



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, February 17, 2025, at 3:00 pm  
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100  
Tampa, FL 33619

### MEETING ATTENDANCE

**Facilitator:** Dr. Shawn Robinson, Vice Chair

#### Board Members Present:

Rebecca Bacon, Dr. Larissa Baia\*, Dr. Lise Fox\*, Amanda Jae, Commissioner Gwendolyn Myers\*, Beth Pasek, Dr. Shawn Robinson, Gino Casanova\*, Tracie Brown\*, Annette Eberhart, Michelle Zieziula\*, Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Dr. Lise Fox\*, Kelley Flannery\*, Jonathan Ferro\*, Noelle Wostal\*, Adam Giery\*, Aakash Patel, Wyton Geary, Bob Hyde, Brian Mays, Ashely Porch, Alina Shaffer and Felicia Thomas

#### Board Members Absent:

Dr. Daira Avila Barakat, and Chantal Porte

#### ELCHC Staff:

Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Gary Meyer, Casie Haines\*, Alison Fraga, Kevin Smith\*

#### Other Attendees:

Attorney Paul Quin, and Dennis Hebert

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

### CALL TO ORDER

#### Quorum Verification

Noting an established quorum, Chair Aakash Patel called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

Beth Pasek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC COMMENT I

No, public comment.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

#### Mission Moment

Chair Patel called on several board members to share their takeaways from the board retreat. Many new board members shared they learned what their responsibilities are when it comes to bringing awareness of the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC) out in the community as well as ideas for fundraising.



Ashley Porch shared with the board that she is a member of 100 + Women Who Care South Tampa and made the board aware of a possible \$10,000 grant that would be available to apply for before the next meeting on May 6, 2025.

Chair Patel thanked Board Member Dr. Larissa Baia, President of the Hillsborough Community College Ybor City campus for assisting in securing a conference room for the ELCHC Board of Directors retreat.

### **Legal Report**

Paul Quin, ELCHC Board of Directors counsel provided an overview of the Florida Sunshine law using various examples. Mr. Quin gave two examples of violations of the Florida Sunshine law pertaining to boards.

### **Legislative Update**

Gino Casanova gave an update on legislative items with support both in the state house and in the state senate. Mr. Casanova shared the military pilot program request for funding was filed in the state house but to date no tracking number had to date been assigned. Mr. Casanova also shared that it would be a tough session this year as all Covid funding was exhausted and appropriation projects would be the first to be eliminated.

There was board member discussion on which board members were going to be attending Hillsborough Day as well as Children's Week in Tallahassee. Dr. Hicks, CEO of the ELCHC also shared with the board of directors his idea for "listening sessions" so that he can hear firsthand some of the concerns of the provider community as he prepares his visits to Tallahassee. Board member, Bob Hyde, shared that he would schedule time for Dr. Hicks to speak to the Tampa Chamber at the next scheduled meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items were included under the Consent Agenda:

Approval of February 17, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Approval of Board of Directors Draft meeting Minutes-November 4, 2024

**Dr. Shawn Robinson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bob Hyde made a second. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Amanda Jae made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Beth Pasek made a second. The motion carried unanimously.**

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Nomination of Board of Directors, Secretary

Chair Patel nominated Bob Hyde for Secretary. Bob Hyde accepted the nomination.

***Beth Pasek made a motion to approve the nomination of Bob Hyde as Secretary of the ELCHC Board of Directors. Adam Giery made a second. The motion carried unanimously.***

## Committee Assignments

Chair Patel appointed Bob Hyde to be on the Community & Outreach committee. Mr. Bob Hyde accepted the appointment.

## Discussion Item

### Summer Boost Update/Results

Dr. Jason Anthony Professor of Child & Family Studies and Director, Rightpath Research & Innovation Center at the University of South Florida was introduced by Rick Rampersad, ELCHC Chief Information Officer to share the results of the Summer Boost program.

Dr. Anthony shared the definition of summer slide and why educators should be concerned about the loss of learning that takes place over the summer. Dr. Anthony shared the loss of academic skills that students experience affects children from low-income backgrounds more profoundly. Dr. Anthony shared the program took place over a four-week span due to time and budget constraints. Dr. Anthony shared some classes were given more math work and other classes were given more language work either case the students received both language and math instruction. Dr. Anthony shared students were tested before the official instruction began and tested again towards the end of the program. Dr. Anthony shared much to his surprise in such a short period of time as students had measurable improvements in math and language overall, and classes that were given more math or more language work scored even higher in those areas.

