



Legislative Committee Meeting
November 13, 2013; 8:00 a.m.
Conference Call

Committee Attendees: Lisa Martinez; Gerald Schwartz, Esq.; Eric Knowles

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Leeana Sanchez

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Martinez

- E. Torres called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- L. Sanchez called roll and a quorum was established with three (3) voting members.

II. ELC/The Children's Trust/United Way (GMCC)

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated we normally put together a state and federal agenda. Most of our directives come from the state. We have a couple of groups that we partner with. Locally, it's the ELC, the United Way and the Children's Trust. We share this with the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce (GMCC). Over the last few years we have been involved with them and travel with them to D.C. The private sector members are able to open up doors for us.

III. AELC

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated that the AELC develop an agenda based on Boards' priorities and try to roll them up all on one state agenda. They come to our association with any questions about early learning. We have non state and federal dollars, which allows us to hire a lobbyist. We get a really good deal from the firm.

IV. Office of Early Learning

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated that the Office of Early Learning develop their own agenda. What they do is provide input and feedback to legislators as they are working on these early learning issues and bills. They are up there every single day of the week.

V. Early Learning Advisory Council

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated that The Early Learning Advisory Council is made up of the Chairs of the Early Learning Coalitions. They have several committees as we do on our Board. This is one group that has been very effective. We created the Florida Partnership for Children.

VI. Florida Partnership for Children

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated that we were able to consolidate all the issues in a very friendly way. We ended up with a relatively good early learning bill. It needs to be tweaked in the 2014 session, but all these groups finally came together following the same agenda. Over the next month, will start meeting again to discuss the 2014 session. The House in particular will be taking a leadership role to refine issues in last year's bill, with a focus on health and safety. We are using tax payer dollars to pay for substandard care. Contracts for school readiness will be held to minimum health and safety standards. Marlene O' Toole is leading these efforts.



- On the Senate side, Senator Legg would be following the lead from the House. We are in a good place to do good things in Florida.

VII. ELC Legislative Agenda

Evelio C. Torres

- E. Torres stated that the ELC must come up with priorities for the 2014 session.
- G. Schwartz stated it seems we've come a long way since the early days.
- E. Torres stated that we probably need to pick two or three items to focus on and make progress on. One should be the funding formula. For the December Board meeting, this committee should make a recommendation to the Board of what our priorities should be.
- E. Torres stated that we need to continue to strive for Quality Education. He also stated that we must focus on health and safety on the school readiness contract. New funding needs to be a priority as well. Funding for VPK also needs to be a priority.
- E. Torres stated that as part of the Executive Committee today, tiered reimbursements were proposed. The entire Board has been invited to attend this discussion at the Program Policy & Provider Services Committee meeting at the end of the month and will be discussed at the Board Retreat in December.
- G. Schwartz and E. Knowles agreed with the priorities that E. Torres suggested. L. Martinez stated she's comfortable with what's being identified as priorities and asked what the strategic steps in moving forward would be.
- E. Torres stated that we must make these legislative visits to continue to strengthen the relationships.

VIII. Public Comments

Lisa Martinez

IX. Adjourn

Lisa Martinez