



ELC News Alert

Issue 6
July 2010

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President's Message



Dear Friends:

A number of important bills from the 2010 legislative session have been signed into law by the Governor. Among these bills is the Early Learning Bill, SB2014. The language in this bill was considerably amended from its original 2009 version based on input from stakeholders that included Early Learning Coalitions, state agencies, provider organizations and accrediting bodies. A couple of late amendments that impact local communities were also added.

Now that the bill has become law, the rulemaking process begins. This process is used to create/promulgate rules that allow state agencies to implement the laws. Under this process, the public is informed and allowed to comment on proposed rules before they take effect. This process is publicly noticed. Rulemaking hearings take place in different parts of the state and are announced in advance.

Rules adopted by the state will affect child care stakeholders. I encourage everyone to participate in the hearings either directly or through a representative. For a copy of SB2014 and other important legislation that affects early learning, please visit our website at www.elcmdm.org and click on the legislative updates link.

I remain at your service.

Sincerely,

Evelio C. Torres
President & CEO
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Program & Strategy *CANCELLED*
Tuesday, June 29; 3:30 p.m.

Finance *CANCELLED*
Wednesday, June 30; 8:00 a.m.

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, July 27; 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance
Wednesday, July 28; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

For a complete list of upcoming Coalition meetings and events, please visit our website at www.elcmdm.org.

Quick Links

[Early Learning Coalition](#)

[VPK](#)

[Agency for Workforce Innovation](#)

Get Connected with ELC!



Important Announcements

Receive Valuable Feedback from Experts on your Center's Business Plan and Practices

The Early Learning Coalition has begun the strategic planning process. This process will include developing a multi-year strategic plan that includes investment strategies. Investment strategies include slot/child care expenditures, provider reimbursement rates, quality and Gold Seal expenditures and other services funded by the ELC. In an effort to assist the Early Learning Coalition's board of directors in gaining a better understanding of the financial challenges faced by child care providers, the ELC is encouraging providers to volunteer their centers for a review of their business plans and practices by a team of volunteer private sector financial experts. These experts will evaluate your books and business model and provide valuable feedback to the board of directors as they prepare to make some very tough budgetary and programmatic decisions. Providers will not be identified by name on the report to the board. To be considered for this review or to find out more, please submit your center's name and contact information to Tabatha Cullen, Sr. Director of Communications, at tcullen@elcmdm.org.

ELC's Blythe Keeler Robinson Honored as One of "40 Under 40 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow"



Our own Sr. Director of Programs Blythe Keeler Robinson was honored as one of "40 Under 40 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow" by *Success South Florida Magazine* on Friday, June 4, 2010, at Morton's Steakhouse in North Miami. *Success South Florida* is a news/business publications serving South Florida's black professional community with insightful articles and information on business, careers, politics, lifestyle, culture and social commentary.

"For the fifth year, *Success South Florida Magazine* has chosen an elite group of individuals for its 40 Under 40 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow distinction. These honorees were first nominated by their peers then carefully selected by a distinguished and highly professional Selection Committee comprised of past 40 Under 40 alumni. This year's stellar group is diverse as they are impressive. They range from a young physician, a fire chief, a pharmacist, a web developer, a photographer, an activist attorney, a state representative, to a surfer who makes a difference in the lives of inner-city youth. This is just a sampling of the 40 impressive honorees in this year's group," said *Success South Florida's* press release on May 13, 2010.

Don't Miss out on Your Chance to Participate in the CCEP Program for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you are already participating in the Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program* and wish to continue doing so for the 2010-2011 school year, you must re-submit an agreement via mail or drop it off at the Early Learning Coalition's Coral Gables office (2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 500, Coral Gables, FL 33134). Please note however, you do not need to submit a pre-screening form for employees. Please visit our CCEP webpage at http://www.elcmdm.org/our_services/ccep.html for further information and to download the necessary paperwork.

We need to receive your 2010-2011 CCEP forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

*The Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) program for early care and education providers in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties will allow centers to provide care for an employee's child at the center and be partially reimbursed for that care by the Early Learning Coalition.

South Florida Workforce is Recruiting for their Summer Youth Employment Program

South Florida Workforce Investment Board's (SFWIB) Summer Youth Employment Program will provide job opportunities to approximately 1,440 to 2,000 low-income young adults ages 14-24, residing in both Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. They will earn \$8-\$10 an hour for 140-160 hours to include 20 hours of work-readiness skills training.

