



# Minutes

## PROGRAM POLICY & PROVIDER SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014; 3:30 P.M.

### ELC Board Room

**Committee Attendees:** Shaleen Fagundo; Rick Beasley; Robert Eadie (Via conference call); Abilio Rodriguez; Mara Zapata; David Williams, Jr. (Via conference call); Charles Auslander; Helene Good (Via conference call)

**Committee Absentees:** The Honorable Judge Cindy Lederman; Lucia Davis-Raiford; Tina Carroll-Scott; Mary Vanden Brock.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres, CEO; Jackye Russell; Pamela Hollingsworth; Trudy Azarsepandan; Kerry Allen; Georgia Thompson; Dr. Christine Hughes; Melody Mendez; Melissa E. Fernandez; Leana Sanchez (Via conference call); Mary Williams (Via conference call).

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

**Shaleen Fagundo**

- S. Fagundo welcomed the Committee, staff and attendees.
- A quorum of 8 members was established.

#### II. Approval of Minutes

**Shaleen Fagundo**

- S. Fagundo moved the motion for the approval of meeting minutes from March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- Motion unanimously passed.

#### III. EHS Child Care Partnership updates

**Pam Hollingsworth**

P. Hollingsworth informed the committee of the continuous research the team has been engaging in, the webinars attended, and the recent EHS/ CCP workshop held in Orlando, FL that she attended with K. Allen. She also mentioned having spent a great amount of time in conversations with United Way as well as other potential partners. E. Torres - CEO mentioned that the grant application has not yet been released but it should be happening within the next couple of weeks. He also talked about the importance of this grant since it is considered a "partnership grant", collaborative work is needed from different local agencies. H. Good asked if the Children's Trust would be participating and E. Torres - CEO said that there had been conversations with C. Auslander-Children's Trust CEO, and that the ELC hopes to participate in this exciting grant as partners with the Trust.

#### IV. Nurse Family Partnership

**Kate Flanigan Witte**

**April Hille & Carmen Galvis**

A newly funded home visiting program was presented. The Nurse Family Partnership is evidence based, community health program run by nurses who work with first-time mothers living in poverty. These moms are visited by trained nurses who follow them prenatally through their child's second birthday. Mothers receive an array of services to improve outcomes for both themselves and their children including: prenatal care, parenting classes, and economic literacy.

#### **IV. ASQ Portal**

**Dr. Christine Hughes**

Dr. Christine Hughes presented an update on the ASQ Provider Portal for school readiness providers. As part of the School Readiness Contract, all providers must complete an Ages and Stages Screen on all School Readiness funded children within 45 days of enrollment and thereafter on the child's birthday. The ASQ Provider Portal continues to evolve with the addition of color coded cues relating to child screening status and email reminders for children due to be screened.

#### **V. VPK Assessment Update**

**Kerry Allen**

K. Allen presented an overview of the activities of the newly mobilized VPK trainers and monitors funded by a grant from DOE. The staff is working with providers to support the entrance of VPK assessment scores into the Bright Beginnings website and assisting POPs (providers on probation) with the development of their Improvement Plans. Staff was hired to work on the VPK Assessment Grant, distributed as follows: Five (5) monitor/mentors, and two (2) trainer/mentors. All staff began training Tuesday April 8, 2014 completed Friday April 18, 2014. Monday April 21, 2014 the 5 monitor/mentors began visiting POPs (Year 1 and 2). As of Tuesday April 29, 2014, they had assisted 53 providers. In addition, S. Fagundo suggested while monitoring VPK, to provide centers copies of lesson plans found on the Bright Beginnings web site. Lastly, K. Allen made a formal announcement of the upcoming VPK Mini-Conferences in Dade and Monroe Counties. Dade County VPK Mini-Conference will be held Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Southwestern Senior High School from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm. Monroe County VPK Mini-Conference will be held Saturday, June 28, 2014 at Marathon High School from 8:00 am to 12:30. Both conferences will be held in the school auditoriums. Conferences will host two presenters: Dr. Ryan Pontier, Teaching English Language Learners in the VPK classroom and (presenter to be determined) Teaching Behavioral Management in the VPK Classroom. Participants will receive .2 CEUs or Master Plan Points, as applicable, for each presentation, a copy of the Florida Standards for Four Year Olds as well as two items to be determined by the presenters.

#### **VI. Legislative Update**

**Evelio C. Torres - CEO**

Mr. Torres – CEO provided an update on the Early Learning Bill, including: The Early Learning Performance Funding Pilot Project- an approach to tiered reimbursement that will provide a funding differential incentive for high need populations, a professional development system to improve teacher quality, a research based observational tool to improve teacher child interaction and alignment with Early Learning Florida to improve the consistency of technical assistance. The provisions for the pilot program will be developed with input from a work group chosen and coordinated by the Office of Early Learning.

The funding shall be held in reserve until a budget amendment is approved by the Legislative Budget Commission. The budget amendment shall include an allocation of the funding to the Early Learning Coalitions based on a methodology to award child care providers and instructors for improving School Readiness program outcomes. The allocation methodology must include provisions for 1) a funding differential incentive for high need populations; 2) a professional development system to significantly improve instructor quality; 3) a research-based observation tool to significantly improve instructor interactions with children; and 4) alignment to Early Learning Florida to provide consistency in technical assistance and to significantly improve instructor quality. The budget amendment shall be submitted by the Office of Early Learning to the Executive Office of the Governor no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

#### **VII. Meeting Adjourn**