



Program Policy & Strategy and Provider Services Committee Meeting
May 23, 2012; 3:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board Room

Committee Attendees: The Hon. Cindy Lederman; David Williams, Jr.; Ann Karen Weller (via conference call); Lucy Pineiro; Modesto Abety-Gutierrez-Gutierrez; Shaleen Fagundo; Gina Cortez Suarez; Yolanda Borroto

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Blythe Robinson; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (via conference call); Kristina Alonso; Pam Hollingsworth; Milton Silvera; Karen Bolaños; Leeaná Pena; Ana Rodriguez; Kerry Allen; Fred Hicks

General Attendees: Cindy Lorena Vasquez (Alliance For Early Care); Taina Pino (Young Children’s Learning Center); Raquel Garrastacho (Young Children’s Learning Center); Octavio Garrastacho (Young Children’s Learning Center); Miriam Crespo (Preschool Curly’s Kids); Maria I. Doimeadios (Ready 4 Preschool); Avery A. Dial (Fowler White Burnett); Joseph Smith (Blue Star Learning Center); Rosa Gonzalez (RV Little Giant Day Care Center); Yordanis Reyes (RV Little Giant Day Care Center); Lilian Aranega (Lilian Aranega Family Day Care Home) Errol James (Christ Children Academy); Anna Paul Sanders (Aim High Daycare Center); Eileen Otero (Aventura Learning Center II); Richard Otero (Aventura Learning Center II); **Carmen Franco** (Bamby Learning Center); Elienai Reyes (Trinity Christian Academy); Yillian Sarmiento (America’s Christian Future); Linda Carmona-Sanchez (Alliance for Early Care and Education); Jose Ruiz (JRuiz Learning School); Maritza Ruiz (JRuiz Learning School); Ana S. San Martin (Ana San Martin Large Family)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- C. Lederman welcomed the committee staff and attendees.
 - A quorum was established with five (5) voting members.

II. Approval of March 27 and November 10 Minutes

- S. Fagundo moved to approve the minutes
 - L. Pineiro seconded the motion
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Summer Camp

- J. Russell shared the details of Board Policy on licensed programs.
 - J. Russell stated that the Board of Directors passed a new policy in December 2010 that requires providers who contract with the coalition to be licensed. The exceptions to this policy include Miami Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS), religious exempt providers and informal providers. DCF has reported that they do not have authority to license



summer camps. The Coalition does not currently have an avenue that would allow us to contract with unlicensed summer camps. This issue is before the board because school is set to end on June 8 and a decision needs to be made on contracting with summer camps.

- J. Russell stated staff recommendation is to contract with the summer camp providers.
- E. Torres concurred with the recommendation to pay the summer contractors.
- S. Fagundo asked if the policy would take place next year.
- J. Russell answered that it would occur this summer, beginning July 1.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked if all of the YMCAs were in the same category of not being able to contract with coalition.
- J. Russell answered that this includes all the YMCA and YWCAs; and some child enrichment providers that will also fall into this category.
- S. Fagundo asked if the issue impacts Monroe.
- E. Torres answered that Monroe is different because they already run summer camps in parks, and as such Monroe has no other places to run summer camps, therefore no licensing issues.
- S. Fagundo reminded the committee about the licensed providers who are trying to adhere to the requirements to ensure they have the proper ratio of trained staff to children, etc.
- C. Lederman asked if there was additional discussion on this issue. There was no additional discussion and the chair affirmed with the members that the decision at this time is not to make any change to the current board policy.

IV. Providers Appeals

- C. Lederman proceeded with provider's appeals and announced that this is not a formal hearing. There are no witnesses, just an informal discussion on each of the providers.

