



Minutes

Program Policy & Strategy Providers Committee Meeting
January 29th, 2013; 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ELC Board Room

- Committee Attendees:** The Honorable Cindy Lederman; Shaleen Fagundo (via conference call); Roderick E. Beasley; Modesto Abety-Gutierrez; David Williams, Jr.
- Committee Absentees:** Ann Karen Weller; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; Ramiro Moreno
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres, CEO (via conference call); Jackye Russell (via conference call); Fred Hicks; Karen Bolanos; Leeana Sanchez; Mary Williams (via conference call); Elizabeth Machado; Pam Hollingsworth
- General Attendees:** Bob De La Fuente (Board Attorney); Juanita Walker (Sheyes of Miami); Sarah Brazier (Liberty Academy); Graciela Pineiro (YMCA); Solange Aurelien (Balls of Fire Paradise Academy); Linda Sanchez-Carmona (Alliance for Early Care and Education); Rick Gonzalez (Coral Way Learning Center); Lillian Brown (Clara Mohammed School); Sylvia Dinkins (Juanita's Day Care)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- C. Lederman welcomed the committee, staff and attendees.
- A quorum of 5 members was established.

II. CEO Report

- E. Torres spoke about the ELC transition. He summarized the visits to various Early Learning Coalitions around the state. He mentioned the upcoming Job Fair.
- Attorney B. De La Fuente provided a legal summary of the purpose for today's meeting. He noted that the providers had appeared in front of the Provider Peer Review Panel pursuant to receiving notice from the Early Learning Coalition that some action has been initiated against their license. The providers had received either a Class 1 Violation or three Class 2 Violations within a twelve month period. The Provider Peer Review Panel heard the response from the providers and recommendations which will be presented today. If, for some reason the provider does not agree with the decision of the committee today, then that decision can be appealed.

Balls of Fire Paradise Academy

- P. Hollingsworth read the violation: During a complaint inspection on August 13th, 2012, by DCF this facility was cited for a violation of Standard #5.
- C. Lederman asked if there was a history violations with this center?
- P. Hollingsworth replied that there was no previous violation history with this center.
- B. De La Fuente stated that the recommendation from the Provider Peer Review Panel is a three month probation period.



- B. De La Fuente read violation: Supervision, as two children were on the playground when they saw their mother arrive at the facility, they became excited and ran inside to meet her, however, the mother did not go into the daycare right away, she went across the street to a Family Dollar Store. The children were able to get out of the daycare with no supervision, and a good Samaritan saw the children standing outside the facility, and stopped to bring the children back into the facility. As per the owner, she came into the facility screaming loudly that the children were in the middle of the street with no supervision, and she was going to make a call.
- Provider S. Aurelein explained that she feels that statements and facts are inaccurate and not true. She explained that two sibling brothers were playing on the playground, saw their mother arrive and went into the center to greet her. However, the mother did not come immediately into the center. Instead, she parked the car in front of the center and went to a nearby store. A parent came into the center and it was then that the parent went outside and the children managed to go out. When the other parent noticed that the children were out, she immediately brought them back to the building. A woman came out of her car very angry, yelling really loudly because the parent had parked her car wrong. She came behind the parent yelling loudly and said that the children were running in the middle of the street and said that she would call to report them. At no time were the children running in the street, they were standing on the side walk. The owner noted that their corrective actions include changing the policy so that the children will wait in a class for the parents. Parents are to go inside the classroom and get their children by their hand regardless of their age. We have had a parent teacher meeting about those changes. Provider stated that they have been operating for twenty two years and they have never had anything like this happen to them.
- P. Hollingsworth stated that the recommendation given from the Provider Peer Review Panel would be a three month probation period.
- C. Lederman moved the motion to accept the Provider Peer Review Panel recommendation for three month probation with no additional violations within those three months.
 - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

Bright Beginnings Learning Center & Childcare

- B. De La Fuente read the violation: During a renewal inspection on August 8th, 2012, by DCF this facility was cited for a violation of standard #5 as there was an unscreened individual alone to care for children. During a re-inspection on August 20th, 2012, the facility was cited a second time as there was an individual caring for children without level 2 screening results.
- B. De La Fuente stated that the recommendation from the Provider Peer Review Panel is a six month probation period.
- P. Hollingsworth added that during the Provider Peer Review Panel hearing, the owner and director of the program indicated that she went on maternity leave and left a family member in charge.
- C. Lederman moved the motion to accept the Provider Peer Review Panel recommendation for a six month probation with no additional violations within those six months
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety-Gutierrez.
 - Motion unanimously passed.



