



ELCHC Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025 @ 3:00 pm

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82624260933?pwd=Gei2adaioSU69xjjmayWnvoD286uOn.1>

Meeting ID: 826 2426 0933

Passcode: 256451



Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting Amended Agenda Packet

Thursday, January 30, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Jae

A. Roll Call/Quorum Verification

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Jae

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 ITEM

A. Jae

A. Approval of October 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes - 3

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Jae

A. Preview of Learning Management System

M. Selleri &
Andrea
Houchin
R. Rampersad

B. Dr. Jason Anthony Director Professor, Child & Family Services at University of South Florida

C. 25-26 Profile Update

C. Haines

V. CEO REPORT

Dr. Frederick
Hicks

A. Annual Report Summary

B. Listening Sessions

C. Provider Visits

D. Board of Directors Retreat

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Jae

A. Day of Play-March 1, 2025
Time: 10:00 am-12:00 p.m.
Location: Gardenville Park & Rec Center

B. Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Regular Meeting- Thursday, March 27, 2025

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Jae



MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Amanda Jae, Chair

Committee Members Present:

Rebecca Bacon, Dr. Larissa Baia, Tracye Brown*, Annette Eberhart*, Dr. Lise Fox*, Amanda Jae, Commissioner Gwen Myers*, and Beth Pasek*

Committee Members Absent:

None

ELCHC Staff:

Stacey Francois, Nichole Gonzalez, Casie Haines, Dr. Fred Hicks, Gary Meyer*, Kelley Minney, Kiyana Scott*, and Sabrina Ruiz*

Other Attendees:

Dennis Hebert and Yander Tovar

*Indicates attendance via Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum was present, Committee Vice Chair, Dr. Lise Fox, called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment

ACTION ITEMS

There were no Action Items.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 23-24 Quality Survey Data Summary

Stacey Francois, Director of Programs, Initiatives, and Education, presented the Quality Survey Data Summary for fiscal year 2023-2024, which was distributed to childcare providers to gather their feedback on the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County's (ELCHC) impact on their School Readiness (SR) and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) programs. Key highlights from the survey include:



- Of the 729 participants, 225 responded. The respondents were composed of teachers (58%), directors/Owners (30%), and other staff (13%).
- Since the impact of COVID-19, virtual training has become the preferred option, with 77% of respondents interested in virtual training, compared to 26% of respondents interested in in-person training.
- 88% of respondents would take self-paced training when offered. S. Francois noted that staff has the capability to build out self-paced training courses through the new Learning Management System (LMS) to offer in the future.
- S. Francois reported that the top three areas of training requested were age-specific (infant/toddler/preschool), early intervention for children with different abilities, and social and emotional classroom support.
- S. Francois also noted that respondents were interested in “Nap Chats” training and technical assistance if offered by the Division of Early Learning. Providers preferred professional development opportunities held on Saturday mornings or weeknights, Monday through Thursday.

The Committee inquired about ELCHC’s impact on the programs. S. Francois explained that the ELCHC has positively impacted programs by enhancing their ability to provide quality care to children, supporting the workforce, improving staff retention and morale, and contributing to increased family engagement opportunities.

S. Francois also mentioned that a soft launch for self-paced training is planned for January.

Dr. Larissa Baia asked how the ELCHC plans to keep respondents engaged. S. Francois stated that staff will follow up with the respondents to let them know how their feedback from the survey will be used.

Dr. Lise Fox commended the team for their flexibility and responsiveness to the professional development needs of the providers. Dr. Fox recommended incorporating a social and emotional component to coaching and professional development, suggesting a virtual coaching platform. S. Francois stated that staff may consider a virtual option for Communities of Practice.

B. 23-24 iSpy Tampa Bay Program Recap

Nichole Gonzalez, Manager, Initiatives and Projects, provided an overview of the iSpy Tampa Bay program for fiscal year 2023-2024. Key highlights of the presentation include:

- The iSpy Tampa Bay program is part of the ELCHC’s 3-5 initiative, developed in partnership with local cultural venues to offer access to science-centered activities. The program was modeled after the Denver 5 by 5 program.
- N. Gonzalez reported that the program promotes best practices in science and nature-based play, nurtures children’s natural curiosity, and encourages family engagement in activities that promote observation, exploration, and investigation. Additionally, it supports vocabulary development and enhances conceptual understanding of the world around them.
- The program includes classroom materials and encourages up to five hours of professional development in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as well as child experiences. Participating children and teachers receive a six-month pass, allowing them to visit local cultural attractions (Florida Aquarium, Glazer Children’s

Museum, Museum of Science & Industry, and Zoo Tampa). Teachers also have the opportunity to showcase their programs during the Gallery Walk, which occurs at the end of the program year.

