THE CHILDREN’S TRUST PROGRAM SERVICES AND

CHILDHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Health Committee Meeting was held on October 6, 2022, commencing at 3:38 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Conference Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

CERTIFIED ORIGINAl

APPEARANCES:

BOARD MEMBERS:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, CHAIR
DR. DANIEL BAGNER
DR. DOROTHY DENDROSS-MINDINGALL
LOURDES DIAZ
APPEARANCES:

BOARD MEMBERS, Cont.:

VICTOR DIAZ-HERMAN
MARY DONWORTH
PASTOR RICHARD DUNN II
LOURDES GIMENEZ
ANNE NEASMAN
MARIA NORTON
KENNETH HOFFMAN
LEIGH KOBIRNSKI

STAFF MEMBERS:

AMANDA GORSKI
CHRISTIANA TAYLOR
GARNET ESTERS
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES HAJ
JUANA LEON
JULIETTE FABIEN
LISETE YERO
LORI HANSON
APPEARANCES:

STAFF MEMBERS, Cont.:

MURIEL JEANTY
NATALIA ZEA
RACHEL SPECTOR

APPEARANCES:

STAFF MEMBERS, Cont.:

SUSAN MARIAN
WILLIAM KIRTLAND
XIMENA NUNEZ
YESENIA REYES

GUEST:

CIBELE STEMPNIAK, Kids Learning Center of South Dade
III
J. MARTINEZ, Family and Children Faith Coalition,
Inc. d/b/a/ Hoope for Miami
JENINE SIMON, Alper JCC
ERICKA CASTILLO, UCO of Miami – Diamond Minds
KATHLEEN VERGARA, University of Miami Debbie
Institute
VIKTORIYA YUDOVINA, Flipany
APPEARANCES:

GUEST, Cont.:

FIORELLA CHRISTIE, ELCMDM
NEISHA MACK, MDCPS/H.E.R.O. Truancy Prevention Program
AMY GOUGH, Flipany
ANGIE RIVERA, First Serve Miami, Inc.
ALIXIS GORE, Teen Up-Ward Bound, Inc
MICHELLE CHIN-A-YOUNG, UM Debbie Institute
ALIXIS GORE, Teen Up-Ward Bound, Inc
MICHELLE CHIN-A-YOUNG, UM Debbie Institute
MICHHELLE FLOYD, Empower U Community Health Center
PAULO GRAZIANO, Florida International University
KATIE HART, Florida International University
FRANCISCO FINS, Florida International University, Enlace
ISABEL CHIACA, UM Linda Ray
PROCEEDINGS

(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 3:45 p.m.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Let’s move to the approval of the June 2 Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Minutes. Committee Members, by now you will have had a chance to review the minutes. May I have a motion to approve?

MS. DONWORTH: So, moved, Donworth.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a Second?

MS. NEASMAN: Second, Neasman.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. All those in favor?

(Whereupon, the committee members all responded with “aye.”)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The -- the motion passes. And we're going to now move on to resolutions. And I will be very candid with you and tell you that I switched -- I left my notes on my desk at the office.

Dan, did you happen to print out? Okay.

SPEAKER: Just a second. I'm sorry.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. Now, where is --
give me just a moment to compose myself.

No, actually, I'm looking for my notes. No, just bear with me for just a moment. I sent them to Imran this morning.

IMRAN: I have the first schedule.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That's correct. So let's punch it down for that first reso, Resolution 2023-A: Authorization to reallocate $200,000 previously approved for The Children's Forum to the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe ELC to administer -- does he need to read the resolution, as well?

DR. BAGNER: I was going to say, yeah, I think I need to read that. I had it all prepared.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I promise, before this meeting ends, I will get it all together.

Punting to you, Dr. Bagner, for Resolution No. 2023-A.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

So building on prior trust efforts and nationally recognized, the Thrive By Five Quality Improvement System, or QIS, strives to increase access to high-quality early learning for young children in high-poverty neighborhoods.

The QIS offers a comprehensive array of
supports for children and families, teachers, and
care programs within an integrated system that
takes a tailored approach to improve and maintain
care quality and ensure fair access to
high-quality programs, all through an equity lens.

So please note that the funding partner
descriptions are in your packet.

With Resolution 2023-A, we are seeking to
reallocate $200,000 previously approved for The
Children's Forum to the Early Learning Coalition of
Miami-Dade/Monroe ELC to administer class
observations for the A$SCEND programs; provide
additional funding to the ELC in the amount of
$500,000 for child scholarship payments; have The
Children's Trust encumber a purchase order in the
additional amount of $1,500,000 for high-quality
tiered payment differentials for early learning
providers; have The Children's Trust administer the
A$SCEND salary supplement program for 12 months,
commencing October 1st, 2022, and ending September
30th, 2023; and amend Resolution No. 2022-24
accordingly.

In addition, authorization to the president/CEO
to move funds between child scholarship payments and
tiered payment differentials if additional outside
funding is obtained, with a subsequent report to the board.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Dan, let's please read the resolution from the packet.

DR. BAGNER: Was it different?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: It'll be -- yes, it'll be a little bit different if you look on your screen.

DR. BAGNER: Oh, I thought it was exactly the same.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Oh, it was correct? Okay. My apologies again.

DR. BAGNER: That's okay. With that -- with that, is there a motion?

(Motion made by Lourdes Gimenez.)


DR. BAGNER: Oh, Ms. Neasman, thank you.

Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal. Pamela Hollingsworth. I work for the Early Learning Coalition.

DR. BAGNER: Any others? Okay.

Discussion? No discussion?

I will say, I'll -- I'll add a point. I had connected with some of the staff around. I wanted
to know about the funds going to the particular programs, how we ensure that those funds are used to enhance quality and not just pay for the director's salary, for example.

And there are some things in place to provide guidance around that for programs. There is also -- Lori, correct me if I'm wrong -- but I believe that there was a survey done with about 80 or 70 percent of folks completed the survey and seemed to suggest that the majority of the -- or if not all these funds -- are going toward the programs to enhance their -- their quality.

Are there questions, comments?

Okay. With that, all in favor, aye?

Any opposed?

I'll punt come back to you, Madam Chair.

Unanimous approval.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dr. Bagner.

Let's see if I can get on track here.

Resolution 2023-B: Authorization to negotiate and execute final contract renewals with eight providers, identified herein, to provide early intervention summer camp services for 635 slots for children, birth to five years of age, in a total amount not to exceed $2,217,499, each for a term of
six months, commencing March 1, 2023, and ending
August 31st, 2023, subject to annual funding
appropriations.

Can I have a motion, please?

MS. DONWORTH: So moved.

THE COURT: And a second?

MS. NEASMAN: Second.

THE COURT: Thank you. Are there any recusals?

DR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by FIU.

THE COURT: Thank you, Dan. Other recusals?

Okay. Let's move to discussion and a few notes to consider.

Children with identified delays or special needs in early childhood who receive appropriate responsive intervention are much more likely to develop to their full potential. The Children's Trust aims to provide continuity for school year early intervention services and to mitigate summer learning loss by funding continued supports during the summer months.

Trust-funded summer programs for children with delays, disabilities, operate five days a week, Monday through Friday, for at least eight hours per day for six to eleven weeks.

Although some children with specific
exceptionalities may not attend the program for the entire day, services are expected to meet children's individual developmental needs, aligned with the goal -- and aligned with the goals of their school year service plans.

In summary, summer 2022 services served 558 with an average of 26 sessions attended. All of the 558 children served reported living with one or more disabilities.

Any members' discussion, comments about this resolution?

Hearing none, all those in favor?

Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries.

Moving now to Resolution 2023-C: Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with 13 programs, identified herein, to deliver high-quality summer camp services for 1,005 slots for elementary schoolchildren, in a total amount not to exceed $1,578,097, each for a term of six months, commencing March 1, 2023, and ending August 31st, 2023, subject to annual funding appropriations.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. GIMENEZ: Moved.

THE COURT: Thank you. And a second?
MS. NORTON: Second.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Are there any recusals?

Okay. Moving now into discussion for this K-5 resolution. The 13 programs that you will see in your packet have demonstrated their capacity, their expertise, and qualifications to provide high-quality summer programing for elementary schoolchildren, with renewal consideration including observations, as well as qual- -- qualitative and quantitative data reviews.

The Children's Trust Fund's summer camps for early -- for elementary schoolchildren, grades K to 5, in exclusive and specialty disability settings. Inclusion programs engage a minimum of 10 percent of children with disabilities, while specialty disability programs engage 40 percent or more.

Summer programs operate five days a week, Monday through Friday, for at least 10 hours per day, for six to eleven weeks.

