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Upcoming Board and Committee Meetings

Budget Workshop
Thursday, October 18
1:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Strategic Planning

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ELC News Alert

Issue 10
October 2012

President's Message



Dear Friends,

The Annual Meeting of our Board of Directors will take place on Nov. 5th. Since all other board meetings are held in Miami-Dade, this meeting will be held in Marathon, Fla., from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This will allow the Monroe County community an opportunity to interact with our Board. We encourage community members and service partners from both Miami-Dade and Monroe to participate.

The conversation will focus on our [budget](#) and [service priorities](#) for the next five years. Recommendations from the Board and community members will be presented for approval at our Dec. 3rd Board of Directors meeting, which will be held in Miami-Dade. There will be opportunities for public comment at every meeting.

Our number one priority remains to serve as many children as possible in high quality settings so we can achieve better child outcomes and give taxpayers a high return on their investment. Thank you for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

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

Important Announcements

New Representatives Added to Board of Directors

The Early Learning Coalition would you to join us in welcoming three new

Monday, October 22
8:30 a.m.
ELC Board Room

**Program &
Strategy**

Tuesday, October 23
3:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room

Finance

Wednesday, October 31
8:30 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board

Monday, November 5
10 a.m.
Key Colony

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

Contact us

Miami-Dade
2555 Ponce de Leon
Blvd., 5th Floor
Coral Gables,
FL 33134
305.646.7220
305.447.1608 (fax)

Monroe
1100 Simonton Street,
Suite 1-204
Key West,
FL 33040
305.296.5557
305.296.5588 (fax)

www.elcmdm.org

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representatives to the Board of Directors: Holly Estes, Helene J. Good and Dr. J. Abilio Rodriguez.

Holly Estes joined the Board as a private sector business member representing Monroe County. Ms. Estes is a certified foster parent for Wesley House Family Services as well as an adoptive parent. She works with partners across the Keys to enhance systemic care for the children of Monroe County. She is also the owner and business manager of a newspaper, the News-Barometer.

Helene J. Good joined the Board as a representative of programs for children with disabilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Ms. Good currently serves as the President and CEO of CCDH, Inc. (formerly Community Committee for Developmental Handicaps, Inc.) and brings more than 30 years experience in the field. In 2009, she received the David Lawrence Jr. Champion for Children Award for a lifetime of achievement and dedication to children.

J. Abilio Rodriguez, Ph.D., joined the Board as a representative of faith-based child care providers. Dr. Rodriguez is the program administrator for Centro Mater Child Care Services, Inc. He has served on the National Head Start Association Latino Advisory Commission as well Miami Dade College's Early Childhood Advisory Committee. He has been a strong advocate for children and families in South Florida for many years.

New Process for DCF Background Screenings

On August 1, 2012, the DCF Background Screening Office became centralized and is no longer emailing or mailing clearance letters to Child Care providers. Providers must now register to get access to the DCF web portal where they will have 24-hour access to view and print the letters they need. Once registered, the provider will see an applicant's screening results, which will be available for 90 days.

DCF has established a BGS Help Desk, where providers can either reach a representative or a voice mail message. The voice mail message will give providers another link to immediate help if they cannot get through to the Help Desk.

To obtain more information and to register for access, please visit the DCF Background Screening [website](#) or call the DCF BGS Help Desk at 850-717-4454.

There is also a User Guide on the website. You can find this by clicking on **Background Screening Web Portal Login** then clicking on **User Guide**. Please call your local DCF Child Care Regulation office if you need further assistance.

Save the Date

Budget Allocation Workshop

The Board of Directors will hold a budget workshop. They will discuss how the Early Learning Coalition is addressing the budget reductions resulting from the loss of funding due to the state's new funding allocation formula for the School Readiness program. The primary goal is to continue to serve as many children as possible by finding efficiencies through technology and a redesigned service delivery model. Community input is critical and appreciated.

Thursday, Oct. 18
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
ELC Board Room
2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Coral Gables, FL 33134

VPK Specialized Instructional Services Public Hearing

The proposed rule will establish requirements related to the process of determining child eligibility, registering, and enrolling students in the VPK Specialized Instructional Services Program, and making payments to Specialized Instructional Services (SIS) Providers for services.

Tuesday, Oct. 23
1 - 3 p.m.
Florida's Office of Early Learning
250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Please visit the OEL website to view the [agenda](#), the [proposed rule](#) and for information on how to [join the hearing remotely](#).

School Readiness Provider Contract Public Hearing

Join the Office of Early Learning for a hearing to discuss proposed changes to the Statewide Provider Contract for the School Readiness Program.

Wednesday, Oct. 24
3 - 4:30 p.m.
Florida's Office of Early Learning
250 Marriott Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399

Please visit the OEL website to view the [agenda](#), the [proposed rule](#) and for information on how to [join the meeting remotely](#).

School Readiness Funding Allocation Workshop

With the goal of obtaining community input, Florida's Office of Early Learning will conduct a School Readiness Funding Allocation Workshop in Miami on Tuesday, Oct. 30. This is a great opportunity to provide input on how the state allocates School Readiness program dollars to all 67 Florida counties.