By partnering with SFWIB, local businesses will provide young adults with job opportunities and guidance in appropriate workplace behavior, at no cost to the employer.

For additional information, please visit:

<http://www.southfloridaworkforce.com/w/youthSummer.html>.

ELC Board of Directors

As seen in previous news alerts, we have featured our board members to familiarize our community with the dedicated professionals who serve on behalf of South Florida's children. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight ELC Board of Directors Counsel **Santiago D. Echemendia**.



Santiago D. Echemendia is a partner and chair of Tew Cardenas, LLP's Local Government Law Group. During his 23 year career, he has concentrated on municipal law with an emphasis on land use/zoning, including appeals, competitive bidding (has handled approximately 50 bid protest administrative hearings and lawsuits), ethics, public records and administrative law.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIONS

- Serves as Board Counsel to Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.
- Serves as Board Counsel to the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board for five years, where he attended all board meetings and workshops to provide expertise on conflicts of interest and ethics issues, as well as issues on policies pertaining to procurement, competitive bidding, minority and small business participation, and the Sunshine Law. Mr. Echemendia handled many administrative cases, and also provided recommendations for final agency action.
- Served as Senior Public Affairs Consultant to Florida Department of Transportation, acting as a liaison with the Metropolitan Planning Organization on behalf of FDOT.
- Represented the City of Miami in connection with all of the submerged land leases from the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund.
- Represented Monroe County on *Protect Key West and The Florida Keys Inc. d/b/a "Last Stand" v. South Florida Water Management District and Monroe County*.
- Represented the Miami-Dade County School Board on transferable development rights and historic preservation issues.

- Represented CBS Outdoor Inc. on its settlement of *National Advertising v. City of Miami*.
- Provides governmental relations and substantive land use, environmental, and transportation advice to major real estate interests and other corporate clients before city and county boards throughout Florida, and before various state agencies, including the Governor and Cabinet (acting as the Trustee of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund), the Florida Department of Transportation.

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- Florida

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Florida Bar, Member
- Miami-Dade Planning Advisory Board, Former Board Member
- South Florida Regional Planning Council, Former Board Member
- Miami-Dade Housing Finance Authority, Former Board Member
- Board of Directors of the FIU-Wolfsonian Museum, Former Board Member
- Member

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Martindale-Hubbell "AV" Rated
- 2008-2010 Finalist for South Florida Business Journal Key Partners Award
- South Florida Legal Guide, Top Lawyers 2009-2010 Award
- Finalist, Top Dealmaker for the Camillus House Land Swap Transaction, MDBR, 2007
- Zoning recognition in the Legal 500, 2008 and 2009 editions

Team Member Spotlight

This month, the spotlight shines on another valued team member and the important work she accomplishes in bringing quality early childhood education to our community. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Georgi Payne, Administrative Assistant to the Sr. Director of Programs.

Georgi Payne has been working at the Coalition for three years as the administrative assistant to Sr. Director of Programs Blythe Keeler Robinson. In addition to directly assisting Ms. Keeler Robinson, she also provides support for the Programs department where and whenever she is needed.

Visiting child care centers is a valued aspect of Georgi's work, "I enjoy programs that take the staff out into the centers. In the office it is easy to get bogged down in paperwork and procedures. Going out to the centers recharges me and reminds me why this organization and its mission are so important," she says. Projects such as Quality Materials, the RIF Care to Read trainings for teachers, Read Across America - Dr. Seuss B-Day, and the RIF Book Distribution are a few of her favorites.

Georgi fully realizes the vital role she plays in contributing to the successful operation of ELC programs, and that her assistance to the senior director of programs and program directors in turn impacts the lives of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties' children. "I believe that early childhood education is a crucial and integral part of the educational foundation that every child must possess in order to be successful in school," she says.

Prior to arriving at the Coalition Georgi worked in customer service for the College Board where she assisted students both here and abroad in preparation to take the SAT college prep exam, or those who already completed it. She later progressed to the Email Desk to assist students with SAT exam-related inquiries or problems.

Additionally, Georgi worked a number of years in Downtown Miami as a legal assistant to a sole practitioner in a bankruptcy law office. There she handled individual Chapter 7 cases and corporations filing for Chapter 11.



