The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting was held on May 15, 2023, commencing at 4:00 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue (Coral Way), United Way, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Hoffman, Chair.

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

KENNETH HOFFMAN, Chair
PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Vice Chair
KAREN WELLER, Secretary
MATTHEW ARSENAULT
DR. DANIEL BAGNER
TA’MYAH BYARS
MORRIS COPELAND
MARY DONWORTH
REV. RICHARD DUNN II
BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

- GILDA FERRADAZ
- HON. NORMAN GERSTEIN
- LOURDES GIMENEZ
- VALROSE GRAHAM
- MINDY GRIMES-FESTGE
- MARISSA LEICHTER
- ANNIE NEASMAN
- MARIA NORTON
- DR. CLARA LORA OSPINA
- HON. ORLANDO PRESCOTT
- JAVIER REYES
- HON. ISAAC SALVER

STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

- AMANDA GORSKI
- AUNDRAY ADAMS
- BEVONE RITCHIE
- BLAKE BROWN
- CAROL BROGAN
- DANIELLE BARRERAS
- FELIX BECERRA
- GARNET ESTERS
- GISELLE ESPINALES
- GRETTEL SUAREZ
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES HAJ
JENNIFER MORENO
JUANA LEON
JULIETTE FABIEN
LEILAH COLLAZO
LINDSAY FRANCOIS
LISANNE GAGE
GARNET ESTERS
GISELLE ESPINALES
GRETTEL SUAREZ
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES HAJ
JENNIFER MORENO
JUANA LEON
JULIETTE FABIEN
LEILAH COLLAZO
LINDSAY FRANCOIS
LISANNE GAGE
LORI HANSON
NATALIA ZEA
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

PATRICIA LEAL
RACHEL SPECTOR
WILLIAM KIRTLAND
XIMENA NUÑEZ
YULIET ALFONSO
SUSAN MARIAN
TATIANA CANELAS
WENDY DUNCOMBE

GUEST APPEARANCES:

BRYTTANY STRINGER, CBC Alliance
AUDREY ARADANAS, Miami Homes For All
SHELLEY JACOBY, All In One Direct Marketing Solutions
GINNY EHRLICH, U.S. Soccer Foundation
ANNIE LOrd, Miami Homes For All
ALEXSA LETO, CBC Alliance for Miami-Dade/Monroe
FELIX JIMENEZ, Miami-Dade County Inspector General
JOSE ARROJO, Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust
MR. HOFFMAN: We have a quorum. First of all, we had a scheduled Executive Committee meeting to take place today just in case we didn't get a quorum because last week we're -- last month was a little bit touch and go. So, we'll cancel that Executive Committee meeting and hold the regular Board of Directors meeting.

I want to remind everybody to make sure and turn on your microphones when you speak, and to turn them off when you're not speaking. In addition, if you need to recuse yourself from a resolution, please make sure to state your name and agency, and the reason for recusal.

A couple of announcements. As most of you know, I think -- in fact, I think many of the people, many of our directors were there, The Champion for Children's luncheon took place on April 27. There were nearly 1,200 people in attendance, which is a record for the event.

We inaugurated the Excellence in Youth Leadership Award, which was given to W.P. (phonetic), a remarkable 11th grade student who
founded the Page by Page Book Drive when she was in second grade, and has helped distribute more than half a million books across the world.

She was also, for those of you there -- would -- would -- I think would agree, was a very inspirational speaker for a -- for a young person, and even for an older person as well.

The event’s signature award, the David Lawrence Junior Champion for Children, went to trust longtime friend and partner, Evelio Torres, President and CEO of the Earl -- Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

The other honorees were Regina Davis (phonetic), a longtime community and parental involvement activist, who received the Excellence in Advocacy Award. Abigail Peskin from University of Miami Parent-Child Interactive Therapy Services, who received the Excellence in Direct Service award. And three programs were honored with Program of the Year Awards, Breakthrough Miami, Summer Institute Early Learning Coalitions, Thrive By Five Childcare Scholarship Initiative, and Jesse Trice Community Health System School Health Services. So, congratulations to all the
winners. I don't know if anybody wants to make
any comment on that event, but it was, again, a
terrific event for the Children's Trust.
Anybody? Okay.

MS. NEASMAN: Mr. Chair --

MR. HOFFMAN: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. NEASMAN: I would just like to say
thank you to the board members. Thank you to
the staff for the award for the Jesse Trice
Community Health System. Our employees and the
organization was very excited about that. We
love our children, and certainly it was
wonderful to have you recognize that. So, on
behalf of Jesse Trice, thanks to all of you.

MR. HOFFMAN: And -- and Annie knows this,
because I already told it to here as your -- you
all deserved it so -- we also -- the -- the
Children's Trust received a congressional
recognition read by one of the staff members of
Representative Carlos Sinenez (phonetic), and
that was very nice for -- for all of us.

Saturday, with Young Talent Big Dreams, the
13th year of the Young Talent Big Dreams
competition finals. This is the biggest
countywide free talent competition for kids
between eight and seventeen. Auditions had been held in the prior weeks at four different locations throughout the county, and the semifinals and finals were held at the Actors Playhouse in Coral Gables.

There were six individual categories and three group categories, including individual and group vocals and dance, musical instruments, original spoken word, and original vocal and instrumental competition -- composition, sorry. The overall grand prize champions were also the group vocal winners.

