

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL READINESS COALITION

Board Meeting

January 9, 2003

8 a.m.

United Way of Miami-Dade – Ansin Building

3250 SW Third Ave.

Miami, Florida 33129

Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition board members present:

Vickie Burley	Leonie Hermantin	Willie Ivory	Patricia G. Johnson
Yvonne T. Johnson	Robert H. Kelly	Silvia La Villa	David Lawrence Jr.
Harve Mogul	Dabney Park	Marta Perez	Silvia M. Quintana
Jane Robinson	Lourdes C. Rovira	Gerald Schwartz	Dean Taylor
Lucia Vicencio	Barbara Weinstein		

Others in attendance:

Carole Abbott	Modesto Abety	Jocelyne M. Adory	Ana Alfonso
Iliana Alonso	Ivonne Anton	Ivette Aponte-Torres	Crystal Archable
Juanita Armbrister	William Att	Judith Bernhard	Rosalyn Berry
Lisa Blair	Chuck Bleiker	Maria E. Binelo	Norma Brieler
Ted Castellanos	Linda Carmona-Sanchez	Wendy Cheyney	Janice Delaney
Ann de las Pozas	Yesenia Diaz	Ruth Doran	Warren Eldridge
Claudia B. Gray	Susan Gold	Chrislerl Heath	Rose Mary Insenni
Antoinette Johnson	Betty Key	Karen Liederman	Matty Loret de Mola
Karen L. Luger	Donald Manning	Colleen Mauer	Erica Mc Kinney
Mayra E. Martinez	Yvette Medina	Rose Mary Moreno	Ramiro S. Moreno
Norman Nierenberg	Ardene Patterson	Ivonne Ramirez	Eduardo Rivera
Julie Riveron-Bello	Izsy Rojas	Gina Romero	Bethany Sands
Ana Sejeck	Rick Signori	Gloria Simms	Diane Simmons
Ellen M. Strot	Rita Turk	Raquel Van Der Biest	Timothy Weeks
Muriel Wong-Lundgren	Marie Woodson	Hazel Young	Marbelia Zamarripa

David Lawrence welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dave Lawrence requested a motion for approval of the Nov. 13 minutes.

Motion: Gerald K. Schwartz

Second: Willie Ivory

Motion was unanimously approved.

UNIVERSAL PRE-K AND THE CHILDREN'S TRUST

Dave Lawrence informed the board that people around the state are moving briskly on the subject of universal pre-K. Three key questions before the state are:

- 1) What is the definition of high quality and who will qualify for the ability to deliver 4 year old pre-k beginning in the school year 2005?
- 2) Where is universal pre-Kit going to be housed?

- 3) Will school readiness be merely interpreted as 4 year old pre-k as opposed to 0-5 programs?

On the topic of The Children's Trust, Dave Lawrence informed the board that the first organization meeting of The Children's Trust is scheduled for Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. Thus far, there are 22 designated members on a 33-member board. The next seven members come from gubernatorial appointments, derived from 21 county commission nominees. There are 69 applicants for the 21 slots. Dave said he was delighted and impressed with the quality of applicants.

FINANCE AND JUNE 30, 2002 AUDIT REPORT

Ivonne Ramirez introduced Tanya Del Solar of Kaufman Rossin & Co. Tanya presented to the board a brief explanation of the coalition's June 30, 2002 audited financial statement. A detailed financial statement was presented to the Finance Committee on Jan. 8. Tanya informed the board that Kaufman Rossin & Co. issued a clean and unqualified opinion on the coalition's finances and operations. Tanya also informed the board that the recommendations made at the last audit were enforced and implemented, especially in the monitoring aspects.

ASSESSMENT INTERVENTION PROGRAM (AIP)

Warren Eldridge informed the board that on Jan. 5 the coalition had its first AIP Steering Committee meeting of 2003. The AIP Steering Committee consists of representatives from Miami-Dade County Public School, Florida International University, both central agencies and childcare providers.

By the end of 2002, we had assessed - - emotionally, socially, and cognitively - 3,200 4 year olds in child cares centers and 4,500 in public schools. By next week the central agencies will be able to pull down classroom profiles based on actual data on the status and needs of children. These classroom profiles will lead to research-based activities, strategies and information on how to improve curricula in the facilities. The classroom profiles will go to the childcare facilities by the end of February.

Warren asked Juanita Armbrister to inform board members about two coalition intervention projects - - the Early Literacy and Learning Model (ELLM), and The Early Authors Program (EAP).

ELLM is a four -year grant, beginning last September and including 30 participating programs. It's part of a national study to evaluate preschool curricula across seven states. To date, we have met all goals.

EAP is a 17-month, \$1 million grant awarded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We are working with 32 sites. The EAP grant began training the weekend of Dec. 13 - 14. Dr. Alma Flor Ada of Transformative Education Services led the training. About 130 parents and caregivers participated in the training. The parents were excited about the possibility of being "their child's first teachers." We have hired 13 literacy specialists who will enter sites for the first time on Jan. 10. By program's end 800 families, 112 caregivers and more than 1000 children will have to produce about 10 "books" each about themselves. We will share examples of those books with board members.

Juanita also invited everyone to the Heads Up! Reading kick-off on Jan. 16.

ACCREDITATION REPORT

Ivette Aponte-Torres informed the board that as of Jan. 8, the number of accredited facilities in Miami-Dade County is 110. Of that total, CDS has 45 facilities or 10.7 percent of its 421 contracted early care and education programs, and Family Central has 33 facilities or 13.5 percent of its 245 contracted early care and education programs.

ACCREDITATION TASK FORCE REPORT

Lucia Vicencio reported to the board on the Jan. 8 Accreditation Task Force meeting where three issues were discussed: (1) Creating a child care advisory group, (2) the Accreditation Readiness Initiative, and (3) Two tour dates - - Feb. 7 and 18 - - when board members can visit a sampling of accredited centers and those seeking accreditation.

Warren presented to the board the Accreditation Readiness Initiative. It's goal: Help at least 40 child care facilities be ready to receive Gold Seal accreditation by June 30 (including facilities that become accredited and those awaiting validation).

The cost of the program is as follows:

Technical Assistance/Mentor:	\$250,600
Accreditation Fees:	\$ 35,000
Children's and Staff Resource books:	<u>\$300,000</u>
TOTAL:	\$585,100

The Coalition will work with United Way, Head Start, QEI and the central agencies toward this goal.

Jane Robinson requested a motion to approve the Accreditation Readiness Initiative.

Motion: Lucia Vicencio
Second: Vickie Burley
Motion was unanimously approved.

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOL READINESS COALITION PLAN

Warren Eldridge encouraged the board members to read and review the plan; then those who have issues to be discussed could do so at the March 12 board meeting. If needed, the plan can be amended.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.