Lilian Aranega Family Day Care Home

- J. Russell read the Class 1 license violation that occurred on March 1, 2012 for exceeding the maximum capacity limit by more than two children.
- Lilian Aranega stated her name for the record and proceeded to inform the committee of the reasons she had more children than allowed by her license capacity. She stated she only cared for the additional children when their grandfather went for doctor's appointments. Committee members asked Ms. Aranega a series of questions regarding the additional children she was caring for and asked if she understood this was a violation of her license.
- L. Aranega asked if her grandchildren come to visit and stay several days, would that be a problem if she gets another monitor visit and find her grandkids there.
- S. Fagundo responded that if their parents are there then the children are under their care but if their parents are not then they are under your care, so it is exceeding the capacity.
- S. Fagundo commented that we have heard this situation on an appeal before where the provider then said that they were doing a parent event and the older siblings were there but the parents weren't there.
- C. Lederman asked if there is any other history other than Class 2 violations in this case?
- L. Pineiro responded that is correct and this is a very important law that is related to the health and safety of the children and there are no exceptions.
- S. Fagundo mentioned that what we did in another similar situation when we had it before Jackye or Gina correct me if I'm wrong, I believe we gave the provider in this situation, a certain amount of time to take again the health and safety training.
- L. Pineiro: We appear to be in agreement that you have never had other violations, you understand what you did was wrong and that you are not going to do it again."



- C. Lederman: We are not going to suspend your school readiness funding on one condition; you have to re-take the health and safety training.
- L. Aranega agreed.

Aventura Learning Center II

L. Pineiro announced a Conflict of Interest prior to the violation being read.

- J. Russell read the violation. The violation is one Class 1 license violation on September 26, 2011, for a child not adequately supervised and left the facility without the knowledge or awareness of staff.
- Owners Richard and Eileen Otero appeared on behalf of Aventura Learning Center II. Both presented information on the event that led to the violation. They provided information to the Committee on the changes that were immediately implemented to avoid a reoccurrence of this type of event. Mr. and Mrs. Otero also presented photographs which verified the changes that were made, including the installation of cameras and additional security locks on the front door. They also provided evidence of changes in the policies and procedures regarding the supervision of children in their center.
- L. Pineiro asked if they were in the Quality Counts Program. The provider responded that they are in Quality Counts and are also Gold Seal and accredited through APPLE.
- Y. Borroto indicated that the provider has a very pro-active approach and understands that children are very curious. Ms. Borroto asked what services were provided for the child who was lost. Did the child know he was lost? How old is the child?
- The provider answered that the child is 4 and that they met with the children and addressed the issue of safety and not leaving the property with them.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked how long was the child lost.
- E. Otero responded that the child was gone for about 15 seconds.
- S. Fagundo commented that in this same situation many providers unfortunately probably would not be able to handle it as seriously as you did, I also commend you for that, that you wrote a report to contact his parents. The parent could have never known that happened. That shows a lot of integrity on your part I believe. This shows that you implemented some really significant changes. I don't know if you ever considered this, but what about putting some type of gate around your exterior? So, once as you get out of that door there is another gate with a high latch that could be used also to keep them from getting to the parking lot. It's just another thing to consider, just to have a third barrier.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez commented that he wanted to commend the providers on how they responded to this incident and that the center looks beautiful. He asked the provider if they knew what their Quality Counts Star Rating is. E. Otero responded that from the very beginning we rated 4 stars.
- C. Lederman observed the provider does not have any prior violations and the committee considers prior history to be very important. Also, the provider is accredited, and has made immediate improvements; but this is a very serious violation, so what I suggest is 3 months probation and that we do not suspend your funds unless there is another violation within those 3 months. This is what I'm suggesting as it's their first violation, they have taken corrective measures and I always think that programs that make the efforts toward quality and accreditation should be commended but this is a real serious violation.
- S. Fagundo stated they won't have to stop serving the children from CDS.
- E. Torres made the suggestion that we continue funding the program, but the expectation is that we shouldn't see another licensing violation within the next 90 days after that point everything goes back to normal.



- M. Abety-Gutierrez made the first motion, S. Fagundo seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

Baby Nursery Christian Day Care

- C. Lederman commented that she has never seen so many violations and that it is probable that their payments would be suspended. (Baby Nursery Christian Day Care was not in attendance at the meeting.)

