



Minutes

Program, Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 30, 2021
7:00 am
Zoom Meeting ID: 941 6169 1645
Passcode: ELC1129

Committee Attendees: Eileen Fluney; Raeann Bacchus; Denisse Barrera; Sandi Bisceglia; Chereen Coile; James Haj; Joycelyn Lawrence; Mara Zapata

Committee Absentees: Gladys Montes; Stephanie Scuderi

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Pam Hollingsworth; Michelle Meilan; Sandra Gonzalez; Lisney Badillo; Belkis Torres; Mercy Castiglione; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Ana Sejeck; Anabel Espinosa; Alex Sanchez; Lissandra Curbelo

I. Welcome & Introductions **Dr. Eileen Fluney, Vice Chair**

- A. E. Fluney 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 **Dr. Eileen Fluney, Vice Chair**

- Motion to approve October 26, 2021 minutes
 - Motion to approve by S. Bisceglia.
 - Motion seconded by J. Haj
 - Motion unanimously passed.

III. Resolution **Dr. Eileen Fluney, Vice Chair**
Dr. Anabel Espinosa

- A. 11302021-01 – SR Plan Amendment Developmental Screening – Dr. Anabel Espinosa
Authorize the President and CEO to submit a School Readiness Plan amendment for approval to the Florida Department of Education’s Division of Early Learning, for updates to the Developmental Screening Policy.
 - A. Espinosa shared the revised developmental screening policy and procedure to align with rule change.

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 11302021-01 – SR Plan Amendment Developmental Screening – Dr. Anabel Espinosa by M. Zapata
- Motion seconded by S. Bisceglia
- Motion unanimously passed.

IV. Early Head Start

Belkis Torres

- B. Torres shared the following:
 - Early Head Start attendance and meal reports. There was an increase in attendance in October.
 - The finding leading up to a non-compliance that the program received from the Office of Head Start in April has been closed. B. Torres gave details of the non-compliance again and the steps that were taken to remedy the situation. The ELC Board Chair was notified of the results.
 - The program worked with a consultant on the Directors Series, a series focused on responsibility, communication, leadership and management. It was stated that the cohort included four (4) owners and one (1) director, who completed 14 group and 14 individual sessions. Each participant identified goals, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for their center.
 - The program will be participating in Family and Child Experiences Study (Baby FACES), a national study on EHS, conducted by Mathematica. The study gathers information about EHS to inform program planning and technical assistance. It will include a random selection of centers, classrooms and children. Results are reported cumulatively.

V. Professional Development Institute

Pam Hollingsworth

- P. Hollingsworth shared the following:
 - The Early Childhood Internship Program successfully launched on November 1. The pilot cohort began work at Kids for Kids Academy on November 8. The Coalition is preparing to expand the program to different areas in Miami-Dade and Monroe County.
 - The application for the Apprenticeship Program has been submitted to the State in conjunction with two (2) formal partners. A portion of the 25 slots allocated will be assigned to Monroe County.

VI. ELC Strategic Initiative: Parent Engagement

Evelio Torres

Pam Hollingsworth



- E. Torres shared that the strategic planning process is ongoing. It was stated that the program committee should provide feedback on ways to strengthen parent engagement.
- P. Hollingsworth shared the evidence-based program, *Cradle to College* and *Ripples of Transformation*, a family engagement toolkit.
- E. Fluney shared that parents are more involved when children are included in programming, the commitment is short-term and provides flexibility, as needed.
- E. Torres recommended that the initiative be presented at the Provider Services Committee to allow for feedback from childcare partners.
- It was stated that a Strategic Planning Committee meeting is being proposed for January 2022 to finalize the strategic planning process.

VII. Benefits Cliff Update

**Evelio Torres
Pam Hollingsworth**

- P. Hollingsworth shared about the continued work being done to address the challenge of the benefits cliff that many families face. It was stated that Dr. Brittany Birken of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta is still at the forefront of the conversation and progress is being made. It was stated that a new House Bill paves the way for data analysis by way of the University of Florida and Florida International University will be invited to join the work.

VIII. Public Comments

Dr. Eileen Fluney, Vice Chair

- S. Bisceglia shared that Keys Mayor David Rice is involved in children's initiatives and the hope is to engage him in the work of the Early Learning Coalition.

IX. Adjourn

Dr. Eileen Fluney, Vice Chair