

MONROE ELC OVERVIEW

MARCH 3, 2014



Mission and Vision

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 development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

Vision

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

MONROE COUNTY OPERATIONS

Operation of Three Service Centers in the Keys
for the Provision of:

- School Readiness
- Child Care Resource and Referral Services
- Child Screening and Assessment
- Provider Services (Training and Technical Assistance)
- Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)
- Parent and Community Outreach
- Coordination of Services with Community Partners

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Early Care and Education Providers
- Monroe Co. School District
 - VPK, Head Start, Pre-K ESE and Child Find
- Department of Children and Families
 - At-Risk Priority Referrals
 - DCF Child Care Licensing
 - DCF Interagency Team
- Wesley House Family Services Community Based Care
 - At-Risk Priority Referrals
 - Healthy Families Monroe
- Monroe County Homeless Services CoC Agencies
 - At-Risk Priority Referrals
- Domestic Abuse Shelter
 - At-Risk Priority Referrals
- Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (Keys AHEC)
 - Provides School Readiness Child Health Screenings through grant from Monroe County Human Services Advisory Board
- Klaus Murphy Foundation
 - Provides foundation match dollars to draw down Child Care Executive Partnership funds
- Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition
 - Prenatal care and support to pregnant women and babies; child car seat installation initiative
- Monroe Co. Health Department
 - Coordination of health initiatives, such as whooping cough education, immunizations
- Monroe Co. Interagency Transition Committee
 - Goal to ensure seamless transition for children with disabilities and/or developmental delays from birth - kindergarten
- Early Steps Southernmost Coast
 - Referral and identification of children to age 3 with possible disabilities and/or developmental delays

KEY WEST OFFICE

Professional Plaza, 1111 12TH St., Suite 206

Phone: 296-5557 ext. 368

Hours

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday: Not Open to the Public

Last Saturday of the Month: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Note: Closed Daily from 12:00 – 1:00 for Lunch



L-R: Tina Morales, CCRR Eligibility Specialist; Adriana Velasco, CCRR Eligibility Specialist; Gerella Kenniston, Inclusion/Assessment Specialist; Laurie Dunn, Provider Services Specialist; Cori Johnson, Program Specialist; Trina Rodriguez, Early Learning Supervisor; Mary Williams, Managing Director



MARATHON OFFICE

Co-located with Keys AHEC (shared use of conference room and training area)

Gulfside Village, 5800 Overseas Hwy., Suite 36

Phone: 743-7111 ext. 210

Hours

Monday: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

*Note: Closed Daily from 12:00 – 1:00 for Lunch

L-R: Trina Rodriguez, Early Learning Supervisor/
Provider Services
Cristina Ruiz, CCRR/Eligibility Specialist



**L-R: Raysa DeLara, PT Administrative Assistant
Cristina Ruiz, CCRR/Eligibility Specialist
Amber Keller, Early Learning Supervisor/Provider Services**

KEY LARGO OFFICE

Pink Plaza, 103400 Overseas Hwy., Suite 232

Phone: 296-5557 ext. 387

Hours

Monday – Wednesday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday: 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Friday: Not Open to the Public

Last Saturday of Month: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

***Note: Closed Daily from 12:00 – 1:00 for Lunch**

SCHOOL READINESS

- **Contracted Providers**

- **20** Centers (5- Accredited; 15- Licensed)
- **26** Family Child Care Homes (11- Licensed; 15- Registered)
- **6** District Afterschool Programs; **4** Private Afterschool/Summer Programs

- **Children Served**

- **673 Children paid January 2014**
 - **500** Income Eligible (74%)
 - **148** At-Risk (including **4** Homeless and **2** Teen Parents) (22%)
 - **3** Workforce
 - **5** Transitional
 - **22** Child Care Executive Partnership (including 7 funded by Klaus Murphy grant)
 - **514** Preschool (72%); **159** School Age (28%)

- **Wait List Update**

- **August 6th – February 18th, income eligible applicants:**
 - **149** children placed out of **319** pulled from wait list (or 47%)
 - Pending eligibility determinations for Feb. wait list applicants
 - Wait List cleared monthly

