The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Finance and Operations Committee Meeting was held on March 30, 2023, commencing at 9:30 a.m., at 3150 Southwest 3rd Avenue, 8th Floor Training Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Matthew Arsenault, Vice Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

MATTHEW ARSENAULT, Vice Chair
MORRIS COPELAND
JAVIER REYES
KENNETH HOFFMAN, ex-officio
LEIGH KOBROWSKI
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

AMANDA GORSKI
CAROL BROGAN
DANIELLE BARRERAS
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES R. HAJ
JUANA LEON
LISANNE GAGE
LORI HANSON
NATALIA ZEA
RACHEL SPECTOR
TATIANA CANELAS
WENDY DUNCOMBE
WILLIAM KIRTLAN

GUEST APPEARANCES

FIRST STEP CHAMPIONS, First Step Champions, Inc.
IRE DIAZ, Advocacy Network on Disabilities
MICHAEL NOZILE, Gang Alternative, Inc.
KYESHIA CURTIS, MCM Smart Program
(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 9:31 a.m.)

MR. ARSENAULT: Okay, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started. I guess -- apparently we don't have quorum today, so we won't be voting on any items, if I understand that correctly, but we are still -- a lot -- a lot of people are up in Tallahassee in session, and things like that. So, we're going to go through it, I guess, some items will be voted on in the next meeting and others will be taken directly to the board for approval. I guess with that, there's still an opportunity for public comment. Is there any public comment?

MRS. LEON: There's no public comment.

MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you. So, we're -- I'm assuming we're going to move -- pass over the approval of the minutes, and that'll be at the next meeting, and we will hand it over to the presentation of our annual conference financial report. Bill (phonetic), do you want to tee it up?

MR. KIRTLAND: My pleasure. It's -- it is my pleasure today to have our auditing firm,
Marcum and Brandon Lopez, who is our, like, managing member of the entire audit and oversees the staff that has worked so diligently for the fifth and final year of our audit. So, we -- with a sad heart have to go out for -- bid for -- to look for potential other audit firms in the coming years, but we have the fortune to have one more presentation of our September 30, 2022, drafted annual comprehensive financial report today.

And I'll have a few more comments just to conclude the presentation, but Brandon is going to give us a little walk through of the entirety of this report. With the numerous length and bulk to the report, he's going to try to direct you to maybe what is the substance of the report that you might want to take a look -- take a closer look at. And I'll hand it over to Brandon.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Bill. Good morning everyone. My name is Brandon Lopez. I'm a director with Marcum and, like Bill mentioned, I serve as a manager on the engagement overseeing team. And we're here today to present the draft of financial statements for September 30, 2022.
And like Bill said, it's a very lengthy document, so I'm just going to focus on some key items, highlight them, and if there's any specific questions, we can tackle them together. So, we're going to start off with the most important page, which is Page -- printed Page 1, which is PDF Page 22. Right there; that's the independent auditor's report.

One thing I want to mention, it's a little different than past years, if you might remember what last year looked like. And that's because of auditing standards -- they changed the format of the auditor's report. They -- in the past, the opinion that you see was at the end of the report.

At the end of the day, the most important section of this entire report, is the opinion, so auditing standards changed it to move it up to the front. The first thing that you see there, and this opinion is called an unmodified opinion. It's a clean -- it's really the only opinion you, as a finance committee and as an organization, want to be associated with, so we're very happy to let the committee know that they did receive an unmodified, clean opinion
that -- September 30, 2022.

Continuing along, we're going to get into --

just one thing I want to mention briefly on --
on Page 25, management's discussion and acts.
Like I mentioned, it's a very lengthy document,
but there's always one section that if you want
to read in detail, I always mention this
section. It's about ten or so pages, and what
it does is, it gives the reader essentially an
overview of the financial statements current
year as compared to prior. And it gives some
explanations of what caused some of the changes,
kind of what was the activity during the year,
and that's put together by management. So, I
always mention, if you're going to read anything
in detail, this is a good synopsis of the entire
report and basically the organization at the
year. So, we're going to continue along and
we're going to go to printed -- printed Page 22,
which is PDF Page 42, and -- scroll down a
little bit more -- sorry, keep going down, right
here, yeah, Page 46.

