



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 1:00 pm
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa FL, 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Aakash Patel, Chair

Board Members Present:

Dr. Daphne Fudge*, Adam Giery*, Dr. Shawn Robinson, Aakash Patel*, Sheila Rios*, Kelley Parris*, Tracye Brown*, Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson*, Dr. Lise Fox*, Dr. Jodi Marshall*, Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins*, Candy Olson*, Carl Harness*, Commissioner Gwen Myers*, and Beth Pasek*

Board Members Absent:

Lee Bowers, Luke Buzard, John Flanagan, Dustin Portillo, Dianne Jacob, Dr. Leslene Gordon, Amanda Jae, and Cynthia Chipp

ELCHC Staff:

Megan Folts*, Hannah Goble*, Tracey Knight*, Kiyana Scott, Alison Fraga, Kelley Minney, Lorinda Gamson*, Gary Meyer*, Helen Sovich*, Rick Rampersad*, Sharon Hayes*, Stacey Francois*, Jessica Salgado*, Tiffany Skals*, Rayn Moses*, Lissette Godwin*, and Gordon Gillette*

Other Attendees:

Attorney Matthew Hall, Bishop Michael Lewis*, Meriel Martinez*, Charlie Imbergamo*, Annette Eberhart*, Tanja Battle*, Erica Hill*, Arleen Johnson*, Tonia Williams*, Charlotte Givens*, Willie Coachman*, Thomasina Allen*, Blair Maxwell*, Lueishka (last name not provided) *, Sharica (last name not provided) *, Janet (last name not provided) *, and Denise (last name not provided) *

**Indicates attendance by Zoom Meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum was present, Chair Patel called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no Action Items.

CEO REPORT

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative Update

Gordon Gillette, Chief Executive Officer, gave an update on the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County's (ELCHC) efforts regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives in partnership with the Nonprofit Leadership Center (NLC).

Mr. Gillette informed the Board of Directors, that the Coalition would be starting Listening Tours to hear from child care providers in the community.

Helen Sovich, Manager, Human Resources, reported that in October 2021 the Coalition started the process of engaging with eight (8) DEI consulting firms to learn more about the services each firm offered. Based on the consulting firms, organization makeup, stakeholder emphasis, degree of interest, cost, and location, Mrs. Sovich reported that the Nonprofit Leadership Center was selected.

Meriel Martinez, Program Director, Nonprofit Leadership Center, provided an overview of the NLC's DEI process and activities that the Coalition will participate in.

Provider Review Hearing Process and Update

Mr. Gillette provided an overview of the provider review hearing process, and highlighted the following:

- The provider review hearing process is a requirement for all Early Learning Coalitions.
- The ELCHC reports regularly to the Florida Department of Education, Division of Early Learning (DEL) on matters related to provider contract compliance.
- The ELCHC staff will identify issues with suspected fraud and/or health and safety. If necessary, the staff will report any issues to DEL for further investigation.
- The ELCHC staff will complete the process of terminating a provider for either suspected fraud and/or health and safety if identified.
- The provider can appeal the decision of the ELCHC's reason for termination. The Provider Review Hearing Committee will make a final decision on the termination.

Mr. Gillette provided a brief update on two provider terminations that resulted in a resolution of reaching a settlement agreement.

Attorney Matthew Hall reported that the settlement agreement was a mutual termination of the providers' contract and did not require full Board approval.

Lorinda Gamson, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on matters related to regulation and compliance.

Ms. Gamson defined and further explained what Class 1 Violations are to the Board.

Legislative/Division of Early Learning (DEL) Updates

Mr. Gillette reported that during his visit to Tallahassee the week of November 29, 2021, the Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC) and DEL met to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization funding.

Mr. Gillette reported on House Bill 1199 which is sponsored by Representative Erin Grall.

Provider Rate Increase Update

Gary Meyer, Chief Financial Officer, reported that on November 30, 2021, DEL approved the ELCHC's provider rate increase. The rate increase will be effective December 1, 2021.

Megan Folts, Director, Provider Relations informed the Board that the ELCHC held a webinar for contracted School Readiness (SR) providers that explained the provider rate increases and the process of changing provider rates.

Ms. Folts reported that as of December 7, 2021, 115 providers have started the process of increasing their provider rates.

School Readiness Waitlist Update

Mr. Meyer reported that the ELCHC received a notice of award for \$14.2M for the SR waitlist. Mr. Meyer stated 1354 children are currently on the SR waitlist.

Hannah Goble, Director, Family Services, reported that since July 2021, the ELCHC sent 4826 funding notifications to families. Ms. Goble stated that the ELCHC has strengthened its communication efforts to notify families of School Readiness services.

Holiday Event - Trains, Toys, & Tidings Update

Mr. Gillette thanked the ELCHC team members, Board, and community partners for their work and contributions to the holiday event that was held on December 4, 2021.

Kiyana Scott, Executive Administrative Assistant, provided an update on the ELCHC's 2nd Annual Family Holiday Event - Trains, Toys, & Tidings. Ms. Scott stated that the ELCHC invited families from zip codes 33605, 33610, and 33619 to attend the event on December 4, 2021. Ms. Scott reported that 130 children were given developmentally age-appropriate toys, books, and treats.

Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer, reported that the ELCHC is focused on building a relationship with internal and external stakeholders, in addition to bringing awareness to families and the community.

DISCUSSION ITEM

There was further discussion on the diversity of the ELCHC's senior leadership team and recruitment efforts of new staff.

Chair Patel, requested the ELCHC staff to help coordinate provider site visits for the Board of Directors.

PUBLIC COMMENT II

Willie Coachman made a public comment on his provider contract and the timing of the Board of Directors meeting.

Tanja Battle made a public comment on the communication of the 2nd Annual Family Holiday Event.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 pm. Dr. Shawn Robinson made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved by: Stephanie Holmquist Date: Mar 1, 2022
Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson, Secretary