Dr. Anthony shared the following were learning gains during the three-week period of instruction:

Vocabulary	Yes	.11= Small Gain
Letter Knowledge	No	.03= None
Phonological Awareness	Yes	.35=Medium Gain
Math	Yes	.22=Small Gain

Dr. Anthony shared the following in additional learning gains during the three-week learning period of instruction:

Vocabulary	Yes	.13=Small Gain
Letter Knowledge	No	.02=None
Phonological Awareness	No	.04=None
Math	Yes	.17=Small Gain

There was board discussion on funding required to continue a summer boost program. There was also conversation on how to raise money for the expansion of summer boost as the initiative was completed with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that are no longer available.

Dr. Hicks shared the financial breakdown in costs as follows:

- The governor vetoed the initial request of almost \$2 million for Summer Boost program
- \$6 million dollars were then set aside for Summer Bridge and was divided into coalitions state-wide

- Costs of 4-week program was \$1.2 million that covered 194 children who were chosen due to low performance on mid-year test
- Costs covered teacher pay; a full day of childcare including 3.5-4 hours of instructional time a day that Dr. Anthony's research team provided the curriculum for covering the subjects mentioned in his presentation; season tickets to Zoo Tampa for the families of the children that participated in the study as well as a field trip after the study was concluded
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were used to cover costs that also included the cost of the study
- The study was completed across the county, across multiple zip codes

There was additional conversation on how to raise the funds needed as ARPA funding has been sunset that included:

- Summit 2025 fund could possibly be used
- School District
- Grants

There was discussion on reducing the costs by eliminating Zoo Tampa season passes to the families of the children participating in the study, and possibly any extra expenses outside of academic instruction. It was stated that part of this initiative was also to include the families as education goes far beyond the classroom into the homes of the children.

There was board discussion on data sets and the importance of having data to back-up as many initiatives as possible. Dr. Hicks shared with the board that there were many data sets attached to dozens of programs, and he would be happy to provide these sets with each initiative/program moving forward. Dr. Hicks also mentioned there are many other initiatives and programs that are note worthy of receiving funding that are not part of the regular annual budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

Chair Aakash Patel reported that the committee met on February 10, 2025, to approve, review and discuss the following:

- Approval of October 28, 2024, committee draft meeting minutes
- Approval of February 17, 2025, Board of Directors draft agenda
- Legislative update
- Committee Reports
  - Governance
  - Finance
  - Service Delivery & Efficiency
  - Development
  - Legislative
  - Provider Review Hearing
- CEO Report
- Announcement: The next meeting of the ELCHC Executive Committee is scheduled for April 14, 2025.

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Shawn Robinson, Chair of the Governance Committee, reported that the Governance Committee met on January 27, 2025, to review, and discuss the following:

- Approval of July 29, 2024, Governance Committee draft meeting minutes.
- Discussion of the merger of the Development and Outreach Committees.
- CEO Report: New Board Member Orientation update; Annual Report summary; Board of Directors Retreat
- Announcement: The next meeting of the ELCHC Governance Committee is scheduled for March 25, 2025.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Michelle Zieziula, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the committee met on January 29, 2025, to review, discuss, and approve the following:

- Approval of September 30, 2025, Finance Committee draft meeting minutes.
- Financials Budget to Actual through December 31, 2024, and Notice of Award Summary
- CEO Report
- Announcement: The next meeting of the ELCHC Finance Committee is scheduled for March 26, 2025.

## **SERVICE DELIVERY AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE**

Amanda Jae, Chair of the Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee reported the committee met on January 30, 2025, to discuss, review and approve the following:

- Discussion: Preview of the Learning Management System (LMS)
- Dr. Jason Anthony, Director and Professor of Child & Family Services at University of South Tampa with results for the Summer Boost Initiative data
- 25-26 Profile Update
- CEO Report: Annual Report Summary; Listening Sessions, Provider Visits, Board of Directors Retreat
- Announcements: Day of Play-March 1<sup>st</sup> at Gardenville Parks & Rec Center from 10:00 am-12:00 pm; The next meeting of the ELCHC Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee is scheduled for March 27, 2025.

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Dr. Shawn Robinson reported that the committee was scheduled to meet virtually on September 11, 2024, however, due to lack of quorum the meeting was cancelled.

Dr. Robinson reported that the chairs of the Development Committee and Outreach Committees met on January 22, 2025, to discuss the future of both committees. It was determined to propose the merging of both committees as described in the agenda packet.

Dr. Robinson called for a motion to merge the Development Committee and the Outreach Committee.

