen Chant; Jenni Roig; Gladys Montes; Richie Tandoc; Denisse Barrera; Aaron Slavens; Marisol Diaz; Sandi Bisceglia; Eileen Fluney; Chereen Coile; Mara Zapata; James Haj; Chuck Mohr; Lisa Taylor; Gilda Ferradaz; David Lawrence Jr.

Board Absentees; Iris Strachan; Joycelyn Lawrence; Alex Soto

- Lisa Taylor was originally marked as absent, but was able to call in at 8:20 A.M.

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Pam Hollingsworth; Sandra Gonzalez; Michelle Meilan; Jacqueline Dominguez; Fred Hicks; 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; Natalia Gamundi; Isabel Afanador; Thalia Daumy; Vernise Casimir; Dialina Quintanal; Jose Hernandez; Kristine Gregory; Jessica Parra; Laurie Bravo; Pamela Malval; Lidice Tabarez; Marisleydis Bruguez; Iliana Alvarez;

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; Priscila Hazrun; Lorena Suarez; Michael Bileca; Melissa Lorenzo; Jackie Romillo; Antoinette Patterson; Ben Hill

Tour of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired (will start promptly at 8:00 a.m.)

I. Welcome & Introductions

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- K. Gregory called roll and quorum was established with sixteen (16) voting members.
- M. Bruno shared that translation services were available for the meeting.
- M. Bruno announced that a copy of the board attendance roster is included in every board packet.
- M. Bruno introduced Virginia Jacko, CEO Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Bruno

- M. Bruno called for the approval of the minutes from February 7, 2022.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the minutes.

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.



- L. Chant seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously.

III. Chairman's Report

Matthew Bruno

- Moment of Silence for Manny Fermin, CEO, Healthy Start Coalition
- M. Bruno thanked Virginia Jacko for the support provided by her and her staff in organizing and hosting this meeting, as well as the tour of the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- M. Bruno reminded everyone that all committee meetings are open to board members. Calendar invitations and committee packets are sent to the entire board, so please feel free to sit in on any committee meeting, even if you are not a member.
- M. Bruno thanked Raeann Bacchus for her service on the Board. Although we will miss her as a board member, we wish her success in her new role at the Department of Children and Families. We will be sending her a certificate for her service.
- M. Bruno stated that Gilda Ferradaz has been appointed to our board by Ms. Bacchus. She is the Community Development Director for the Department of Children and Families and has served on our board in the past, including as Finance Chair. She is currently on the Monroe Advisory Committee. Unless there are any objections I will appoint Mrs. Ferradaz to the Nominating Committee and Provider Services Committee. A vote to confirm Gilda was unanimously passed.
- M. Bruno thanked Sandi Bisceglia who is the Chair for the Monroe Advisory Committee for attending several events on behalf of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe. Specifically, the Monroe County Commission Board Meeting at The Murray Nelson Center in Key Largo, Florida. This meeting was sponsored by Mayor David Rice where Sandi presented information including the ELC flyer map of locations by Mile Marker, map of 3 Keys ELC Offices and a description of VPK and Head-start services.
- M. Bruno reported that Sandi Bisceglia, Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Chuck Mohr and Lisa Taylor attended the Islamorada Chamber Luncheon on March 23, 2022, and promoted the ELC and its programs and board vacancies. They presented the President of the Chamber with a certificate of appreciation from the ELC.
- M. Bruno reported that we visited Aguamarina's still under construction new downtown Miami elementary school and their Brickell pre-School on March 28th. We participated in a friendly challenge presented by the teachers to two groups of four-year olds regarding playground time. The end result was a compromise and resolution that they could all agree on. An important and practical life lesson that will serve them well. Their new elementary school has a capacity of 244 students. They plan to open the school for the fall 2022 school



year. To me the opening of the school is indicative of the progress we are making in this community and the many options available to parents. However, the reality is that tuition at this private school is beyond the reach of the families we serve. For this board, our school districts and community partners, the challenge is to continue to support the expansion of high-quality, publicly funded schools in high-need areas. I can't stress enough how important it is for this board to join us in these visits, as your schedule permits, in order to continue to grow and learn about the education options available to students in the two counties we serve.

IV. Chairman's Partner Spotlight

Lorraine Abrahams

- E Torres introduced Abrahams Large Family Child Care Home. Mrs. Abrahams shared information about her early learning center. E. Torres thanked her for her innovative leadership and service to children and families.

V. Executive Committee Report

Matthew Bruno

Vote to Ratify March Executive Committee Resolutions

- **03072022-01** RFP Partner Hub and Dashboard Services (Award)
Approval of the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to award a contract for RFP#ELCMDM2022-01 (Partner Hub and Dashboard Services) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
- **03072022-02** CLASS Assessment
Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with The Children's Forum to facilitate and provide Assessment Services using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.
- **03072022-03** Contract Renewals
Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute the contracts listed within the background section of this resolution.
- **03072022-04** Grant Renewals
Authorize the President and CEO to apply, negotiate, execute, and receive funds from the grantors listed in the background section of this resolution.
- **03072022-05** Amended Budget FY 2021-2022
Approval of the Early Learning Coalition's Third Amendment to the Annual Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.
- M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.
 - Motion to approve by Dr. Fluney
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Armstrong
 - Motion passed unanimously.