Bluestar Learning Center

- J. Russell read the violation, which was one Class 1 licensing violation on November 23, for inadequate supervision and imminent threat to a child.
- L. Pineiro read more violations from the center's history, which included: insufficient staff, inadequate outdoor suspension, immunization missing, immunization incomplete, and changing station not cleaned.
- John Smith, owner of Bluestar Learning Center appeared before the committee. He indicated that he is the owner of the center, but is not on the premises day to day. Mr. Smith explained to the committee that the problems at the center began when they hired a new director. He stated they did not have any license violations when the previous director was employed at the center. He stated they have since fired the new director and re-hired the previous director. Mr. Smith related that a child was left outside on the playground, unsupervised. He stated the new director left the child outside so that the father of the child could visit with him. The father was court ordered not to have contact with the child, but the director was facilitating the father's visits with the child by leaving the child alone on the playground so that the father could visit with him. Mr. Smith stated he discovered what had happened when the police were called to the center, as a result of an argument between the director and the mother of the child. He indicated that in addition to firing the director, the center has also installed cameras on the back, staff performs accountability twice and the director walks around the property to make sure no children are left alone outside.
- L. Pineiro commented that the center has a Class 2 violation that was issued in March for inadequate supervision and another violation in November also for inadequate supervision. Ms. Pineiro asked how long the child was left alone without supervision.
- J. Smith responded that he thought it was 30 minutes.
- L. Pineiro asked how long the child was left unsupervised related to the previous violations and Mr. Smith responded that it was just for a few minutes.
- L. Pineiro asked about the violation regarding the missing level two screening; which staff was missing the level 2 screening and were they having contact with the children prior to being screened? J. Smith responded that a new teacher was hired, it was already in process and she was working with the children before it was finished.
- Gina Cortez-Suarez asked who receives the violation notice when a school is cited?
- L. Pineiro responded that the violation notices are sent by certified mail receipt requested for any violation to the owner.
- Gina Cortez-Suarez asked Mr. Smith why he did not know about the violations and he responded that the director was hiding the information from him.
- Y. Borroto asked who is the director of record for the center and Mr. Smith responded that it is Pamela Thompson, the director he recently rehired.
- Y. Borroto asked Mr. Smith if he agrees that he is only a funder of this business?
- J. Smith responded that yes, he is basically an absentee owner but that he has owned that school for a very long time and we always have great directors. We do a lot for this community.



- C. Lederman recommended that the committee ratify the suspension of school readiness funds.
- L. Pineiro noted that to ensure that we have a clean record, I want it known that there were ten violations in two years. Two for inadequate supervision, one for missing level 2 screenings, two for immunizations, one for failure to produce an accident report, one for not completing the application on the same day, one of the staff had incomplete hours of in service, and one related to the diaper change surface. I also want the record to reflect that on two occasions you were issued Class 2 violations for insufficient staff. The first violation occurred on March 29, 2011 and the second violation occurred on November 23, 2011.
- J. Smith: Mrs. Pineiro if you look at the record, you will see that all of this happened on her watch. Before that we didn't have any problems at all.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez commented that the thing that disturbs me the most in this case is your statement that a child was given to someone who had a stay away order from the child and the child was left half an hour with a person whom the courts had stated should not be with the child.
- J. Smith responded that he was not allowed on the property. I found out that he visited the school on the back yard where we have a six foot fence and he would talk to the baby behind that fence. He was outside and the baby was inside the gate.
- C. Lederman: The motion is to ratify the suspension of school readiness funds.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez made the first motion, S. Fagundo seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman: We are ratifying the decision by DCF and we are suspending the school readiness funds for a year.

Christ Children Academy

- J. Russell read the violation. Violation is a Class 1 violation on January 18 for a child left premises – staff unaware.
- C. Lederman noted that this facility also has a history. Their ten violations include insufficient staff, child left premises staff unaware, insufficient lighting, zone surface not maintained, no emergencies written preparedness, license number missing, documentation required, bottles and sippy cups not labeled, and missing two screening documentations.
- Errol James appeared before the committee as the owner of Christ Children Academy. Mr. James thanked the committee for giving him the opportunity to come over here and say something about what happened to the child. He reported that since then, he has taken steps so that doesn't happen again and any kid that is inside the building wouldn't even be able to touch the lock to open to come outside. There is a six feet fence and the rest of the property is six feet also. I'm still standing here in amazement on how a child could get out of the place. But now I've made sure that the gate remains locked at all times. The door inside the building; there is no where a child can open it because even some of my workers can't reach it; they have a hard time opening the door. Also, the lady that was in charge was sent to school to get some type of training.
- L. Pineiro asked Jackye Russell to read the Class 1 violation.
- J. Russell read the violation as: On January 18. a child left the premises and the staff was unaware.
- S. Fagundo commented that this is like the opposite of the previous violation and asked Mr. James to explain the situation with the child and also to clarify if he is making it possible for the director to get some training.
- Mr. James responded that, no, the teachers will receive training.
- L. Pineiro asked how old is the child and E. James responded 3 years old.