MARATHON CAPACITY ISSUE

- **Unintended consequence of clearing wait list**
 - Lack of infant, toddler and afterschool care options
 - All age groups at or near capacity at any time
 - Stanley Switlik Elementary currently does not provide afterschool care
- **ELC assisted in equipping two new classrooms**
 - Infant Room- Kreative Kids Christian Academy
 - One Year Old Room- Community Cooperative Preschool
- **Current status as of February 28th**
 - Community Cooperative Preschool- **No Vacancies**
 - Demming Family Child Care Home- **No Vacancies**
 - Grace Jones Community and Day Care Center- **No Vacancies**
 - Kreative Kids Christian Academy- **No Vacancies**
 - **One infant and one three year old from the wait list pending placement**
- **Engagement of political and community leaders required to resolve situation**

VPK

2013-14 School Year Program

- **24** Providers (**9**- District Sites; **15**- Private Centers)
- **501** COEs Issued for School Year Program Year-to-Date
 - **42** Not Utilized
 - **26** Terminations
- **433** Children Enrolled Year-to-Date as of Feb. 28th
 - **289**- District Sites; **144**- Private Centers

2014 Summer & 2014-15 School Year Registration Underway as of Feb. 1st

- Application via Online Portal or Client Kiosk
- 58 - School Year Applicants as of Feb. 28th (27 COEs issued; 31 pending approval)
 - (10- Upper Keys; 4- Middle Keys; 44 Lower Keys)
- 1- Summer Applicant (Key West) as of Feb. 28th

2013-14 School Year Updates

- Inez Martin CDC and Sigsbee School in Key West will not be offering VPK, which will result in a potential loss of capacity totaling 42 slots (and reducing number of providers from 7 to 5)
- Two potential providers in Key West are considering offering VPK, which would provide for approximately 22 slots

PROVIDER SERVICES

- **Provider Meetings**

- Attendance Portal/Payments (5 trainings prior to launch; 2 district and 2 private provider follow-up trainings)
- Individual Meetings with Monroe Payments Specialist monthly as of February 2014
- Directors Meetings (2 center directors; 3 family home providers)

- **Provider Trainings**

- Through the ELC's contract with the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Education:
 - 5 Trainings year-to-date on topics including *Florida Early Learning Standards; Supporting the Development and Learning of Infants/Toddlers* and *Creating Literacy Rich Environments*
 - 3 Additional Trainings Scheduled, including *Math & Science in VPK Classrooms* and *Creative Curriculum Lesson Planning*
 - Offered in Marathon mid point; Spanish family home provider trainings held in Key West
 - CEUs provided
- First Aid/CPR- Scheduled March 22nd (English) and April 5th (Spanish) in Key West

- **Competency Exams**

- Held October 12th; February 22nd; Next scheduled date May 10th

- **Quality Initiatives**

- Quality Counts Pilot- Five (5) centers Keys-wide are participating in the pilot
 - Quality Improvement Plans were developed with assistance of Monroe ELC staff
 - Initial program supports/resources were awarded to assist in meeting their quality goals
- Quality materials packages, including art materials, developmentally appropriate toys, literacy materials and outdoor play equipment distributed to private providers in Feb. 2014

GOING FORWARD

- **CHALLENGES**

- Capacity issue in Marathon for all age groups, preschool and school age
- Cost of start-up prohibitive in opening new programs
- Lack of affordable and available afterschool and summer program slots Keys-wide
- Monroe County allows Registered Family Homes, which are not licensed or inspected by Department of Children and Families

- **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Elimination of the wait list provides readily available child care assistance to income eligible working families
- Elimination of the wait list improves child care providers' financial solvency as open slots are filled Keys-wide
- Monroe County School District looking at expanding afterschool programs next school year in Marathon (Stanley Switlik) and Key West (Horace O'Bryant)
- Planned ELC sponsored National CDA (Child Development Associate) training program will provide needed professional development opportunities for teachers
- Expansion of Quality Counts pilot in Monroe County will continue to improve the quality of early care and education

