



# Minutes

**Program Policy and Strategy Committee Meeting**  
July 6, 2009; 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Committee Attendees:** David Williams, Jr. (Chair), Elizabeth Bezos (Vice-Chair), Dr. Silvia La Villa (attended via conference); Rick Beasley

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Alina Soto; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (via conference); Leeana Pena (observing); Ana Maria Pineda (observing)

**General Attendees:** Edith Humes-Newbold (Miami Dade County), Ardene Estrada (Miami Dade County), Jacqui Colyer (DCF)

## I. Welcome and Introductions

David Williams Jr., Committee Chair

- David Williams, Jr. welcomed the committee members and attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## II. 2009-10 Enrollment Discussion

Jackye Russell, -Director of School Readiness

- Jackye Russell presented a current enrollment chart of children ages 9 through 12 in billing categories BG1, BG3, and BG5 as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. A total of 863 children ages 9-12 are currently served in these three billing groups. The average daily rate for the three billing groups is \$12.88. The full year cost for these 863 children is \$2,901,129.84.
- The enrollment chart contained a breakdown of the savings realized if enrollment for the children ages 9-12 was terminated beginning in August, September, or October. An additional chart provided the projected enrollment and associated expenditures if older children continue to enroll in BG 1, 3, and 5. The costs associated with continued enrollment are projected to be approximately \$ 770, 000 for a full year.
- Evelio Torres noted we will be able to serve children currently enrolled, if enrollment stays at 27, 650. If the number of children enrolled in the TANF category increases we may have to consider disenrollment. However, if we continue to manage enrollment as we have we should be ok.
- Evelio Torres noted if we have to disenroll children at some point we need to have a plan. We can revisit the disenrollment policy and let our Board know that we would like to have one in place just in case we may need to use it. Disenrollment based on age is an option, setting-time limits per billing category is another option.
- Jacqui Colyer noted that the majority of families seeking childcare services are probably also involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as clients, especially



the working poor, who are probably receiving food stamps or other benefits through DCF.

- Elizabeth Bezos recommended considering setting limits on the amount of time a family stays in the system and to prioritize siblings for care during periods of open enrollment. Ms. Bezos noted setting a time limit per child could be problematic in the case of families who have more than one child in the program as in the case of siblings. As a parent, one needs all children taken care of in order to be in the work place.
- Edith Humes-Newbold noted the EFS system shows information per child not per family.
- David Williams noted that setting time limits may be a good option as it would allow other families to enter the system.
- Elizabeth Bezos made a recommendation to replace current time limits and set time limits per family, prioritizing siblings. A time limit on years of service for the BG8 category was also recommended
- Angelo Parrino noted that we will need a couple of months notice in order to notify families of policy change.
- Jacqui Colyer recommended setting age limit 11 years old or 12 years old for At Risk (BG1 and TANF (BG3)., and service time limits on all other billing categories.
- Edith Humes-Newbold recommended 7 years max per child not per family to stay in the system.
- Rick Beasley made the motion to reduce age limits for BG1 and BG3, categories to serve children up to the age of 10 years old, children would be terminated at their 11<sup>th</sup> birth date at time of re-determination for eligibility. Mr. Beasley also recommended setting service time limits of 7 years for billing groups BG8 and BG5, with a minimum of 30 days notice.
- David Williams seconded.
- Evelio Torres noted the difficulty in making projections is that we have no control over how many children leave the system, and we will have to consider where the enrollment is at the.

### **III. Electronic Attendance**

**Jackye Russell, -Director of School Readiness**

- Jackye Russell suggested electronic attendance be approved for implementation and that provider's sign-in and out sheets be kept at their sites.
- Jacqui Colyer noted concern over the administrative cost for electronic attendance.
- Evelio Torres noted a letter to the Board will be drafted addressing concerns community partnerships, EFS System and other concerns.

### **IV. Old Business**

**David Williams Jr., Committee Chair**



- Elizabeth Bezos asked about the outcome of Linda Carmona's question at previous meeting regarding requesting permission from AWI to extend the window of time that a person could be unemployed. Did we get that permission from AWI?
- Jackye Russell noted that AWI is waiting for a response from Federal Government.

<b>V. New Business</b>
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<b>David Williams Jr., Committee Chair</b>
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- Elizabeth Bezos on behalf of David Williams, Jr. noted there was no new business.

<b>VI. Adjourn</b>
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<b>David Williams Jr., Committee Chair</b>
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- Meeting was adjourned by Elizabeth Bezos on behalf of David Williams Jr.