Tuesday, Oct. 30
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
United Way of Miami-Dade Ryder Room
3250 S.W. Third Ave., Miami, FL 33129

Annual Board Meeting

Join the ELC's Board of Directors for the Annual Board Meeting. Since all other board meetings are held in Miami-Dade, this meeting will be held in Monroe County.

For more information, please contact Leeana Sanchez at lpena@elcmdm.org.

Monday, Nov. 5
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Key Colony Inn
Mile Marker 54, 700 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach, FL 33051

VPK Assessment Information

The Department of Education has extended the deadline to submit results from Assessment Period 1 from Oct. 12 to Oct. 28.

VPK providers may report any problems they are experiencing with the VPK Assessment Online Reporting System by sending an email to vpkassessment@fldoe.org and including the following information:

- Center/school name, address, and phone number
- Provider ID (4- or 5-digit number)
- Name of person reporting the problem
- Username and password
- Description of issue

For answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the Online Reporting System, please click [here](#).

Social Emotional Development Awareness Day

Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners proclaimed Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012, as Social Emotional Development Awareness Day. About 420 providers participated in the Social Emotional Development Awareness Day Pyramid Model trainings held across Miami-Dade County, an increase of more than 50 participants from 2011. Several agencies partnered with ELC staff to provide these trainings, including Miami-Dade County; Family Central, Inc.; Florida Diagnostic Learning and Resource System (FDLRS); Technical Assistance & Training System (TATS); and Citrus Health Network.



The Spanish session held at the United Way was attended by 82 providers.

The Children's Trust Family Expo

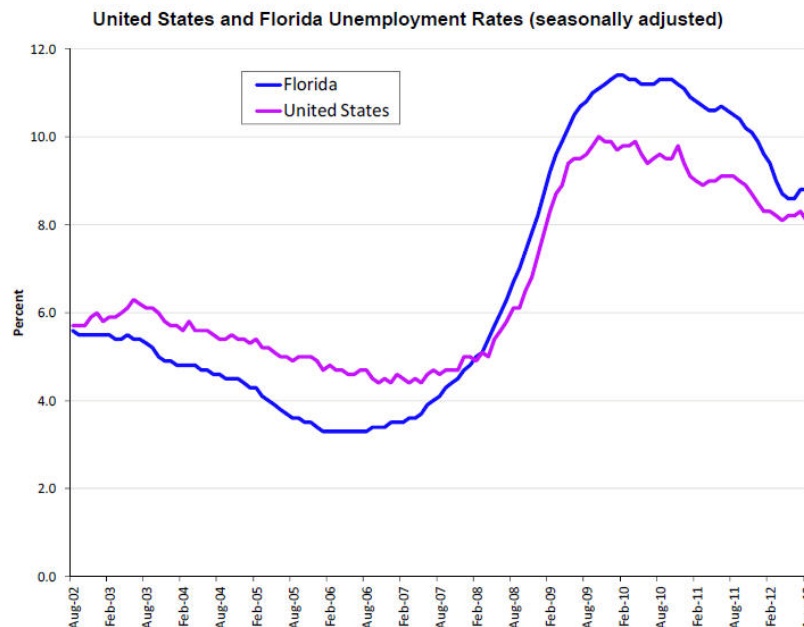


Early Learning Coalition staff distributing information to parents at The Children's Trust Family Expo.

The Children's Trust held its annual Family Expo on Saturday, Sept. 15. The event drew thousands of families to the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo Center to learn about community resources available to them. Children received free books and parents were encouraged to register for the Read to Learn Book Club. Visitors also had the chance to pick up recipe cards, take home fresh produce and participate in physical activities.

Florida Releases Its Employment Figures for August

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment continued at 8.8 percent in August 2012, unchanged from July. There were 818,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,261,000. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 8.1 percent in August. The region's unemployment rate is down to 9.3 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program in cooperation with the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Labor Market Statistics Center.

The unemployment rate for Miami-Dade County was 9.4 percent, 2.0 percentage points lower than the rate a year ago. Monroe County was 5.0 percent, still the lowest percentage in the state, and 1.5 percentage points lower than the year-ago

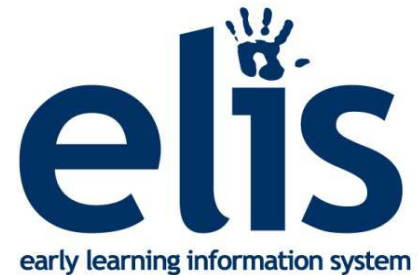
rate of 6.5 percent.

For more information, read the entire press release from [South Florida Workforce](#) or the press release from the [Department of Economic Opportunity](#).

ELIS: Early Learning Information System

Provider Management Design Info

Here are some things you should know about the ELIS design for provider management. ELIS will include a lot of self-service features—things providers will be able to do for themselves.



Attendance Submission & Processing

Providers will be able to complete and submit child attendance on-line each day; or all at once at the end of the week or the month. ELIS will double-check every entry as it is made. Online attendance will eliminate entire categories of errors by making them impossible. Processing attendance by coalition staff will be faster, easier and far more accurate-automatically.