MRS. LEON: 47.

MR. LOPEZ: Go down a little bit more.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You want the schedule?
MR. LOPEZ: Yeah.
MR. KIRTLAND: Okay.
MR. LOPEZ: Exactly. One more down. Okay.

Thank you. So, this is the statement of net pension. One thing I want to mention, the numbers that you see here are the same numbers that were presented to you back in the September meeting. There were no auditor adjustments and -- sorry Bill and Wendy (phonetic) do a great job. One thing I'll mention a little bit later is the relationship we have with the -- the finance team, it's not just a couple of months, it's really throughout the year. Whenever there's questions, whenever there's something a little bit different that might be occurring, they always give us a call. They want to make sure we're doing things the right way.

So, that's why when it comes time for the audit, there's no significant auditor adjustments because they've already done the work ahead of time. We're all on the same page. So, the numbers you see here, are the ones that have been presented. The one thing I want to mention and highlight is, you might remember last year when it comes to FRS and the net...
pension liability, there is a significant
decrease last year compared to other years. And
that was due to the overall market performance
as of September 30, 2021. And we had a great
year in the market, great returns, so that
decreased that overall liability.

This year, a year later, we know how the
market performed, so we kind of went back to a -
- a balance in that net pension liability, which
is more consistent with the prior years. It's
still an improvement from where we were in the
past, obviously a way higher number than what --
what we saw last year. And that's not a concern
or an issue because we're seeing that across the
board in all pension plans and all -- so it's
just something to highlight there.

The following page, printed Page 23, is the
statement of activities, essentially it's your
P&L. It shows you what -- the inflows, your
revenues, your outflows, your expenses during
the year, and the overall change in that
position. The last few years, we've seen an
overall increase in that position, which was in
accordance with the -- the organization's plan,
right, to use up that fund balance for the
programs also, and so we've seen that progress and that -- that plan being implemented. So, this year we did see that -- a positive change in that position.

The next section I want to go to is printed Page 69, which is in PDF Page 96 in your file. This is -- sorry go up one page, and what -- sorry, to -- and one more. Okay. So, this page this shows you, and this is why I wanted to mention this -- this isn't -- when it comes to the FRS pension, there's a -- a requirement that the organization must, you know, contribute to the -- of percentage of what's determined by the actuary.

And this schedule, it lets the reader know what is the contractually required contribution, and then what did the organization contribute to the finances. As you can see, every year they're meeting that contribution requirement, which is a great thing because if there was an issue, we would have to report that in our -- report, which we'll get into a little bit later, but no issues in that aspect of that. We're going to go up one more page, and here is where you see that -- that change in that overall
liability.

That second line item, as you can see in 2020, there's about $6.2 million liability. We went all the way down to $1.1 in 2021 due to the overall market performance, and then we went back up to about $5.8 in 2022. So, we're actually consistent with how the market is performing and what the liability should be. That last year was such -- such a decrease. That's very unusual, it's just how the market was performing as of that point in time.

Okay. So, we're going to move along to the compliance, which is printed Page 98, PDF Page 125, maybe. Okay. Yeah, right there, 120. That one, right there. Okay.

So, one thing I always like to mention, when we do this audit, there's two aspects that we're looking at. We're looking at the financial statements, we're doing a financial statement audit, where we're looking at the numbers to make sure they're materially correct, but then we're also doing a compliance audit. Given that the entity is a governmental amenity, we're required to follow what's called government auditing standards, and that's what
triggers that compliance audit. And this letter
goes over the internal control over financial
reporting and compliance with those matters.
And in this letter, it -- it explains, you know
what is considered a deficiency in internal
control and the different levels of those
deficiencies.

On the following page, it lets the reader
know that based on the procedures we performed,
there were no issues in internal control over
financial reporting. So, again, that's a very
good thing to see, and it's consistent with the
operation that we see in the past. No issues
this year were -- were determined. The
following page is the management letter in
accordance with the rules of the Auditor
General.

So, this is a -- a report that goes into
the different sort of statutes that the
organization is required to follow, and it talks
about if there were any prior audit findings you
have to follow, and then there were no such
issues in the financial condition assessment.
Okay, the next page.

