



Proposed School Readiness Funding Allocation Formula Discussion  
August 2, 2019; 9:30 AM  
ELC Board Room

**Attendees:** Jenni Roig, Abilio Rodriguez, Loreen Chant, Annie Benedetti, Dr. Claudia Orrett, Amanda Gorski, Donovan Lee-Sin, Nilda Bernaldes, William de la Sierra, SueEllen (via conference call)

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Sandra Gonzalez, Jackye Russell, Angelo Parrino, Lisa Sanabria

**I. Welcome and Introductions** **Evelio Torres**

**II. Overview of Funding Formula** **Evelio Torres**

- I. E. Torres stated topic of a funding formula comes up every couple of years and it became a very political topic so they tabled the matter. It was brought up again by Rep. Grall in an effort to redistribute dollars to make it fair for all counties.
- II. E. Torres stated that in the spreadsheet provided Miami Dade/Monroe budget was 123 million in 2018-2019 and 130 million in 2019-2020. With the proposed funding formula by Rep. Grall Miami Dade/Monroe's budget should have been reduced 4.3 million in 2018-2019 and 11 million in 2019-2020. This reduction will remain a trend and the Miami Dade/Monroe ELC will lose more money through the years.
- III. E. Torres stated the following alternatives: to limit the reduction 1 million within the next 20 years or just apply the funding formula to new funding. The no formula has not been adopted but there is a concerned due to, OEL in partnership with the DOE, must recommend a funding allocation by October the 1st. The proposed Funding Formula must be approved and passed by the legislation.
- IV. E. Torres stated that the ELC needs providers involved as well as our partners United Way and The Children's Trust.

**III. Potential Impact** **Loreen Chant**

- I. L. Chant stated that E. Torres and she attended a 2-hour meeting with Rep. Grall. Rep. Grall is serious and knows the issue very well. L. Chant stated that they discussed provider rates and that quality is very important. L. Chant stated that they discussed the chaos that would be created if too much money was removed from one county and that no



reduction should exceed 1%. L. Chant stated that Rep. Grall understood and would make quality and market rates a factor in developing the formula.

- II. E. Torres stated that Rep. Grall accepted invite to Miami Dade. E. Torres stated that they discussed that Miami Dade Providers will not sit quietly. E. Torres stated that he believes that Rep. Grail is coming from a good place and that she is not taking in to consideration waiting list because that could be manipulated. E. Torres stated that he discussed using performance measures as one of the factors in producing the Funding Formula.

#### **IV. Advocacy History**

**Bill de la Sierra**

- I. B. de la Sierra stated that he has been through this a few times and what is needed, is people willing to have conversation with leadership; providers must to reach out to their legislators. B. de la Sierra stated that when the funding formula was suggested five years ago he printed shirts and letters, rented buses, drove to Tallahassee and went to the meeting. B. de la Sierra stated they asked for the children's trust assistance and were allowed to 1000 of letters at the expo. The letters were also mailed weekly to Governor's office and it worked.
- II. D. Lee-Sin asked, "Why is Miami Dade/Monroe County the biggest loser in this plan?" and stated that it was obvious that the cost of living and pay rates were not being used. D. Lee-Sin stated that everything is political so if it cannot be stopped the ELC can at try to change the formula.

#### **V. Advocacy Plan**

**Jenni Roig**

- I. J. Roig stated that she loved B. de la Sierra's energy and would follow his lead.
- II. L. Chant stated that the ELC must educate legislators on the impact of losing this money would have on the community. E. Torres stated that the ELC must inform them of the domino effect this will have on the community.
- III. E. Torres stated that the payment rates for the School Readiness program for Miami Dade/Monroe are depressed.
- IV. J. Roig stated that the focus should be on literacy rates and readiness rates. C. Orrett stated that she has seen the ELC invest time and effort in quality but with the cost of living lost staff to other counties. Sue Ellen stated that Monroe counties really struggles with this, currently trying to hire a new teacher and no one is applying, even offering free childcare.

#### **VI. Next Steps**

**Dr. Abilio Rodriguez**



- I. A. Rodriguez stated that B. de la Sierra has more experience in this and E. Torres has met with legislators so the next step is to establish an outline.
- II. A. Gorski stated that the ELC needs to know what the formula is before a more aggressive approach is taken, and right now we just focus on just educating.
- III. E. Torres stated that he is meeting with the new director of OEL and has invited her to an upcoming board meeting. E. Torres stated that OPACA was hired to complete a study on the funding formula and they will meet with all the ELC CEO's.
- IV. C. Orrett suggested reaching out to media, for awareness.
- V. D. Lee-Sin stated that the immediate strategies should be meeting with the local legislators.
- VI. A. Groski suggested speaking to greater Miami chamber of commerce and to create a one pager with key bullets and talking points so there is a consistent message.
- VII. E. Torres asked the providers present to inform the rest of the provider community.

**VII. Adjourn**

**Evelio Torres**