



**Early
Learning
Coalition**
of Miami-Dade/Monroe




ELC News Alert

Issue 5
June 2010

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President's Message

Dear Friends:

Over the next few months, our board of directors will be discussing funding priorities for the next two to three years. I encourage everyone to get involved early on; it is important that your valuable input be considered before final decisions are made. Although it is not out of the ordinary for a non-profit to undertake this type of planning process, the decisions that our board of directors will have to make present several unusual challenges that will impact services currently funded by the Early Learning Coalition.

You may participate in the planning process by attending standing committee meetings. Meeting dates, times and locations, along with agendas and meeting materials, are posted on our website at www.elcmdm.org. We value our partnership with the entire community and always appreciate hearing from you. Please do your best to provide your important input.

You are welcome to contact our Community Relations office at 305 646-7220 should you have any questions.

I remain at your service.

Sincerely,

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

Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

Provider Services
Friday, May 21; 1:00 p.m.
ELC Monroe Office

Finance
Wednesday, May 26; 8:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Program & Strategy
Tuesday, June 1; 3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Board of Directors
Monday, June 7; 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](#)

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Important Announcements

A Day in the Life: ELC's Poverty Simulation Exercise

ELC staff recently facilitated a poverty simulation exercise for Miami-Dade County employees in an effort to show the realities and hardships that those living in poverty endure on a daily basis. Participants are not initially made privy to the purpose of the exercise; rather, they are informed that they will assume the roles of family members facing a variety of challenging but typical circumstances such as providing food, shelter, and other basic necessities with only a small amount of money. Furthermore, they are to interact with various community resources staffed by ELC employees who act as social workers, loan officers, employers, utility collectors, police officers, and more. Some of the participants are told they are homeless, jobless, and/or suddenly faced with the responsibility of raising grandchildren.

The simulation activity concluded with a debriefing period in which all participants provided feedback of their experiences and how the exercise impacted their view of those living in poverty.



ELC President and CEO Evelio C. Torres welcomes participants to the Poverty Simulation Exercise.



ECIF President David Lawrence, Jr.



Special Guest Pamela Phelps

Participants receive and read their instructions.



Participants stand in long lines for various community resources and services.

Participants are sent to jail or juvenile hall for various offenses.





The ELC Finance team tackles the role of bankers as money runs out and participants' tempers begin to flare.

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 the Coalition's board of directors. In this issue, it is our pleasure to highlight Magaly Abrahante.

Magaly C. Abrahante, Ed.D., is the assistant superintendent, Title I Administration, of Early Childhood Programs and Summer Services at Miami-Dade County Public Schools where she directs and supervises the implementation of all aspects of the federally-funded Title I Program in 357 public schools, serving approximately 260,402 students. She also oversees the implementation of all aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act of

2001, including Supplemental Educational Services, and the Title I Migrant Education Program which provides supplemental instructional and support services to eligible children of migrant workers through various components.

Prior to her current role, Dr. Abrahamte served the school district as a chief personnel officer of Personnel Management and Services, administrative director of the Division of Schools of Choice, district director of Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity, director of the Department of Student Advocacy, and supervisor of the Dropout Prevention Program. Additionally, she was also a principal and teacher in a number of local Miami-Dade senior high schools.

Dr. Abrahamte received her Ed.D. in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University and her master's degree from Florida International University in mathematics education. She obtained her B.S. at the University of Miami in mathematics and biology education. Dr. Abrahamte is the married mother of four children, and speaks both English and Spanish.

Other professional organizations and honors include:

Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Board of Directors
National Coalition of Title I Parents
United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education
Nova Southeastern University, 2002 Miguel de Cervantes Award
Charter School Review Panel, State of Florida
Magnet Schools of America, Inc.
Magnet Educational Choice Association (MECA)
Dade Association of School Administrators (DASA)
Children's Services Council Member Designate, Miami-Dade County, Florida
Leadership Experience Opportunity Program for Teachers (LEO-T)
President's Scholarship, University of Miami

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 Diana Lane, Media Coordinator.