We're required to also take a look at the
organization and compare it to the previous years, and also compare it to its peers, to see if there's anything that would come up that would determine where the entity has an issue, a going concern, or they're -- they're not able to fund their -- their liabilities and operations. But based on this here, no such issues were identified.

And then the last part of the letter just goes into some specific information about the special districts and the mileage rate that just needs to be reported to the Auditor General. But again, no issues were identified in this -- this report. And then the last compliance report we have is specifically with Section 218415 of first statute, which is in relation to the investment policy. And we have to perform specific procedures to ensure that the organization is in compliance with those -- those policies. And if there are any issues, we would have to describe it in this report, but no such issues were identified. The organization is in compliance with their -- their investment policy.

So, that covers kind of the highlights that
I wanted to mention. I don't know if there was
any specific questions that you have for myself
or the report.

MR. KIRTLAND: Maybe I should specify a
couple of the technicalities, I guess, of our
review of the report today, as well, in case it
generates any additional questions. We are
reviewing a draft of the financials. We would
not issue these reports until following this
committee meeting, the approval or the
acceptance of this report, and after it
completely vets at -- at -- at the Marcum
management stage. So, we've had -- we've had
obviously management review this document.
We've had --

MR. LOPEZ: So --

MR. KIRTLAND: Yeah. Go ahead.

MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, to -- to Bill's point.
So, the document, it has gone through the
preliminary management part of review, so now
we're waiting for the final QC review.

However, we -- because it's gone through
this part at this point, we don't expect any
significant changes or any changes to the
numbers, any changes to the for -- anything that
might happen, might be some minor formatting changes, which will obviously go through management before any changes made. But again, this document you see here, we're comfortable with the numbers that are there and the -- the financial statement disclosures that are there.

MR. LOPEZ: I don't expect any significant changes. If we have any substantive changes, then we would bring back the report with the disclosures or explaining what any of the substantive changes would be at the time of the board meeting, and we would not issue this report in between the committee meeting today and the board meeting later this month. But if there's -- if it's determined that there's no substantive changes and is to be just quality control formatting adjustments, I think that the determination would be made that it is okay to go ahead and issue an additional communication would be made with the current members in that event.

MR. ARSENAULT: You know, I -- one of the things -- first of all, great job, you know, all -- all -- all of the work for this report, and one of the things that I -- I ask people about
in that just understanding, maybe speak to the idea of our deposits, the trust deposits in banking institutions. I know that's a big concern --

MR. LOPEZ: Absolutely. So --

MR. ARSENault: -- these days, so I -- I was wondering if you -- if you could just, I guess, speak to maybe the audit procedures around that --

MR. LOPEZ: Sure.

MR. ARSENault: -- this and the notes and -- and the how.

MR. LOPEZ: That's a -- that's a great point, especially with, you know, the current environment that we're in. And specific to Florida and Florida statute requirements, all governmental entities are required to bank with specific organizations that are following the QPD program and that are certified in this forum, which essentially covers all of your -- your assets and cash that are sitting with that bank.

Every year, the entity is required to submit a report to the Auditor General, which certifies that our banking institutions, and you
list them, are part of this program, and it gets submitted to the Florida General. So, every year, we take a look at number one, did you submit that report, and make sure that we're in compliance with that. And number two, we also get a report from the Auditor General. As of September of 2022, as of the date of the audit report -- of the financial statements, is that bank still part of that program?

Because some years they might be, some years they might not. So, every year we re-examine it and take a look at that. So, as of 9/30/2022, the organization is banking with organizations that are certified as the QPD program.

MS. KOBRINSKI: As you're probably already familiar in previous discussions, we primarily bank with TD Bank and City National Bank, but we do hold some long-term notes, whether it's 30, 60, 90 days, potentially six months in a year. Both of these banks are part of the QPD program. There's a little bit more information on PDF Page 56, it would be Page 33. If you want to read the cash investments footnote. It explains a lot of the same information Brandon just
mentioned.

MR. ARSENAULT: Okay.