All programs follow structured activities to support literacy, social and emotional learning. Physical fitness and additional skill-building activities may also be included.

During the summer of 2022, 910 children were
served, with 28 of those children, or 200 -- 28 percent, pardon me, of those children, or 251, reporting living with one or more disabilities.

Discussion, comments, observations from the committee, please?

Hearing none, all those in favor?

Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-D: Authorization to negotiate

authorization to negotiate and execute final contract renewals with 17 providers, identified herein, to deliver high-quality summer camp services for 1,536 slots for middle and high school youth, in a total amount not to exceed $2,597,209, each for a term of six months, commencing March 1, 2023, and ending August 31st, 2023, subject to annual funding appropriations.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. DONWORTH: So moved.

THE COURT: And a second?

MS. NEASMAN: Second.

THE COURT: Thank you. Are there any recusals?

DR. BAGNER: Bagner, employed by FIU.

THE COURT: Thank you, Dan.

Further recusals?
Okay. Moving to discussion. As you are aware, the summer camps for middle and high school students have met the same rigorous renewal guidelines and maintained the same program structure indicated in the previous resolution in relationship to inclusiveness.

And while it's typical that summer programs must operate for at least six weeks with a maximum of 90 contact hours per youth, these programs may break up their service periods into cohorts and offer shorter intervals of at least 15 days of service per individual participants.

Middle and high school programs follow a structured schedule of activities to support social and emotional learning, along with skill buildings -- along with skills building in one or more specialized areas, such as art, STEMs, et cetera.

During the summer of 2022, 1,471 youth were served. And of those served, 19 percent, or 280, reported living with one or more disability.

Feedback, observations, comments from the committee?

Hearing none, all those in favor?

Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries.
Resolution 2023-E: Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade County for the HERO truancy prevention program, a component of the Case Management Referral Program, in a total amount not to exceed $880,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing August 1, 2023, and ending July 31st, 2024.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. GIMENEZ: Moved.

THE COURT: Thank you. And a second?

MS. NEASMAN: Second.

THE COURT: Thank you. Are there any recusals?

Okay. I look forward to saying this every year.

Here Every Day, Ready on Time identifies the most at-risk children and provides them with the necessary prevention and intervention services to increase school attendance.

The HERO services provided with this funding will support more than 16,000 elementary and K-8 schoolchildren with chronic, unexcused absences across 39 Miami-Dade County public schools.

The HERO program utilizes Miami-Dade County public school student attendance data to identify at-risk children and adds causes that negatively
affect their healthy development.

Identified students receive a full array of shared services and interventions, as identified in your packet and depending on the need presented as part of the Case Management Referral Program.

In relationship to success among some of these interventions, 42 percent of students have had truancy child study team meetings showed an increase in attendance percentage when comparing their attendance from the 2020, 2021, and '21-'22 school year.

Strides continue to be made in the area of the percentage of HERO students with passing grades, and you can see that laid forth in your -- in your packet in terms of their core content courses. And you can also view the number of follow-up services there also.

Feedback, conversation? Remarks?

MS. GIMENEZ: Just an observation. I think it's very important. If the children are not in school they can't be taught, and you can't be accountable for them not learning. So it's to me, and as a former administrator, I used to go and knock on doors. They didn't like for me to come and visit, so that would bring them to school right
away, because the principal should not be knocking on the doors.

But our teachers were there, willing to teach. And some of these kids, and it was just, "Oh, they didn't think school was that important."

The moment you start visiting homes and you start letting them know, "Hey, we want your child in school, we need to have your child to teach them," it works. And the truancy starts to lessen and lessen, and then the parents start realizing the importance of going every day.

So to me, this is very important to continue doing in terms of getting the kids in school.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that.

SPEAKER: Might I add to what?

THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: (Unintelligible). As a former principal, (Unintelligible). I knock on doors and created such a (Unintelligible) that people were coming from neighborhoods trying to figure out, "Who told you how to do this?" No one. But as Lourdes just said, "If you're not here, we can't" (Unintelligible).

So as of now, I have about 35, 40 parents who are, (Unintelligible) knowing all that they need to
know.

So it's important that we work together to have
our kids know that that's there for them.
(Unintelligible).

So again, as a school board member, and of
course what we do together, we can make it happen.

Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dr.

Bendross-Mindingall.

