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.

ELC Provider Services Committee Meeting
May 6 2020, 3:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting, ID: 930 2995 9154

I. Welcome & Introductions  
   Rick Beasley

II. Approval of Minutes  
   Rick Beasley
   
   A. Motion to approve April 30, 2020 Minutes.

III. Choices Children’s Academy  
    Bob de la Fuente

IV. Public Comments  
    Rick Beasley

V. Adjourn  
    Rick Beasley
Provider Services Committee Meeting  
April 30, 2020; 2:00 PM  
Via Conference Call

Committee Attendees: Rick Beasley, Loreen Chant, Abilio Rodriguez, Jenni Roig

Absent Committee Member:

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino, Jackye Russell, Vanessa Aguilera; Amy Tongson, Johnetta Ruby; Amanda Torres; Ileana Vallejo; Mercy Castiglione;

General Attendees: Bob de la Fuente; Neliana Lord; Nora Cardona; Maria Hernandez

I. Welcome and Introductions  
   Rick Beasley

II. Approval of Minutes  
   Rick Beasley

   Motion to approve by A. Rodriguez.
   Motion seconded by J. Roig.
   Motion unanimously passed.

III. Pequenos Exploradores Kidcare, Inc.  
    Bob de la Fuente

   B. de la Fuente stated that Pequenos Exploradores Kidcare, Inc. received a class 1 violation. On 3/19/2020, the Contracts Department received notification from Marie Hernandez, Monitoring & Technical Assistance Specialist, stating the provider received a Class I Violation. The violation was a result of a complaint inspection. The investigation started 12/18/2019 and was approved 3/19/2020. Provider allowed an unscreened individual to be in the room unsupervised with four children. Technical Assistance given to the Provider that no unscreened individual can be in a room with the children without her direct supervision. The Family Service Counselor and agent of other entities of the Department have asked the Provider to have the individual vacate the room this was completed at the time of the inspection.

   M. Hernandez explained that the person was visiting her home when the DCF inspectors arrived. M. Hernandez was speaking to the inspectors when one the children began crying
this individual entered the room to assist. This individual recently arrived from Cuba and is unaware of the laws of this country.

- After reviewing all documents and hearing the providers’ testimony, the committee, voted to place the provider on a one year Corrective Action Plan. If the provider receives any, class one or 2 violation during the CAP period, they could be terminated and have eligibility revoked for 5 years.
  - Motion to approve by A. Rodriguez.
  - Motion seconded by J. Roig.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

IV. Nora Cardona Large Family Child Care Home  Bob de la Fuente

- B. de la Fuente stated that Nora Cardona Large Family Child Care Home liability insurance policy expired 3/16/2020, and had not been renewed as of 4/3/2020 when presented to ELT.

- N. Cardona explained that she did not continue to pay for the policy because her center was closed due to COVID19 and she was receiving no income. Upon hearing that her contract was at risk of termination she immediately renewed her policy.

- After reviewing all documents and hearing the providers’ testimony, the committee, voted to place the provider on a three month Corrective Action Plan that will commence when the center reopens. If the provider receives any class 1 or 2 violation during the CAP period, they could be terminated and have eligibility revoked for 5 years.
  - Motion to approve by A. Rodriguez.
  - Motion seconded by L. Chant.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

V. Choices Children’s Academy  Bob de la Fuente

- Due to new documents sent by the provider the case was postponed to the next meeting so ELC staff could review.

VI. Public Comments  Rick Beasley

VII. Adjourn  Rick Beasley
Action Requested: The Executive Leadership Team ("ELT") recommends termination of the School Readiness ("SR") Contract for the 2019-2020 FY and revocation of eligibility for a period of five (5) years subject to provider testimony and verification of supporting documentation submitted by provider.

Background

**Choices Children’s Academy**
- License Capacity: 78
- Care Level offered: 6 weeks to 12 years
- Approximate Children enrolled for SR: 0
- Approximate Children enrolled for VPK: N/A
- Approximate Number of providers within the same zip code offering the same services: 7
- Accreditations/Gold Seal: N/A
- Provider has offered services since: 2018
- 2018-2019 Approximate reimbursements: $0

**Issues**

Three Class 1 Violation within a 12-month Timeframe

The following has been noted on the DCF Inspection reports:

45. Vehicle Requirements Group: Sections 7-6.01 and 7-9, Ordinance, DCF Handbook, and Sections 316.615 and 402.305, Florida Statute ("FS").