MS. KOBRINSKI: Because it said sunshine meeting -- right. So, this is just a sunshine meeting because we don't have a forum so this is just a discussion. There won't be any vote.

MR. LOPEZ: And just one last thing I want to mention, like -- mention, this is our, you know, fifth and final year, but it's -- it's been a pleasure working with the trust and the organization, with Bill and Wendy (phonetic) and their team. It's -- it's been a pleasure.

We're -- we're here today to discuss this report is because of the hard work that they put in throughout the audit.

Whenever there's a -- especially in the last couple years when things have changed in kind of how we do these audits and things are more virtual, whenever there's a request, whenever there's support that's needed, you know, it's always provided on a timely basis and the information is there. So, it's -- we're here because of the work that they do. So, I want to make sure I give credit where credit is
due.

MR. KIRTLAND: Thank you, Brandon. I'll just piggyback off of that. As you know, the audit staffing can be fluid every year as you have, like, your support and maybe even your engagement partners, or who you work with. But Brandon's been with us for all five years of this audit, so it's made the year to year transitions smooth, no headaches in just explaining our operational changes from year to year, our strategic plan.

He's always -- always understood what we're doing and where we're going. It's really helpful to assist them, I think, and -- and us in preparing for each audit. So, it's almost as if we're not being audited when we're being audited. And so it's been -- but just because of how seamless the process has been and their ability to work with our systems and records, and which is -- which is a testament to also our staff and Wendy Ducone, our controller, sitting very -- in the corner over here, very quietly.

Everything has always been tediously, very carefully prepared, and I think gift-wrapped it for our auditors over here, so I wanted to
commend her and the staff that support her and all the finance staff that support the audit processes. The entire staff, as I mentioned, that we have total buy-in from all staff members who abide by operational financial and procedures. Operational procedures all supporting our financial procedures as well, and the court members as well just providing, like I've mentioned before, the cultural environment to support adherence to these practices and principles.

So, thank you for everybody that's been involved for the past five years. We will miss Marcum greatly.

MR. LOPEZ: Hopefully, we'll be back one day.

MR. KIRTLAND: Any other questions on the report? There will be an opportunity in case you want to continue to review this report and look at it at home. We will be presenting one more time for the board meeting late this month.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you, Brandon.

MR. KIRTLAND: Thank you.

MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you so much, Brandon.

MR. HAJ: Ready for the --
MR. TROWBRIDGE: Next, we'll move on to the
-- thank you all, everybody, it's -- it's a big
-- people can underestimate. As a former
controller, right, this is a lot of work that
goes into this every year. So, I appreciate it.
Thank you for all your work for --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE 1: My pleasure.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: You're the man, so thank
you. Moving on to the fund balance forecast.

MR. HAJ: So, Chair, thank you. We just
wanted to -- as we're wrapping up the next re --
the next res that you will -- the res you'll be
seeing after this is the release or the approval
for the next five-year cycle. But we want to
take a moment to show you the past five-year
cycle as we're coming to an end, where the fund
balance landed. We've talked about this
repeatedly. That what the finance committee
came up with the plans five, six years ago.

We've been monitoring a plan and what the
results are in front of you is just all the work
that we've done over the years and where we
landed and -- and it was, it works. I mean, the
plan that -- the plan that that was developed
five years, tweaked slightly throughout the
years, got us to where we needed to be now. So, kick it over to Bill kind of to explain the chart, and I know many of you've seen this over and over for the last three years, but this is now the final year. I think Bill --

MR. KIRTLAND: Sure. It's a dangerous thing, handing the microphone back over to me again, Jim. Like, I can start rambling on because I love this stuff. This forecast, as Jim mentioned, is something we've looked at in persistence, and I've seen many, many times over the past five years. And I'm looking forward to looking at a brand new projection in the next five years as we go into a new cycle of new awards.

Piggybacking a little bit off of the ACFR report, Brandon mentioned a bit about our net position and how we actually increased our net position by approximately $2 million just to put a slight bit more in our reserve. But as you see, that kind of correlated with what our floor we wanted to match was and what is a recommended floor for our -- for our reserves. And it's -- and it's based upon a practice that the GFOA recommends, which is 15 percent of your
operating budget.

