



MINUTES

Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

January 19, 2023

Meeting ID: 832 3584 0631

Passcode: 649604

Committee Attendees: Sandi Bisceglia; Aleida Jacobo; Sue Ellen Bennett; Marla Russell.

Committee Absentees: Gilda Ferradaz, Lisa Taylor

Attendees: Christine Patterson, Fiorella Christie, Anabel Espinosa, Pamela Hollingsworth, Laurie Dunn, Jose Hernandez, Evelio Torres, Daniel Armstrong, Ana Sejeck, Jeff Hurst, Dessiree Aguilera, Jacqueline Dominguez, Lisney Badillo, Victor Caballero, Lissandra Curbelo, Yadira Aguilar, Nilda Bernaldez, Jennifer Walker, Ana Sejeck, Brandi Jordan, Chuck Mohr, Paloma Lopez-Barcena, Pamela Malval, Carolina Carrion, Leanna Woods, Michele Lane.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

- A. S. Bisceglia called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- B. Quorum was met with 4 voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

Approval of October 11 Meeting Minutes (after quorum was established)

- o Motion to approve by M. Russell
- o Motion seconded by S. Bennett
- o Motion unanimously passed

III. Chair Updates

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

S. Bisceglia shared a positive reflection about children to start the new year off. She reported that she had recently attended a Chamber meeting in the Middle Keys.

Ms. Bisceglia shared a recap on the Future's Project Summit in Orlando spearheaded by the Children's Movement. It was well attended by participants from all over the state of Florida

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.



including P. Hollingsworth from the Early Learning Coalition. Participants had their resumes posted on the walls in order to get to know each other. They were then divided into 5 sub committees to work for the next year to year and a half to establish a framework to advocate care for our earliest learners and create a 5-year strategic plan.

On December 2 several members of the Board of Directors and ELC staff visited Dolphin Montessori North in Key Largo. They met with the Director and got to see the teachers and children in action.

January 20, 2023, there is a visit planned at the University of Miami Linda Ray Intervention Center to learn more about the services they offer.

IV. Legislative Priorities

V. Caballero reported that the ELC is working with Mayor Rice's office in Monroe County to present a resolution at the next Board of County Commissioners urging the Florida legislature to:

- Amend the school readiness program eligibility criteria to increase access for children in need of early education and
- Increase child care provider reimbursement rates statewide.

This is to help support families that are being challenged by the rising costs of living in Monroe County.

V. Partner Updates

A. District Head Start/Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Update M. Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor reported that the MCSD has 97 pre-k ESE children enrolled, 179 in Head Start, 220 VPK stand alone and 66 Head Start and VPK blend. Head Start is fully enrolled for the first time since Covid-19. 286 children are using VPK vouchers. She also shared information about the MSCD parent engagement nights and use of the Ready Rosie program.

E. Torres interjected that the ELC has offered the Ready Rosie to all providers but there was not much movement on it probably due to Directors and teachers being very busy with CLASS etc. A reminder will be sent out about it again.

B. S. Bennett (Provider Rep) shared that many schools are still having a hard time recruiting teachers including herself despite the wonderful Ad that the ELC has run in the Keys. She said providers were very appreciate of the ARPA grants helping them sustain their centers and being able to offer incentives to staff. Another challenge that is continuing is the lack of available space in the competency exams. They are only offered in the Keys about 4 times a year and have limited spots. The last one filled up within 20 minutes of opening registration. This needs to be a priority in the Keys so



teachers do not miss the deadlines to take their exams. She suggested meeting with DCF and the College of the Florida Keys to see what can be done. Lastly, she announced that the Director's will have their first face to face meeting on January 28, 2023 at Kreative Kids. One item on the agenda will be a discussion on who needs the Mandatory Reporter training. Once a number, time and date are established, she or L. Dunn would contact J. Hurst from DCF to schedule the training. There will be a training on a Saturday and one in the evening to accommodate varying schedules.

- C. J. Hurst (DCF) reported that he met with the Miami Children's Initiative in Miami about the collaboration between ELC and DCF in order to make the process just as easy with all collaborators. Communication is very important. He stated he is part of the Quality Early Education System that is working on a Crisis Management training for providers. It will help providers when working with contracts regarding license issues. They are currently waiting to get it approved by legislature. He will share information on training availability. He reminded everyone of the importance of Mandated Reporting and how the training is ongoing. "If you see something, say something". Miami Dade College is offering a provider meeting on February 16, 2023 at the Kendall campus in South Miami. The ELC will receive an invite soon.

