



MINUTES

Program Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2023; 9 A.M.

Meeting ID: 822 9939 4581

Passcode: 224219

Committee Attendees; Chereen Coile; Sandi Bisceglia; Jim Haj; Dr. Fluney; Joycelyn Lawrence; Denise Barrera

Board Attendees: Dr. Armstrong; Gilda Ferradaz

Committee absentees: Suzette Frazier

Staff Attendees: Michelle Meilan; Belkis Torres; Evelio Torres; Lisney Badillo; Ana Sejeck; Pamela Hollingsworth; Sandra Gonzalez; Fiorella A Christie; Alex Sanchez; Dr. Hicks; Vanessa Aguilera; Lissandra Curbelo; Cindy Cabrera; Ana Sejeck; Anabel Espinosa; Lucy Schrack; Paloma Lopez-Barcena; Sheyla Perez; Sandrina Seraphin; Ahmed Mitwalli

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chereen Coile

A. C. Coile called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

B. K. Gregory called roll and quorum was established with six voting members.

II. Approval of Minutes

Chereen Coile

A. Motion to approve November 28, 2022 minutes

- Motion to approve Dr. Fluney
- Motion Seconded S. Bisceglia
- Motion unanimously passed.

III. Making a Difference

Pamela Hollingsworth

- Shayla Ashley, Registered Apprentice placed at Kids for Kids Academy was discussed by P. Hollingsworth.

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.



IV. CLASS® Assessments Update

Fiorella A. Christie

- Fiorella A. Christie provided CLASS® Assessments Update Information.

V. American Rescue Plan Act Update

Fiorella A. Christie

- A. F. Altare reported the most updated statistics on the ARPA Round 2 applications and awards as well as the ARPA Workforce Notice of Award.

Notice of Award- Round 1

- Awarded 1,278 programs totaling \$83,187,761.25
- 1st installment – \$27,729,253.75 – 100% completed
- 2nd installment - \$27,054,184.57 – 98% completed
- 3rd installment - \$15,797,649.53 – 57% completed

Notice of Award- Round 2-\$118,973,311

- Award amounts and eligibility requirements for round 2 are the same as those for round 1, although the application format has changed.
- Payments will be made in one lump sum.
- Applications opened Oct. 31, 2022
- Applications will close Feb. 28, 2023

Round 2 Applications

- Received 1062
- Approved 595 programs totaling \$36,049,015.32

VI. Early Head Start

Belkis Torres

- A. Attendance Analysis was provided by B. Torres:
Top reasons for absences in months that fell below 85%.
October: 52% were reported with children ill.
November: 47% were reported as children ill.
December: 48% were reported with children ill.
- B. Meals: B. Torres reported an increase in meals served in December 2022, 99.51%, from the previous month.

Early Head Start Updates were provided by B. Torres.



During the months of November and December, attendance took a dip due to children being ill. Additionally, there was an increase of absences around the holidays.

The Office of Head Start issued Program Instruction on January 6, 2023. The Program Instruction confirms the implementation of the final rule on Mitigating the Spread of COVID-19 in Head Start Program.

In consultation with the Health Advisory Committee, programs must develop an evidence-based COVID-19 mitigation policy. The Information Memorandum outlines seven (7) areas for programs to consider in their policy:

- Mitigation Strategies
- COVID-19 Community Levels data
- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Prioritizing Strategies
- Responsive to Changing Conditions
- Communication Plan
- Additional Precautions

Congress signed the Consolidated Appropriation Act 2023 (H.R. 2617) on Dec. 23, 2022 and is currently with President Biden. If approved, Head Start will receive \$11.99 billion dollars which is a \$960 million increase from last year. Funds are expected to be allocated as follows:

- \$596 million increase for Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA; roughly a 5.4% increase)
- \$262 million increase for Quality Improvement Funding (QIF)
- \$100 million increase for expansion of prenatal-to-five Head Start and Early Head Start
- \$8 million increase for the Tribal Colleges and Universities Head Start Partnership Program

VII. Early Head Start Resolutions

Belkis Torres

- **01232023-01** Self-Assessment Report Improvement Plan
Authorize the President and CEO to submit the 2022-2023 Early Head Start Self-Assessment Report and Action Plan with the Early Head Start grant application and implement the Action Plan.
- **01232023-02** Recruitment and Selection Plan
Authorize the President and CEO to implement the Early Head Start 2023-2024 Recruitment and Selection Plan.



VIII. Professional Development Institute

Ana Sejeck

A. Super CLASS® Saturday 2! Updates were discussed by A. Sejeck.

IX. New VPK Requirements Revisited

Cindy Cabrera

A. Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) Updates were provided by C. Cabrera
B. Review of VPK Provider Readiness Rates and Plan to Improve Updates were provided.

C. C. Cabrera provided a list of supports provided by the Early Learning Coalition. (Provided in Program Policy and Strategy Committee packet).

X. Public Comments

Chereen Coile

XI. Adjourn

Chereen Coile