And it was a couple of young ladies. N.B. (phonetic), a 14 year old who attends the Miami Art Studio 6-12 at Zelda Glazer, and E.V. (phonetic), a 13-year-old who attends International Study Charter School. I was in attendance. It was -- it was really a -- quite a -- quite an interesting event, and it's amazing the talent that are -- that's around our county.

Lourdes Diaz, one of our board members in the event, several of our staff members were there as well. And I just want to thank all of you for, you know, approving of sponsorship of
April 18, the Children's Trust held a press conference. This was right after our -- our last board meeting to announce the youth development contract awards by the board the day before. The press conference was held at the Belafonte Tacolcy Center, which some of you may remember from a recent field -- field trip where we visited the FabLab and toward the Center. The Center is located in the heart of Liberty City, one of the highest needs areas in our county. And it hosts so many important programs and services for the community, including several of them funded by the Trust. And it is truly a model for providing neighborhood support for children and families. It was a great press conference, wel -- well attended. The kids did some sports activities, and it was ve -- very nice for the Trust and for the Center to get the attention.

The Trust kiff -- kicked off the orientation and onboarding for the new youth development providers on May 3rd at the University of Miami, Gusman Hall. That was the
first post-pandemic, in-person meeting of
providers where I understand a total of 302
attendees actually checked in using a special QR
code. So, that was -- was well attended. Many
familiar faces, including 22 new providers that
have been funded for this cycle. And I think
that's it for the announcements. That's it.

Are there any public comments? No?

MS. LEON: No.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: No public comments,
Mr. Chair.

MR. HOFFMAN: Then we'll move on to the
approval of the minutes of the April 17th
meeting.

MS. WELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
afternoon, everyone. The board of directors met
on April 17th of 2023. The minute mee --
meeting's minutes are in your packet. You can
find them on Page 5. May I have a motion,
please, for acceptance? Thank you. May I have
a second? Any discussion on the minutes?
Hearing none. All those in favor, oppose. The
motion carries. I turn it back over to you, Mr.
Chair.

MR. HOFFMAN: I'm sorry. Did Felix Jimenez
arrive?

MR. HOFFMAN: No, not yet. Okay. So, we'll skip over the Inspector General training for the time being and turn it over to Jose Arrojo (phonetic) for the code of ethics training that we do annually for the board.

MR. ARROJO: Good evening. Hi, I'm Jose Arrojo, and I'm the Director over at the Ethics Commission, and this is my annual visit with your board, which I'm sure is highly anticipated. And I'm looking around the room, and I know that I've given the same presentation to at least 95 percent of you in one form and -- or another, including elected officials who get to hear from me also when they are re-elected under the county ethics ordinance.

So, I'll -- recognizing that most of you have already been through the training, I'll try not to -- I'll try not to linger too long. There are a couple of new things that I want to emphasize, but -- but I'll go through it so that I can satisfy my obligations under the ordinance, and you can all say that you've received your annual training as board members.

So, let's see if I can do this. Okay. So,
very quickly. So, where's my friend from the County Attorney's office? There she is over there. Okay. So, very quickly, you -- you have counsel provided to you by the -- by the county attorney's office, and -- and that's fine.

The only thing that I always tell folks is if you have a question regarding the application of the Ethics Code to any transaction that you're going to be involved in as a board -- as a director, I'm happy to speak to you. You can call me individually, you can call me through staff. I speak to some of your staff members on a regular basis. I speak to Mr. Ali quite a bit.

You can contact me through the County Attorney's office, it makes absolutely no difference. Or you can consult with the County Attorney's office, and then they can talk to me. It doesn't make a difference to me, whatever your preferences. I speak to my colleagues at the County Attorney's office probably, you know, once a day, at least one of them. So, it makes no difference. But just to, you know, reach out. There's no obligation that you reach out, but I encourage you to reach out whenever --
whenever you can, all right? All right.

So, let's see. All right. And let's see.

Am I doing this correctly? I'm having some technical issues. To the rescue. Oh, okay. All right. Next slide. I'm sorry. I'm going to keep saying that throughout. All right. So, -- okay.

So, the -- the reason that I'm here, by the way, is because the board of county commissioners decided in their wisdom, in the -- enabling ordinance for this board, to -- to make you subject to the code of county -- to the County Ethics Code. And a couple of years ago, there was some question as to whether all portions or some portions of the County Ethics Code applied.

And together with the county attorney's office, we collectively decided and opined that the entire Ethics Code applies to the directors and also to staff here at the -- at the -- at the -- at the Children's Trust. Thank you.

Okay. And the -- and the -- okay. And that's a formal opinion that we provided. If you're curious, I'll send it to you.
We treat the board members in -- in some different -- in some different manners. In some instances, we treat the members of this board as members of an autonomous -- as members of an autonomous county board that -- in some other instances, we treat you as if you were members of the board of county commissioners.

When you vote, you have your own enhanced ethics provisions here at the Children's Trust. So, it really, kind of, depends. Usually, when you're voting, we'll treat you as if you were a member of the Board of Directors, which means that we apply a more rigid voting conflict provision to you.

In some other instances, we'll treat you as you're a member of an autonomous personnel board. And the staff we treat as -- as we'd treat comparable staff members in County Government. All right.

