



Minutes

PROGRAM POLICY & PROVIDER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
August 26th, 2014; 3:30 P.M.
ELC Board Room

Committee Attendees: The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman, Shaleen Fagundo; Rick Beasley; Abilio Rodriguez; Mara Zapata; Helene Good (via conference call); Dr. Lori Hanson on behalf of Charles Auslander; Tina Carroll-Scott;

Committee Absentees: Robert Eadie; David Williams, Jr.

Staff Attendees: Evelio C. Torres, CEO; Angelo Parrino; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Trudy Azarsepandan; Kerry Allen; Melissa Fernandez; Leeana Sanchez; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

Public Attendees: Judy Palenzuela, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Elvira Smith, Vankara School; Margaret Spawn, Vankara School; Rev. John Taylor, Vankara School

I. Welcome and Introductions **The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman**

- S. Fagundo welcomed the Committee, staff and attendees. Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes **The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman**

- S. Fagundo moved the motion for the approval of meeting minutes from July 29th, 2014.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

III. Provider Grievance Policy **Evelio C. Torres**
Trudy Azarsepandan

- E. Torres stated that the provider grievance policy was modified based on the feedback given at the last Board meeting. A provider receives a licensing violation and will receive a letter notifying them that the contract is being considered for termination, and that they have a right to appeal within 30 days. If and when the ELC receives the appeal, the staff will review the situation. Staff will decide if the provider is to make a corrective action plan or put on termination. There will be a 30 day notice if the ELC decides that their contract will be terminated. It then goes to the peer review panel, then to the Program Policy & Provider Services committee, and finally the Board. The Board does not have authority on payment issues. This is an unallowable expense, and the ELC has no authority to pay for something that the provider did not earn.
- R. Beasley suggested including in policy those items like this would not be brought before the Board.
- S. Fagundo requested a flow chart explaining the changes to the policy.
- R. Beasley asked if a site visit would be part of the process.

- E. Torres explained that site visits would be very subjective. The ELC staff is not licensed to inspect centers.

IV. School Readiness Provider

**The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman
Shaleen Fagundo**

Vankara: Learning Exchange, Inc:

- E. Torres gave a summary of the Vankara Learning Exchange DCF violations. These items had already been addressed at the previous Program Policy and Provider Services Committee. The full report is available in the committee packet.
- Bishop John Taylor spoke on behalf of Vankara Learning Exchange. He stated that they did not agree with the statements on the DCF report and couldn't sign it. He stated that other violations have been corrected since the last meeting. A full corrective action plan was prepared and everyone has been notified on what it will take to move forward. He stated that they will use this experience to strengthen their center and program.
- S. Fagundo stated that she visited the center. The school has incredible resources that are in place already. The center has an incredible library, with hundreds of books in it. When she toured the facility, there were about 45 students present. The children were comfortable sitting on their mats, and familiar with their teachers. The materials were good toys, appropriately sized furniture. All the teachers she met were very competent and she believes training will be worthwhile in their case. S. Fagundo stated that she would rule in favor of the appeal. Probation and training would be necessary, but having seen their facility she felt reassured they should keep their license.
- S. Fagundo motioned to rule in favor of the appeal. Vankara Learning Exchange would be on the 12 month probation. During this time no other violations can be made. Also, a recommendation for training for the staff.
 - R. Beasley seconded.
 - M. Zapata and C. Lederman did not vote in favor of.
 - Motion passed and would be taken to the full Board for a vote.

V. At Risk Child Care Referrals

Jackye Russell

- J. Russell stated that a child that is removed from a center due to DCF licensing violations can take up to 3 weeks before being placed in another center. These children immediately need to be placed in another center. At risk child care referrals should be able to expedite the referrals in order to allow the ELC to do that.

VI. Public Comments

The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

VII. Adjourn

The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman