EARLY LEARNING
COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, August 04, 2025, at 3:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Dr. Shawn Robinson, Chair

Committee Members Present: Dr. Shawn Robinson, Brian Mays, Aakash Patel*, Dr. Larissa Baia*, Adam Giery*, and Alina Shaffer*

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
None.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:
None.

ELCHC Staff:
Dr. Fred Hicks, Gary Meyer*, Kelly Minney, Abigail Perez, Rebecca Delgado*, and Alison Fraga

Other Attendees:
Paul Quin, Alex Ochoa, and Dennis Hebert

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification
Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Dr. Shawn Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of May 19, 2054, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve was made by Aakash Patel. A second was made by Brian Mays. The motion carried unanimously with the correction of Adam Giery's name in two locations within the meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Dr. Shawn Robinson shared with the committee information on Mr. Cameron Cassidy who applied for board membership. Chair Aakash Patel and Brian Mays each spoke to their recommendation of Cameron Cassidy. Dr. Fred Hicks also expressed his recommendation of Mr. Cassidy.

Aakash Patel made a motion to accept the application of Mr. Cameron Cassidy to be taken to the full Board of Directors at the next Board meeting. Brian Mays made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

CEO Evaluation

Dr. Shawn Robinson spoke to the Board of Directors' CEO evaluation for Dr. Fred Hicks. Gary Meyer, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shared with the committee that the creation of the evaluation was almost complete and would be sent out to board members with a due date of August 13.

Board Vacancies

Dr. Robinson shared the resignation of Dr. Lise Fox due to a position change at the University of South Florida (USF).

Rebecca Delgado, Director of Early Intervention at the ELCHC shared with the committee the details of the need for a specific board member replacement that would satisfy the requirement set forth by the state of Florida for Early Learning Coalitions. Ms. Delgado shared two individuals, Beverly Johnson with Easter Seas and Dr. Emily Shaffer-Hudkins, who works closely with USF.

There was committee discussion on the potential candidates for board membership.

Board of Attendance

Dr. Shawn Robinson shared the bylaws in the agenda packet on attendance.

Dr. Hicks shared he had a call with Board Member, Chantal Porte, about her attendance.

CEO REPORT

Dr. Frederick Hicks reported on the following:

Budget

Dr. Hicks shared with the committee the budget constraints are growing the waitlist of children in need of placement for early education and care. Dr. Hicks shared the ELCHC is currently under a hiring freeze, and leadership will be reviewing the current lease of the office utilized by the ELCHC. Dr. Hicks also shared that ELCHC leadership made the decision to change medical insurance carriers for cost savings.

Dr. Hicks shared with the committee that the Finance Committee date would be changing due to not receiving the final budget for the fiscal year. Chair Patel suggested that the committee meeting be incorporated into the next Board of Directors meeting.

Summit Update

Dr. Hicks shared that seats still need to be filled with about 30 days before the event.

Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer, shared that about 178 seats were still available.

There was committee discussion on follow-ups with business leaders including ELCHC Board Members.

Legislative Update

Dr. Hicks shared that we are in good shape with military initiative from last year with a couple of FL state legislators supporting.

Dr. Hicks shared his thoughts to ask for level funding from the FL state legislator from the previous fiscal year.

Chair Patel shared that the senate president is very involved with early education and encouraged a meeting with him.

Alison Fraga, CDO shared that the Mayfield Foundation after three years of sharing the proceeds from the "Be the Ball" event support them with high ticketed items for their silent auction.

ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Citing no further business, Dr. Larissa Baia made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 pm. Aakash Patel made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved by: Robert Hyde _____ 26/10/2026 _____

ELCHC Board of Directors Secretary *Date*

Signature: Robert Hyde
Robert Hyde (Oct 26, 2026 23:12:28 EDT)

Email: robert.hyde@suncoastcreditunion.com

08.04.2025 Governance Committee Draft Meeting Minutes_UnapprovedDraft

Final Audit Report 2026-10-27

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