



**Strategic Planning Committee Meeting  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, 11:30 am  
ELC Board Room**

- |      |  |              |
|------|--|--------------|
| I.   | Welcome & Introductions  | Mara Zapata  |
| II.  | Approval of Minutes  | Robert Eadie |
|      | A. Motion to approve minutes for September 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016 |              |
| III. | Focus Group Questions  | Abby Thorman |
| IV.  | Survey   | Abby Thorman |
| V.   | Strategic Planning Timeline  | Abby Thorman |
| VI.  | Public Comments  | Mara Zapata  |
| VII. | Meeting Adjourn  | Mara Zapata  |

Mission: To promote high-quality school readiness, voluntary pre-kindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.



Strategic Planning Committee Meeting  
September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10:00 a.m.  
Via Conference Call

**Board Attendees:** Mara Zapata (Chair), Loreen Chant, Abilio Rodriguez, Philip Gassman (via conference call), Gilda Ferradaz (via conference call), Alex Soto (via conference call)

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres, Angelo Parrino, Sandra Gonzalez, Lisa Sanabria, Jackye Russell

**I. Welcome and Introductions** **Mara Zapata**

- M. Zapata called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**II. Strategic Plan** **Evelio Torres**

- E. Torres reviewed the Strategic Plan 15-16 and asked the board members if they had any suggested revisions.
- A. Rodriguez suggested a changing a few titles because they seemed a bit harsh.

**III. Focus Group Questions** **Evelio Torres**

- E. Torres reviewed the question from last year's focus groups.
- E. Torres suggested that a few questions should be removed because they did not seem relevant any longer.
- M. Zapata suggested that the questions on quality should definitely remain.

**IV. Public Comments** **Mara Zapata**

**V. Adjourn** **Mara Zapata**

# Provider Focus Groups

Homestead Branch Library  
700 N. Homestead Blvd.  
Homestead, FL  
Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
4:00pm

Early Learning Coalition Offices  
Pink Plaza  
103400 Overseas Hwy  
Suite 232  
Key Largo, FL  
Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

Department of Children  
1111 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 304  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Key West, FL  
Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

Arcola Lakes Branch Library  
8240 NW 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Miami, FL  
Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
4:00pm

## PROVIDER QUESTIONS

1. In which county is your early learning program located?

- Miami-Dade
- Monroe
- Broward

2. With what coalition initiatives do you participate? Please check all that apply.

- I serve children who receive school readiness funds
- I provide VPK
- I participate in Quality Counts
- I am an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership site
- (fill in any other services/supports)

3. (if provider selects that they participate in Quality Counts)

- For how long have you participated in Quality Counts?
- How would you rate the effectiveness of the following supports?

	Not at all helpful	Helpful	Extremely helpful	I have not received
CLASS report				
Coaching				
Career counseling				
Scholarships				
WAGE\$				
Support grant				

- Are there any changes you would suggest to Quality Counts?

4. How would you rate the ease of using the provider portal?

- Extremely easy
- OK - not easy or hard
- Very difficult

5. What is the best way for the coalition to communicate with you?

	Not at all helpful	Helpful	Extremely helpful	I don't receive coalition information this way
Email blasts				
Newsletter				
Messages posted in portal				
Messages posted in website				
Provider meetings				

6. What can the coalition do to better support you with your daily work with young children and their families?

## PARENT SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What services do you receive from the Early Learning Coalition?
  - Child care subsidies
  - VPK
  - Referral to child care
  - Other
  
2. What was your experience of the application process? *(These questions will come up linked to the services for which they applied)*
  - Very easy
  - Sort of easy
  - Very difficult
  
3. At which location did you receive services?
  - (list each location)
  - I applied online
  
4. How would you rate the quality of your experience with coalition staff?
  - Very high quality: I was very happy
  - OK: It was not good or bad
  - Not good: I was not satisfied with services I received
  
5. How would you suggest the services be improved?
  - Offer appointments earlier in the morning
  - Offer appointments later in the afternoon
  - Offer evening appointments
  - Offer weekend appointments
  - Have shorter wait times
  - Provide a more comfortable waiting room
  - Have friendlier staff
  - Have more knowledgeable staff
  - Other (open text box)

## BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS

### 1. How would you rate the following?

	Not at all effective	Effective	Extremely effective
Quality of communications			
Frequency of communications			
Board committee structure			
Board meetings			

### 2. How important are each of the following for the Coalition?

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Extremely important
Increasing the number of children who receive subsidies			
Improving the quality of early learning programs			
Identifying and prosecuting fraud			
Serving children with special needs			
Serving underserved communities			

3. What do you think are the three most important things the coalition should focus on? Why?

4. What do you see as the most pressing issues related to the mission of the early learning coalition?

5. What would you like to know from providers?

6. What would you like to know from parents?

7. What else would you like for us to consider as we prepare for the strategic planning retreat?



**Parents / Families**

**Providers**

**Children  
First**

**Partners**





# CHILDREN FIRST: The Strategic Plan for the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe 2015-2016

## OUR MISSION

To promote high-quality inclusive school readiness, voluntary prekindergarten and after school programs, thus increasing all children's chances of achieving future educational success and becoming productive members of society. The Coalition seeks to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of Miami-Dade and Monroe County children with a priority toward the ages before birth through age 5.

