



Minutes

ELC Program, Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting

August 30, 2021, 7:00 a.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 946 2794 8099

Passcode: 195334

- Committee Attendees:** Gladys Montes; James Haj; Chereen Coile; Mara Zapata; Stephanie Scuderi; Sandi Bisceglia; Joycelyn Lawrence; Raeann Bacchus; Denisse Barrera
- Committee Absentees:** Eileen Fluney
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Belkis Torres; Pamela Hollingsworth; Ana Sejeck; Fiorella Christie; Sandra Gonzalez; Lucy Schrack; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Anabel Espinosa
- General Attendees:** Angela Benedetti

I. Welcome and Introductions

Gladys Montes

- G. Montes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Quorum was established with nine (9) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Gladys Montes

- Motion to approve by S. Bisceglia.
- Motion seconded by S. Scuderi
- Motion unanimously passed.

III. Early Head Start

Belkis Torres

- B. Torres shared the meals and attendance. It was stated that the program's average daily attendance in July was 91% and that includes hybrid children.
- B. Torres presented two resolutions:
Resolution 08302021-01 – Self-Assessment
Authorize the President and CEO to proceed with the implementation of the Early Head Start 2021-2022 Self-Assessment Plan.
- The timeline of the 2021-2022 self-assessment was reviewed.

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.





- Motion to approve Resolution 08302021-01 – Self-Assessment by M. Zapata
- Motion seconded by J. Haj
- Motion unanimously passed.

- Resolution 08302021-02 – Early Head Start
Authorize the President and CEO to submit a request allowing Early Head Start to provide comprehensive services through a Family Childcare Home option.
- It was stated that a max of 36 slots will be considered.
 - Motion to approve Resolution 08302021-02 – Early Head Start by S. Bisceglia
 - Motion seconded by M. Zapata
 - Motion unanimously passed.

IV. Early Head Start Program Compliance

Belkis Torres

- B. Torres discussed the program’s non-compliance received due to an incident that took place in February 2021. It was stated that the incident was followed by a DCF report, corrective action plan (CAP) and investigation by the Regional Office. She shared that the CAP included relevant trainings for Early Head Start teachers.

V. Ages & Stages Questionnaire Updates

Dr. Anabel Espinosa

- A. Espinosa shared that there were no new updates to the administration of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire.
- A reminder was given that Partners should check their developmental screening queue regularly and keep a look out for reminder notifications sent biweekly and past due notifications sent daily when a screening request is past due.

VI. Professional Development Institute

Pam Hollingsworth

P. Hollingsworth shared the following updates:

- Professional Development Institute (PDI) started the fiscal year with a new robust training schedule.
- The Institute rolled out Quick Response (QR) codes for ease of training registration.
- A recent Needs Assessment of Family Childcare Homes survey was conducted with a 50% response rate.
- Child Development Associate (CDA) course enrollment is almost closed and program begins soon.
- The Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program will launch soon.
- The Early Childhood Internship Program will begin on November 1st

VII. The Equity Institute Lead With Equity

Pam Hollingsworth

- P. Hollingsworth reported Dr. Steve Gallon III, Vice-Chair and elected District 1 School Board Member for the Miami-Dade County Schools was featured in the August ELC Talks



on “Learning Loss in the Wake of COVID-19”. The next ELC Talks on September 16th will discuss “Body Image, Body Shaming and Trauma in Young Children”.

- The Children First Equity and Inclusion Series will be featured at the Built to Thrive 21 Summit sponsored by The Children’s Movement of Florida on September 21st. PDI will be featured in conference.
- Poverty Simulation to help raise awareness about different aspects of poverty is coming soon.
- The work continues for The Language Equity Group.

VIII. Public Comments

Gladys Montes

- E. Torres shared that the Division of Early Learning (DEL) Disaster Relief Funding deadline will be extended again. Challenges with low application numbers were discussed.
- The next round of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Grants will be geared toward retention and recruitment for Providers.

IX. Adjourn

Gladys Montes