



MINUTES

Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday November 14, 2024

Meeting ID: 847 0937 4159

Passcode: 046326

Committee Attendees: Sandi Bisceglia, Marla Russell, Gilda Ferradaz, Mayor Holly Raschein, Lisa Taylor

Board Absentees: SueEllen Bennett, Dr. Carla Fry, Aleda Jacobo

ELC Staff: Angelo Parrino, Pam Hollingsworth, Sandra Gonzalez, Victor Caballero, Michelle Meilan, Fiorella Altare Christie, Kris Gregory, Anabel Espinosa, Laurie Dunn, Michele Morgan, Wilhelmina Lopez-Martin, Ana Sejeck, Cindy Cabrera, Sheyla Perez, Andrea Penton, Katherine Quintero, Yisnel Morales, Amber Keller, Karel Davila, Alex Sanchez, Mercy Castiglione, Aileen Suazo

General Attendees: Jeff Hurst, Laura Toman, Christine Patterson, Tom Hallett (guest from St. James Children's Center).

I. Welcome & Introductions **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

- A. S. Bisceglia called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- B. Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

Approval of August 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- o Motion to approve by H. Raschein
- o Motion seconded by M. Russell
- o Motion unanimously passed

III. Chair Updates **Sandi Bisceglia, Chair**

- A. S. Bisceglia – There are 7 Chambers throughout the Keys. Info on the ELC's services and efforts are shared with each.

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.



- B. The annual ELC Board of Director's meeting was held on October 7th at the Florida Keys Mosquito Control Building in Marathon. The 5-year strategic plan was reviewed for Miami-Dade/Monroe County.
- C. Futures Project that is the Children's Trust project. Working on a 5-year strategic plan for early learning that will be used with legislative groups and other statewide influencers. 4 categories are: 1) How to Support Parents 2) How to provide impactful early learning experiences for young children 3) How to have a respected workplace for all instructors, teachers and providers 4) How to create a coordinated resource and data driven system. Meeting in Orlando in December to go over lengthy draft and summarize everything done so far.
- D. Marla Russell who has been representing the Monroe County school district for the last 12 ½ years will be retiring after the holidays. Jennifer Walker will be taking her place. We will meet with Evelio about how to move forward with the vacancy created.

IV. VPK Provider Performance Metrics and Designations

Cindy Cabrera shared several slides showing that the Provider PM 4 designations rule is now in effect. The maximum class score is a 7. Points are determined by the Class score. The components are:

- 1) Quality—50%
- 2) Learning Gains—30%
- 3) Achievement—20%

Slides were shown with data on performance metrics for school year and summer performance. Only 12% of Florida providers fell below expectations. Monroe was above expectations with Summer scoring 100%.

V. Fiscal Cliff Collaborative

H. Raschein reported that she is chairing the collaborative initiative for Monroe County. There is a roundtable discussion coming up on December 10, 2024. The biggest objective is how we are going to move forward in the coming year and coming legislative session. The hard work of the Early Learning coalitions in the past legislative session helped move the needle for future progress to be made. When Monroe County is entered into a calculation or a formula, we skew the scales.

- VI. Caballero talked about the Roundtable discussion coming up on December 10. He is working with L. Dunn to invite chamber and key business people in the Keys to join in. Target audience is the private business sector. Some ideas to include would be the Hotel & Restaurant Association, Baptist Hospital and the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and Electric Co-Op. Please spread the word to anyone that could contribute to the conversation. L. Dunn will forward names of Rotary members to Victor to include on the invite.



VII. Partner Updates

- A. District Head Start/Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Update M. Russell, Early Childhood Supervisor

M. Russell – School just started yesterday and is going well. There are:

179 children enrolled in Head Start

87 blended (Head Start/VPK)

ESE Pre K total is 66 currently

Total enrolled stand-alone VPK is 207

There is a total of 294 children using a VPK voucher.

The Summer Bridge requirement is high on the district agenda. School districts have to provide VPK students 100 hours in the Summer program if they score in the lowest 10% of the STAR Early Lit. In Progress monitoring 1, 27% or 79 out of 296 students performed in the lowest 10%. Challenge in planning is knowing the numbers from private providers. Additional challenge is geographic. J. Walker will be meeting with L. Dunn to help figure out a plan to work with private providers.

- B. S. Bennett (Provider Rep) was unable to attend so L. Dunn read a report via email stating that S. Bennett had contacted providers and overall they were doing well. She attended the FLAEYC conference and was in a workshop presented by Erin Smeltzer (CEO of the Children’s Forum). She had many good stats and information that she said she would happy to share with chambers and business community in the Keys. L. Dunn has reached to Erin to discuss any support she can give us. S. Bennett is working with L. Dunn and M. Morgan to get the Florida Keys Provider Association active once again. It will be discussed in more depth at the Director’s meeting on January 25th at St. James Children’s Center.
- C. J. Hurst- Reported that DCF licensing staff has been actively involved with helping counties in North Florida affected from previous storms. Still an ongoing effort as people are still experiencing a lot of hardships.

VIII. Monroe County Updates

Laurie Dunn

- A. Enrollment data –S. Gonzalez showed enrollment data for Monroe County in October.
SR –332
VPK--- 428 with a certificate of eligibility
At Risk Referrals -29 children.
- B. The next DCF competency test is on November 16th and is currently full. The next one planned will be on January 11th, 2025.
- C. L. Dunn gave a brief summary of the slides that were presented at the annual Board meeting showing Monroe and how it fits into the strategic plan.



- D. Outreach Activities- L Dunn shared information and pictures of outreach activities they recently participated in and several coming up in the future throughout each area of the Keys.
- E. The next Super Saturday will be “For the Love of Teaching” introduced by the Monroe staff. It will take place via zoom on December 14th from 8:30 am to 1 pm. Advertisements are going out now and registrations have begun.

IX. Professional development Institute Update

Ana Sejeck

- A. ElevatEd—Slides were shared that were presented at the last board meeting showing the kick off off ElevatEd...the new online learning platform that kicked off October 1.
- B. More professional training has helped increase CLASS scores throughout the County.
- C. One stop shop for early educators. They can set up their own online accounts and save all their documentation while learning. Participants can choose from 29 different languages to learn in.
- D. Can set up a professional profile through this program.

X. New Business
None

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

XI. Public Comments
None

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

XII. Adjourn

Sandi Bisceglia, Chair

- o Meeting adjourned by S. Bisceglia at 1:15 pm