- L. Pineiro asked Mr. James how long the child was left outside and if Mr. James was interviewed by the DCF Protective Investigator (PI).
- Provider: Yes.
- E. James responded that he was interviewed by the PI and that staff told him the child was left outside 5 or 10 minutes.
- L. Pineiro asked if anything additional to putting locks on the school was done.
- E. James responded, no we just made sure that the lock is always locked because I'm still amazed on how the child could get out.
- L. Pineiro asked if Mr. James knows how the child got out and he responded, no, he does not know.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked was the child outside the school premises and E. James responded yes, the child was outside the school premises, inside the play area.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez: asked if the child was left alone on the play area?
- E. James answered that no, the child was not left alone, I understand the teacher ask for the child and told her that the child went to the rest room.
- L. Pineiro asked Mr. James what happened to that staff, is she still with you?
- E. James answered, yes she still with me. First of all, I believe in people having a second chance.
- G. Cortez-Suarez noted that the violation says that the child left the premises and asked was the child was outside of the school?
- E. James responded that all I heard was that the child was left out on the premises. Somebody took the child.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked Mr. James, "How did you find out the child was missing" and E. James responded when he heard everybody started looking for the child.
- L. Pineiro asked if the child wasn't on the playground, did that mean the child left the premises.
- E. James responded, " Yes ma'am." The person took the child out of the property and that is in your record. I told the officer to put it down on the record.
- Y. Borroto asked if the teacher who lost the child was still working for the provider and if she had attended any training on child safety.
- E. James responded that the teacher is still working for him and that he has inquired several times about where she can go for training and that all he hears is there is no school. He stated he just found out two weeks ago that there is a class for that purpose.
- Y. Borroto asked what qualification does he look for when he hires teachers.
- E. James responded that they have to be finger printed. They have to have their 45 hours, and they have to have their CDA.
- Y. Borroto noted that child safety is part of the CDA course and remarked that the teacher already had a course in child safety, lost the child and was still working for the provider.
- E. James responded that the person who was in charge has a CDA and goes to school. He wants her to go to the next class to learn more than necessary and will sure that she takes that class.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked Mr. Smith to clarify if in January of this year a child leaves indoor premises goes out into the play ground area and from the play ground area somehow gets outside of the premises. Is that correct?
- E. James responded that he was not sure if that is correct. And stated, but I do know that the teacher of the child went outside and coming back in, I understood that the teacher asked for the child and was told that the child went to the bathroom. The teacher follows to the bathroom and didn't see the child.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked if it is correct that the child was found outside of the perimeter of the playground and Mr. James answered, yes.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked if there is a door that goes to the playground area and if there is a buzzer or something on the door to alert staff that the door has been opened.



- E. James responded there is for the front door, but not for the back door. And asked to make a correction to note that the teacher went outside with the child, the child and teacher were out there for 30 minutes. When it was time for them to come back in, is when she notices the child was not there.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked if there are locks on the doors from the playground to the outside of the property.
- E. James responded that there is a lock but I guess it wasn't lock well. So what I did, I put a lock so no one can reach it, to go to the front door and I also make sure that the lock to the gate stays lock.
- C. Lederman suggested ratification of the suspension and stated I'm sorry Mr. James but we have to ratify the suspension for school readiness funds, this is a very serious violation this child could have been killed, or kidnapped.