Providers Will Be Able to Maintain Their Own CCR&R Profiles Online

Providers will be able to manage and update their own CCR&R profiles using the Internet and the ELIS Provider Portal. This self-service feature will allow providers to keep their profiles current themselves, although some items will require coalition verification before they will be included in the profile.

Child Enrollment Automation

ELIS will automatically add new child enrollments to the correct provider's attendance sheet as soon as placement is completed. This will ensure attendance is tracked from the moment of enrollment and that new children will not be overlooked. Improvements like these will eliminate many of the causes of prior period adjustments, will enable more accurate provider reimbursement forecasts, and reduce the workload on coalition staff. Providers will be able to initiate a customer or provider transfer online.

For more information about ELIS from the Office of Early Learning, please visit their [website](#).

ELC Team Member Spotlight



Kristine Gregory joined the ELC team in January 2012 as a Quality Assurance Program Monitor. In this position, she monitors service contracts to ensure performance measures are being met to the highest standards. Kristine has 15 years experience in the child welfare field and holds a Master's degree in Leadership in Child and Youth Care Administration.

When asked how important education is to her, Kristine quoted Nelson Mandela: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can choose to change the world." Kristine

loves knowing she is part of a team responsible for assuring children receive a quality early learning experience because it sets the stage for the child's entire educational experience and for lifelong success.

In her free time, Kristine enjoys spending time with her family, reading, traveling and researching anything and everything that interests her.

Monroe County News Briefs

Wesley House Family Services Annual Meeting



Blythe Robinson, Senior Vice President and Chief Programs Officer for the ELC, attended the Wesley House Family Services annual meeting in Key West to celebrate the agency's accomplishments and community support received during the last program year. Pictured with Blythe are Bryan Green, Wesley House Board Chair, and Doug Blomberg, Wesley House CEO and ELC Board Member.

ELC Community Partner Recognized at Monroe Advisory Committee Meeting



Monroe County School District Head Start Director/VPK Coordinator, Angela Whidden was recognized by the ELC at the recent Monroe Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Whidden is retiring after many years of dedicated service to the children and families of Monroe County.

Pictured are Alan Eckstein, ELC Board Member; Mary Williams, ELC managing director; Angela Whidden; and Evelio Torres, ELC president and CEO.

ELC CIO Provides ELIS Overview to Monroe Providers



ELC CIO Fred Hicks provided an Early Learning Information System (ELIS) overview to Monroe directors, teachers and family home providers at the recent quarterly provider meeting in Marathon. Providers learned about the potential efficiencies with the new system, including electronic attendance reporting and payments, child enrollments and transfers. Fred also discussed technology needs to prepare for ELIS, the timeline for implementation, the planned ELC help desk and upcoming trainings to be made available to providers and parents.

Save the Date:

Quarterly Provider Meeting in Key West

Saturday, Nov. 10

Location: To Be Determined

Additional Details to Follow

For additional upcoming events, please click [here](#).

Quality Counts

Quality Counts Welcomes New Administrator



Rachel Spector joined The Children's Trust in November 2007. A member of the Service Partnership/Youth Violence Prevention team for several years, in August 2012 she was selected as the new Administrator of Quality Counts. Prior to joining The Trust, Ms. Spector worked on a pilot project for teen parents and their children under a Service Partnership at the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe and prior to that as a coordinator of an Infant Mental Health program for Family Central, Inc.

Ms. Spector earned a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from the University of California at Santa Cruz and a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University in New York City. Her graduate studies focused on clinical services for children and families.

"Early education forms the foundation for lifelong learning, and that is the reason why I feel so strongly that every child deserves a high quality early childhood experience. As Maria Montessori says, 'Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.'"

Licensing News and Updates

From the Desk of Suzette Frazier, Regional Safety Program Manager
Department of Children and Families Child Care Licensing



This section of the News Alert is designed to inform and remind providers of the licensing requirements of the Department of Children & Families. This licensing corner is a new and innovative way for providers to stay connected to childcare licensing and will serve as a guide to new regulations, information about recalls, licensing updates and much more.

The Background Screening Web Portal offers providers 24/7 access to view and print all screening detail for employees - results and public records - received within

the last 90 days.

Providers are able to:

- View and print screenings for employees:
 - Who have cleared screening
 - Who need to contact DCF
 - Who are disqualified
 - Whose fingerprints were rejected
 - Who need to submit additional information
- Search for clearance letters for screenings completed by other providers that are no more than 90 days old. If the screening results are more than 90 days old, the provider can contact the HELPLINE at 850-717-4454.

HOW TO ACCESS RECORDS:

- Go to the Background Screening Home Page at www.dcfbackgroundscreening.com and select **WEB PORTAL LOGIN**.
- Log in with your username and password. **NOTE:** If you do not have a username and password and want to create an account, click the above link. Select **CONTACT US** and submit an email requesting your account.
- Once logged in, click on the **BACKGROUND SCREENING** tab to enter the portal.
- Click on **MY PROVIDER SCREENINGS**. This automatically displays a list of screening results for your facility/program within the last 90 days.

Early education. Lifelong success.



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