We're just -- we're just a bit above what that balance it is compared to our budget, but we still feel like it was a -- it was a safe practice and maybe a prudent practice as we prepared to enter into our new funding cycle of what our discussions have been with the board and their priorities and what we want to be prepared to support the next funding cycle.

So, when the ACFR report is presented, we look at the government wide financials versus our general government fund. We primarily plan as a committee and as a board discussing the governmental fund. As Brandon also mentioned, our -- our government wide financials can include fluctuating long-term liabilities and capitalization issues that we don't necessarily look at in the short-term, like -- and then within our budgeting practices, like the government fund, generally allows us to plan on a year-to-year basis.

So, you might not always see that these numbers reconcile on this chart to our government wide financial statements as much as they do to the government fund financial
statements in the ACFR report. So, what you're looking at here is the completion from the fiscal year 2021, so the '21/'22.

That is an audited number that our government fund is completed in that -- in -- as of 9/30/2022 at an amount of 37,791,567. Now, our green line is our forecast to complete our current fiscal year that we're in, which we're now about halfway through the year. Let's today -- is tomorrow the exact halfway through the year? So, we are estimating that we finish the year at 47,423,738.

This has been planned. We knew that the fund balance would grow in our final year of the funding cycle, as when we adopted the half millage rate to complete the cycle year. As we anticipated, there would be an influx of requests. We've had previous discussions about programs and their high needs, even to finish our current cycle and additional costs so we knew that this application window would include programs with higher costs than five years ago and new programs that we had the opportunity to fund.

So, we started to build back up the fund
balance, knowing that these additional requests may come in. And we feel confident that we'll hit on this forecast within the tolerable and reasonable range because we're very proud of our forecasting of this prior year because we adopted a budget of expenditures for the fiscal year '22 that was -- or we forecasted a budget year of expenditures of $162.3 million.

We spent $163.3 million, so we slightly spent more than our projection, so that variance is just over a million dollars of what we expected. So, that is just -- that was essentially that $37.7 million of fund balance was where we thought we would end when we did this projection last year. We do expect improvement in spending this last year. So, that forecast takes that into account because there's some more expenditures put into our budget this year.

And as we expect program performance to improve each year, as it has, we think more of our contracts -- contracts will utilize their existing budgets, and our utilization last year was one of our best. It was underspent by 8.6 percent and this was a trend that we saw
approving each year from the beginning of the funding cycle. So, we're going to build these principles into this plan that we develop next cycle, knowing that there might be some contract utilization issued early and it'll improve each year.

It'll make our forecast better each year. And I know that the plan that we've at least begun to discuss for the next cycle, is very much similar to the one that we've implemented for this cycle. So, we're taking all of our lessons learned essentially into next cycle. And with that, I'll kick it back over to you.

MR. HAJ: Bill, thank you. And so next month when we start -- start getting to the next year's trend discussion, this similar graph will come in front of you for the next five-year cycle. We'll start talking about how -- how we are we going to manage the next five-year cycle as well as we did the last five-year cycle. Thank you.

Mr. Chair?

MR. ARSENAULT: And that -- so which meeting are we going to see the revision, that's the next meeting?
MR. HAJ: Next meeting.

MR. ARSENALT: Next meeting, okay. Thank you. So, the -- the next agenda item is the resolution, which is that even up for discussion at this point, or is there a presentation on it just for discussion, or is that waiting, pending?

MR. HAJ: We'd like to present and no vote on this, but be able to discuss this. This is -- this is it. We've spent the last few years coming to this point. A lot of work, three board retreats, a lot of staff time to release and take care of children or families for the next five years. So, the reso's in front of you, and I'll read through the reso, but we have a quick presentation. And just for your knowledge, this reso, we also wanted to put -- it's going to programs committee, too, for a poll vote.

So, we wanted all the committee members to see it before it goes to the poll board. We want as much discussion as possible because this has been a lot of time and effort and a lot of money that will be released to support the community. So, we have a youth development
PowerPoint, which I'll try to find here, there we go.

So, over the -- the past -- the past several years, we've been leading up to this as we spoke about. It's been three board retreats, several other subcommittees throughout the last couple years, and staff has worked tirelessly the last two years, and especially the last six months, to get ready for this release. We also not only prepared, we went out to the community and asked the community what -- what do they need in youth development and parenting.

