

Monday, January 29, 2024, at 3:00 pm  
Hybrid Meeting  
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100  
Tampa, FL 33619

#### MEETING ATTENDANCE

**Facilitator:** Dr. Stephie Holmquist, Chair

#### Committee Members Present:

Dr. Daphne Fudge\*, Dr. Stephie Holmquist, Adam Giery\*, Aakash Patel\* and Dr. Jodi Marshall\*,  
Amanda Jae\*

#### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

None.

#### Committee Members Absent:

None.

#### ELCHC Staff:

Alison Fraga, Abigail Perez, Kelley Minney, Kiyana Scott, Nancy Will, Dr. Frederick Hicks, Dennis Hebert, Gary Meyer\*, and Joe Medina

#### Other Attendees:

Annette Eberhart\*, Frazier Carraway, Marie Hammond, Demetria Waddell and Angela McClain\*

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

#### CALL TO ORDER

##### Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Holmquist Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of September 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes

*A motion to approve was made by Aakash Patel. A second was made by Adam Giery. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS



**A. Review of Elected Provider Representatives to the ELCHC Board of Directors Results**

Dr. Stephe Holmquist reported the results of the election. Dr. Holmquist congratulated and welcomed Annette Eberhart (the for-profit private representative) to the ELCHC Board of Directors. Dr. Holmquist also welcomed back Amanda Jae for a second term as the faith-based provider representative on the ELCHC Board of Directors.

Dr. Holmquist opened the floor to discussion of the results of the provider representative to the committee. There was committee discussion on welcoming Ms. Eberhart and welcoming back Ms. Jae to a second term on the board of directors.

*Aakash Patel made a motion to accept the results of the provider representative election for the for profit-private seat, to Annette Eberhart and faith-based representatives, to Amanda Jae. Adam Giery seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer, shared that the press release announcing the newly elected board members would take place after the Board of Directors meeting, on February 26, 2024.

**CEO REPORT**

Dr. Frederick Hicks congratulated the newly elected provider representatives.  
Dr. Hicks reported on the following.

**A. CEO Evaluation**

Dr. Hicks reported he was tasked to investigate how previous CEO was measured for merit increase. Dr. Hicks shared with the committee that previously two evaluations were filled out by board members, one as required for the Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the other created by the CEO with a depth of personalized metrics and goals specific to the ELCHC needs.

Dr. Hicks shared with the committee that he would be sending out a list of his accomplishments by Wednesday, January 31, 2024 as well as the ELCHC evaluation for his merit increase.

There was committee discussion on the two different evaluations with a suggestion to see where the evaluations overlap and to condense to one evaluation to then take the board retreat for further review by the entire board of directors.

Aakash Patel, asked if the board has missed the deadline for a merit increase. Board attorney, Frazier Carraway responded that it was not too late. Mr. Patel shared that at the next Governance meeting the evaluations should be reviewed in preparation for the board retreat.

There was continued discussion about Dr. Hicks's merit increase including backpay since his first year with the coalition was mid-November 2023.

**B. Hillsborough Day 2024, recap**

Dr. Hicks reported that there are eight different bills that address early learning coalitions' biggest concerns. One of the top three being that of the eligibility cliff when it comes to qualifying families. Dr. Hicks shared that his time in Tallahassee was more about sitting in sessions to hear the discussions within the committees to gain a better understanding of their interpretation of early education needs to then help to communicate them out differently in the future. Dr. Hicks also shared with the committee that it was not necessary to handout any folders with information as legislators are aware of the needs as the Association of Early Learning Coalitions (AELC) representatives Molly Grant and Jessica Fowler do an amazing job sharing the needs of the coalitions not just in Hillsborough County but throughout the entire state of Florida.

There was discussion about Children's Week scheduled for the week of February 26.

Adam Giery shared with the committee that he advised against a trip as it would be the last two weeks of the session and legislators would be on the house floor in discussion and voting.

The committee further discussed the visit to Tallahassee for board members who were interested in attending alongside Dr. Hicks.

The committee discussed Day of Play scheduled for Saturday, February 3 from 10-12 at Rowlett Park. All board members were encouraged to participate if available.

There was a committee discussion on Black History month. It was mentioned that the coalition would be recognizing Black History month on its social media platforms.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Amanda Flowers made a public comment about for profit providers wanting to have a third provider representative from a large center added to the ELCHC Board of Directors to ensure that all providers have a voice.

Dr. Hicks shared the makeup of all Early Learning Coalition's Board of Directors is set by the state and not at the local level. Dr. Hicks also shared that for that to change it would need to be a legislative issue that could be taken up to Tallahassee which would require the support of all 30 coalitions statewide and it was too late as session was underway in Tallahassee. Dr. Hicks mentioned this suggestion could be prioritized for the 2025 legislative session with the support of other coalitions.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Dr. Stephanie Holmquist announced the next meeting of the ELCHC Governance Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2024.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Citing no further business, Dr. Fudge made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 pm. Aakash Patel made a second. The motion carried unanimously.*

Read and approved by: Stephie Holmquist 03/27/24

*Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson, Secretary* *Date*

**Signature:** *Stephanie Holmquist*

**Email:** stephie@hecedu.com






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Final Audit Report

2024-03-27

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