PASTOR DUNN: If -- if I may chime in to that,
I can attest to both what Lourdes and Dr. Mindingall
have said in regards to the work that she did at --
I'd like to hear her say Lily Carmichael Evans
Elementary School. That was her school.

And I admire her courage. Little did I know,
Dr. Mindingall and Ms. Gimenez, that I would be
doing something similarly right now. In fact, I'm
running a little late because we have an issue with
absenteeism, as many of you know, in many of our
public schools. And I had some I Attend meetings
that I had scheduled.

And it can be very tedious at some times,
trying to contact a parent. And the parent, I could
not contact her. So I just waited until her child
-- she came to pick up her child. And I said, "Here
I am. Good afternoon." And so we at least have some.

So this is a great thing, because if the kids are -- if the children are not in school, it's -- it's an easy equation: They can't learn. If they can't learn, they can't pass. If they can't pass, they'll end up -- sadly so in any cases -- in the pipeline from school to prison, or the prison pipeline.

So we've got a lot of work to do, and I want -- I'm glad that we're part of something like this, because this is somewhat of a spillage, Ms. Gimenez -- Mrs. Gimenez and Dr. Mindingall, I had no idea when you both were doing this type of noble work that I would be doing it at some point in my life.

So I'm elated about it. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Pastor Dunn.

DR. BAGNER: Madam Chair, I just wanted to comment, as well.

I concur wholeheartedly. One thing I -- two points I wanted to just make. One is I really appreciate the rebranding of this. So for those of you who are not familiar with this, it was originally the Together For Children. And it was spun as we're going -- it was in response to gun
violence, and we're going to reduce gun violence.

And, you know, I think there's a lot more and
different things we can be doing to reduce gun
violence.

But I think this now, with the focus on
attendance, makes sense. The data coming in makes
sense. And I'm really pleased to see the data
presented that we're actually seeing increases in --
in kids going to school. So I appreciate that.

I hope we can do more about the gun violence
issue with other agenda items, but I did want to --
to make that point.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Excellent. Thank you, Dr.
Bagner.

All those in favor?
Are there any opposed?
The resolution carries.

And Dr. Bagner, punting to you for the final
resolution.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

So for Resolution 2023-F, this is a funder
collaboration with The Miami Foundation.

Miami Connected launched in April in 2021 and
has adopted best practices from similar and
successful initiatives in Chicago and Philadelphia
to now Miami-Dade's specific needs.

   In short, Miami Connected offers no- or low-cost broadband Internet families -- Internet to families and students across Miami-Dade County.

   Families are eligible if someone in their household participates in government assistance programs, such as SNAP or WIC; has a student who receives a Pell Grant or attends a Title I school, or has a household income of up to 200 percent of the federal -- federal poverty level.

   Miami Connected collaborates with schools and engages community-based organizations, or CBOs, to support outreach to families and provide technical assistance to ensure full adoption of these Internet service opportunities.

   The initiative is also involved in various community engagement and advertising activities to raise awareness and continuously optimizes the Internet service registration process.

   The Miami Foundation has been the lead partner for this innovative initiative since its inception and has established a physical sponsorship fund to support Miami Connected's financial fund development, maturity, and independence.

   It should be noted that in working toward
systems-level change, Miami Connected, in partnership with Miami-Dade County and national experts, has begun to develop a broadband plan to draw down and deploy federal funds to increase the number of families with broadband Internet service across the county.

The broadband plan will be completed in the coming year and related demonstration projects will be launched.

And as of 2022, 53,000 families have connected to Internet services, with 89 percent of families reported increasing opportunity in the areas of education and income.

Please note the funders are detailed in your packet. And with Resolution 2023-F, we are seeking to renew a fund collaboration contract with The Miami Foundation as a fiscal agent for Miami Connected in a total amount not to exceed $150,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively on October 21st, 2022, and ending September 30th, 2023.

And with that, do I have a motion?

PASTOR DUNN: Moved.

DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: I second.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you. Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Hollingsworth recusing.
The Early Voting Coalition will be working to make The Miami Foundation opportunities available for the families that we serve.

DR. BAGNER: Discussions?

SPEAKER: I'm sorry, who seconded it?

DR. BAGNER: Dr. Bendross-Mindingall.

Discussion?