J. Ruiz Learning School

- J. Russell read the violation as two Class 1 licensing violations received on September 1, 2011 for child abuse neglect committed and inappropriate disciplinary method used.
- Jose Ruiz, the owner, and his legal representative, Avery A. Dial appeared before the committee. Mr. Dial stated that he is representing Mr. J. Ruiz and would like to just clarify some technical issues. He noted that the letter the coalition sent and your highlights up here indicate two Class 1 violations on September 1, however that is inaccurate. There was one Class 1 violation for inappropriate discipline there was never a Class 1 violation for child abuse/ neglect. I have a copy of the administrative complaint file. As you see there is one class 1 violation for inappropriate discipline non for child abuse. There is another class violation mentioned in within that paragraph but it is referencing a Class 1 violation from the past regarding seatbelt on the school bus. Now another issue with the seatbelt in the school is that particular violation didn't occur.
- C. Lederman suggested that we find out what the actual charges are, since there is a discrepancy about the child abuse.
- L. Pineiro noted that the administrative complaint mentions two Class 1 violations within a two year period under the category of inappropriate discipline use. Ms. Pineiro asked if this Class 1 violation was issued and the date is November 18, 2011 did the school have another Class 1 violation with regards to inappropriate discipline in 2010?
- A. Dial responded that the mention of inappropriate discipline in the paragraph refers to the issue of school bus seatbelts and at the end of the paragraph the first Class 1 violation in two year period. And above it says that this is the second Class 1 violation. Basically they are talking about this second violation being second class violation but not the second abuse discipline violation. We also requested administrative hearing with the school bus issue because that's an error as well. We can provide copies of this issue.
- C. Lederman requested the provider to leave all his documentation and we will confirm with DCF and we will give you another day for your discussion, we are not going to call it a hearing. We will call it an informal hearing. Is that all right?
- J. Ruiz: Sure.
- C. Lederman thanked the provider for bringing this to our attention. These are serious charges, we want to make sure we have the correct information.

RV Little Giant Day Care Center



- J. Russell read the violation as a Class 1 violation received February 6 for facility use of seat belts was not age appropriate for children being transported who required safety restraints.
- Yodamis Perez and Rosa Gonzalez appeared before the committee, representing RV Little Giant Day Care Center.
- C. Lederman noted that there is a history of toxic substance accessible, introduction course not completed, failed to post room capacity, no documentation of required training, employment history check missing, bottle and zippy cups not labeled, missing level 2 screening documentation and background screening more than five years.
- Y. Perez provided information on the Class 1 violation. She explained that a child was hurt when he was playing on the playground but we did not want to make him feel like his life was in danger. He was bleeding from his arm, we called the parents. The parent's phone number was disconnected. So we decided to take him to the hospital. We used the transportation. But I know at this age the child was turning 4 years old in 20 days. She got the car seat but he was too big for the car seat, so he sat on the teacher's lap and we put the seatbelt around both. We thought that was the best to do. We know that we should have called the rescue but as we saw the child that he wasn't crying. He was calm. We decided to take him; we did not want to scare the child by calling the rescue. We know that step number one is to call the fire rescue.
- S. Fagundo commented that what they did is unsafe.
- Y. Borroto asked if the provider has a parent consent to remove the child from the property?
- The Provider responded that they do not have parental consent and that the child uses transportation and the transportation is allowed to pick up and drop off the child.
- L. Pineiro made the observation that the provider has two Class 2 violations for a missing level 2 screening and a missing background check for five people. Ms. Pineiro asked if during the course of the licensing inspection on June 17, 2010, the center had five files with missing background screening for five people. The Provider responded that it was not missing, but was not updated.
- L. Pineiro asked if a couple of months later, in November, their licensing inspection revealed a missing level 2 screening for a teacher who has direct contact with children.
- The Provider responded yes, the screening wasn't processed. L. Pineiro asked the providers if they understand why we require centers to conduct criminal screenings on anyone who is going to have any direct contact with children. The Provider responded that they understand that they are not supposed to get teachers with no screening, they have to complete the 45 hours course and CDA but at this point all their teachers have certification, screening, and background screening.
- L. Pineiro asked Jackye Russell to repeat the policy regarding similar Class 2 violations.
- J. Russell: Our policy is if you have three or more Class 2 violations within the same substandard, you may be subject to suspension of funding.
- S. Fagundo asked who is the center director.
- The Provider responded that Rosa Gonzalez is the owner and has been director for ten years, the length of time the center has been operating.
- G. Cortez-Suarez asked the providers to explain again why they did not call fire rescue.
- The Providers responded, because we did not see that the child was bleeding, we did not see that the child was hurt; we believed that something else was wrong that we cannot control.
- G. Cortez-Suarez asked what was wrong with the child.
- The Provider responded that he fell on the ground and hurt his arm. He was calm, we did not see the bone was broken and we decided to call the parents, but the parents have not brought the form with their new number.
- Y. Borroto asked if there were car seats available in the building that could have been borrowed.