Diana Lane has been working at the Coalition for four and a half years, most recently as the media coordinator for the Communications department where she serves as both webmaster and graphic designer. Diana maintains the ELC's two websites, www.elcmdm.org and www.vpkhelp.org, and is also responsible for work on different projects ranging from reports to info-graphics.

Prior to her tenure at the Coalition, Diana was employed at various non-profit organizations in New York City, but working at the ELC has become the most meaningful cross-section of personal and professional experiences to date, "As a mother this is a great place to work. I have always been surrounded by early childhood experts that have helped me when I did not know what to do. They help me become a better mom," she says.



Diana is the queen of arts and crafts. "I like making things. Anything really, as long as I get to create. Often I feel like there aren't enough hours in the day for me," she says. Diana enjoys sewing, embroidery, calligraphy, making jewelry, making collages, cooking, and reading (especially comic books). The list goes on and on.

Additionally, she lovingly makes quilts for each of her co-workers' newborns.

Miami-Dade County News Briefs

School Readiness (SR)

Agreement for School Readiness-Funded Services

All providers who receive School Readiness funding from the Early Learning Coalition are **required to submit an agreement no later than May 15, 2010**. Your School Readiness payments will stop on July 1st if the completed agreement and all required documents are not received by the deadline.

Provider agreements may be accessed on the Coalition's website at:

www.elcmdm.org/downloads/schoolreadiness/SRprovideragreement1011.pdf. Providers may also obtain an agreement by calling the Coalition at 305-646-7220.

Daily Attendance Codes and Approved Standard Reimbursable Holidays Listing

For a listing of the 2010-2011 standard holidays approved by the ELC in concurrence with Miami-Dade County's CDS, as well as codes to be used in tracking daily attendance, please visit:

http://elcmdm.org/our_services/schoolreadiness/holiday%20schedule.pdf.

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)

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:

Thursday May 13, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus Building G, Room 106
DCF #785

Thursday June 17, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Miami-Dade College Homestead Campus Building G, Room 106
DCF #786

Tuesday, June 22, 2010; 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. John the Apostle, Hialeah School Auditorium/Cafeteria
DCF #705

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

Monroe County News Briefs

Save the Date

Monroe County Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, May 21st @ 1:00 p.m.

Gato Building Conference Room, 1100 Simonton St., Key West

Please join ELC Monroe board members, ELC staff, and our community partners as we discuss important information of interest and concern to our early care and education provider community. Provider participation is strongly encouraged.

***Note: This will be a joint meeting with the ELC's Provider Services Committee meeting.**

To participate via conference call, the call-in number is 1-888-813-8477, passcode 143130.

Wesley House Annual Conference: "Imagine That! Playing IS Learning"

Saturday, May 22nd @ 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

350 Sombrero Beach Road, Marathon

The 18th annual Wesley House conference will feature keynote speakers Shawn Brown and Lillian Hubler and will include a variety of fun, interactive breakout sessions related to this year's theme of playing is learning.

Registration is \$10 and lunch will be provided.

To register, please contact Laurie Dunn at 305-809-5000.

Quality Counts

Family Central, Inc.'s Quality Counts team provides comprehensive technical assistance to participating centers in the north part of Miami-Dade County. We assist providers in obtaining supports and incentives to help them reach their quality goals. As a team, our goal is not just providing excellence, but also to support our providers above and beyond Quality Counts; we assist them in many different ways: by referring them to community services, co-conducting staff meetings with director/owners, facilitating directors' meetings to bring up common issues and challenges, etc. Our experience as partners of this project has been extraordinary; we have grown as a team and as professionals. We have provided our input to improve the program standards, procedures and goals. One of the most satisfying aspects of being a partner in Quality Counts has been the many success stories we have been able to report--stories of teachers acquiring degrees, directors guiding their staff, and centers being accredited and reaching higher levels in the QC scale. All of these stories motivate us, encourage us, and continue to inspire us.

From right to left (back row): Lynda Ariyan, Mirta De Jesus , Yexenia Bejarano, Vanessa Fung-Chavez, Wendy Gordon, Ana Avalos-Atkinson, and Jumena Hibbard
Seated from right to left (front row): Soraya Fernandez, Valerie Mendez-Farinas, and Maria E. Alvarez Gramuglia



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