

MINUTES

Miami-Dade School Readiness Coalition
Board of Directors Mtg.
May 6, 2004

BOARD ATTENDEES: Vickie Burley, Marisel Elias-Miranda, Willie F. Ivory, Yvonne T. Johnson, Betsy H. Kaplan, Robert H. Kelly, Dave Lawrence, Dannie McMillan, Harve Mogul, Dabney Park, Jane Robinson, Lourdes C. Rovira, Jackye L. Russell, Gerald Schwartz, Natacha Seijas, Dean Taylor, Lucia Vicencio, Barbara Weinstein.

STAFF ATTENDEES: Ana Alfonso, Ivonne Anton, Juanita Armbrister, Paula S. Bender, Danae E. Bergman, Sandra Camacho, Carmen Carreras, Viviana Delgado-Espino, Karen Basha Egozi, Yesenia Diaz, Ismenic Gonzalez, Ava James, Guimel Martinez, Yvette Medina, J. Henry Neyra, Mina Prado, Bethany Sands, Jeannette Torres, Ileana Vallejo.

GENERAL ATTENDEES: Carole Abbott, Modesto E. Abety, Barbara Adkison, Crystal Archable, Ardene A. Bachoo, Howard Bakalar, Betty Belliard, Maria E. Binelo, Lisa Blair, Charles Bleiker, Norma Brieler, Phillip Campbell, Linda Carmona-Sanchez, Ann de las Pozas, Janice Delaney, Walter J. Harvey, William Hill, Ana Jimenez, Betty Key, Jean Layzer, Karen Liederman, Donald Manning, Luisa Martin, Erica McKinney, Ramiro S. Moreno, Rose Mary Moreno, Alma Morua, Andre Ragin, Randy Revan, Eduardo Rivera, Lourdes Rodriguez-Rivera, Eileen Segal, Rick Signori, Gloria Simms, Marie Woodson.

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willie Ivory welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. - Willie also congratulated Ana Jimenez and Randy Revan who will be opening a child care center in the Doral area. The center will be called All Star Child Development Center. 	
REVIEW & APPROVAL MARCH 22, 2004 MINUTES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The March 22 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed and approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A motion was made by Lourdes Rovira for the approval of the March 22, 2004 minutes. SECOND: Robert H. Kelly Motion was unanimously approved
FINANCE AND SUMMARY REPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Henry Neyra, presented to the March 2004 financials reports and summaries which were reviewed and approved at the April 30, 2004 Finance, Audit and Personnel committee meeting. - It was noted that the reports were more timely than in past months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A motion was made by Gerald Schwartz for the approval of the March 2004 financials. SECOND: Betsy Kaplan Motion was unanimously approved

	<p>- Karen Egozi reported to the board that as of today we have 200 accredited centers and 132 that are in the pipeline for accreditation. Some of these centers are waiting for their validation visit before the end of this fiscal year.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi presented an Executive Summary created to better explain the following reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children Served Chart – shows that total census for Miami-Dade County has dropped. 2. Weekly Enrollment Census Report – shows an increase in enrollment. 3. Spending Plan Summary – shows deficit increase on both sides of the county. She also expressed that this has been a difficult month. The data is somewhat compromised due to this transition. April numbers available in late May should really determine year end. <p>The summary also showed that as of today there are 11,812 eligible children on the waiting list. The cost of care for the wait list is estimated at approximately \$40 million.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi informed the committee on the Child Care Executive Partnership Program (CCEP). We applied for the fiscal year 2004-2005 with commitment from the county for \$ 5.578 million. In addition The Children’s Trust made a decision to commit from next year’s fiscal budget \$3.5 million dollars for out of school and summer program funding, and up to \$1 million dollars in child care quality programs. The Children’s Trust is looking to free up the school age children on our wait list. They took it to their board and the board accepted the motion. We should receive response from the CCEP around July 1.</p>	
<p>PARENT FEE SCALE</p>	<p>- Karen Egozi explained to the board the policy and Sliding Fee Scale from the Florida Partnership for School Readiness. Finance, Audit and Personnel committee recommendation to the board is Option B. The Coalition staff did an analysis and looked at five options for parent fees scale. The recommendation was made based on the fact that Option B will have the least impact on families in comparison to the fee scale we have been using.</p>	<p>- Willie Ivory requested a motion for approval of the Parent Fee Scale. Harve Mogul made a motion for the approval of Sliding Fee Scale Option B. SECOND: Lourdes Rovira Motion was unanimously approved</p>