So, very quickly on gifts. All right. So, just a general rule for gifts. So, many of you are with other public agencies, or you're elected officials, or you're current or former judges. That was ni -- it was good to see Judge Gerstein this morning, who I haven't seen since
I was skinny and I had no gray hair. And so -- and so just -- just the basic rule. At any time -- at any time that you're -- that you are on one side of a gift transaction, just the basic rule.

And the reason that you're on one side of that gift transaction is because of your public position. It should give you an opportunity to just pause and ask, right? So, if someone is -- if you're asking for a gift, or someone is giving you a gift, or offering you a gift, and the reason that they're doing it is not because you're a nice guy, it's your neighbor, it's your brother-in-law or something like that.

The reason that they're -- that you're -- that they're offering you the gift or you're accepting the gift, is because you're a member of this board, you should pause. And that's really the same rule for all of us that work in -- in government, right?

You should just pause and seek guidance, either from the County Attorney's office or from -- or from me, or there's some combination of us, as to whether that's an appropriate gift transaction, or -- or perhaps not, because
there's a causal relationship between your membership on this board and the gift transaction.

So, if you don't remember anything else about gifts, that's the basic rule, and everything else falls from that, okay? All right. So, three -- three basic rules, don't ask for a gift if there's a nexus to your public position. Don't accept it if there's a nexus to your public position. And then under the State statute, there are some parties that you can never accept a gift from, right? And those are -- and those are on the -- in one of our next slides. Thank you. All right.

Gift is anything that has an economic value. It can be something tangible that you can hold in your hand, obviously. It can be something intangible, right? It can take the form of, you know, services, loans, you know, you know, reduced -- reduced market value, you know, stays at a hotel. Anyth -- anything -- it could be anything that you can affix a market value to can constitute a gift, right? And then the major -- major exceptions are those below. Thank you.
All right, I -- I usually put this in there. So, obviously -- obviously, quid-pro-quo transactions are -- are at the center of the gift prohibitions, right? So, you certainly -- everyone in this room knows that you can't solicit or accept a gift if it's being offered or received for you to do something or not do something in your official capacity. And all of us that are in pub -- in -- in -- in public sector or in government recognize that. Next slide. Yeah.

I put this in there because this is South Florida. And for some reason, tipping is big here in South Florida. And if you go through any government office, those of you that work in pu -- in -- in government, you'll notice that during the holidays, the front counters at a lot of county departments and city departments are overflowing with gifts.

I'd like to have some scotch every now and again. And so if people use, you know, or sometimes, you know, try to, you know, try to gift me, and it doesn't mean that they're trying to get me to do anything that I wouldn't otherwise do. It doesn't mean that they're
trying to get you to do something that you
otherwise wouldn't do. But nefarious intent is
-- is irrelevant, right? The prohibition is
upon that nexus between the tr -- the gift
transaction and your official position. So,
even if it's a tip, right, if it's a -- if -- it
-- it doesn't matter that there's no nefarious
intent in the gift being offered. If there's
that connection to your public role, then you
should pause and ask for guidance before you
accept it. Thank you.

All right. These are the prohibited
parties, right? So, this is under the State --
under the State Statute, under 112.31.48, right?
And -- right, and you can't accept -- you can't
accept gifts from lobbyists or persons that are
doing business with your agency, right? So, if
you're a reporting individual for financial --
for financial disclosures, and all of you are
reporting individuals, there are certain parties
that you can't accept gifts from under any
circumstances. And those are delineated there.
And it's going to be, you know, a vendor that's
doing business with the Children's Trust or a
lobbyist who lobbies on behalf of a principal
doing business with the Trust. Thank you.

All right. These are the big exceptions, right? You can lobby to your heart's extent if you are doing so on behalf of this agency for charitable purposes. I see my colleague Phelix Gimenez just came in and noticed that I took his spot.

So, -- so -- right. So -- so -- obviously the -- the -- the big exception is that you can solicit for charitable purposes. Which is, you can go out and ask the universe to, you know, to -- so -- to give you stuff, to give you money, to make donations as long as it is for a charitable purpose. And that's the big exception.

Next one. Okay. Last year, the Board of County Commissioners amended the -- the gift ordinance, and so -- such that if the -- if the solicitations are -- are made on behalf of this entity, right, it's permissible. But there has to be some type of -- for -- for the county, it has to be authorized by commissioners, the County Mayor, or the County Mayor's chiefs or deputies.

And the reason that that's the case is
because we found out primarily through the
airport, right, that there were some rank-and-
file county employees that were out there
soliciting stuff for them to use in their -- in
their official capacity for the discharge of
their -- of their jobs. And nobody really knew
that they were doing that. And the suggestion
was made that they were leaning on county
vendors to get stuff. And we thought that that
was inappropriate, and the Board of County
Commissioners thought that that was
inappropriate, also, and so it was amended.

So, if you're going to replicate the --
this
-- this limitation here in, you know, in your --
in your agency, if you're going to have rank-
and-file staff members that are going to be
engaged out there, you know, soliciting gifts or
-- or items for use by the Children's Trust, I
would just suggest that there would be some type
of, you know, some type of resolution or
directive that's of record. So, the staff can
point and say, no, this is a resolution of the
board. I'm authorized to do that, or I got
direction from the executive director, or from
the chief operating officer. This is a policy
decision, and that's why I'm out there as a
rank-and-file employee soliciting, you know,
items for use -- for use here by the Children's
Trust.

