



ELC Programs, Policy & Strategy Committee Meeting
February 22, 2021 at 7:00 AM
Zoom Meeting ID: 972 0047 4323
Passcode: ELC0222

Committee Attendees: Gladys Montes; James Haj; Sandi Bisceglia; Eileen Fluney

Absent Committee: Joycelyn Lawrence;

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Fiorella Altare-Christie; Sandra Gonzalez; Pam Hollingsworth; Jackye Russell; Belkis Torres; Ana Sejeck; Anabel Espinosa; Angelo Parrino; Adelina Gross; Paloma Barcena; Lucretia Jones

Non-Committee Attendee: Rachel Spector

I. Welcome and Introductions

Gladys Montes

- G. Montes called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Quorum was established with four (4) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Gladys Montes

- Motion to approve minutes by E. Fluney.
- Motion seconded by S. Bisceglia.
- Motion unanimously passed.

III. Early Head Start

Belkis Torres

- B. Torres presented the meals and attendance. B. Torres stated that the attendance is at 95% this includes virtually and in person.
- B. Torres presented the annual report.
- L. Jones presented the School Readiness goals:
 - Children will demonstrate interest in self-identity, belonging, curiosity, and eagerness in exploring the world around them.
 - Children will use all of their senses to investigate their environment to discover what objects and people do, how things work, and how they can make things happen.
 - Children will develop control of large and small muscles for movement, navigation, manipulation, exploration and balance.

IV. Monroe County Needs Assessment

Angelo Parrino

- A. Parrino stated that NOLA, the company conducting the needs assessment, presented at the last Monroe Advisory Committee. There was lots of great discussion, which provided NOLA with



a new perspective regarding what the committee would like to have included in the needs assessment. NOLA sent out a survey to committee members and community partners, results should be back in a couple of weeks.

V. The Children’s Trust Scholarship Program **Fiorella Christie**

- F. Christie discussed the Children’s Trust Scholarship Program:
 - Total funding for program \$8million
 - 150 participating programs
 - 909 children enrolled
 - 141 on the waitlist

VI. Wells Certification **Eileen Fluney**

- E. Fluney stated that she had been in contact with the company and it was expensive and suggested that the ELC attempt to create this certification in-house.

VII. Special Needs Rate **Anabel Espinosa**

- A. Espinosa discussed the proposed special needs rate:
 - Need for Inclusion support – 789 special needs children in Miami Dade/Monroe, 425 providers
 - Criteria for children and program eligibility - a childcare provider must submit a list of the special needs services it is providing. The special need child’s condition must be validated by a licensed health, mental health, education or social service professional
 - Mechanism to award special needs rate - twenty (20) percent above the maximum approved base reimbursement rate established for infant care by the coalition.
 - Additional cost \$1.6 for 789 children.

VIII. Professional Development Institute **Pam Hollingsworth**

- P. Hollingsworth stated that the ELC continues to work with the Children’s Trust on the Kellogg Foundation: Racial Equity 2030 grant. The due date was extended.

IX. Public Comments **Gladys Montes**

X. Adjourn **Gladys Montes**

