



Minutes

Program, Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting

Monday, September 27, 2021

7:00 am

Zoom Meeting ID: 949 9971 3959

Passcode: ELC0927

Board Attendees: Eileen Fluney; Stephanie Scuderi; Denisse Barrera; Mara Zapata; Sandi Bisceglia; Raeann Bacchus; Chereen Coile; James Haj

Board Absentees: Gladys Montes; Joycelyn Lawrence

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Pam Hollingsworth; Michelle Meilan; Belkis Torres; Maria Schrack; Sandra Gonzalez; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Ana Sejeck

- I. Welcome & Introductions Gladys Montes
- A. E. Fluney led the meeting in G. Montes absence. She called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
 - B. C. Pollard called roll and quorum was established with eight (8) voting members.

- II. Approval of Minutes Gladys Montes
- A. Motion to approve minutes for August 30, 2021
 - o Motion to approve by S. Bisceglia.
 - o Motion seconded by C. Coile
 - o Motion unanimously passed.

- III. Early Head Start Belkis Torres
- B. Torres shared the following:
 - Meals and attendance numbers can be located in the meeting packet. Lower attendance in August was attributed to center closures due to COVID exposure.
 - The Program Information Report (PIR), which includes demographics of the children and families the Early Head Start program serves, was submitted to the Office of Head Start on August 31st. She shared details of the report, including:
 - o 941 children from 819 families were served in 2020-2021.

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.



- More than nearly half of the participants were black non-Hispanic followed by white Hispanic.
- More than half of the families were single parent families.
- Obtaining well-baby and acquiring a dental home were the two areas in health services that will require more education and support.
- Of the 179 teachers in the program, 141 met the minimum qualifications and 36 are taking courses.
- In 2020-2021, there were 56 teachers who received intensive coaching.
- The annual Health and Safety Screener was conducted by program staff virtually due to COVID. All information needed was provided by partners as proof of compliance. The results were as follows:
 - Five centers were 100% compliant.
 - The remaining centers had 5 or less findings with the exception of one center.
 - 37 of the 53 indicators were in full compliance.
 - Six (6) centers were cited for missing trainings.
 - Eight (8) centers were cited for expired background checks and health exams.
- Teachers with expired background checks were removed from the classrooms and will not be able to work with the children until they have been cleared. A follow-up will be done on non-compliant centers by the Coalition and board member Raeann Bacchus.
- It was shared that The Office of Head Start released COVID-19 mitigation requirements which include the requirement for all Head Start employees to be vaccinated by January 2022 and allows programs to provide virtual and remote services during an emergency closure.

IV. Early Head Start Program Compliance

Belkis Torres

B. Torres shared that the Early Head Start program had an interview with the Regional Office on August 30th regarding the program's non-compliance. The call included The Coalition board chair, program staff and Policy Council vice chair. She stated that a final decision has not been received yet but will be provided within a month.

V. Professional Development Institute

Pam Hollingsworth

- P. Hollingsworth shared that the Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program has reached a salary agreement of \$15 an hour which will be submitted to the Department of Education. The entire application, including the operational portion, is now complete.
- It was also shared that the Internship Program is still set to kick-off in November.

VI. The Equity Institute Lead With Equity

Pam Hollingsworth

P. Hollingsworth shared that ELC Talks on the topic of “Body Image, Body Shaming and Trauma in Young Children” took place on September 16th and was a success. The next ELC Talks is scheduled for October 22nd.

VII. Public Comments

Gladys Montes

VIII. Adjourn

Gladys Montes