- The Provider responded that yes, we got a car seat on her car, we tried to put him on the car seat but he was too big. That's why she decided to put him on her lap with the seatbelt around; she did not want to leave him alone in the seat. We know what we did is not right but we just wanted to take the child to the doctor.
- S. Fagundo commented that understands being a provider and occasionally one kid may have a sippy cup that is not being labeled but, when you start to see 10 of these violations, it shows the general lack of attention of what's happening in that center. So I would encourage the committee before any motion is made that this is a long list of violations all you have to do is go through them to monitor them.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez asked the provider if they usually transport children and the providers responded, no, never.
- Y. Borroto made a motion to ratify the suspension for 12 months. The motion was passed. S. Fagundo seconded it.

Ready 4 Preschool

- J. Russell read the violation as one Class 1 licensing violation on February 6 for an unscreened individual alone with a child.
- L. Pineiro added that the history shows there were also violations for insufficient staff-child ratio, facility not clean, no credentialed director, insufficient lighting, container not covered, and annual fire inspection not documented.
- Maria Doimeadios appeared before the committee, representing Ready 4 Preschool. Ms. Doimeadios stated that she had no idea about this meeting today, until I received a call this morning to make an appearance.
- J. Russell responded that the provider was sent a certified letter, which was returned yesterday as undeliverable, so the provider was called and informed of today's meeting.
- C. Lederman deferred Ready 4 Preschool for a later time because of the short notice.

Ana San Martin Large Family Child Care Home

- J. Russell read three Class 2 violations for background screenings more than 5 years, two year employment history missing, and FDLE report missing.
- A. San Martin stated that the violations were in reference to her assistant and that when the DCF monitor went to the site, there was still 2 months left before it expired.
- L. Pineiro asked if all of this is up to date now.
- A. San Martin responded that yes, everything is up to date, I brought some copies.
- L. Pineiro recommended that if Ms. San Martin provides written proof from DCF that the violations have been resolved, she will be allowed to keep her funding. The committee agreed with the recommendation.

Trinity Christian Academy of Miami

- J. Russell read three Class 2 violations received January 5, 2012 for CF-FSP Form 5131 not on file, employment history checks missing, and missing level 2 screening.
- C. Lederman added, also diaper change surface not clean, placement inadequate, introduction course not completed, failed to post room capacity, license not posted, bottles and sippy cups not labeled, and Attestation of Good Moral Character not on file.
- Eli Reyes appeared before the committee, representing Trinity Christian Academy of Miami. Ms. Reyes stated that the employment history missing was of most of the staff members that just arrived recently, when I spoke to DCF they suggested to write down that they worked somewhere else out of the country and have them sign as a way to verify their past work history is out of the country. Most of the staff that we hire are usually members of the church since the church is the owner of the daycare. In



reference to the background screening; that was for the, cook she does not have direct contact with the students and we were under the impression that we did not have to do the 5 year background check on her but everything has been settled already. The diaper change is not that it was dirty, but that we had it 6 inches above the surface. The room capacity and the license it already has been posted. We put the room capacity on the top of each classroom and on the side of each classroom. We have a map on how we evacuate and in that map as well it says the student capacity.

- L. Pineiro commented that the provider has 12 violations in 2012.
- E. Reyes responded that they got rid of the person who was taking care of all the files of the students. My mother is the director of the school, I started after they let her go and I started taking the courses, all procedures and all requirements. We partner up with Quality Counts at the beginning of this year because we needed some guidance. My background is in banking and has nothing to do with daycare. My mother needs help because of all the violations that we were having. The church has been for 20 plus years.
- S. Fagundo asked how long the woman who was let go served as the director; did they hire her and things started to fall apart? Also, if Ms. Reyes plans to stay on as a director or assistant.
- E. Reyes responded that yes, we had hired her from before but we hired a new young lady and that's when these problems came up. Ms. Reyes also said that she is just trying to help her mother and guide her through and to organize, but a lot of that has been already done. We are learning as we go.
- E. Torres noted that he is concerned that she is trying to learn when the kids learn. He asked who in the center qualifies to actually work with and teach kids.
- E. Reyes responded that she does not deal with the kids. That she is there to do the operational part of it with the staff, the immunization, documents by every 5 years. We already have most of the staff has their CDA and the FCCPC. We even have 3 of our staff that has director credential.
- E. Torres asked what curriculum do you use.
- E. Reyes responded that they use A-Bekaa and Creative Curriculum.
- E. Torres commented that the curriculum learning community would be an excellent program for the provider and suggested that they join.
- S. Fagundo asked if they are in Quality Counts and the provider answered yes.
- Committee members discussed that provider would be given a 6 month probation and what the specifics of the probation should be.
- C. Lederman explained that the provider will be placed on 6 months probation and will continue to receive funding as long as they do not receive any additional licensing violations during the 6 months. The provider must also look into joining the curriculum learning communities.