Georgi married her high school sweetheart. They have been together for 16 years and married for eight. The two are the best of friends and share many of the same interests. During her free time Georgi is an avid reader. She also admits to being an adventure traveler having visited 42 cities in over 21 countries around the world. Finally, she is a dedicated fan of the arts and enjoys attending the Florida Grand Opera and touring Broadway productions.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

Providers: Please Submit Your ASQ Forms ASAP!

Please return your Ages and Stages Questionnaires to Miami-Dade County (CDS) promptly. They must be completed and returned as soon as possible following the instructions included in your ASQ packet, or if you need immediate assistance, call your centers' ASQ staff personnel. Your cooperation is essential to the success of the Miami-Dade County and the Early Learning Coalition's support in educating your children. For more information on completing the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, or if you need forms, please call 305-270-2905 (South) or 305-953-6007 (North).

Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK)

2009-10 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate Rule Development Workshops (Rule 6A-1.099821, FAC)

WHO:

Presented by the Florida Department of Education and Office of Early Learning

WHAT/WHY:

To gather public input on the methodology for calculating the 2009-10 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate. The method used to calculate the Readiness Rate is determined annually and approved by the Florida Board of Education via Rule 6A-1.099821.

For statewide webinar dates and the meeting scheduled for Miami-Dade providers, please see below. For additional information, please contact the Office of Early Learning at 1-866-447-1159 or earlylearning@fldoe.org.

WHEN/WHERE:

July 14, 2010; 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

United Way of Miami-Dade

3250 SW 3rd Avenue, Miami, 33129

Additionally there is a statewide webinar scheduled for provider participation on July 28, 2010, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. <https://suncom.webex.com/suncom/j.php?ED=138150482&UID=1127156327&RT=MiMxMQ%3D%3D>

Conference Call: 888-808-6959 Conference Code: 245-0966

To learn more details about the **6A-1.099821 Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate**, please visit www.elcmdm.org.

Reminder! Update your transcripts!

If your teachers have taken any of the following courses (see below), they must have their transcript updated showing these trainings or the courses must be retaken. Please submit all certificates with the application found on the following link, <http://www.elcmdm.org/downloads/VPKCertificatesCompletion.pdf>, via fax to Kerry Allen, VPK Regional Facilitator, at 305-447-1608 or by mail to 2555 Ponce De Leon Blvd., 5th Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134 - Attention: Kerry Allen, by June 30, 2010.

VPK Trainings

2005 Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards (3 hours)

2008 Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards (3 hours)

Emergent Literacy in the VPK Classroom (10 hours)

Emergent Literacy Train-the-Trainer (19 hours)

Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards Train-the-Trainer (4 hours)

Integrating the VPK Standards: Phonological Awareness (2 hours)

Integrating the VPK Standards: Phonological Awareness/Practicum (3 hours)

What Parents Should Know - It's Okay to Play in VPK! Director Training (2 hours)

What's New: Florida Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Standards 2008 (2 hours)

If you earned any degrees outside of the U.S. and they have been evaluated by an approved credential evaluation agency, or if you earned your degree in the U.S., submit your transcripts to Child Care Training Services Center (see address below) to have your Staff Credential Verification updated along with the application which can be found at <http://ccrain.fl-dcf.org/documents/6/467.pdf#page=1>.

Child Care Training Services Center
2807 Remington Green Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32308

For the 2011-2012 VPK school-year, only transcripts from DCF will be accepted.

How to Register for VPK Trainings

Please visit our VPK website at <http://www.vpkhelp.org/resources/trainings.html> to learn the 13 steps to successfully register for VPK trainings. Courses include VPK Educational Standards, Integrating the Standards, and Emergent Literacy for the VPK Classroom. Instructions on how to cancel your registration or obtain your certificate, transcript, and/or CEUs are also available.