Clara Mohammed School

- B. De La Fuente read the violation: During a renewal inspection on October 12, 2012 by DCF this facility was cited for a violation of standard #63, Misrepresentation, child care personnel misrepresented information, impersonated, or provided fraudulent information related to the child care facility to a licensing authority, in that a fire inspection was presented to the Department as an approved fire inspection, but was not authentic. Inspection was confirmed by the Fire Department to be falsified, as the inspector had not visited the facility in over two years.
- B. De La Fuente stated that the recommendation from the Provider Peer Review Panel is a six month probation period.
- Director L. Brown states that she was not aware of the violation mentioned only the one about the fire department. L. Brown states that she was out of town on a family emergency. She has been the director in that facility for a little over 2 years. At the time that violation occurred, there was a lady in charge of managing the office and she continued to let her manage the office. She was an elder woman who had actually retired in December. After questioning and investigating, she acknowledges the violation because she felt stressed that she did not want the center to lose their license. She made a mistake and was reprimanded for that.
- R. Beasley moved the motion to accept the Provider Peer Review Panel review recommendation for six month probation with no additional violations within those six months.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety-Gutierrez.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

Coral Way Learning Center

- B. De La Fuente read the violation: During a renewal inspection of August 6, 2012 the facility was cited for a violation of standard #5, Supervision, as there was an unscreened individual alone to care for children.
- B. De La Fuente stated that the recommendation from the Provider Peer Review Panel is a six month probation period.
- P. Hollingsworth also read that on May 2012 was another violation for insufficient staff.
- R. Gonzalez stated that were trying to work on the open concept of the screening process where you were able to pick up the results, but they were not completed as of yet. The screenings were completed on July 19th and the inspection was on August 6th. The inspector assisted them with the screening retrieval. R. Gonzalez explained the open concept meant, that the school is an open floor plan, there are no walls.
- C. Lederman moved the motion to accept the Provider Peer Review Panel recommendation for six month probation with no additional violations within those six months.
 - Motion was seconded M. Abety-Gutierrez.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

Juanita's Day Care

- The Provider Peer Review Panel made no recommendations for this facility.
- S. Fagundo stated that at the time of the Provider Peer Review Panel there was lack of clarity. There was going to be a meeting between the provider and DCF, so hopefully additional information would become available.



- S. Dinkins discussed the meeting with DCF. She reported that the citations were submitted were wrong and DCF offered us different options. Regarding the fire drill we do have documentation; the inspector explained that they were to get an additional document from the supervisor and they were supposed to retrieve it from the fire department. She also expressed that their main problem was because of personal issues they had with their current DCF worker. In conclusion, Juanita's Day Care decided to close their doors and reopen at another location in a better situation.
- C. Lederman moved the motion to revoke Juanita's Day Care from receiving School Readiness funds.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
 - Motion unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman discussed the procedure to continue with the Provider Peer Review Panel with S. Fagundo.

III. Old business

- E. Torres discussed the funding formula. The Office of Early Learning and the Governor's office are putting together a committee to develop a new funding formula. They are trying to include a cross section of stake holder including representatives from Miami-Dade and providers. We will see some activity on the funding formula within the next few weeks.

IV. Public Comment

- L. Carmona-Sanchez discussed the reason why the providers receiving violations for individual background screenings. She stated that previously providers would send staff out to get finger printed using the old fashioned card. That was eliminated and replaced by something called Live Scan Digital Fingerprinting. With Live Scan fingerprints are submitted directly online to FDLE. Once FDLE processes the information, it is passed to DCF. In the past DCF would issue a document called a clearance letter and that document would be mailed to providers. In July of last year that was changed and an electronic portal was created where the provider registers a user name and a password were they can retrieve their own clearance letter from this portal. Many providers don't have internet access or don't use it.
- E. Torres stated that we should send a letter to DCF to express our concerns about this process.

V. Meeting Adjourn