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Strategic Plan
Children First

Parents / Families

Providers

Partners
OUR MISSION
To promote high-quality inclusive school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten 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 development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

OUR VISION
CHILDREN FIRST
To ensure a comprehensive integrated early learning system for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, ensuring high quality programs throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties so children enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

OUR VALUES
- CHILDREN - Children are at the heart of all we do. We believe that all children, regardless of circumstance, are capable of educational excellence and personal growth, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.
- COMMUNITY - We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote high quality early education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.
- PARTNERSHIP - We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.
- ADVOCACY - We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing early education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by our collective passion, strength and dedication to children.
- EXCELLENCE - When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.
- CUSTOMER SERVICES - We strive to meet the needs of our parents, families, providers and partners by providing comprehensive customer service in a professional, timely and courteous manner.
- EQUITY - In working with parents, families, providers, and partners, we are committed to the principle of equity and balance, so that all may benefit from the work we do, while keeping children first.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

NEEDEST CHILDREN
- Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, including children with developmental and other delays and disabilities, by improving the quality of early learning programs.
- Target neediest areas
  - Identify centers in distressed zip codes and those serving children with, or at risk for, developmental delays & provide extra support for them to meet higher standards
- Increase the Number of Children
  - Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities
- Parent/Family Self-sufficiency
  - Identify methods of encouraging self-sufficiency

YOUNGEST CHILDREN
- Offer a continuum of care from before birth to age 5, with a particular focus on infants and children.
- Age-based Rates
  - Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children
- EDUCATE ALL
  - Educate families and the community at large about the benefits of quality early learning.
- Parental Choice
  - Develop innovative strategies to help parents choose child care programs that ensure better outcomes for their children
- Visibility
  - Achieve increased visibility of the importance of early learning throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information

YOU PROVIDERS
- Strengthen Coalition relationship with providers and support providers’ meeting higher quality performance requirements.
- Improve Provider Selection and Contracting Process
  - Establish local provisions that support parental choice and ensure providers serving children receiving subsidies meet certain quality requirements
- Teacher Education
  - Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials
- Fewer Providers
  - Drop low-performing providers
- Technical Business Assistance
  - Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas
- Educate Providers
  - Provide program directors/staff with training and resources to provide high quality care to all children, including children with disabilities

CAPACITY BUILDING
- Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals
- Advocacy
  - Engage aggressively & systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children
- Early Child Care Education Systems Building
  - Establish regular meetings with partners to strengthen cross-sector investments and policies for children before birth through age five

FUNDING
- Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals
- Public
  - Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve
- Monroe County
  - Establish a Permanent Funding Model for Social Services
School Readiness - The budget includes an increase of $25 million in federal funding to allow more than 4,600 additional children access to School Readiness programs. The budget also includes funds for the following early learning initiatives:

- The **T.E.A.C.H.** Program - $3 million for early childhood teacher scholarships.

- **Performance Funding** - $15.5 million to reward child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes.

- **Help Me Grow** - $1.9 million to connect children and families with information, resources, and developmental services to enhance health, behavior, and learning in the development of young children.

- **Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY)** - $1.4 million to deliver high quality School Readiness curriculum directly to parents so they may strengthen the cognitive and early literacy skills of at-risk children.
Legislative Update

• The Florida HIPPY State Office/University of South Florida has issued a notice outlining the 65% budget reduction.
  ▪ FY 16-17 : $3.9 Million
  ▪ FY 17-18 : $1.4 Million
  ▪ $2.5 Million in proposed reduction
• The state office is requesting that all programs submit a budget for FY 17-18 that reflects this reduction.
• The ELC is currently funded by USF at $150,000 to serve 50 children in Collier and 25 children in Monroe - 75 children total.
• ELCMDM has also allocated an additional $60,000 to Monroe county to support an additional 25 children funded through School Readiness.
• USF will likely prioritize Collier county because they are a county in the Red Zone and are on target to meet national accreditation standards.
Legislative Update

• QRIS proviso language included with the Performance Funding Project proviso failed in the final days of session. Much more support than in previous years, but also clear opposition by at least a few members of the early learning community. **Need better alignment of priorities and a local agenda (UW, TCT, ELC) as in previous years.**

• Proposed PFP Proviso Language from Senate:
  - From the fund in Specific Appropriations 86, $15.5 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund is provided to Early Learning Performance Based Incentive to be allocated based on a methodology approved by the Office of Early Learning to award child care providers and instructors for improving school readiness program outcomes. In coordination with the Office of Early Learning’s approved program design, the local **early learning coalitions** will be responsible for the selection of participating provider, implementation of quality improving strategies, and integration of local quality efforts. **The intent of the Early Learning Performance Funding Project is to create a statewide quality rating improvement system to ensure parents and consumers of early childhood education services are able to easily identify and access quality programs in their local communities.**
Legislative Update

• Current proviso in law:
  ▪ PROVISO 2016-2017  From the funds in Specific Appropriation 86, $15,500,000 from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund is provided for Early Learning Performance Based Incentives to be allocated based on a methodology approved by the Office of Early Learning to award child care providers and instructors for improving school readiness program outcomes.

• New Proviso 2017-18:
  ▪ From the funds in Specific Appropriation XX, $15,500,000 from the Child Care and Development Block Grant Trust Fund is provided for Early Learning Performance Based Incentives to award early learning programs that have met educational standards and demonstrated school readiness program outcomes. The funds will be administered by the Office of Early Learning in coordination with the Early Learning Coalitions to provide consistent standards and leverage community efforts to support a coordinated statewide system of quality.
Florida lawmakers will head back to Tallahassee for a special session next week (June 7 – 9) to address economic programs and public education funding.

Gov. Rick Scott, House Speaker Richard Corcoran and Senate President Joe Negron announced Friday morning lawmakers would convene in a special session from June 7 to June 9. The call, issued by Scott on Friday morning, calls on lawmakers to tackle issues relating to funding for public education, Visit Florida and Enterprise Florida. The governor announced Friday he signed the 2017-18 budget, vetoing $410 million in legislative projects. Scott also vetoed the entire Florida Educational Finance Program, which funds K-12 public education, and a bill (HB 5501) that, among other things, slashed funding for Visit Florida by 60 percent.
Program Updates
The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start

Belkis Torres, Vice President

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

- Neediest Children
- Youngest Children
- Educate All
- Providers
- Internal Capacity
- Funding
April 2017 Enrollment

- 487 (67%): EHS Only
- 258 (33%): Dually Enrolled

745 total enrolled

Vacancies: 745
Percentage of Identified Children with Special Needs

March: 11.00%
April: 11.00%

Goal: 10%
## Meal Report
### April 2017

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Teaching Strategies Gold Online Introduction Training

**Training Dates**
May 6\textsuperscript{th}, 8\textsuperscript{th}, 13\textsuperscript{th}, and 20\textsuperscript{th}

**Participants**
80 Early Head Start Spanish teachers and staff

**Learning Objectives**
Teachers:
- Learned the basic skills they need to begin implementing GOLD\textsuperscript{®} in their classrooms;
- examined the progressions of development and learning and the assessment process;
- practiced evaluating a child's portfolio;
- created useful assessment information by linking curricular objectives to documentation; and
- developed conference forms to communicate with families.
April 27th – May 4th, ELC-MDC orientations were held in various locations in order to prepare EHS teachers for the Summer term. There were a total of 56 participants.

**South Sessions**
- April 27th - 7 Participants (Spanish)
- May 3rd - 8 Participants (English)

**North Session**
- May 2nd - 25 Participants (English)

**Central Session**
- May 4th - 16 Participants (Spanish)
2016-2017 School Year

- Have Health Insurance: 99%, 99%, 99%
- Completed 45 Day Hearing and Vision Screening: 77%, 77%, 89%
- Have Medical Home: 96%, 97%, 97%
- Have Dental Home: 56%, 59%, 59%
- Up-to-date Immunizations: 90%, 91%, 91%
• Partnering with Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures took place for them to attend parent committee meetings to educate families on the importance of oral health.

• FIU Intern began on May 8th. He will be serving in the role as a Family Advocate.
HEALTH—Seals on Wheels

- Schools visited in April:
  - Kinderland 4 Kids
  - Precious Moments

- Total Children:
  - EHS: 12
  - Non-EHS: 2
After recently completing the self assessment in the area of Family Services it was decided that the Family Needs Assessment would now be called Family Snapshot. One of the parents on the self assessment team felt that after reviewing this tool one would be able see a snapshot of the family at that moment in time from the information gathered.

Family Advocates are ramping up to complete the final Family Needs Assessment within the next month. By the end of the program year we will be able to see the growth of our EHS families upon enrolling in the program until the last day of the program year, July 31, 2017. Family Advocates will also be administering the Talk, Read, and Sing post surveys in conjunction with the FNA.

Currently 98% of the families enrolled in the program have had a preliminary Family Needs Assessment completed.
Volunteer Hours

Feb. 821
Mar. 1176
Apr. 779
We are now in our 7th session of the Parenting Journey. This has been the most emotionally charged session thus far. Parents are building trusting relationships and sharing vulnerable experiences amongst the group; leaning on each other for support.

Each session builds greater confidence in the curriculum and parent engagement has increased.

Parent Quotes:

- *I am so anxious to be here every Wednesday. This week was rough for me in so many ways and I knew by coming here I would begin to feel better.*
  
  Mariela O.

- *I already had a good relationship with my daughter, but PJ has made my bond with her even stronger.*
  
  Kylie F.
Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Educate All
• Neediest Children
• Providers

Lidia Clarke, Managing Director
Monroe
Early Childhood Conference
Healthy Families; Healthy Communities
Monroe Early Childhood Conference

• **Marathon High School**-Saturday, May 6, 2017

• More than **100** early childhood practitioners, administrators, presenters, and vendors were in attendance.

• **Dr. Mike Longoria** presented an engaging keynote session centered on music, movement, and child development.

• Over **$15,000** of quality material investments in Monroe
Highlights:

• Over 1000 Early Care and Education Professionals
• Statewide Pre-school Expulsion Roundtable
• Nationally recognized speakers and presenters
ELC Around Town

Strategic Plan Priority Initiative:

• Educate All
Early Learning Coalition Participates in the One Miami Festival with the Miami-Dade Public Library System (4/29/2017)

• As a Talk, Read, Sing partner with the Miami-Dade Public Library System, the Early Learning Coalition celebrated reading and child-focused activities at the One Miami Festival. Hundreds of reading royalty crowns, books and more were distributed to families during the daylong event.
The Early Learning Coalition participated in Univision’s Home and Family Expo as a partner in the Pequenos y Valiosos campaign. The Coalition distributed hundreds of books, and reading royalty crowns. Early Learning Coalition Staff talked to families about school readiness, VPK, Early Head Start and other early childhood programs and initiatives.
ELC Café: Museums and Libraries Discover and Go (5/18/2017)
Join us for

READ & Ride

June 8, 2017, 10:00 a.m.