



# MINUTES

## Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

October 11, 2022

Meeting ID: 946 3894 5841

Passcode: ELC101122

**Committee Attendees:** Sandi Bisceglia; Aleida Jacobo; Sue Ellen Bennett; Lisa Taylor; Marla Russell; Gilda Ferradaz.

**Committee Absentees:** None

**Attendees:** Cindy Cabrera, Sandra Gonzalez, Fiorella Christie, Laurie Dunn, Anabel Espinosa, Michelle Meilan, Laura Toman, Pamela Hollingsworth, Michele Morgan, Mercy Castiglione, Maria Vaillant, Dr. Fred Hicks, Evelio Torres, Ana Sejeck, Angelo Parrino, Leidys Leon, Jeff Hurst, Wilhelmina Martin, Maria Castellanos and Christine Patterson.

### I. Welcome & Introductions

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

- A. Sandi Bisceglia called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- B. Quorum was established with six (6) voting members.

### II. Approval of Minutes

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

Approval of August 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- o Motion to approve by Marla Russell
- o Motion seconded by SueEllen Bennett
- o Motion unanimously passed

### III. Chair Updates

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

Sandi Bisceglia stated there has been a large number of students entering the school system in Monroe County. It has been suggested that many of the new families are in the higher income bracket and therefore do not qualify for school readiness services.

Sandi Bisceglia attended the Children's Summit in Miami on October 7 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.

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.



Sandi recognized Maria Vaillant, Director of Kreative Kids Christian Academy for the Chairman's Partner Spotlight. Maria was unable to attend the Board of Directors Meeting on October 3 and was given the opportunity to be honored by her colleagues and share a few words. Leidys Leon was selected as Teacher of the Year and was unable to attend the conference to receive her plaque, so she was recognized as well.

#### **IV. Partner Updates**

- A. District Head Start/Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Update: Marla Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor reported that the MCSD has 468 pre-k children enrolled in Head Start, VPK, Head Start and VPK blend and in Pre-k ESE. They are seeing school enrollment increase. 273 children are using VPK vouchers. She shared that many of their families had losses due to the recent hurricane and the community is trying to help those in need.
- B. SueEllen Bennett, (Provider Rep) spoke about how much teachers and directors enjoyed attending the conference. The face to face format was refreshing and much needed. She reported that her school suffered minor damage from the hurricane, Kreative Kids lost their canopies and 3 schools in Key West had more severe damage from flooding. The directors are appreciative of the ELC efforts to help with teacher recruitment. The competency test continues to be a problem in the Keys. Many teachers are unable to travel to Miami for the necessary testing. She asked that we research ways in which we could help to solve this long-standing challenge.
- C. Jeff Hurst, (DCF) reminded everyone that they are all mandated reporters and are required to take the annual training. "If you see something, say something". All ELC staff (who have not already done so), are required to attend the training through PDI on Friday October 14, 2022.

#### **V. Monroe County Update**

**Laurie Dunn and Sandra Gonzalez**

- A. Laurie Dunn reminded everyone of the results of the Monroe County Needs Assessment and has broken the data down into 5 categories for the committee to review at each meeting (1 category per meeting).
  - 1. Cost of Living, Living Wage and Teaching Salary in Monroe County.
  - 2. ALICE data, Assets & Income, Homeownership & Housing, Migration Flows
  - 3. Professional Development and Teacher Shortage
  - 4. Determining School Readiness (Kindergarten Readiness Screener), Children with disabilities
  - 5. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Laurie shared a slide recapping the efforts of Carlos Garcia with Get The Attention Media that was shown at the annual meeting. Videos and pictures are uploaded on a regular basis to Monroe Instagram and Monroe You Tube channel, including footage from the conference. He is also working with Early Head Start in Miami to create promotional videos at 28 child care sites. He will return to video interviews at child care sites in Monroe and will create a “Day in the Life of a Child Care Teacher” video.

Michelle Meilan reported that the M Network is working to increase digital and social media presence to promote the Early Learning Coalition’s programs using a variety of platforms to include bus wraps, radio commercials in 3 languages, inserts and billboards.

- D. ARPA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Fiorella Christie reported 43 programs in Monroe participated in the last round of ARPA and received \$1,742,360.24 with the highest amount awarded being \$163,063.80 and the lowest being \$12,000. All programs were contacted by ELC staff to ensure they all took advantage of this opportunity.



## **VI. VPK Readiness Rates**

**Cindy Cabrera**

Cindy Cabrera discussed the VPK Readiness Rates and the requirement of each private prekindergarten provider and public school participating in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program to participate in the coordinated screening and progress monitoring program. She explained the program assessment CLASS (Classrooms Assessment Scoring System) and how it is used to measure the quality of teacher-child interactions. In 2023-2024 school year the assessment composite score must be a minimum of 4. She also explained the Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) using Star Literacy. It is a computer adaptive assessment that will be administered in the beginning, middle and end of the year to track the progress of each child. It is currently only in English, will be administered to all VPK programs students enrolled with a certificate of eligibility and results must be shared with the families within 7 days of administration.

## **VII. Professional Development Institute Update**

**Ana Sejeck**

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. Saturday October 15th they will be hosting a Super CLASS Saturday focusing entirely on the CLASS assessment. There BE a round table discussion lead by observers from Palm Beach, Broward and Miami Dade County. They have contracted with Teach Stone to have 2 different conversations on strategies to support dual language learners and relationship equity in the classroom. Simultaneous interpretation will be offered so everyone can benefit from the material. There are currently 514 participants registered with a capacity for up to 3000.

## **VIII. Monroe Inclusion and Assessment Updates**

**Anabel Espinosa**

Dr. Anabel Espinosa reported a drop in August in the number of developmental screenings in Monroe due to the end of the school year. She reported an increase in September. 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.



**IX. New Business**

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

Sandi Bisceglia made notes to follow up on 5-6 points from today for continued conversation and solution.

ELC Board of Directors Meeting Date: November 7, 2022 8 A.M. ELC Headquarters and via Zoom

Monroe Partner Visit: December 2, 2022 at 10 A.M. Dolphin Montessori Children's House North 104960 Overseas Highway, Key Largo FL 33037

ELC Executive Committee Meeting December 5, 2022 at 10 A.M. Monroe County School Boardroom at 241 Trumbo Road, Key West FL 33040

Next Monroe Advisory Meeting Date: January 17, 2023 at 1 P.M. via Zoom

**X. Public Comments**

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

Gilda Ferradaz thanked everyone for all the great work the ELC is doing in Monroe County and to keep up the good work.

**XI. Adjourn**

**Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

- Motion to adjourn by SueEllen Bennett
- Motion seconded by Marla Russell