



# Minutes

Legislative Committee Meeting  
November 21, 2012; 8:00 AM  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.; Modesto Abety-Gutierrez; Commissioner Heather Carruthers; Helene Good; Dr. Abilio Rodriguez; Lisa Martinez

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Mercy Castiglione; Christina Vila; Milton Silvera; Blythe K. Robinson; Jackye Russell

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.

- Lucy Piñeiro, Legislative Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

## II. Review of Partner Priorities

Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.

- E. Torres stated the packet contained the legislative agendas for our close partners.
- Part of what we want to accomplish is determine what part of these we would like to include in the ELC agenda and/or select other priorities.
- The main issues we need to address are a high quality VPK and School Readiness program, additional funding, and the pre- and post-assessment.
- The Committee reviewed the agendas for:
  - The Association of Early Learning Coalitions
  - Children's Movement of Florida
  - Florida's Office of Early Learning
  - Florida Children's Council
  - United Way of Miami-Dade
  - Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce
    - Education Committee: Federal Legislative Proposal/Issue
    - Education Committee: State Legislative Proposal/Issue
    - Healthcare and Bioscience Committee: State Legislative Proposal/Issue
- E. Torres stated that our priorities should include the funding formula and should also ask for the dollars lost this year to be restored with new money.
- H. Carruthers asked if we could structure a platform to ask for an increase in funds for School Readiness.



### III. Miami-Dade/Monroe Priorities

Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.

- L. Piñeiro stated the local priority was to restore the money Miami-Dade lost due to the funding formula.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez stated Coalitions should have the ability to leverage business members at the local level.
- Local control of the rates is very important.
- E. Torres reviewed the pre- and post-assessment process. Children currently receive 3 assessments. If you add an assessment for SR, they would be assessed 5 times a year, which is a problem for providers.
- M. Abety-Gutierrez stated children should be assessed in the language they are most comfortable with. There are high stakes for the provider who will lose funding and for the child to continue to progress in their native language. The language barrier is very unfair.
- L. Piñeiro stated that 5 assessments are not really the issue, but the nature of the test itself.
- The Committee spoke about a pre- and post-assessment administered in the child's primary language, which is not the same instrument currently administered for VPK.
- L. Martinez stated the assessment is about being ready for kindergarten, but it is not really capturing the information as well as we had hoped.
- A. Rodriguez stated providers find it difficult to be rated when people don't know the children and their issues. Then because of the assessment, they are labeled low-performing providers. It is more fair to consider pre- and post-assessments done by the provider than the test done by the school.
- L. Piñeiro stated we should keep the fraud piece as a priority.

### IV. Federal Level Advocacy

Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.

- E. Torres stated we do very little at the federal level and need to focus on it.
- We should meet with representatives in DC more than once a year.
- L. Martinez stated the County very much wants to be engaged in these issues and may take the lead when appropriate.
- L. Martinez suggested submitting federal priorities to the Chamber.
- L. Piñeiro stated the state priority was to increase funding for early education programs.
- The Office of Early Learning is not currently asking for any additional dollars for School Readiness and that is a concern.
- Must insist that OEL ask for more dollars.

### V. Next Steps

Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.

- L. Martinez suggested submitting some federal priorities to the Chamber.
- E. Torres stated the notes would be drafted into a Legislative Agenda for the ELC.



- The agenda would be brought to the Board of Directors at the December Board Meeting as a Legislative Committee Report.

<b>VI. Public Comments</b>	Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.
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- There were no public comments.

<b>VII. Adjourn</b>	Lucy Piñeiro, Esq.
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- M. Abety-Gutierrez adjourned the meeting.