Young Children's Learning Center

- J. Russell read the violation as a Class 1 violation received on November 23, 2011 for an unscreened individual was left alone to supervise children in care.
- C. Lederman noted the history also includes finger printing card not submitted, missing student health examination and immunization record missing.
- Octavio Garratracho, the funder and Raquel Garrastracho appeared and represented Young Children Learning Center. They provided information on what happened the date of the violation. They explained that someone suffered a stroke and the person working in records was asked to help out while the person who suffered a stroke was away from work. The person working in records was not screened, because she worked in the office and did not have direct contact with the children.
- L. Pineiro asked how long the person worked at the school without being screened.



- The Provider responded that from the beginning when the person was hired, at the beginning of September, 2011, they asked for the fingerprints and were assured by the person who hired her that all the paperwork had been completed.
- L. Pineiro asked if they had checked the records for everyone employed at their school to make sure that all records contained background screening information and the provider responded, that yes, they had.
- L. Pineiro I'm giving you a legal advice, you already have a Class 1 if you let this happen again with two more Class 1 violations, they shut you down. The Provider responded that they understood and that is why we let go of that person.
- C. Lederman stated that the motion is for 6 months probation. Motion passed unanimously.
- L. Pineiro added that there can be no more violations before that time frame.

Preschool Curly's Kids

- J. Russell read the violation as one Class 1 licensing violation on September 21, 2011 for unscreened individual left alone with children.
- M. Crespo appeared and represented Preschool Curly's Kids. Ms. Crespo explained that at the time of the inspection her daughter was pregnant and soon to deliver. She found someone to replace her daughter and the first thing she did was send her to do her background screening. Unfortunately, her daughter went into labor before time and the person replacing her daughter began working while her results were in process.
- L. Pineiro asked how many violations has Ms. Crespo received within the past 2 years?
- M. Crespo responded not many because have been trying to do the right thing.
- L. Pineiro read the licensing history and they have 24 violations as follows: not having a fire drill, insufficient staff. bedding inadequate, no records emergency preparedness, staff 10 hr in-service incomplete, failed to post room capacity, CF-FSP Form 5131 not on file, bottles, sippy cups not labeled, immunization record missing, immunization record incomplete, parents acknowledgement-influenza, child abuse reporting missing, ect.
- M. Crespo responded that it was by the same inspector that had come in September. She also stated that the month of September was a difficult month for her.
- E. Torres asked how many kids and teachers are in the center.
- M. Crespo responded 15 children and 3 teachers.
- E. Torres asked if the center is accredited.
- M. Crespo responded No, but she is in the Quality Counts program.
- E. Torres asked Jackye Russell if this is a family child care home or a center.
- J. Russell responded that yes it is a center.
- E. Torrez recommended that she should consider becoming accredited.
- G. Cortez-Suarez made a motion that provider serve a 6 month probation, and work with Quality Counts to access increased technical assistance.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez added there should be no violations during the 6 month probation period.
- C. Lederman stated that the provider will continue receiving school readiness funds with the following conditions: no additional violations during the 6 months of probation, work towards accreditation, and keep working with quality counts. She added that the provider needs to work really hard and we need to see results. One of those results is getting accredited.

John Lee Neal and Aim High Learning Center

- J. Russell stated that John Lee Neal and Aim High Learning Center are the two providers who said they would be here today and did not show.
- E. Torres added that those providers will be sent a final suspension letter.



VII. Public Comment

Linda Carmona suggested that all the providers should take operational training and that there are health and safety trainings that review all the DCF licensing requirements.

IX. Adjourn.

- C. Lederman adjourned the meeting.