We had parent surveys. We received -- more than 2,000 parents gave us feedback on our -- on this list station you see in front of us. We conducted 27 focus groups with parents and focus groups with youth that -- who attend trust camps, and also 28 youth who are not actively in school or working. That's another area that we're working on, for the what we call the opportunity youth, who may be coming in and out of the juvenile system and not in a school. So, we reached out to that group as well.

And then of course, we brought all our providers together, with over 500 providers, to
give us feedback and -- on the solicitation process and things that we should add, things that we should delete, and we took all these to the town, which led us to the RFP that was being released. And then once -- as we were building it, the -- but the Board has always followed this, the last six years since I've been here, we need to let the community know these are -- So, there's a huge community engagement, push throughout the community, or -- our ecosystem knows us; they get our Eblasts.

But how do we get the people who may not be in our ecosystem? There's direct engagement with the new -- new providers. We -- we specifically deal with youth development solicitation, met at 37 different collaborative meetings across the community. The community engagement team also supported the program's scheme of providing presentations for anyone who requested them, and many people did request them before the signage went up. And then we pushed out to media. There was Eblasts, there were ads in the Herald, El Nuevo Herald, Miami Times, El Floridian (phonetic). And on the radio, WLRN, BSS, WMBM, and every avenue that we can, we've
pushed out the announcements that this
solicitation is coming and, you know, dealing
with our solicitations, two people need to start
preparing months in advance, they can't do a
week before, so we're out there, a year -- year-
plus trying to get out into the community and
let everybody know that it's coming.

One of the areas that we've talked about
for years, and that this Board directed us a
couple of years ago, is to look at the
opportunity of these kids who may not be in
school, these kids who are in and out of
juvenile justice system that don't fit in our
traditional program, that will not come to our
three-day programs a week or five-day programs a
week. How do we build a model that can support
these kids, give the provider the flexibility
they need to reach these kids where they need to
be reached? In addition to the 27 focus groups
we talked about, with this group, we also met
with two dozen leaders in their respective
fields, ranging from faith-based community
leaders, leaders of CBOs who have reached these
students, grassroots community organizers, an
army of parents, experts in the juvenile justice
system, psychologists, and experts related to
how best to serve -- youth, as well as DCF.

These listening and learning sessions
informed us the spec for the youth development
RFP and the programing needed to give -- to give
and build in increase flexibility for working
with youth that these providers will need. Oh,
there we go.

The Reimagine grant review --

MR. HOFFMAN: Can we jump in?

MR. LOPEZ: Yeah -- yeah, of course.

MR. HOFFMAN: In terms of that population
is there -- there a certain number of
individuals that you guys are planning on
connecting with in terms of --

MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, you'll see it in the
reso, we have six providers. There are six
providers throughout the community at different
geographic locations that will, if the board
approves, that they will be funded to serve
these -- this population. And it's listed, the
providers are listed in the -- in the reso
(phonetic).

So, Reimagine grants writing. So, when we
moved to a five -- five-year cycle, it was -- it
went exceptionally well for the providers, for the trust staff, but we've had a lot of turnover in staff over the years. So trying to prepare to make sure that our internal staff was trained as reviewers and trained to review the RFP. So, every RFP that comes, you have three reviewers; you have two internal and one external.

So, we have spent the last several months training our staff and giving them -- go to six different training sessions, homework assignments, feedback on those homework assignments, and getting up to speed, as well as external reviewers. And we've got to thank the external -- people who give up their time to come in and spend weeks training and then sit through the solicitation process, sit through the debriefing.

So, just so you're familiar, once everybody colle -- individually rates, they come together collectively in a debriefing meeting. And this debriefing is open to the public. The providers come in, they hear the conversation, they hear the scores, and then these scores are populated. But there has -- there was a huge effort in training everyone. We had the data points on
the next page, but 20 -- so 20-plus teams --
here we go.