- **1/23/2020:** 45-03 2.5.4(B), Handbook: The maximum number of individuals transported in a vehicle may not exceed the manufacturers designated seating capacity or the number of factory installed seat belts. The vehicle has a capacity for [15] persons and [19] were in the vehicle. (Section 6.1, number 2) [SR]
  - **Comments:** During this revisit for an unrelated issue, while sitting in the county vehicle the facility's van returned from picking up children at a local school and it was observed and confirmed through a count by a member of the administration and Child Care Licensing and Enforcement that the vehicle capacity was exceeded by 4 passengers. The due date was 01/23/2020.

Continued on page 2
Issues

2/18/2020: 45-03- 2.5.4(B), Handbook: The maximum number of individuals transported in a vehicle may not exceed the manufacturers designated seating capacity or the number of factory installed seat belts. The vehicle has a capacity for [13] persons and [16 children] were in the vehicle. (Section 6.1, number 2) [SR]
  o Comments: A complaint alleges that there were too many children on the van. Upon arrival to the facility the van had not returned from picking up the children. The van arrived it was observed that 16 children exited the van. There are only thirteen (13) seat belts on the van. The children being transported were: RS 03/12/14, RS12/13/12, SA 06/20/14, EA 12/07/12, TY 05/25/13, DS 12/13/12, KM 06/05/14, MR 08/27/13, RR 12/31/14, SR 04/20/16, PW 06/10/14, KF 08/31/14, KW06/28/14, RR 06/20/10, JT 07/11/11, JW 02/02/10. This complaint is deemed SUBSTANTIATED. There were sixteen (16) children being transported. There were thirteen (13) seat belts available. The vehicle seating capacity was exceeded. The due date is 02/18/2020.

2/18/2020: 45-07- Handbook: Each child, when transported, must be seated in a back seat in an individual factory installed seat belt or federally approved child safety restraint. The child safety restraint must be installed, secured and used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and a copy of such instructions must be maintained (in the vehicle and/or on file). Child safety restraint must be replaced if they have been recalled, are past the manufacturers date of use expiration date, or have been involved in a crash that meets the U.S. Department of Transportation crash severity criteria or the manufacturers criteria for replacement of restraints after a crash, as referenced in Caring for Our Children Basics Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education, which is incorporated by in 65C-22.001(7) (v), F.A.C. This requirement was not met in that [a three (3) year old child (SR 04/20/16) was not in a federally approved child safety restraint]. (Section 6.1, number 3) [SR]
  o Of the children being transported, a three (3) year old child (SR 04/20/16) was not in a federally approved child safety restraint.

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Issues

Continued from page 2

Additional Information:

- The Provider currently has the following violations with DCF Broward County: (5) class 1, (15) class 2, and (8) class 3 violations. According to the Broward Crosswalk, the Provider has the following violations for DCF Miami-Dade County: (3) class 1, (7) class 2, and (16) class 3 (refer to pages 2-5 of the supporting documentation for the standards). There are (2) standards that are not monitored by DCF Miami-Dade County (standard 22-8 and 5-1).

- Per Felicia Dessam, Provider relationship Specialist from Early Learning Coalition of Broward, the Provider is currently on a 120-day probation effective 2/19/2020 as a result of being in violation of the Health and Safety requirements.

- The Provider has no previous, Corrective Action Plans ("CAP's), or non-compliances with Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.

- The Provider’s School Readiness ("SR") contract with Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe commenced on 7/1/2019 and for Broward 7/1/2019.

- The Provider submitted a CAP on 4/30/2020, detailing the steps implemented to correct and avoid reoccurrence of the violations cited by DCF. To allow staff the time to verify and authenticate the Provider’s CAP, the Review Hearing Committee rescheduled the Provider’s hearing for 5/6/2020 where a final determination will be made on Provider’s SR Contract.