



# Minutes

Program & Strategy & Provider Services Combined Committee Meeting  
 September 9, 2009; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
 Gato Building- Key West

**Committee Attendees:** David Williams, Jr. (P&S Chair); Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez (PSC Chair) Elizabeth Bezos (P&S Vice-Chair); Dr. Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; Connie Chapell (attended via conference call)

**Committee Absentees:** Modesto E. Abety; Ramiro Moreno; Roderick E. Beasley; Dr. Daniel Armstrong (PSC)

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Alina Soto; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams; Ana Rodriguez; Leeana Pena; Elizabeth Bellon; Trina Rodriguez; Amber Eby

**General Attendees:** Dr. Gina Cortez-Suarez(Board Member and Provider Services Committee Chair); Alan Eckstein (Board Member); Doug Blomberg Wesley House Family Services (WHFS); Kathy Snyder (WHFS); Pam Lopez (The Learning Center); Alison Heymann (Key West Preschool); Laurie Dunn (WHFS); Angela Whidden (Monroe County Head Start); Nancy Vater (Sunbeam Christian); Kalenna Rodrigues (The Learning Center); Nilda Bernaldez (Burton Memorial Child Development Center);

Via conference call: Sylvia Turner (Montessori Island School); Susan DeMonch (Banana Cabana Academy); Christine Patterson; Inez Martin; James Wicjorek (Grouper Lane Preschool); Paula Devitt (Kind to Kids); Amalia Casanova (First Baptist Jack Hill Child Care Center); Sue Ellen Bennett (St. James Children’s Center)

<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>David Williams, Jr. Committee Chair</b>
	<b>Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez, Provider Services Committee Chair</b>

- David Williams, Jr. and Dr. Cortes-Suarez welcomed the committee Members and attendees to the joint meeting of the Program Policy and Strategy and Provider Services Committees and asked everyone to introduce themselves

<b>II. Program Policy &amp; Strategy committee Goals and Objectives</b>	<b>David Williams, Jr. Committee Chair</b>
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- Mr. Williams described the goals and objectives of the Program Policy & Strategy committee. Mr. Williams emphasized that the committee is responsible for evaluating Coalition programs formulating strategy and making policy recommendations to improve the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties.



Mr. Williams also provided the names of all committee members and the committee meeting schedule for the remainder of the calendar year.

### **III. Provider Services Committee Goals & Objectives**

**Dr. Gina Cortes-Suarez,  
Provider Services Committee Chair**

- Dr. Cortes-Suarez noted that she is the newly appointed Chairman of the Provider Services Committee and described the goals and objectives of the committee. Dr. Cortes-Suarez indicated that committee meetings would rotate between Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties during the year. Dr. Cortes-Suarez emphasized to providers that this is the Board committee that represents their interest and that their participation and feedback are essential to the decision making process. She invited all providers to attend and participate fully in upcoming committee meetings.

### **IV. CEO Update**

**Evelio C. Torres, President & CEO**

- Mr. Torres spoke about some of the challenges that families in Monroe County face when trying to access child care. The waiver for school age children is an example of the way in which the Coalition and the Board of Directors recognize and support the uniqueness of the need for resources in Monroe County. The Monroe Board members made a recommendation to allow school age children to attrite naturally from care, instead of terminating them on their birthday and the Board approved this recommendation.
- Pam Lopez noted that most parents in Key West work in the service industry and cannot afford child care. She mentioned that something needs to be done to help parents during lean times. Ms. Lopez asked is there is anything in the budget for temporary help for parents who lose their jobs.
- Mr. Torres indicated that state-wide the demand for child care is much higher than the available supply because of funding constraints. Mr. Torres mentioned that an advisory group in Monroe County has been looking at the creation of a special taxing district to support services for children and that passage of this type of referendum would provide additional funding for school readiness and after school programs.
- Elizabeth Bezos mentioned that the Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP) allows providers to grant a benefit to their employees by providing them with free childcare. Ms. Bezos stressed the need to promote this program among the general business community in Monroe County.

### **V. Monroe Update**

**Mary Williams**

- Mary Williams presented the July performance report for Monroe County.
- Kathy Snyder presented performance data for Wesley House Family Services.

### **VI. Old Business**

**David Williams, Jr., Committee Chair**



**VII. New Business**

**David Williams, Jr., Committee Chair**

**VII. Adjourn**

**David Williams, Jr., Committee Chair**

- Meeting was adjourned by David Williams Jr.