Let me give -- we continued -- we have more
than 460 separate reviews that were conducted
out of 154 applications submitted. We recruited
a large number of interested volunteer reviewers
that we'll continue to draw upon for other RFPs.
So -- let me just go back a second, internally,
we train everyone, the entire staff. We didn't
use the entire staff in youth development, but
we also have parenting going after school right
now, and then we have five RFPs borrowed back
in, and four going out, so we're going to need
reviewers throughout the year. Internally, we
did -- externally, we did the same thing, a
large -- a large group to review. Some we --
we've developed and some we will be using now
for parenting, as well as the other RFPs.

The time investment of staff and volunteers
was over a six- to eight-week period to complete
the 462 reviews, 32 debriefing meetings, and 43
applicant reviews. We've provided agency-- so
when funding go -- funding goes out, sometimes
there is an appeal process. We have -- we have
three, four, or five appeals. Those appeals
were denied. The appeals have to be procedural. But we also told the providers there's another link, to come in and meet with us. Because many people just want to have a discussion on how they did, whether it's a budget aspect or just feedback as to how they can do better next time, and we had 27 review meetings.

So 27 organizations came in to meet with us. Some of those organizations came in more than once, so they came -- so the last couple of weeks, staff has been meeting -- the last three weeks, staff has been meeting Monday through Friday, throughout the day, meeting with these groups. And our -- our intentional efforts in this -- have paid off.

Agencies in the trust ecosystem continue to successfully deliver the great work, and this cycle new agency -- so years ago when we started taking a deep dive into new -- how can we do things better at the trust -- the real barrier to entry at the trust was new providers had a hard time getting in -- into the ecosystem.

So years ago when we first started this, there was only 8 percent of new providers got into the system. Our last -- our last
solicitation, that went up to 59 percent, and
I'm pleased to say at this time it's 78 percent
for the ones that are in front of you -- new
providers entering our system. In addition --
in addition to the overall increase in new
agencies, we also have 88 percent of applicants
that were previously funded through subcontract
agreements, are now successfully directly
applying by themselves for funding.

And finally, I think we've been very proud
over the years as the Board came out to create
the small CBO capacity building initiative. And
those CBO members who applied for YP had 100
percent success rate. So, all that effort
building capacity in the small business supply
have -- have paid off.

And I just want to show the geographic
footprint, so with the geographic footprint --
as a result of RP, it called out several census
-- census-designated places for expansion. And
these places -- these are places we want a
larger footprint to support more children,
especially with youth living in poverty.

Our goal through the competitive
solicitations is to ensure that services
continue to be available throughout Miami-Dade, from Florida City to the Broward Line, and from east to west. This line shows our current YD after slow summer footprint. The yellow dots with the purple background highlights are those designated for expansion.

These maps and listings are part of YD RFP for applicants to consider. And the recommendation before you represents the overall increase of total programming for after school summer sites. We went from 484 to 682 sites, including a 41 percent expansion in the identified target areas. The map shows the expansion areas in yellow, includes after school summer and full-time time frames, and the size of the dots relate to the number of slots recommended.

I just -- I just want to -- the last slide is just a thank you to the Board for -- for two years of work, to the staff who have killed themselves. You know, we have 80 folks here, and you talk about everybody working together. Everybody -- this entire organization, the last two years have been leading up to this -- to this moment.
Upon approval of the recommendations -- the day after we will have -- if it's approved, we will have a press conference and announce to the community our next five-year investment. And then we will also start -- we will have an onboarding session May 12 to get all our providers up to speed. We have existing providers and all the new providers, to be able to train them, get them up to speed, make sure when the -- their contract starts that they're up and running.

Given that -- again, given the number of new agencies being recommended, we will be offering additional supports, as needed, to bring organizations up to speed and ensure a smooth rollout of high-quality programs.