- N. Gonzalez shared participation data: 751 children, 156 teachers, and directors, 35 returning classrooms, and 42 new classrooms participated, totaling 330 hours of professional development in STEM.
- Over 2,000 visits to local cultural attractions were made between February and May.
- N. Gonzalez noted that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was utilized to introduce coding and robotics into selected classrooms. Thirty classrooms received one Bee-Bot robot, programmable mats, directional cards, and storage, and professional development to effectively integrate robotics in the classroom.

The Committee asked whether part of the program was going away due to funding. N. Gonzalez responded that the ELCHC also seeks local funding to support the program.

The Committee asked how many providers participated in the program for years 1-3 and what year the program was currently. N. Gonzalez responded that she would provide the Committee with the exact number of participating providers from the first three years and clarified that the program is now in its fourth year.

Ms. Annette Eberhart commented that she has participated in the iSpy Tampa Bay program for all four years and that the parents and children love the program.

C. Inclusion Video

Casie Haines, Director of Provider Supports, provided an update on provider contracts and closures related to Hurricane Helene. C. Haines reported that 536 providers requested a temporary emergency closure when the ELCHC activated its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) in response to the hurricane. C. Haines added that eight providers remain closed due to ongoing emergency situations caused by the storm. Any Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) sites that are closed will be required to make up the lost hours, and staff may need to notify parents and assist with seeking temporary childcare until their School Readiness provider reopens.

C. Haines also stated that a list of provider closures would be shared with the Committee.

The Committee asked about the negative impacts on the providers. C. Haines responded that one provider expressed payroll concerns. C. Haines added that the Resource Development team actively provided information to staff, families, and providers. The ELCHC has asked providers to share specific needs to ensure appropriate resources are distributed.

Committee member Beth Pasek from the Department of Children and Family mentioned that the department was focused on Manatee County, but Hillsborough County was providing comfort stations. B. Pasek added that disaster relief centers were open, and mental health counselors were stationed at the disaster relief centers.

The Committee asked if trauma training was being offered. C. Haines responded that ELCHC has shared information and resources, although specific trauma training was not currently scheduled.

C. Haines provided an overview of the Inclusion project, which launched in January of 2023 through ARPA funding, and shared a video highlighting its impact on the participating centers. C. Haines credited Dr. Fred Hicks, ELCHC Chief Executive Officer, for being an advocate in ensuring ELCHC provided inclusive services in Hillsborough County. Key highlights of the program include.

- Initially, five sites participated in the project, but the ELCHC was able to expand the project to a total of 11 sites.
- The participating sites received inclusive coaching and special needs training, along with trauma training, and onsite services.
- C. Haines mentioned that the project was modeled after Castles of Imagination, owned by Tina Gill, a champion for creating inclusive environments.
- The total program budget was \$1.6M to operate for 6 months of operation.
- The project included 1100 hours of training.

C. Haines also noted that ELCHC will continue to contract with Independent Living for fiscal year 24-25. Dr. Hicks added that staff is in discussion with Florida Blue who may have an interest in funding the project.

CEO Report

A. Education of Young Children Summit 2024- Reflections

Dr. Fred Hicks, Chief Executive Officer, provided his CEO report, beginning by thanking Committee members who attended the Education of Young Children Summit. Dr. Hicks noted that staff collected approximately 40 responses from the call to action cards and are working to ensure each respondent receives a follow up. Dr. Hicks also mentioned he is seeking feedback from the Board regarding the next Summit.

B. Provider Visits

Dr. Hicks announced that Chancellor Cari Miller from the Division of Early Learning, will be attending the Board meeting on October 14, 2024. Dr. Hicks added that prior to the meeting, he and Chancellor Miller will be visiting childcare providers, and invited any interested Board members to join them by contacting him directly.

C. Year-to-date Enrollment Report

Dr. Hicks reviewed the year-to-date enrollment report for School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten programs. In response to a Committee question about whether any providers missed their progress monitoring due to Hurricane Helene, Dr. Hicks stated that 89% of PM1s had already been completed. He shared that the monitoring period was extended for providers who still needed to complete their monitoring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amanda Jae announced the following upcoming events.

- A. On My Way to Kindergarten Trunk or Treat event is scheduled for October 12, 2024, at Mort Elementary School from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- B. Day of Play is scheduled for December 7, 2024, at Jackson Springs Community Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- C. The Service Delivery and Efficiency Committee will hold their next regular meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025.

Dr. Hicks informed the Committee that he would share the results of the provider survey regarding the impact of Hurricane Helene. He also noted that ELCHC had shared information about Save the Children to assist providers in addressing any damages to their businesses by the hurricane.

ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Jae called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 pm.

Dr. Larissa Baia made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Bacon made a second. The motion carried unanimously.