



Minutes

ELC Provider Services Committee Meeting

August 26, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 957 4858 1889

Passcode: 188400

Committee Attendees: Rick Beasley; Jenni Roig; Chereen Coile; Loreen Chant; Daniel Armstrong; Jane McQueen; Eileen Fluney

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Belkis Torres; Pamela Hollingsworth; Sandra Gonzalez; Mercy Castiglione; Ana Sejeck; Diana Lane; Eilin Orozco; Fiorella Christie; Lisney Badillo; Ileana Vallejo; Johnnetta Nuby-Powell; Marisleydis Bruguez; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Jose Hernandez; Alex Sanchez; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Ana Rodriguez; Lucy Schrack; Amy Tongson; Lillian Amador; Natalia Gamundi; Sheyla Perez; Yadira Aguilar; Vernise Casimir; Alyssa Linares; Marine Allen-Tucker

General Attendees: Amanda Hand, Angela-Perla Almodovar; Valrine Cato, Daisy Mordan; Maria Delgado; Maria Hernandez; Elizabeth Angulo; Nicole Rodriguez; Cynthia Hereford; Penelope Quintas; Alma Diaz; Lynn Barras; Lorena Suarez

I. Welcome and Introductions **Gladys Montes**

- R. Beasley called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Quorum was established with seven (7) voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes **Rick Beasley**

- Motion to approve by L. Chant.
- Motion seconded by J. Roig
- Motion unanimously passed.

III. Early Head Start Program Compliance **Belkis Torres**

- B. Torres shared a summary outlining Early Head Start program compliance and the reporting process and timeline followed when an incident occurs in the program.



- As a result of the program's non-compliance, a follow-up with the Regional Office includes an in-depth investigation and review of corrective action plan. It was stated that unresolved areas could lead to a deficiency.

IV. New Initiatives

- **Employment of Participants in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program**

Rick Beasley

R. Beasley shared continued discussions with Department of Children and Families regarding employment in child care programs for individuals participating in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families welfare to work program, particularly parents. It was stated that professional development, industry certifications and sliding scale to reduce benefits could incentivize recipients to return to work.

- **Employment of Individuals with Disabilities**

Dr. Daniel Armstrong

D. Armstrong led discussion to engage individuals with disabilities in the workforce and early childhood education field. Resources such as Self Advocate Leadership Training (SALT), that provides education and training support to people with disabilities, were shared.

- **Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program**

Pam Hollingsworth

P. Hollingsworth gave an update that Apprenticeship Program is prepared to submit application to the state. Application review turnaround is 30-45 days. The program is accepting 25 apprentices in year 1.

- **Early Childhood Internship Program**

Pam Hollingsworth

P. Hollingsworth announced that Internship Program is fully mobilized and will commence on November 1, 2021. The program is looking to do a kick-off ceremony.

V. Early Education Partners Roundtable

Provider Representatives

- Discussions concerning Family Child Care Homes attracting and retaining staff continue. Dr. Perla Almodovar explained wage affordability challenge. E. Torres shared upcoming discussions regarding state market rate for providers that could affect wages.
- Center-Based remains a priority. The Coalition continues sending ongoing communications to providers related to important items.
- General Discussion
E. Torres stated that early education initiatives are being prioritized at next legislative session.



VI. Public Comments

Rick Beasley

- E. Torres gave September board meeting reminder. He shared Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce and Dr. Brittany Birken, Principal Adviser, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta will be presenting on early education initiatives and benefits cliff.
- E. Torres confirmed additional COVID relief funding will be available to providers soon.

VII. Adjourn

Rick Beasley