



# Minutes

**Monroe Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 18, 2022; 1:00 p.m.**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 930 8105 2038**

**Passcode: ELC011822**

**Committee Attendees:** Heather Carruthers, Sandi Bisceglia; Sue Ellen Bennett; Lisa Taylor; Marla Russell; Stephanie Scuderi

**Committee Absentees:**

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres; Angelo Parrino; Sandra Gonzalez; Pam Hollingsworth; Mercy Castiglione; Laurie Dunn; Anabel Espinosa; Desiree Aguilera; Michele Morgan; Ana Sejeck; Fiorella Altare Christie; Lissanda Curbello; Lucy Schrack; Michelle Meilan; Vanessa Aguilera-Viera; Diana Lane

**General Attendees:** Jeffrey Hurst; Natalia Capp; Christine Patterson; Amy O'Connor; Lisa Blair

- I. Welcome and Introductions** **Heather Carruthers, Chair**
- A. H. Carruthers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
  - B. Quorum was established with six (6) voting members.

- II. Approval of Agenda** **Heather Carruthers, Chair**
- Approval of agenda items
- A. Motion to approve by S. Bisceglia
  - B. Motion seconded by M. Russell
  - C. Motion unanimously passed

- III. Approval of Minutes** **Heather Carruthers, Chair**
- Approval of minutes for October 12, 2021
- o Motion to approve by S. Scuderi
  - o Motion seconded by M. Russell
  - o Motion unanimously passed

- IV. Old Business** **Heather Carruthers, Chair**

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.



- V. Update from Get the Attention** **Carlos Garcia**  
C.Garcia present a video and stats of outreach efforts in Monroe. Challenges due to Covid-19 were discussed as well as ideas for the future.
- VI. ELC Monroe Update** **Laurie Dunn,  
Monroe County Supervisor**
- VII. Monroe County Needs Assessment Update** **Laurie Dunn,  
Monroe County Supervisor**
- L.Dunn discussed the challenges of getting responses to the needs assessment. The mailing lists were reviewed. A personal approach was decided and a team is contacting Early Care and Education partners directly.
- VIII. Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership** **Natalia Capp, MD**
- N.Capp introduced the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership. One of the aspects of the program is working with pediatricians to introduce early literacy during well-baby visits. A video was shown to demonstrate the well-baby visit.
- IX. CEO Update** **Evelio Torres**
- E.Torres discussed the disaster relief payments and reminded Early Education Partners to apply for the bonus payments.
  - American Rescue plan provides payments to help out Early Care and Education Partners. Division of Early Learning is finalizing the award with the State of Florida.
  - E.Torres reviewed bill in reference to the funding formula.
- X. FL Keys Chamber and Other Updates** **Sandi Bisceglia, Vice Chair**
- Discussed difficulties with in person meetings.
  - Planning on attending the Ocean Reef Chamber meeting February 3, 2022 where David Rice is the Key Note speaker. ELC plans to send a representative.
  - Stephanie Scuderi is attending Legislative days in Tallahassee is February 10, 2022.
- XI. Partner Updates**
- A. Child Care Provider Update **Sue Ellen Bennett, Monroe Advisory  
Committee Provider Representative**
- i. Discussed benefits and hiring issues.
- B. District Head Start/VPK Update **Marla Russell,  
Early Childhood Supervisor**
- i. Attendance is at 92% average is 70%.
- C. DCF Updates **Jeff Hurst, DCF**
- i. Will send out power point to all attendees.



**XII. New Business**

**Heather Carruthers, Chair**

- Heather Carruthers announced her resignation as chair of the Monroe Advisory Committee at today's meeting. Sandi Bisceglia is the vice chair and agreed to serve as chair. The committee voted in support. Information will be sent to Matthew Bruno.
- ELC will invited Mr. Mears to next Monroe Advisory meeting March 15, 2022.

**XIII. Public Comments**

**Heather Carruthers, Chair**

**XIV. Adjourn**

**Heather Carruthers, Chair**

**Next Meeting Date: March 15, 2022 at 1 p.m.**