## OUR VISION CHILDREN FIRST

To ensure a comprehensive and integrated system providing for all families and their children, beginning before birth to 5 years, the affordable opportunity to enter school ready to learn and succeed in life.

## OUR VALUES

- CHILDREN** - Children are at the heart of all we do. We believe that all children, regardless of circumstance, are capable of educational excellence and personal growth, and we are committed to ensuring school readiness and lifelong success for each one.
- COMMUNITY** - We believe children are the future, and our community is an essential part of their road to success. By working together, we can promote education and support children as they become thriving, productive members of society.
- PARTNERSHIP** - We value partnerships and are collaborative in all we do. We work closely with fellow service providers, families, corporations, elected officials, individuals, and the community at large to promote the importance of early learning and to secure educational opportunities for all children.
- ADVOCACY** - We are a champion for children, promoting positive societal and community change. Our staff and community partners are committed to advancing education throughout Miami-Dade and Monroe counties and are set apart by their passion, strength and dedication to children.
- EXCELLENCE** - When it comes to early learning, quality matters. We are committed to excellence, providing quality programs and services that make a difference in our community. Designed to further the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of all children, our programs are innovative and offer each child an equal opportunity for a successful future.
- CUSTOMER SERVICE** - We strive to meet the needs of our parents, families, providers and partners by providing comprehensive customer service in a professional, timely and courteous manner.
- EQUITY** - In working with parents, families, providers, and partners, we are committed to the principle of equity and balance, so that all may benefit from the work we do, while keeping children first.

PRIORITY INITIATIVES

	NEEDIEST CHILDREN	YOUNGEST CHILDREN	EDUCATE ALL	PROVIDERS	INTERNAL CAPACITY	FUNDING
	<i>Improve outcomes for children in our neediest communities, and include children with developmental and other delays and disabilities</i>	<i>Offer a continuum of care from before birth to age 8, focusing on the youngest</i>	<i>Educate all families and children about the benefits of early learning</i>	<i>Improve ELC relationship with providers and provider performance</i>	Strengthen Board and Staff capacity to carry out strategic goals	<i>Increase public and private funding and reallocate funds to strategic goals</i>
	<p><b>TARGET NEEDIEST AREAS</b> Identify centers in distressed zip codes and those serving children with, or at risk for, developmental delays &amp; provide extra support for them</p> <p><b>INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN</b> Receiving services who have physical, developmental, sensory, and social-emotional delays and disabilities</p> <p><b>REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN</b> Receiving subsidies to permit higher quality services to those enrolled</p> <p><b>PARENT/FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY</b> Identify methods of encouraging self-sufficiency</p>	<p><b>TARGET AGES</b> Set targets for after school care for children over 9 and 6-8 years of age</p> <p><b>AGE-BASED RATES</b> Adjust reimbursement rates to offer incentives to serve the youngest children</p> <p><b>PARENT ACCOUNTABILITY</b> Offer incentives for parents to become more accountable</p>	<p><b>PARENTAL CHOICE</b> Educate parents to choose child care centers that ensure better outcomes for their children</p> <p><b>VISIBILITY</b> Achieve increased visibility throughout both counties by creating child care resources and providing information</p>	<p><b>CHILD CARE PROGRAM STANDARDS</b> Establish standards for child care providers and enforce them</p> <p><b>PROVIDER REIMBURSEMENT RATES</b> Determine optimum rates to attract higher quality providers</p> <p><b>TEACHER EDUCATION</b> Increase the number of teachers with child care credentials</p> <p><b>FEWER PROVIDERS</b> Drop low-performing providers</p> <p><b>TECHNICAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE</b> Offer business assistance to providers in distressed areas</p> <p><b>EDUCATE PROVIDERS</b> About responsibilities to include children with disabilities, and provide them with the training and resources to do so</p>	<p><b>ADVOCACY</b> Engage aggressively &amp; systematically in advocacy to drive better outcomes for children and promote community awareness of the ELC</p> <p><b>QUALITY COUNTS</b> Enroll all centers wanting to participate in the ELC program</p> <p><b>COUNCIL OF PARTNERS</b> Establish regular meetings with partners</p>	<p><b>PUBLIC</b> Secure adequate resources to ensure high quality delivery to each child we serve</p> <p><b>MONROE COUNTY</b> Establish a Children's Services Council with dedicated funding</p>