2008 Summer VPK Standards Training

The following is the 2008 Summer VPK Standards training schedule. Registration for all listed courses is accessible on the web:

St. John the Apostle

Thursday, July 15, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

St. John the Apostle, Hialeah School Library/Media Room

DCF #778

Thursday, July 29, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
St. John the Apostle, Hialeah School Library/Media Room
DCF #779

Friday, August 13, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
St. John the Apostle, Hialeah School Library/Media Room
DCF #780

Thursday, August 19, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
St. John the Apostle, Hialeah School Library/Media Room
DCF #781

Miami-Dade College - Homestead

Wednesday, July 7, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus, Building G, Room 105
Reference # 787

Thursday, July 22, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus, Building G, Room 105
Reference # 788

Friday, August 6, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus, Building G, Room 105
Reference # 789

Wednesday, August 18, 2010; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus, Building G, Room 105
Reference # 790

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

Creative Curriculum Trainings Offered in June

The ELC is sponsoring a free training to be provided by trainers from Teaching Strategies (the developers of Creative Curriculum). All books and materials will be provided. Participants will receive six (6) in-service hours upon completion. CEUs (.6) are being provided by the South Florida Association for Young Children. The sessions are as follows:

Creative Curriculum for Preschool Teachers (English)

Date: Saturday, June 26, 2010

Location: San Pablo Church Hall, 550 122nd St. Ocean, Marathon

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Register early as space is limited. For more information or to register, please contact Mary Williams at 296-5557.

Child Health Screenings Underway in June - July

Our community partner, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (FKAHEC) will be conducting a 2nd round of School Readiness child health screenings at centers and family child care homes Keys-wide. All currently enrolled School Readiness children will be eligible for screening (even if previously screened in the fall). Financial assistance will be available for follow-up specialty care for School Readiness children whose parents are uninsured or underinsured. Screening of private pay children will be available for a nominal fee of \$10. FKAHEC staff will be contacting providers directly to schedule the medical team's visits.

Quality Counts

The **United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education** is an innovative learning, teaching and training initiative dedicated to elevating the quality of early care and education in Miami-Dade and beyond. The Center models proven best practices and shares those practices with adult learners including parents, educators and child care providers. The Center also works with business leaders and lawmakers to raise the standards of early childhood education, and support sustainable and lasting change.

By offering resources and training opportunities for parents, teachers, providers and business leaders, the Center helps improve the quality of services and programs available to children. The resources, education and training provided at the Center benefits over 5,000 adults and 80,000 children annually. Adult learners study best practices in early care and education through a series of workshops, trainings, seminars, mentoring, distance learning and field work. A resource library provides patrons and training participants with access to a comprehensive collection of materials in the area of early childhood development including magazines, books, curricula and research papers. Additionally, the resource library offers a broad range of services including computer and WI-FI access and on-site mentoring.

The Center supports providers of early care and education by offering training opportunities and resources that assist them as they seek to attain the highest level of quality for their early care programs. One example is the Early Childhood Program Administrator's Institute, a three-course, nine college credit program that enhances management skills, professional orientation and leadership capacity, while satisfying requirements for the advanced level child care and education administrator credential.

Through its partnership with the Early Learning Coalition, the Center:

- acts as the training arm for Quality Counts, a voluntary rating system that reviews early learning programs according to clearly defined, high quality standards using a five star method of evaluation;
- provides training on an array of early childhood topics to educators and administrators throughout Miami-Dade's early learning community;
- provides technical assistance to family child care and early care and education programs in collaboration with the University of Miami and Family Central Inc.; and,
- guides local early care and education centers through the Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment (APPLE) accreditation process.

Ultimately, the Center's vision is that all children will have access to the highest quality early care and education, so they can have the best possible start in school and in life. To reach that goal, the Center educates parents and early care professionals, demonstrates best practices, and advocates for change.

From left to right (back row): Stephania Sabdul, Miriam Altman, Maria Serra, Zohet Iturbe, Amber Santos, Susan Escudero, Angie Cruz, Vivyan De Huelbes, Rosenie Celestin and Paula Moujalli

Seated from left to right (front row): Mabel Ramirez, Patricia Abreu, Gladys Montes, Joe Pena, Maria Cabrera and Aida Ubeto



Information Sessions on Mandatory Reporting

Quality Counts Directors, join us for one of the four scheduled sessions (see the QC flyer or calendar on www.elcmdm.org for dates and times) on mandatory reporting by Early Learning Coalition Board Member Lucy C. Piñero, Esq.

All caregivers or persons responsible for a child's welfare are mandated reporters; it's important to know your responsibilities. Under the Florida Statutes all mandated reporters shall report any suspicion or knowledge that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected to the Department of Children and Families.

Lucy Piñero provides clear definitions of this law and clarifies your responsibilities and steps to be taken as a mandated reporter.



Join Our
Mailing List 

2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd. Suite 500; Coral Gables, FL 33134