This is not charitable contributions, but
just stuff for -- for them to do their jobs, all
right? I'm a recovering prosecutor, so there's
the Bribery and Unlawful Compensation Statute.

So, just remember they're -- if they are
gifts that you are receiving, right? You're a
reporting entity, you're reporting individuals,
so it's not a quid pro quo transaction, it's not
being offered as a result of your membership on
this board, but it's just a gift and you have to
report it, just remember the gift -- the -- the
plus one, if it's to an event, the gift
disclosure is to you. Right. So, you disclose
the plus one. Thank you. All right. Next
slide. Okay.

Lobbying, there's a lobbying ordinance in
Miami-Dade County, right? And since you're
covered by the -- by the county code, that
applies to you. And so essentially what that
means as members of the board is that you should not allow yourself to be lobbied by someone that's not otherwise registered as a lobbyist, right?

And -- and so that means that the general public should be able to look on a publicly accessible database and see, okay, Jose Arrojo is lobbying, you know, the Children's Trust on behalf of, you know, the carpet salesperson, or wants to sell carpet to the Children's Trust. Just so that the public knows who it is that is lobbying you to spend, you know, public dollars on some -- on some item, right? So there's a requirement. The requirement on you is to make sure that you're not being lobbied by someone that is unregistered. Okay. And that's a provision in your own -- in your own policy that mimics the -- the county policy. Okay. And again, you're not a lobbyist, why should you care? And the reason that you should care is because you're not allowed to -- you should not allow yourself to be lobbied by someone that's not registered. Thank you.

For those of you that are members of the board, we suggest -- so the same suggestion that
we make to elected officials, that you see Commissioner Salver or Mayor Salver. I'm not sure what -- where he is today, but -- right -- so what we always suggest is to let your staff discharge that obligation for you, right? So, before someone gets FaceTime with you, you know that they're going to lobby you on a procurement matter, on -- on a policy matter, on a legislative matter, before they get that FaceTime with you, have your staff ask them, you know, who are -- you know, why do you want to meet with the -- with the chairperson? What are you meeting on? You know, are you, you know, and -- and who do you represent if you do -- if you're representing a third party and what the item is, and discharge that obligation.

So, that way by the time that they get to you and they're advocating on -- on a policy or procurement matter, someone on your staff has already checked. And that's why if you visit elected officials throughout Dade County, a lot of times you'll see right at the countertop, there's a, you know, they need to sign in who they are, who they represent, what they're here on. And that way, you know, and staff can
always catch them and say, well, it doesn't
appear that you're -- it doesn't appear that
you're registered, please register before you
speak to the elected official. Next slide.

Right. There's a two-year rule that we
don't need to spend a lot of time on. But just
remember that once you leave this board or if
you leave employment, you can't come back and
lobby this board or lobby the Children's Trust
for two years. There's a two-year separation.
There's a greater limitation placed on elected
officials that is currently being litigated in a
-- in the Southern District here, on a First
Amendment grounds, but that does not apply to
you all.

There's a reverse rule also, if you hire
someone from the private sector to come and work
for you, that's great, but when you bring them
on board, you can't assign them to supervise or
monitor their former employer. So, if you hire
someone that worked for American Airlines,
that's great, but you can't assign them to -- to
supervise any transactions with American
Airlines for two years. Next slide.

Right. If you don't remember anything else
from what I say this afternoon, please remember that you can't use your position, this is what we all should have learned in kindergarten, right? Or at least when we started in -- in public service, you can't use your position to secure a special benefit for yourself or a third party.

Mr. Dunn, good -- good afternoon, sir.

All right. So, you can't do that. And that means a special benefit, right? So if you're a staff here, you can certainly negotiate terms and conditions of your employment, right? If you're on this board, you're going to decide on spe -- on benefits flowing to vendors and service providers all day long, but that's what you do in your official capacity. So, this is a special benefit. So, something that otherwise would not be allowed under ordinance rule or would be out of the ordinary. So, if it's something out of the ordinary, then -- then it may violate that provision. Next slide.

Some examples. All right. Financial conflicts of interest. If -- if you look at the financial conflict of interest provisions in the county ethics code, you will be able to see that
they are the product of a legislative process that goes back about, you know, 25 years or 30 years, and that has been repeatedly amended, and they are byzantine or psychedelic, or whichever adje -- adjective you want to use. There's just, there's -- there's -- I don't know, probably a dozen different provisions spread out throughout the ethics code that -- that speak to financial conflicts of interest.

All right. So, I think the easiest way to remember it, right, you, in your individual capacity, right, or you as someone that owns a piece of a business, if you find yourself on one side of a transaction, and the Children's Trust is on the other side of the transaction, or an immediate family member in their individual capacity, or a company that the immediate family member has a piece of is on the other side of a transaction from the -- from the Children's Trust, pause, raise your hand, speak to the county attorneys and reach out, right? And that -- that should be, kind of, a broad, broad statement.

If you find yourself in one of those
situations where you're on one side of the transaction, a family member is on one side of the transaction, or a business that you own a piece of or that a family member owns a piece of is on the other side of the transaction, just pause and ask for guidance. Okay. There's a series of prohibitions on transacting with a government entity. Next slide.

There's a -- there's a supermajority waiver provision in the ordinance also. Next slide.

