



# ELCHC Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 2023 @ 3:00 pm

6302 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite 100 Tampa, FL 33619

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86267118845?pwd=aFUvMC9CQ1plVVRad3hhcEpkUGo4QT09>

Meeting ID: 862 6711 8845

Passcode: 590723



## Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 20, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Jae

A. Roll Call/Quorum Verification

B. Approval of June 8, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes - 3

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Individuals wishing to address the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County Board of Directors must complete a Public Comment Request Card and submit it to the official recorder prior to the noticed start time of the meeting. Said comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual on a first-come, first-serve basis, and only at such time as is identified on the official meeting agenda for public comment.

### III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Jae

### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Response to Public Comment

A. Jae

B. Provider Spotlight!

C. Upcoming Events for Providers and/or Families

### V. CEO REPORT

Dr. Frederick  
Hicks

A. Current School Readiness and VPK Contract Numbers FY 2023-2024

B. 2024 Suggested Legislative Priorities

A. State Median Income vs. Federal Poverty Level

B. Client's Benefits Cliff

C. Provider Reimbursement Market Rates Increase set by the FL Legislature

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Jae

Monday, June 08, 2023, at 3:00 pm  
6302 E Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619  
Zoom Option

## **MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**Facilitator:** Amanda Jae, Chair

### **Committee Members Present:**

Amanda Jae, Commissioner Gwen Myers, Beth Pasek, Dr. Lise Fox, and Dr. Daphne Fudge

### **Committee Members Absent:**

None.

### **Board Members Present:**

Kelley Parris

### **ELCHC Staff:**

Dr. Fredrick Hicks, Gary Meyer\*, Stacey Francois, Casie Haines, Sabrina Ruiz, Martha Aguiar and Nancy Will

### **Other Attendees:**

Frazier Carraway, Tina Gill, Dequita Parker, and Tonia Williams

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

### **Quorum Verification**

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Amanda Jae called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

## **Approval of January 30, 2023, Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Special Meeting Minutes**

*Beth Pasek made a motion to approve the January 30, 2023, Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Special Meeting Minutes. A second was made by Dr. Lise Fox. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT I**

There was no Public Comment.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Service Delivery & Efficiency Proposed Meeting Schedule FY 2023-2024

The committee discussed FY 2023-2024 Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee meeting schedule and made the following revisions:

July 1, 2023, September 21, 2023, January 25, 2024, and March 28, 2024

July 20, 2023	September 14, 2023	<b>Approved SD&amp;E Committee Schedule FY 2023-2024</b>
February 1, 2024	April 4, 2024	June 6, 2024

*Beth Pasek made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee meeting schedule with revisions as agreed upon during the committee discussion. A second was made by Dr. Lise Fox. The motion carried unanimously.*

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Response to Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### B. Updated Staff Contacts-New Directors Introduction

Chair Amanda Jae gave the floor to Dr. Fred Hicks, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County to introduce the two new directors at the coalition.

Dr. Hicks then introduced Sabrina Ruiz, Director of Family Services. Mrs. Ruiz shared with the committee that she worked in the Hillsborough County schools for 18 years and served the community in various roles. Mrs. Ruiz expressed her desire and commitment to continue to provide the best service to the families the coalition serves. Mrs. Ruiz shared one her goals is to streamline the process in providing services to children with individual development plans (IDPs). She also shared the enrollment stretch goal is set to 14,500 which includes 1,600 at risk children. Mrs. Ruiz also shared an update after a conversation with Ms. Tina Gill and Dr. Hicks earlier in the day. She shared that children with IDP's will be moved forward in the queue for services to better serve these children and their families. She also mentioned that School Readiness numbers have hit the annual summer low as children have graduated and are moving on to kindergarten.

Dr. Hicks then introduced Casie Haines, Director of Provider Supports. Mrs. Haines shared with the committee that her family recently moved to the Tampa Bay area, coming from the Miami-Dade coalition, working in finance and eligibility for 10 years. Mrs. Haines reported that the team was in the middle of contract season with 91% of contracts initiated with a goal of 100% within the following week. Mrs. Haines also shared a couple of goals for her team as follows:

- More face-to-face contact with at least 80% of providers over the next fiscal year.