CEO REPORT

- Paula Bender updated the board on the following:
 1. We have presented nationally on our work with assessment of children. Dr. Bleiker and Dr. Winsler presented at the National Conference on Human Development in Washington, DC. In June they will be at the National Head Start convention. Also, our proposal for presentation at the NAEYC conference in November was accepted.
 2. TeachScape Grant: We were contacted by Dr. Susan Landry of the University of Texas, and we have been awarded \$550,000 from the U.S. Department of Education. We will be participating in a 2 ½ year professional development study with technology.
 3. Even Start Grant: The Coalition with FIU applied for the grant and we were awarded \$300,000 for six months. We will be doing this in partnership with The Early Childhood Initiative Foundation and SPARK, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Adult Education.
 4. Miami-Dade College: They were projecting to close their child care center located at Wolfson Campus. We met with Dave Lawrence, Modesto Abety, Harve Mogul, Dr. Rolando Montoya his staff, and decided that we were going to help keep the center open. Willie Ivory did a walk thru at the center to speak with them about their facility improvement issues. Harve Mogul has promised help from the United Way of Miami-Dade. It's a work in progress, but we were able to keep the center open.
 5. Florida Partnership March Board Mtg.: The Partnership had additional funds and we received an additional grant of \$507,475 and will be applied to our budget to help with additional cost. They will be monitoring every coalition over a calendar year. They reviewed the monitoring tool with us and it was brought back to the staff. We will be monitored in the second half of the year. We are developing a new Plan at their request. Conflict of Interest Policy was passed by the Partnership board (see tab 3).

<p>N.E.E.D GRANT - UPDATE</p>	<p>- Bethany Sands, Program Director for the N.E.E.D. program presented the board with a ten month update. Bethany also thanked the board for funding the project last March. This program has become one of the premier inclusion programs in Miami-Dade, they are serving approximately 5,100 children. Approximately 12% - 15% of the total population are special needs.</p>	
<p>LITIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT</p>	<p>- Gerald Schwartz informed the board that at 7:30 a.m. today the Litigation Committee had a closed session.</p>	
<p>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</p>	<p>- Robert H. Kelly informed the board that we will be having our first Nominating Committee meeting in May to discuss the board terms ending in June 2004. The members of the Nominating Committee are: Yvonne Johnson, Silvia La Villa, Gerald Schwartz, and Jane Robinson.</p>	
<p>UPK - UPDATE</p>	<p>- Dave Lawrence informed the board of the status of the UPK. It begins in August 2005 unless there is a summer program in ten school districts including Miami-Dade this summer. A bill was passed in the closing moments of the legislature with significant deficits. The Governor has by law 15 days from the time it gets to his desk to decide what to do with it, and it will not get to his desk for another week. So, we may be several weeks away from any resolution of this. There are significant deficits in this bill. The areas of deficit are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It does include accreditation, but it includes essentially except for the summer public programs no note of ratio whatsoever. The summer ratio would be 1 to 10. Other than that there is no mention of ratio in the bill. 2. This would begin, as it must begin with child development associate credentials or equivalent. But, there is significant hunger about noting stretch goals in their legislative intent goals to move our hope to associate degree for lead teachers in early childhood within five years and bachelor degrees within eight years. That is another deficit that 	

	<p>does not appear in the present legislation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The whole area of curricula. As long as you meet certain standards you can use anything you wanted in terms of curricula. This is not wise. 4. They measure children ready by using ESI-K. <p>- Lourdes Rovira asked when we would get information on the summer pilot.</p> <p>- Dave Lawrence replied that this bill in a way that makes no sense whatsoever, but was a senatorial insistence says that in ten school districts in this state (small and large) we will have pilot programs. This includes Miami-Dade, Hillsborough, Palm Beach, etc. in which you would have a 300 hour program with one to ten ratio only with certified teachers. I suggest you begin to plan for this in preparation of what may come.</p> <p>- Marisel Elias-Miranda expressed that it is a waste of money to have a summer pilot particularly when you look at the proposed implementation of the pilot.</p> <p>- Dabney Park asked Dave Lawrence if it would help to write the Governor. And if so, what should the letter say?</p> <p>- Marisel Elias-Miranda offered to help Dr. Park write a letter.</p>	<p>- Dave Lawrence recommended that instead of a letter an email should be sent.</p>
OTHER	<p>- Paula Bender informed the board that by coalition by-laws there should be an annual board meeting in June.</p> <p>- Due to calendar conflicts we need to change the September board meeting date.</p>	<p>- It was decided that the annual board meeting will be June 29 @ 8 a.m.</p> <p>- The September board meeting date has been changed from September 9th to September 16 @ 8:30 a.m.</p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>- Willie Ivory addressed the issue that there were some providers present at the meeting upset about the fact that they have not received payment from CDS.</p> <p>- Karen Egozi informed the board that there already have been a few meetings and phone calls to try to resolve the issue.</p>	<p>- Commissioner Seijas has set up a meeting tomorrow @ 3 p.m. in her office, with South Florida Workforce to explore and resolve this issue.</p>

	<p>- Dave Lawrence asked if we were back on track so that the providers get paid on time?</p> <p>- Karen Egozi responded that for next month we should be on track.</p> <p>- Dave Lawrence asked Donald Manning if CDS has a handle on this and future payments will be handed out on time?</p>	<p>- Donald Manning informed the board and the providers at the meeting that @ 2 p.m. in the Miami Lakes office CDS staff and Miami-Dade County Finance staff will be there to assist in getting this resolved. This action was also done last night and last Saturday. This is not a CDS issue, it is an information issue. Before the county can releases checks, information and documentation has to be provided to the system. Letters have been sent out and phone calls have been made.</p> <p>- Meeting adjourned @ 9:30 a.m.</p>
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Signed and approved by:

Vickie Burley
Board Secretary

Date