All right. There's a conflicting -- I'm just going through the financial -- financial conflicts. There's a conflicting -- conflicting employment one. Careful with volunteer positions on nonprofits. This is really -- this is kind of a -- kind of the topic de jure in -- in county government right now. And that is where you have board members or senior government executives that also hold positions in nonprofits, and the nonprofit is receiving funds from their government. So, you're a county department director, and you're a member of a nonprofit, that nonprofit is a -- solicits donations, receives money from the county. So, what we've done in the ethics commission is we
treat those engagements as if it were a private engagement.

So, it may be a nonprofit, but if you're involved in managing the nonprofit, you're a senior government official, or you're a board member that has the discretion to allocate public funds, we're going to treat it as if it was -- as if it was a private entity that you're engaged in. So, if you're a mayor or chief, your, your name is Mr. Copeland, and you're also on the board of directors for --

MR. COPELAND: Building --

MR. ARROJO: There you go. Right. All right. And so we're -- we're going to treat Mr. Copeland's engagement with that nonprofit entity as if he were getting paid and he was employed with a private company because he has significant discretionary authority at the county, he has significant procurement authority at the county. And so, as a general rule, we're going to try to put in some, you know, some guardrails, so that we can separate him from his official county rule, what he does for the mayor and what he does with the county, and what he's
doing for that nonprofit on -- on the outside, right? So it -- it kind of makes sense. I hope so. Next slide. Next slide.

All right. This is your own conflict of interest policy, right? Which is more stringent than the county ordinance. You can go back to that for a second. Right. Your own policy is more stringent than the county ordinance, which is not unusual, I suppose, for an agency like this. The -- the Public Health Trust over at Jackson Health system also has a more restrictive conflict of interest policy than what is contained in the county ordinance. All right. Next slide. Next slide. One more.

Okay. I just wanted to touch on this one very quickly because in your role, you procure a lot of services. You contract with a lot of, you know, you contract with a lot of -- of vendors to provide services to your -- to your clients, right? And so there's a prohibition on -- on using your official position to recommend -- to recommend services by a lawyer or a law firm, an architect, an architectural firm, or any other professional agency, right? But the
exception to that is what you do in this room, right? What you do in this room as -- as a matter of the record, right?

You're going to perhaps hire outside counsel. You may hire an outside auditor. You may hire an outside law firm. You may hire all sorts of folks and entities to do professional work for this organization, as long as you do it here as part of your official duty, as a matter of record, it's okay, right? What you can't do is unofficially, you know, speak to the board chair, speak to the executive director and say, you know what, I was a judge for a long time, there's this lawyer out there, or, you know, I -- I know this, you know, my -- the accountant that does work for my private business is great. I think it would be really, really good if she did work for this agency.

So, that's the prohibition. The prohibition is doing something in that capacity, not doing something in this room, in your official capacity, which you're allowed to do obviously. Next slide. All right.

Financial disclosure. Right. So, all of you have a financial disclosure requirement,
right? If you need questions about -- about how to fill out the form, I'm sure that you have folks here that can do it. If not, y'all have someone in my office who's an absolute savant in -- in this area and can take you through the process. Depending on what your position is, you're going to be -- have to file one or two different forms.

Many of you already -- if you have government positions in other -- in other dep -- in other agencies where you're already required to file a report. You're a judge, or you -- you have procurement authority at the State of Florida or something like that, and you have to file a form, that will satisfy the county's requirement. All right. If you're required to file under different -- under a different form.

This is probably the -- the most violated provision in the county ethics code. And that is, if you have an employee, a family member, who doesn't own a business, but works with a company as an employee of a company that transacts with the county all the time, you're supposed to raise your hand and say, you know, my daughter works for FPNL and she deals with
the county all the time. Or my, you know, my
spouse is an architect, and -- and works for a
development company, and she deals with the City
of Miami all the time.

And this is really so that the general
public knows that you have an immediate family
member, and they're going to see them around
county hall, or they're going to see them around
city hall, or they're going to see them here in
the lobby of the Children's Trust dealing with
your procurement staff. And it's a public
disclosure requirement. You just file it so
that everyone knows about it. Okay.

Voting conflicts is about 95 percent of
what we do here at the Ethics Commission for
this board. Thanks to your staff, we -- I think
we have it down to kind of a well-oiled machine.
Someone on your staff, I don't know who that is.
I don't know if it's the county attorney's
office, but someone here looks at your agenda
before every executive board meeting, identifies
those board provisions where a member of this
board may vote on funding for an entity that --
that employs them. They send that over to my
shop. One of my staff attorneys looks
-- looks at it, and then we provide an ethics opinion right back to you.

Right. And that -- that works. It's -- in my opinion, it's pretty seamless, right? This is the voting conflict provision. We apply the same voting conflict provision to you all that we apply to members of the board of county commissioners, and that we apply to every other elected board, municipal board, or otherwise here in Miami-Dade County. Our -- our local standard is more strict than the state standard, right?

And in addition to that -- so this -- this is kind of what they look like, right? Just in case you're curious. Right. So, this would be a request for a -- for an ethics opinion on -- on a voting conflict from your agency, right? It'll have the names -- it'll have -- go back one more to the prior one.

So, it'll have the names of the -- of the -- of the board member. It'll have so, for example, let me say Richard Dunn works for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade Public Schools is not re -- is not receiving funding through this resolution, but it is a
funding contributor. So, we'll go through the analysis, right, with your staff, right? And your staff will identify all the various folks that might be, that might be connected one way or another to an item on your agenda. Next -- next slide.

