

Minutes

Program Policy & Strategy and Provider Services Committee Meeting
September 25, 2012; 2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe
Board Room

Committee Attendees: The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Shaleen Fagundo; Roderick E. Beasley (via phone); Elizabeth Bezos (via phone)

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres; Blythe Robinson; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Karen Bolanos; Leana Pena; Mary Williams (via phone)

General Attendees: Amber Chaudhry (Alliance for Early Care and Education); Norman Herdocia (Alliance for Early Care and Education); Susan Castro (Citrus Office; via phone)

I. Welcome and Introductions

- C. Lederman welcomed the committee, staff and attendees.
- A quorum was established with four (4) voting members.

II. CEO Report

- E. Torres covered the joint administrative proceeding. The Committee sent a letter to early learning expressing some concern about the proposed SR contract. The Office of Early Learning simply will make the process a statewide contract and they have sent recommendation. They have a contract that limits our ability to hold providers countable when they do not meet some of the requirements that the board has. The AELC has expressed its concern and has sent a letter. There is a basic question on how do we hold providers accountable that are receiving tax dollars or SR services? We have a small amount of providers that we struggle with trying to make sure they comply with what the state/federal requires.
- J. Russell put together a document that compared the current SR contract which will be effect until the new contract is release or until June 2013.
- J. Russell: Beginning of page 6 of the packet you will see item 8, 12, 13 and 16 are the current contract, that have been removed from statewide contract. J. Russell reviewed all the items.
- E. Torres expressed concern about this particular item is that it claims that the coalitions do not have any authority to monitor providers for health and safety and that something that the coalition can have part of by statue. Again they state that this is a responsibility of Department of Children and Family (DCF).
- J. Russell continued by stating that on the current contract Item 22 the providers agrees to participate in the child screening process the children are able to get into the ages and stages of development screening.
- E. Bezos asked the question, with all these changes without any amendment or suggestion, how does that change on the local page?
- E. Torres answered the way we understand it. We do contracts with many provider that have a contract with the coalition they continue to receive the dollars as long as they have children

enrolled, legally operating within the statute, licensed with DCF, license exempt.

- S. Fagundo stated that it seems like last session they were talking about putting a measure of quality for School Readiness and VPK and now how is it that you are going to do that when license and standards not high qualities?
- E. Torres stated it is not a good contract for providers because is going to allow more providers to come into a saturated system.

III. Quality Counts Procurements

- B. Robinson stated The Children's Trust will be releasing an invitation to negotiate for the Quality Counts program, a program that we are currently implementing here.
- We are looking to partner with an agency that has already performing the work for us over the year, technical assistant to write a complete application for it.

IV. J. Ruiz Suspension

- J. Russell spoke about J. Ruiz Learning Center, reminding the Committee that this center was suspended due to a teacher hitting a child. They provided a video as evidence about the incident. The center was suspended from School Readiness program. Since that had happened we received a new contract from individual who has changed the ownership and have sought School Readiness services. The owner that soon took over has the same last name as the previous owner. The employee who was the director on previous center is currently the director in the new center. So we felt that we have to bring this back to the committee, to have the committee aware of it and hear a feedback on how to proceed with this particular provider.
- E. Torres read the agreement where it states that not include a sales or transfer to family members or person with a previous interest of ownership.
 - C. Lederman made the motion that the new contract is denied.
 - S. Fagundo second.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

V. Approval of August 28 Minutes

- S. Fagundo moved to approve the minutes
- R. Beasley seconded the motion
- Motion unanimously passed

VI. Old Business

- E. Torres talked about the funding formulas. The Office of Early Learning is going to meet in Miami, Oct. 30 from 6-8:30 p.m. This meeting is to request new input on the funding formula. This is an open meeting in which providers can attend, as they are trying to put together recommendations.
- E. Bezos asked a question about Quality Counts. She stated that we have providers that voluntarily come into Quality Counts. In the agreement for QC, can they include a situation that is stricken from the School Readiness contract into the Quality Count to ensure they meet the

standards?

- E. Torres responded that he doesn't see why not. If they are out of compliance they will be suspended from the Quality Counts program not School Readiness program.

VII. Meeting Adjourn

- C. Lederman adjourned the meeting.