So just to add to a discussion point, I had an experience with this program with a couple -- one of the families in one of my research studies. We actually provide services using -- the Internet using tablets and providing care remotely. Some of our families don't have access. And thus I connected that family with this agency and got this family connected, so it's -- it's really a life line to some families.

Any comments or questions?

PASTOR DUNN: Good stuff. Great stuff.

MS. GIMENEZ: I'm just going to add, I was actually at a school the other day because I'm still interested in what's happening, especially now with progress monitoring instead of doing the FSAs.

And it's all going to be online, including the writing. So the children have to have practice on these type of things.
If they don't have access to the Internet at home and they don't, you know, practice, it's going to put them already behind the eight ball. So I think it's very important.

I'm not a real techy person, and I don't really like technology. So for the elementary children, you know, I like the language development. I don't like all the time texting each other and writing "R" instead of "A-R-E" and "you" only with a "U."

So I'm one of those, yes. And, you know, I -- to me, I think it's a balance. I think technology's great, especially for the outside world for us to globally be connected.

But, you know, for children I see that we have the need and we have to keep up with what we have -- we're doing.

So yes, it's important that we are able to give especially the neediest children that don't have that connection so they can be at the same, you know, level as the other children that do.

So especially for the testing that's going on now, it's going to be important for that.

DR. BAGNER: Okay. Thank you. Anything else? We do have -- yeah?

PASTOR DUNN: You know, I'm -- I'm feeling like
you somewhat, Ms. Gimenez. I'm out of sorts tremendously. And I look at the children, and they were born for this age.

It's -- it's amazing. I have two grandchildren, a four--a four-year-old grandson and an eight-year-old granddaughter. And they -- and they -- they just get right on it and know what to do. And I'm -- I'm like, "How do they know this?" And nobody took them through a tutoring or mentoring session.

And here I am, you know, I'm totally lost. And half of the work that you do now in education in the school system is computer based. And so that's where some of my greatest challenges are. It's not in the personal one on one. I can do that in my sleep, I believe. But it's the -- it's the technology that I probably need some training myself.

DR. BAGNER: Thank you, Reverend.

Anything else?

I think we have to embrace this, you know. And one thing we're finding in research, actually it's the quality of the content and the usage, not just the quantity. It's not just they're on it all the time, but what are they doing on it?
PASTOR DUNN: Exactly.

DR. BAGNER: And make sure that that's the key. And things that we can be doing perhaps in our -- in our -- on our board for pushing those kinds of programs.

With that, anything else? Okay.

Well, all those in favor?

Opposed?

The resolution passes unanimously.

Back to you, Madam Chair. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan.

And moving now to Jim for the CEO report.

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. I just want to announce tomorrow the mayor will be having a summit for early child care that has been probably six months in the making, maybe a little bit more than that.

The trust has been intimately involved. If you recall, many of you here in 2016, we started this work about looking at the investment in early childcare in Miami-Dade. We repivoted our investments to where we had deserts of quality childcare in areas that we needed it the most.

Last November, we reconvened the childcare with the business community, with the Chamber and the
Beacon Council. And if you recall, the CEO of the Florida Chamber joined us, just because the business community realizes that this is an important topic, early childcare, for employees, for -- for building the pipeline. And more importantly, just doing the right thing by children early on.

So the mayor's having this event. We've been planning on it. It's a phenomenal event. The trust is very well representative. I think three or four of our board members are speaking, I'm speaking, Lori, Rachel.

And hopefully we have the mayor and the business community in Miami-Dade embracing early childcare and really pushing it to the next level.

Last November Dan had asked when we left that we also get a systems map to see what's going on in the community, where the streams of money are coming from, where the federal motion is subsiding, so where will the gaps be in two years so we can start identifying now.

And Lori and her team and Rachel have built that systems map that will be presented also tomorrow.

So we're really looking forward to tomorrow. And tomorrow's going to be a special day. But
really, it's where do we go from there and how can
we galvanize this community under the leadership of
the mayor and all the business partners to move
early childcare to the next level.

So we'll give you a report, but we're excited
about tomorrow. It's from eight either to two --
8:30 to 2:00 p.m. at the Wolfson campus.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim.

And with that, committee members, staff, and
guests, we are adjourned. Thank you very much.
(Thereupon the proceedings were concluded at
5:00 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

The above and foregoing transcript is a true and correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge and belief.

Rhonda Sansom

Rhonda S. Sansom, RPR, CRR, CRC, LCR

December 2, 2022