And then we'll turn around and we'll provide you with a voting conflict opinion. All right. And because a lot of you work in government, right, so let's say that there's someone here that works with FIU, right, and there's funding that's going to flow to FIU, right, so we wouldn't necessarily find that there's a conflict if you're employed as, you know, a professor of psychology at FIU and money is funding to the university -- is flowing to the university, unless you happen to be in that individual department or shop within FIU that's going to benefit from the funding. In which case we might suggest that you have a conflict, then you would announce a conflict. But if it's going to the greater entity, we generally wouldn't do that.

We had two members of the Board of County Commissioners for many years that worked for
Miami-Dade Public Schools, and we did the same analysis when they were going to vote on a funding issue, something impacting Miami-Dade County Public Schools, we look at whether it's going to impact their own, their own entity as opposed to the school board overall.

You know what to do when you have a voting conflict. You have an assistant county attorney here, and you have staff that will tell you what to do. You raise your hand, you announce a conflict. I heard the announcement before -- before we started today, and so you know what to do. Next one.

Cone of silence, you have a procurement Cone of Silence that your staff knows all about. Next slide. And essentially, the Cone of Silence prevents you as a board from interacting with vendors, proposers, members of your selection committee while -- while that competitive bid process is going on. There is a -- an amendment to the county Cone of Silence, which is on the Board of County Commissioners agenda for tomorrow for first reading, that would amend the county Cone of Silence. If that comes through, I'll come back and visit with
you, or I'll send something to you all, so you know about it. That would allow members of the Board of County Commissioners to have communications with the mayor staff during the Cone of Silence.

If you want to know what my opinion is of that, or if you want to know what the inspector's opinion is of that, you can talk to us later, and -- and we'll share what our opinion is of that modification to the County Code. But anyway, so just as a -- as a general rule, just know that while your agency is engaged in the competitive procurement, you really should have no communications. Wait for your staff to come and bring the recommendation to this board in the public’s -- in a public forum, and then you can vote on it. Go through the next few slides. Thank you. Yeah. All right. Next -- next slide.

There's this thing in the -- in the county charter, it's called the Citizens' Bill of Rights. It's -- it's our county's own little, you know, basic provisions. It applies to all -- all county -- all county boards. And those
are the main provisions in it, right? Some of them mimic State statute. The only thing that's kind of a hot topic right now, maybe not for this board, but in some of the cities, it may be a hot topic, not -- not in North Bay Village, excuse me, in Bay Harbor Islands, it's not a hot topic because they have, they have an agenda item in their city that allows folks to comment on stuff that's not on the agenda, but that may be within their jurisdiction.

But again, it allows a public citizen, as you did in your public comment to come in and say, hi, I'm Jose Arrojo. You know, I live at 12345 Southwest 12th Street here in Miami, and I'd like to talk to you about something that is within your jurisdiction, whether it's on your agenda or not, right? And that's really the only, the only provision that's getting a lot of work right now because there's two jurisdictions in Miami-Dade County that do not afford that right, not -- not Bay Harbor Islands. Right. All right. Next one.

All right. Government in Sunshine. You have an assistant county attorney here, right? That -- and you have staff that publishes all of
your meeting agendas. You allow the public to come in, you promptly post minutes of your meetings. They do not have to be verbatim. And the general rule, of course, is two or more of you cannot discuss any business that may foreseeably come before this board outside of the Sunshine.

All right. The only comment that I would have on that, and I don't know how many of you are in public settings, right, so sometimes for elected officials, two or more of them may be in a -- in a public setting in front of a homeowners association or somewhere else, and someone may ask them questions about something that's going to -- something that's going to come before their board, and it turns into a liaison communication, where elected official number one is talking to a question that's posed by the group, and then elected official number two responds to them, and it turns into a liaison communications.

You want to try to avoid that, and the best way to avoid that is if two or more of you are going to be in a -- in a public forum where you think you may be discussing matters that are
going to come before this board, just Sunshine it. Just publish it as a Sunshine meeting and invite the public to be there, right? The only other liaison issue is with staff, right? And your staff, I'm sure, is well trained on that.

So, right, they wouldn't speak to Reverend Dunn. And then -- and then Reverend -- and then Reverend Dunn would say, well, you know, where's -- where's -- where's Cope -- Mr. Copeland on this? Right. And then you have your staff member talking about, you know, the discussion that they had with individual, you know, members about something that's coming before the board. So, and I'm sure that your staff is trained not to do that. Okay. Next one. Okay.

All right. You can keep coming going. All right. Go on. Go on. Okay. Go on. All right. This is the opportunity to be heard provision that we talked about earlier. They got a lot of -- a lot of action in the cities recently, but not here. Go on. If someone wants to come in and record you, all of you look very handsome when you're well dressed. And they can do that if they want to.
If you do have -- if you do have an inadvertent violation, the County Attorney's Office can lead you through the process. You just have to redo the entire process again. It shouldn't be perfunctory, right? So, theoretically, you need to have, you know, reconsider the item, you know, have the public discussion, so that if someone comes in, they're aware of what your thought processes were when they were previously not able to do it because there was a Sunshine violation. Just do the whole thing all over again, right? Including all the discussion.