In -- just in closing, this is a large investment -- this is the largest investment in trust history in youth development. It's been years in the making, and we're excited, if the Board approves, that this will be our next five-year investment to serve children and families throughout Miami-Dade. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. HOFFMAN: Just in reviewing the resolution last night -- thank you for the
background -- what I thought of, as I was
looking at it, was the amount of work that must
have gone into putting that together, so
congratulations.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

MR. ARSENAULT: Yeah. I -- I want to echo
my thanks to the staff, to everybody. This is --
what impressed me most, is you guys have been
talking over the last few years about the plan
for this, right? You've been planning for this
and executed on the plan, and it -- it's just
outstanding work. So, very -- commend everyone
on that and look forward to getting --

I -- I guess -- just one question, I guess,
or maybe just a comment, you know, with a lot of
new providers, I think one of the things that I
discussed with staff, the idea of several pass-
through grants through municipalities, things
like that. Just the idea of -- I think
something that would be good to bring forward to
the Board, this could be, like, just the due
diligence plan of execution and monitoring of
the providers, especially with a large amount of
new providers coming in, right? I mean, I think
you've done an amazing job in the trust assets,
allocating the trust assets to providers. And now, the next step is ensuring that they're following, right, the -- things like that. So, new providers, I just think that that would be something that would be good to refresh maybe the Board and the committee on in the future and make sure as we do that that they're -- they're abiding by what they're supposed to be doing -- that in so long.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

MR. HAJ: Mr. Vice Chair. May I -- may I speak?

MR. HOFFMAN: Oh, yes. I know since we're not in an official meeting, I'm allowed to speak remotely. I just wanted to say as -- as you know, hearing here, that this has been a long-term planning exercise. I think the -- the staff has really done an excellent job in preparing not just the -- the changes in -- in funding but the whole system, so that the providers feel that they have the information they need.

I've talked to Jim (phonetic) extensively over the last few weeks and months about those that have come in and -- and have appealed and --
- and the like. And it really has helped a lot to have a much refined system. Not that the trust was not doing a good job previously, but I think the planning that's gone into this has really made it an effective process, and I look forward to seeing it repeated in the future as well for other RFPs that we're going to let out.

MR. ARSENAULT: Any other comments?

MR. HAJ: April 12 to the YMCA at South Florida Shenandoah Elementary from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., Champions for Children, the RSVPs are starting to come in. They're starting to fill up.

We're good to go for April 27. The videos are being wrapped up also, so we're excited for our big day on the 27th.

And Young Talent, Big Dreams, which is in the Miracle -- Miracle Theatre, is happening May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Just one more note, the summer programming -- so we've been working very closely with the school system, the county, JCS, just to let -- as parents start right now looking for summer programming for their kids. How do we work together to give them a one-stop shop that they
can go to to find all the programming they need?
So, our community engagement team, our communications team, and our programs team have been working with the county, school system, and JCS, in an -- in an extraordinary way. You know, it's nice to see the -- the larger offices all working together to really put one place -- to go -- to market to the parents.

So, it's almost wrapped up. Probably next week, you will see a huge marketing push, on TV, on the radio, directing the parents where to go, one site to find all their programming needs for -- in Miami-Dade County, so there's been a lot of work behind that. More -- and the mayor shop. I mean, it's been -- it's been exciting working together, and this is first year and then we're looking forward what happens in year -- year two and year three.

MR. REYES: We want to -- we want to commend -- Natalia on her -- on her leadership. She really pushed the envelope on this stuff. Making sure everybody was on -- on task, understanding the -- the -- the sheer volume, right? All of these different entities, with all these different summer camps and bringing it
all together. She did a fantastic job.

MR. HAJ: Okay. Thank you. And -- and you know, the work about putting this together sounds nice, but when you have -- working from spreadsheets, collecting from all different agencies --

MS. ZEA: Yes. Yes.

MR. HAJ: -- about all the programs -- the hundreds and hundreds of programs in this community, has been something else. So, we're going to hit the ground running. We're doing the best we can to get it out; we will get it out. By next year, we really want to get to real-time attendance sheets. And that's so when parents are looking, they know how many -- where the open seats are. So, there's a longer-term plan, but it is phenomenal that all -- all the partners are involved. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Are there are any other comments? Our next committee meeting is Thursday, May 4. I'm hearing none. Our meeting is adjourned.

MR. LOPEZ: Thank you.

MR. HOFFMAN: Good. Thank you, sir.

MR. TROWBRIDGE: Great job.
(Thereupon, the meeting concluded at 10:11 a.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.

Cecil Clark

CECIL CLARK, Transcriber

April 18, 2023