VI. Finance Committee Report

Loreen Chant

- **04042022-01** RFP Developmental Screening (Award) – Approval of the Evaluation Committee’s award recommendation for RFP#ELCMDM2022-02 (Developmental Screening Follow-Up and Individualized Support Services) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
- **04042022-02** RFP General Contracting Services (Award) – Approval of the Evaluation Committee’s award recommendation for RFP#ELCMDM2022-03 (General Contracting Services) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
- **04042022-03** RFP Phone Service, Maintenance, & Support (Award) – Approval of the Evaluation committee’s award recommendation for RFP#ELCMDM2022-04 (Phone Service, Maintenance, and Support) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
- **04042022-04** RFP Office Automation Platform (Award) – Approval of the Evaluation Committee’s award recommendation for RFP#ELCMDM2022-05 (Office Automation Platform) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected vendor.
- **04042022-05** RFP Early Head Start Playgrounds (Award) – Approval of the Evaluation Committee’s award recommendation for RFP#ELCMDM2022-06 (Early Head Start Playgrounds) and authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with each selected vendor.
- **04042022-06** EHS Rate Increase for Infants and Special Needs – Authorize the President and CEO to implement the Early Head Start program’s increase in daily rate paid to partners for infants and children with special needs.
- **04042022-07** EHS Grant Budget FY 2022-2023 – Approve the Early Head Start budget and authorize the President and CEO to submit the Early Head Start budget as part of the 2022-2023 grant application.
- **04042022-08** CLASS Assessment – Authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Teachstone to facilitate and provide Assessment Services using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.



- M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.
 - Motion to approve by Dr. Armstrong
 - Motion seconded by Dr. Fluney
 - Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Advocacy Committee Report/2022Legislative Session Highlights **Alex Soto & Victor Caballero**

VII. Community Report **Evelio Torres**

- <https://www.elcmdm.org/Content/Uploads/elcmdm.org/files/Meeting%20Packages/Community%20Presentation%2002-2022%20final%20rev6.pdf>

VIII. Ethics Training **Jose Arrojo**

- Jose Arrojo provided the required Ethics training.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Program Policy & Strategy Committee Report **Gladys Montes**

Resolutions:

- **04042022-09** Sliding Fee Scale-School Readiness Plan Amendment - Authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment to the Florida Department of Education Division of Early Learning (DEL) for approval to implement the 2022-2023 DEL Sliding Fee Schedule.
- **04042022-10** EHS Grant Reapplication -Authorize the President and CEO to submit the Early Head Start non-competing continuation grant application and all of its supporting documents for the 2022-2023 program year.
- **04042022-11** EHS Training and Technical Assistance Plan – Authorize the President and CEO to submit, with the Early Head Start non-competing continuation grant application, and implement the Early Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Plan for the 2022-2023 program year.
- M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the resolutions in a block vote.
 - Motion to approve by L. Chant
 - Motion seconded by C. Coile
 - Motion passed unanimously.



B. Bylaws Committee report

Chuck Mohr

Bob De la Fuente reported changes made to the Bylaws.

- M. Bruno asked for a motion to approve the changes made to the Bylaws.
 - Motion to approve by S. Bisceglia
 - Motion seconded by M. Zapata
 - Motion passed unanimously.

C. Strategic Planning Committee Report

Loreen Chant & Aileen Suazo

D. Provider Services Committee Report

Rick Beasley

E. Audit Committee Report

Ileana Alvarez

F. EHS Policy Council Report

Jasmine Johnson & Dr. Mara Zapata

G. Monroe Advisory Committee Report

Sandi Bisceglia

- S. Bisceglia reported that the Monroe County Advisory Committee met via zoom on March 15, 2022. Attendees: 7 committee members in attendance, 16 ELC staff, 10 additional attendees

The following items were discussed:

- Marla Russell and her staff were recognized for attending the Upper Keys Rotary Festival and Stephanie was Scuderi was recognized for her time on the ELC Board.
- Sandi discussed 8 specific trends/ issues facing families in the Keys
- Loss of over 2000 workers this year, police force down from 27 to 16, All 3 Kmart's have closed, Bigger companies buying out local businesses, increase in property values driving out some families, lack of affordable housing, low pay for paraprofessionals, 70% of homes in the Keys are owned by people who don't live here all year.
- The ELC Board has private sector vacancies. 2 are needed from Monroe County and 1 for Miami-Dade or Monroe. If anyone is interested they can contact Kris Gregory or Laurie Dunn.
- There was a discussion about the importance of keeping statistics and data separate for Miami-Dade and Monroe County in the strategic plan. This way it makes it easier to measure outcomes.
- Sandi gave an update of what has been happening at various Chamber meetings in the Keys.
- Marla Russell reported that this year the school district gave out 273 VPK vouchers as opposed to 202 from last year.
- Monroe Updates provided by Sandra Gonzalez, Laurie Dunn and Pam Hollingsworth
- Enrollment Date- S. Gonzalez shared that the SR enrollments have increased to 298 and are holding steady. The Keys experience significant transitions of families leaving the Keys due to the high cost of living and lack of affordable housing. The ELC is stepping up promotional



efforts throughout the Keys to ensure maximum exposure of our services. She shared a chart showing the Monroe Monthly School Readiness data broken down by care level. VPK now has 440 children enrolled, a decrease in 9 from last month. A VPK program recently closed and the children stayed on as school readiness. At risk referrals are at 31 and are staying consistent. Referral trainings are offered to our partner agencies as needed and requested.

- Outreach activities to increase enrollment -- L. Dunn shared a listing of the multiple ways in which the Monroe team has reached out to promote services in the Keys to include flyers, banners, magazine ads, blasts through the Chambers and attendance at Outreach events.
- Monroe Conference: September 24th at Marathon High School. The theme is "Be the Star of Your own Life!" to spotlight self-care and Resilience in early childhood educators. The keynote is TBD.
- Updates on the Internship program in Monroe- 2 early learning partners (Inez Martin and St. James) have signed up for the program and are awaiting the placement of an intern.

X. Public Comments

Matthew Bruno

XI. Adjourn

Matthew Bruno