



MINUTES

Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

May 24, 2023

ID: 861 9025 9393

Passcode: 087487

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

Attendees: Kris Gregory, Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Anabel Espinosa, Pamela Hollingsworth, Laurie Dunn, Ana Sejeck, Jeff Hurst, Jacqueline Dominguez, Sandra Gonzalez, Mercy Castiglione, Laura Toman, Victor Caballero, Michelle Meilan, Michele Morgan, Ahmed Mitwalli, Fiorella Altare Christie, Chuck Mohr, Wilhelmina Lopez-Martin, Dessiree Aguilera, Christine Patterson, Jerlyn Matthews, Danays Diaz, Barbara Alvarez, Maria Lamadrid, Tony Mandile, Angel Lewis, Brandi Jordan, Nilda Bernaldez, Jorge Barrios, Kelly Ullrich, Maria Vaillant, Judy Leggett, Lynley Hill, Jennifer Walker, Nichole Gelabert, Karthiha Kunasekaran, Priscila Hazrun (Interpreter), Lorena Suarez (Interpreter), Ellen Masters, Carolina Sanchez, Isabel Companioni, Maximo Bellon, Sarah Sheer, Usaride, Ericka, Riestra, Margie Smith and Elizabeth Jolin.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

- A. S. Bisceglia called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone especially guest speaker Rocio Velazquez from The Children's Movement of Florida; as well as other guests Judy Hull (Islamorada Chamber of Commerce), Elizabeth Jolin (Islamorada Village Council Member) Erika Goodwin (Marathon Chamber of Commerce), Marie Smith (Business Consultant) and all the participants from the Monroe County School District.
- B. Quorum was established with six voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

Approval of March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- o Motion to approve by M. Russell
- o Motion seconded by A. Jacobo
- o Motion unanimously passed

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. Chair Updates

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

S. Bisceglia recognized Evelio Torres for receiving the David Lawrence Champions for Children award for his life's work with children.

Mayor Daniella Levinne Cava was recognized at an ELC meeting and presented with a gift of children's books.

IV. The Futures Project

Evelio Torres gave a brief description of The Future Project what it is and what it means to us in South Florida. He then introduced our guest speaker Rocio Velazquez Statewide Engagement Director for The Children's Movement of Florida. She explained how the project is focused on early learning in Florida using feedback of parents and educators to create a comprehensive road map for the future. She gave a summary of the listening tours recently completed throughout the state to gather input and incite from parents' educators Directors and early childhood advocates. She explained this project is about total participation on all parts.

Phase I went from April 2022 to October 2022 and was all about early learning

Phase II goes from Oct 2022 to Feb 2023 focused on drafting the roadmap.

Phase III is happening now where the draft recommendations are being shared with the community in order to finalize the roadmap.

The 4 key components of this interactive feedback session are:

- 1) Successful Parents
- 2) Magical Early Learning Experiences
- 3) A Happy Workforce
- 4) A Well- Coordinated, Resourced & Data- Driven system

R. Velazquez went through each component gave a brief summary and requested feedback from participants (some spoke up and others sent responses through chat). All responses were recorded and the feedback will be shared with the steering committee. There will be a virtual session on May 30 where information will be shared. A session in Spanish is planned for June 14th. Invitations will be sent out. The final draft will be ready by the end of July. After that the plan will move into the implementation phase and the committee will find key partners to help with this. If anyone has anything to add they can send an email to info@childrensmovementflorida.org.



V. Partner Updates

- A. District Head Start/Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Update M. Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor included her Headstart/VPK numbers and some articles about English Language Learners in the packet. She had nothing more to add at this time. S Bisceglia encouraged everyone to read the articles shared.
- B. S. Bennett (Provider Rep) said many Director's are very busy and it is impacting their ability to apply for some of the grants where training is required. Many teachers need additional time not just the additional money. The Director's meeting was on May 6 via zoom Jeff Hurst from DCF gave updates on rules/regulations. R. Velazquez also joined the meeting to give a brief summary of The Future Project.

She stated her school would be closed for the month of June so the staff could have time off and updates can be made to the facility.

- C. J. Hurst (DCF) mentioned that DCF is continually working together with the ELC for the families and children in the Keys. He has collaborated with L. Dunn and S. Bennett to help support the needs for trainings (via zoom or in person) in the Keys. He shared a power point on updates during the meeting (the first time it had been shared). L Dunn sent it out to all Director's after the meeting and it was included in the packet for this meeting.

Suzette Frazier will be leaving her position in August and taking her place will be Lori Jocel (sp?). There are now 5 supervisors working for DCF in the Southern Region.

J. Hurst is working with Miami-Dade college on the testing situation. Background screenings is also a big issue they are working on.

There will be several trainings offered soon on food safety transportation etc. They will all be free and will be offered via zoom and/or in person as needed. L. Dunn will share the information with all partners.

J. Hurst reinforced the significance of the 3 C's: Care, Custody and Control. "Child care is not kid's play".

VI. Monroe County Updates

Laurie Dunn

- A. Enrollment data --S. Gonzalez showed enrollment data for Monroe County in April.
 - SR—277 children (this time last year was 295)
 - VPK--- 453 children (this time last year it was 445)
 - At Risk Referrals -50 children (increased from 31 last year)



L. Dunn contacts families that did not redetermine to find out why and generally it is because they move out of the area due to the cost. E. Torres asked to find out if families are migrating to other parts of Florida or out of state

- B. Needs Assessment Action Plan/Next Steps -- L. Dunn requested to table the discussion on this topic until the August meeting because her data was lengthy and comprehensive and she wanted to update data that she just received.
- C. Outreach/Misc – The next Director’s Meeting will be in person at 10 am on August 19 at St. James Children’s Center. Miami-Dade college will not be able to set a schedule for competency testing until after the end of the fiscal year. The plan is to have one every other month.

Almost all CLASS observations are complete (just 1 left to so). All VPK monitoring’s were completed with 100% positive results.

L. Dunn showed photos of S. Gonzalez visiting 6 child care sites throughout the Keys in April. Everyone enjoyed her visit and another one will be planned in the coming months.

L. Dunn and M. Morgan attended the VPK graduation for Inez Martin and shared a couple of the photos. Staff will try to attend more graduations as time allows.

VII. Professional development Institute Update

Ana Sejeck

A. Sejeck reported that the next round of CDA classes starts in September. They are being offered in English and Spanish and are all free. In June there will be a lot of graduates from the Keys.

Many people from Marathon attended the last Super Saturday in Miami.

VIII. Monroe Inclusion and Assessment Updates

Anabel Espinosa

- A. Developmental Screenings --A. Espinosa shared a chart of the amount of ASQ 3 and ASQ SE (Social emotional) completed this past quarter in Monroe. The charts showed a slight decline in screenings possibly due to Spring break, people leaving the Keys etc.
- B. Referrals for additional services are holding steady and connections are being made with families to offer support as needed.

IX. New Business

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

S. Bisceglia thanked everyone for attending and providing feedback during the interactive session.



X. Public Comments

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

None at this time.

XI. Adjourn

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

- Meeting adjourned by S. Bisceglia at 2:45 pm

General Information

- **Next Meeting Date: August 15, 2023 at 1 pm.**