



# Minutes

## PROGRAM POLICY & PROVIDER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014; 3:30 P.M.

ELC Board Room

**Committee Attendees:** Shaleen Fagundo; Rick Beasley; the Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; Tina Carroll-Scott; Mara Zapata; David Williams, Jr.; Charles Auslander; Helene Good

**Committee Absentees:** Abilio Rodriguez; Robert Eadie; Lucia Davis-Raiford; Mary Vanden Brock

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres, CEO; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Trudy Azarsepandan; Kerry Allen; Georgia Thompson; Dr. Christine Hughes; Melody Mendez; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Shaleen Fagundo

S. Fagundo welcomed the Committee, staff and attendees.

- ***A quorum of 7 members was established.***

### II. Approval of Minutes

Shaleen Fagundo

S. Fagundo moved the motion for the approval of meeting minutes from January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- ***Motion unanimously passed.***

### III. VPK Providers Probation 2014-2015

Kerry Allen

K. Allen began her presentation describing the VPK Readiness Rate process. Within 30 days of entering kindergarten, children are administered the Florida Kindergarten Readiness System Assessments (FLKRS) which comprises of two assessment tools. Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS) is a 30 day observational assessment based upon 19 standards referenced from the Florida Standards for Four Year Olds. Florida Assessment for Instructional Reading (FAIR) is a language and literacy assessment conducted on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of kindergarten assessing a child's ability to recognize upper and lower case letters and initial sounds. Results of these assessments determine the providers VPK Readiness Rate.

VPK Providers are statutorily mandated to conduct the VPK Assessment twice per year however in Dade and Monroe Counties the providers administer the complete assessment three times per year. VPK Assessment Period 1 is administered after the first four week of the school year. Scores are entered on-line by the end of October. VPK Assessment Period 2 is administered the second week of January. Scores are entered on-line by the end of February. VPK Assessment Period 3 is administered three weeks before the end of the program. Scores are entered on-line by the end of June. VPK Assessment results are used by providers to drive large and small group classroom instruction. Also, if a provider has been deemed a provider on probation for three continuous years they must use the data from the VPK Assessment to submit their Good Cause Exemption to the State of Florida.

- ***The committee recommended VPK Providers failing to enter assessment scores on-line will be given 30 days failure to comply would result in termination of their VPK contract.***

#### **IV. EHS Child Care Partnership/ Funding opportunity**

**Evelio Torres**

**Pam Hollingsworth**

Mr. Torres announced the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Federal Funding Opportunity. Five hundred million dollars will be available nationwide to fund more than 100,000 high quality Early Head Start slots for children birth to 37 months. The ELC is well poised to apply for this funding opportunity because of its role with CCDF (federal subsidy) distribution, quality programming and its strong position in the county serving providers, parents and children. P. Hollingsworth mentioned reaching out to childcare providers, Miami Dade College, Citrus Health, and others to form partnerships. P. Hollingsworth predicted writing a 100 plus page response. Mr. Auslander suggested the possibility of creating a friendly collaborative relationship with United Way.

- ***The Committee voted by majority for staff to move forward in applying for the EHS/CCP Grant.***

#### **V. TAP Program**

**Jackye Russell**

Jackye Russell presented an overview of the current status of the TAP program. TAPP is under enrolled and a number of these children (37) are not attending accredited programs.

Ms. Russell presented an action plan created with MDCPS to address the following areas: alignment of bus routes to provide access to accredited childcare programs; TAPP staff will register children in accredited centers whenever possible; the ELC will provide a complete list of accredited centers to MDCPS; recruitment efforts for TAPP referrals will be increased; legal opinion regarding the addition of language to the RFP requiring TAPP child placement in accredited centers only, will be sought. Mr. Torres pointed out that one of challenges with the TAPP grant is the ELC does not have the totality of the grant. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of retaining the TAP grant.

- ***The Committee voted to give ELC CEO, Mr. Torres the final decision as to whether or not the ELC retains the TAPP grant.***

## **VI. School Readiness Provider: Mc Donald's Playworld**

**Shaleen Fagundo  
Santiago Echemendia**

S. Fagundo reported that the Provider Peer Review Panel met with Marcia Carty, owner of McDonald's Play World on March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the probationary status of her center's DCF license (through August 2014) and the center's history of licensing violations. The PPRP voted to recommend that the Coalition place McDonald's Playworld on probationary status coterminous with its DCF probationary status. As well, McDonalds Playworld is (1) required to retain a credentialed Director while (2) training an alternate credentialed director, (3) enter into an agreement with Miami Children's Initiative to improve its licensing status and (4) report any Class 3 or 4 violations received by DCF to the Coalition. Failure to adhere to these requirements (between now and August 14, 2014) will result in the suspension of the program's School Readiness Contract

- ***The Committee voted to accept the PPRP's recommendation.***

## **VII. ELC Child Health & Safety Policy**

**Santiago Echemendia**

S. Echemendia proposed to the Committee revisions to ELC Child Health and Safety Policy. The Committee discussed and voted on the following additions and revisions to the ELC Child Health and Safety Policy: A) Transfer of ownership: (Language lifted from the current Early Learning Bill) The owner of a child care facility, family child care 408 home, or large family child care home may not transfer ownership 409 to a relative of the operator if the operator has had his or her 410 license suspended or revoked by the department pursuant to s. 411 402.310, has received notice from the department that reasonable 412 cause exists to suspend or revoke the license, or has been 413 placed on the United States Department of Agriculture National 414 Disqualified list. For purposes of this paragraph, "relative" 415 means father, mother, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, 416 brother, sister, uncle, aunt, cousin, nephew, niece, husband, 417 wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, 418 brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, 419 stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half 420 sister. 421.

B) Depending on the seriousness of the violation, the Coalition's Executive Director has the discretion to bypass the Provider Peer Review Panel and bring the provider directly to Programs and Provider Services Committee.

## **VIII. Meeting Adjourn**