VI. Monroe County Updates

Laurie Dunn

- A. Needs Assessment Action Plan/Next Steps- L. Dunn reminded everyone why they are discussing the Monroe County Needs Assessment data and explained how she broke it down to target specific areas at each meeting. She shared the schedule and the Action Plan, asking for input on ways to improve it. The Action Plan will track progress of each target area and show areas that the ELC has implemented strategies and areas in which they have no control.
- B. Enrollment data --L. Dunn showed enrollment data for Monroe County in December.
- SR—282 children
 - VPK-- 458 children. Applications are currently being reviewed and processed for 2023-2024
 - Referrals -49 children
- C. Outreach Activities- Children's Day, Silver liners North Pole and the Holiday Village were all in Key West. The Holiday Helpers covered needy families throughout all of the Keys. ELC collaborated with Wesley House family services to get toys to ELC families Key West to Key Largo. She reminded everyone that staff is always looking for Outreach opportunities they are able to attend throughout the Keys. S. Bisceglia mentioned a contact in Marathon that L. Dunn will check with about any upcoming events in the middle keys.



Carlos Garcia keeps track of how many followers the Instagram and You Tube account has monthly and he has seen a rise in the numbers. He is currently working with Early Head Start and creating videos in Miami. When that project is complete he is be back focusing on media in the Keys. The ELC has placed ads at bus shelters in 6 high visibility areas. L. Dunn shared a picture of 2 of the ads designed to help promote ELC services. The informational flyer for the Keys is currently being updated and will be distributed soon along with new larger banners. L. Dunn shared that 11 VPK monitoring's have been completed in Monroe with 14 more to be completed by Spring break in March.

VII. American Rescue Plan Act

A. Round 1 and Round 2 Grants.

P. Lopez-Barcena stated that Round 2 for the ARPA grants opened on October 21 and that it is very similar to Round 1 except applicants will get 1 disbursement of money rather than 3. There are 39 applications in from Monroe and 23 have been approved so far. The deadline to apply is February 28. L. Dunn said the staff will continue to urge people to apply.

B. ARPA-Build a World Class Workforce

Victor Caballero

V. Caballero shared information on upcoming grants under ARPA that will be open to all providers. These are designed to help with recruitment, training and retention of teachers. The account setup was released on January 17, 2023 using Web Author and Information sessions are starting now. More information will be coming soon.

VIII. Professional development Institute Update

Ana Sejeck

Super CLASS® Saturday January 21 from 9-12:30., Early Learning Expert, Rachel Giannini is the key note speaker. She is not only funny and informative but inspirational as well. The specialized workshop will focus on CLASS with a track for infant/toddler and a Preschool track. Presented by Teachstone® Participants will receive 3.5 in service hours.

The next Super Saturday will be in April.

IX. 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. She notated the number has decreased because it is based on the number of children who are due in each given month. The fluctuation is typical and on track. These screenings are offered to the parents when they sign up for services. Most families consent to both screenings.

B. BPIECE--There are 5 providers in Monroe who have completed the BPIECE process and are accessing the special needs rate.



- C. VPK SIS is off the ground and running in Monroe. Currently there are 4 children taking advantage of the services.

Evelio Torres provided information regarding CLASS® and reminded providers that if they not already been assessed they will be soon. The ELC is working with **Teachstone**® (Publisher of CLASS® instrument) and the Children’s Forum to hire enough assessors to complete the bulk of CLASS® Observations needed throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe by the end of April. Anyone scoring less than a 4 can request a second assessment. This tool measures interaction between teacher and students. The ELC is hiring assessors. Anyone interested in becoming an assessor can contact HR.

X. New Business **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

S. Bisceglia encouraged anyone wanting to add any new business to an agenda to contact K. Gregory prior to the next meeting.

XI. Public Comments **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

None

XII. Adjourn **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

- Motion to adjourn by M. Russell
- Motion seconded by S. Bennett

Next Meeting Date: March 14, 2023 at 1 pm.