- Create a more robust orientation for new providers in supporting the understanding of the paperwork, required documents and rules involved in running a learning center to lessen findings.

Chair Jae gave the floor to Ms. Tina Gill to share more information about providing children with special needs. Ms. Tina Gill shared that she is glad to hear of all the efforts that Dr. Hicks and staff are working towards to help children with special needs.

Mrs. Haines shared that the coalition is finishing up work with the Early Childhood Council by the end of June that will provide 32 certified inclusion classrooms and preparing for another 30 classrooms as soon as possible.

**C. ARAP World Class Workforce Updates**

Chair Jae gave the floor to Stacey Francois, Director of Program Initiatives and Education.

Ms. Francois reported that \$2.9 million dollars in workforce grant funds had been given out as presented in the agenda packet. Ms. Francios also reported that the coalition's own initiative for teacher appreciation bonuses ran for 6 weeks, and staff is continuing to work on payouts to wrap up this initiative by the end the fiscal year.

**D. VPK and SR 2023-2024 Enrollment Numbers**

Chair Jae noted that enrollment numbers had been addressed in prior reporting.

**E. Update of success of Director Community of Practice events**

Chair Jae gave the floor to Martha Aguiar, Workforce Coordinator.

Mrs. Aguiar shared that she created a CoP (Community of Practice) due to a need observed for providers to meet and share unique needs, issues, within their industry. Mrs. Aguiar also shared the group is member lead that started in January 2023 with an average of about 20 plus in attendance with virtual and in-person meeting options. Mrs. Aguiar noted that a main hot topic centered around staffing needs and retention. She also shared that there is a defined line that this community does not exist for the purposes of training rather an opportunity for networking, sharing best practices, and director-to-director support.

There was discussion on evaluating the helpfulness of the community. Mrs. Aguiar shared there had not been any formal surveys sent out to the group with only 6 meetings to date. She shared more time was needed to evaluate the effectiveness and success of the community and planned to conduct a survey in the future as suggested.

**F. Provider Spotlight! Yvonne Pierre, Here We Grow Learning Center**

Chair Jae welcomed and gave the floor to Ms. Yvonne Pierre. Ms. Pierre shared ways in which the coalition, its leadership, training, and guidance helped her launch her center including

most recently starting a community garden in partnership with United Way. Ms. Pierre also shared she participated in the business leadership program and graduated along with one of her directors. She also participated in the iSpy program and enjoys all the programs that the coalition offers. Ms. Pierre reported that she is currently working through obtaining accreditation.

**G. Upcoming Events for Providers and/or Families**

Sabrina Ruiz shared the next Day of Play would take place on June 10, 2023, at Julian B. Lane Park with a record number of registrations.

**CEO Report**

Dr. Hicks reported on the following:

**A. Legislative Update:**

- Summer Boost is in general appropriations in the amount of \$250,000. Dr. Hicks reported that Rick Rampersad, Chief Information Officer, would head up the summer boost program.
- \$77 million dollars state-wide in the hold harmless bucket being important because without these funds children would have to be disenrolled.
- \$315 million in ARPA funding for coalitions to draw down for special programs and initiatives, which would be used to possibly expand iSpy and other initiatives.

Committee Member Beth Pasek shared the licensing transition to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) would begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> and that the transition of DCF taking over child abuse reporting to start on July 14 bringing clarification to the discussion of these transitions.

There was continued discussion among the committee members about the townhalls that DCF has hosted in both English and Spanish to help ensure a smooth transition. These townhalls have included teams from around the state that have assisted in trainings ahead of transitions to begin at the start of the new fiscal year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Citing no further business, Chair Amanda Jae asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Dr. Lise Fox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:16 pm. Beth Pasek made a second. The motion carried unanimously.*

Read and Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson, Secretary* *Date*