*Amanda Jae made a motion to merge the Development Committee and the Outreach Committee. Beth Pasek seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Gino Casanova, Chair of the ELCHC Legislative Committee, reported the committee met on January 6, 2025, to discuss, review and approve the following:

- Approval of December 12, 2024, draft meeting minutes
- Discussion: Hillsborough Day 2025-March 26; Children's Week 2025-April 14-18
- Announcements: ELCHC Board of Directors retreat-February 1, 2025, at Hillsborough Community College Ybor City campus to begin at 9:00 am with breakfast to be served at 8:00 am; Doodle poll was to be sent out to schedule a meeting prior to Hillsborough Day on March 26.

## **PROVIDER REVIEW HEARING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins Chair of the Provider Review Hearing Committee reported the committee met on January 28, 2025, to hear Rose Academy of Achievers vs ELCHC with the following outcome.

Dr. Hicks reported that the Provider Review Hearing Committee met on August 13, 2024, to hear KinderCare Learning Companies vs Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County with the following outcome.

The ELCHC recommendation of ending KinderCare's School Readiness (SR) contract due to (1) Class 1 violation, (6) Class 2 violations, and (16) Class 3 violations over the previous two years.

The committee agreed to modify the coalition's recommendations to (18) months of probation; training for CPR and First Aid for all employees; check-ins every three months to ensure everything is up to date and policies are being followed with additional support for management and HR development; and installation of security cameras.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Gary Meyer, Chief Financial Officer, reported on the following:

Gary Meyer shared the Budget to Actuals through December 31, 2024, as presented in the agenda packet. Mr. Meyer reported on the following for the Notice of Award:

- ELCHC received Notice of Award of \$6 million for expanded services.
- We are still a few million dollars short to continue to our goal to serve 13, 500 children.
- Where does the funding come from?

- School Readiness (SR) enrolling is ahead of the same time last year with 13,200 children compared to last year with 12,816. ELCHC is 3% above last year at the same time.
- SR Plus has 19 children in the program; the entire State of Florida has 166 children enrolled.
- ELCHC had 28 potentially eligible children and were about to enroll 19 into the program.
- ELCHC would need the income limits lifted for regular SR to make an impact.
- Waitlist is growing and currently at ~300 children, like most coalitions around the state waitlists are growing with Miami/Dade at ~5,000
- Waiting to hear back from the state for re-obligation funds

## **LEGAL REPORT**

Paul Quin, Board of Directors attorney, shared a short presentation on dos and don'ts of the Florida Sunshine law for Board of Directors as outlined in state statute. There was board discussion with several examples that were played out as to the expectations of board members and their communication with one another outside of formally notified ELCHC meetings.

## **CEO REPORT**

### **Board of Directors Orientation Update**

Dr. Hicks reported that all new board members had completed orientation.

## **Annual Summary Report**

Dr. Hicks shared a brief overview of the Annual Summary Report for 2023-2024 and noted that it was included in the agenda packet and is also available on the website for viewing. Dr. Hicks highlighted the following:

- 892 contracted early childhood programs
- 18,962 children enrolled in school readiness
- 11,620 children enrolled in VPK
- 14,730 developmental screenings completed
- 3,172 learning providers participated in professional development
- 3,019 educators received support through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars
- \$12 million were disbursed to educators in stipends
- 24,000 books were given to children
- 100+ Community Outreach Events
- 1,000 backpacks were given to rising kindergartners

### **Board of Directors Retreat: Take-Aways**

Dr. Hicks thanked all Board members who were able to attend the Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> Board Retreat at H.C.C. Ybor City campus. Dr. Hicks shared key take-aways would continue to be worked on throughout the calendar year.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The next ELCHC Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 3:00 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT II**

There was no Public Comment II.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Citing the time, Dr. Shawn Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 pm. Bob Hyde made a second. The motion carried unanimously.*

Read and approved by: Robert Hyde 30/04/2025

*ELCHC Secretary*

*Date*

**Signature:** Robert Hyde  
Robert Hyde (Apr 30, 2025 16:41 EDT)

**Email:** robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com









# 02.17.2025 Board of Directos Meeting Minutes\_Aproved Minutes\_

Final Audit Report

2025-04-30

Created:	2025-04-30
By:	Nancy Will (nwill@elchc.org)
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-  Document created by Nancy Will (nwill@elchc.org)  
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-  Document emailed to Bob Hyde (robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com) for signature  
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-  Email viewed by Bob Hyde (robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com)  
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-  Signer Bob Hyde (robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com) entered name at signing as Robert Hyde  
2025-04-30 - 8:41:17 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Robert Hyde (robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com)  
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