Next slide. Next slide. All right. You're a public agency, right? So under the public records law, those -- many of you, if not all of you, obviously there are different rules for -- for members of the judicial branch in their judicial capacity. But for the rest of us that work in government, including this agency, right? Any -- any records that are related to any transaction of this agency are going to be public records.

The only -- the only thing that I would suggest to you is an issue is if you're having
substantive discussions about matters relating to this agency's business on your personal cell phones, you're texting back and forth. Those communications could be a public record, and so they need to be archived so that someone can ask for them.

Right. So, I would suggest to you that if you're doing that, that you don't do anything more than a transitory exchange. Yes, I'm running late. Yes, I got the agenda. Yes, I'll make sure to speak to the Assistant County Attorney. Nothing -- nothing very detailed, nothing very substantive because it constitutes a public record and if it's on your phone, the agency needs to archive it and you need to make it available upon -- upon request.

And -- and we do get a number of requests on a regular basis in our cities for text exchanges and e-mail exchanges on private devices between elected officials, between elected officials and members of their staff. And it is kind of a problem because a lot of times you're using private handheld devices. So, my best advice to you is don't do that, right? Don't have any substantive
communications on your handheld devices relating to this agency's business, right? Because if someone asked for it, they're going to get it.

And if you are going to have it, just remember, try to keep it -- try to keep it business only. Colorful language, colorful comments, you know, off-color jokes. Don't do that because someone's going to have to go through that and excise them out. And it puts people in an embarrassing situation. And we've had that happen a couple of times in our city, and it was very unpleasant for the elected officials that were involved.

Next slide. Okay. Next slide. All right. I think the drafts are discoverable. I don't know if the county attorneys, the Assistant County Attorney is saying yes also, right? So if -- if it's a draft, and you share it with someone that draft's a matter of the public record. So, you need to -- you need to maintain the draft also. Next slide.

This is my comment on private communications. All right. Next one. Okay. Hopefully, you have some type of protocol here. Exemptions to disclosure. There's a series of
exemptions that I'm happy to talk to you or the County Attorney's office can talk to you about.

Next slide.

All right. There you see some significant penalties. Next slide.

Just one comment. I don't know whether -- I don't know whether you get significant requests for public records here. And if you do, whether you have your staff compile the records and provide them, or whether you contract with a third-party agency.

So this has come up with some of our smaller municipalities where they contract with a third-party agency. You can contract with a third-party agency, but you can only charge a public records request for a reasonable fee. And generally speaking, that reasonable fee is going to be, you know, the amount of time that your lowest-paid employee that was engaged in that process makes per hour. So, if it's five hours and you had $12-an-hour clerk that did the work for you, then you can charge $60 plus -- plus a fee for copies right?

If you contract out with the third party, and the third party charges you $1,500, that's
great. The agency's on the hook from the $1,500, but you can't pass that amount off to the requester. You can only charge the requester what's reasonable. And what's reasonable is going to be if you did it in-house and you use some of your lower paid clerical staff to compile them.

If you need to have your attorney go through it to excise confidential or exempt information, you can charge the attorney's rate for that, right? But generally speaking, it's going to be whatever the lowest amount is if you did it in-house. And we've had that issue come up in a few of the municipalities and that's it.

Next slide. No more.

So, all of you have gotten the training before. Those of you that haven't, feel free to give me a call if you have any questions, and we are always available. And thank you very much. And we'll sit here and listen to my colleague, Mr. Jimenez now.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Jose. More than once since I've been involved in the Trust, I've heard our founding chair, Dave Lawrence, tell both public audiences and private audience, how
proud he is that the Trust has had a spotless record in its 20 years. And I think it's in part due to the trainings that we get, but it's also in part due to the fact that I think everybody does pay attention to their responsibilities. So, thank you. Thank you, Jose.

Next up, we have the Inspector General Phelix Gimenez, who's going to give us training on Inspector General responsibilities and how it interacts with the Trust. Thank you.

MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My apologies for being late. I just came from the hospital with the birth of my eighth grandchild. So, thank you. I know some of you are saying no big deal. You've got me beat. I did tell my kids, you know, eight is enough. And they said, no, Abuelo, eight is not enough. There's probably more on the way. So God bless them. I love children and I love the Children's Trust.

I want to tell you a little bit about the Office of the Inspector General. I don't know if Jose mentioned, but we recently both celebrated our 25th anniversary. We were both
created under the Commission on Ethics and then we separated and understood that we have different functions. COE continued on their path and then the Office of the Inspector General on its path. Next slide.

So, our first Inspector General was Chris Zella, followed by someone that you all well know, Mary Kegel, and I am the third Inspector General. We pride ourselves at being an independent agency of the County and we'll talk about what we call a holistic approach to the way we investigate our cases and conduct our business. Next slide.

So, we talk about independence and what's the importance about being an independent agency. Everything from the way that the Inspector General is selected, it's an ad hoc committee of prominent members of our community that come together to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the board.

We are empowered to investigate anyone, any county employee, any elected official within Dade County Government. Different than the Commission on Ethics, we have no jurisdiction in municipalities unless there's a nexus to the
county. They're receiving funds from the county. That does give us a foothold. But for the most part, we only have jurisdiction within Miami-Dade County.

Again, part of our independence is our funding. A quarter of 1 percent of most contracting goes towards our budget. So, I could shout all I want, I'm independent, I'm independent, but if you control my purse strings, you control me. So, this is another way that provides our independence.

