



Minutes

ELC Provider Services Committee Meeting
October 28, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting ID: 949 1894 8109
Passcode: ELC1028

Committee Attendees: Rick Beasley; Daniel Armstrong; Chereen Coile; Eileen Fluney; Jenni Roig; Jane McQueen; Sandi Bisceglia

Committee Absentees: Loreen Chant

Staff Attendees: Pam Hollingsworth; Diana Lane; Johnnetta Nuby-Powell; Victor Caballero; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Alex Sanchez; Vernise Casimir; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Ileana Vallejo; Wilhelmina Lopez-Martin; Lissandra Curbello; Belkis Torres

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; J. Abilio Rodriguez; Elizabeth Bradley; Milagros Rodriguez; Vivian Rodriguez; Christine Patterson; Yvette Caballero; Andres Rico; Angela-Perla Almodovar; Magaly Viza; Brandi Jordan; Emilu Alvarez; Maria Elena Delgado; Stephanie Brown; Elissa Sada; Katherine Quinteros; Julia Joseph; Mariacristina Herrera; Roberto Rodriguez; Berkis Perez; Gaby Lopez; Monica Mills; Dadou Joseph; Yoleisi Sanchez; Ketty Villar; Theslyn Brown; Arleen Lambert; Sarah Green; Juana Rodriguez; Danish Williams; Merline Pierre; Jennifer Ferraro; Suleika Reyes; Aileen Machado; Dana Brooks; Sherley Fils Aime; Antoinette Patterson; Maria Rossiter; Sonya Williams; Annie Benedetti; Iliana Hernandez; Ingrid Navas; Ruby White; Beth Rosenthal Davis; Adriana Deza; Fania Mederos; Jazmine Sanders; Lorena Suarez; Cynthia Hereford

I. Welcome & Introductions

Rick Beasley

- R. Beasley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- C. Pollard called roll and quorum was established with seven (7) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Rick Beasley

- A. Motion to approve September 30, 2021 Minutes.
 - o Motion made by D. Armstrong
 - o Motion seconded by J. McQueen

III. Chamber Reports

Board Members

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.





No chamber reports were given but information was shared on ways for board members to get involved with assigned chambers for the benefit of engaging the business community in early childhood initiatives. R. Beasley shared that the opportunity to provide a report will be available at each Provider Services Committee meeting.

IV. New Initiatives

A. Employment of Participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program

G. Ferradaz shared that TANF recipients are eligible to work in the child care field with provided training. However, it was stated that the benefits cliff is a concern for recipients.

B. Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program

P. Hollingsworth shared that the Apprenticeship Program is in the final stage of the application process with all action items completed and partners aligned. It was stated that slots are still available with some being allocated to Monroe County. The application process has been streamlined through Miami Dade College.

C. Early Childhood Internship Program

P. Hollingsworth also shared that the Internship Program is launching the first week in November in partnership with CareerSource South Florida, Miami Dade College, Florida Department of Children and Families and Kids for Kids Academy. It was stated that the pilot program will include ten (10) interns. The goal is to expand the program in the future as many providers shared interest in the opportunity.

V. Early Education Partners Roundtable

Provider Representatives

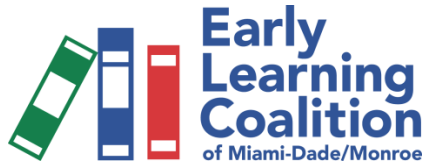
A. Family Child Care Home Discussion

Family Child Care Home (FCCH) representative, Dr. Perla Almodovar shared that the FCCH Association is partnering with Miami Dade College on training initiatives which include educating FCCH partners about the accreditation process. It was also stated that efforts are being made to engage Congress in the work to invest in children by prioritizing educators and families.

Ms. Danish Williams included that she is responsible for sharing pertinent updates related to FCCH members.

B. Program-Based Discussion

- Jenni Roig (Private Provider Representative)
J. Roig led the discussion on challenges many providers are facing. Several providers shared concerns about the following:



- Recruiting qualified staff
 - Lack of competitive wages
 - Low enrollment
 - Reimbursement rates
 - Access to business education opportunities
 - The need for expanded apprenticeship and internship programs
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- E. Fluney shared that Miami Dade College students studying in the field
 - are available to volunteer at sites, upon request.
 - R. Beasley shared that providers can access the CareerSource South Florida job bank to recruit qualified teachers.
 - P. Hollingsworth stated that the Business Leadership Institute is available for educational opportunities. The information for the Institute’s Early Learning Master Class Series can be found at <http://www.bli4el.org/events/mc/>.
 - Armstrong shared a recent study regarding children with disabilities and mask wearing during the pandemic.
 - Many providers were interested in meeting one-on-one with provider representatives and having additional opportunities to continue the discussion and explore potential solutions.

VI. Public Comments

Rick Beasley

VII. Adjourn

Rick Beasley