And then finally, in the general election of 2020, we were voted overwhelmingly into the county charter. So, now the office cannot be eliminated. Only through a voter referendum could it be eliminated. Next slide.

And again, this is based on our legislative authority. It gives us the sufficient power and independence to conduct our investigations without external or internal influence. Next slide.

We -- People ask, so who do you report to? I don't report to the mayor, I don't report to the board. I report to the public. So, people say, well, who inspects the Inspector General?
So I say it's the Association of Inspector General and the Law Enforcement Commission on Accreditation. So, they come in, we are peer reviewed every three years. We also have the associ -- law enforcement Accreditation Agency come in every three years and they do a top-to-bottom review to make sure that we are meeting or exceeding the standards that are expected of Offices of Inspectors General. Next slide.

Currently, this is our makeup of our office. The largest part of our office is the investigations unit, but we have audit contract oversight and legal unit. Next slide.

We have satellite offices. We have a full-time office of investigators assigned to the airport, the economic engine of the county, and then we can also at water and sewer. We have dedicated staff there. They're undergoing a $15 billion capital improvement project. So, that's a lot of money, and we have a lot of cases that stem from there as well, both audits and investigations. And we can move that around to different offices or different departments within the county. We can set up shop and do whatever we need to do. Next slide.
We are a complaint-driven agency and this tells you how we receive our complaints. The majority of them are through our website. Next slide.

And we are also contracted to provide Inspector General services to Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Again, the majority of the complaints we received at the public schools is through our website. It's good to see Dr. Mindingall present here, who we report too often in our business at the school board. What we call a holistic approach is trying to get -- we don't work in silos. So investigators work with auditors, work with attorneys, work with contract oversight. We all try to work together whenever we can to move our cases forward. Next slide.

And as you can see from our budget, we are, I think, 1/1000th of a percent of the overall Dade County budget. Yet we report a lot of our recoveries, a lot of money put to better use, and we, generally, each year pay for ourselves in the -- in the work that we do. Next slide.

And similar to the public schools as well,
as you can see, the percentage of employees in
the public school system compared to our staff
at the schools is very similar to the county.
There's almost 30,000 county employees. We only
have 40 at the main office of the County Office
of Inspector General.

And people ask, how do you do your work?
Well, we depend on our employees to help us to
be our eyes and ears. And again, we are very
complaint driven. So, they come forward with
information. And I'll talk about that in a
minute as it pertains to the Children's Trust.

So we get referrals from the Children's
Trust, and oftentimes we will look at those,
we'll do a preliminary inquiry, we'll do an
investigation, and work with the Trust.
Oftentimes, it's what I call an honest mistake.
It's something that -- that they've done that is
just not right. Maybe it's a lack of
experience, lack of resources, and that
information is provided to the Children's Trust.

They work with that provider. They work
with that agency trying to get them back in
place so that they can be providing the services
that they were contracted to provide. And
that's always a great success, and it's a positive thing.

Other times there is criminal conduct. We are a criminal justice agency. We're not a law enforcement agency. So, criminal cases, we work jointly with law enforcement agencies, the State Attorney's Office, the US Attorney's Office, the police department, different law enforcement agencies. And we work with those cases.

Oftentimes, those criminal cases do result in prosecutions. Most recently, there was one where the complaint came to the Trust. The Trust contacted us. Unfortunately, this provider, for years, had been falsifying records that would not have been found if we had not conducted a very lengthy multi-year investigation requiring subpoenas, analysis of bank records, and this person just falsified a bunch of records that were provided.

They did a great job of doing it because nobody caught it. It was almost impossible to catch unless we were able to go in there and reconcile all those records. And eventually that person was prosecuted. That agency was debarred from doing business, and they were made
to pay restitution as well. Not only cost of the investigation, but also restitution to the Trust.

So that's what we're there for. We're there to help in any way we can, via through our audit, through our investigations, whatever we can do to make the agency better. We're not a "got you" agency. We want to work jointly with them to make them better. That's both County Departments as well as the Trust. Next slide.

And this is the best way to contact us. By all means, I'm available at any time like Jose. Feel free to call me if you have any questions, or if we may be of any service. Thank you very much.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. Okay. With that, we'll turn it over to Matt Arsenault to fill in for Mark Trowbridge to give the Finance and Operations Committee report. Matt.

MR. ARSENAULT: Thank you. The Finance Operations Committee met on May 4th, and we're bringing forward one resolution, Resolution 2023-41, which is authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Center for Social Change, Inc., for match funding for the
Community Based Care Alliance of Miami-Dade County, and the total amount not to exceed $64,000 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Is there a motion to consider this resolution?

MR. BAGNER: So moved, Daniel.

MR. ARSENAULT: Second?

MR. DUNN: Second.

MR. ARSENAULT: Any recusals?

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal, Ferradaz, with the Department of Children and Families. I serve on the CBC Alliance Board.

MR. ARSENAULT: Okay. With that, we'll take a vote. All in favor of the resolution, say aye. All opposed? Thank you. No other matters from the committee.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Matt. And with that, I'll turn it over to Pamela Hollingsworth, the Committee Chair for the Program Services and Childhood Health Committee goodwill report.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair, the Program Services and Childhood Health Committee met on Thursday, May 4th to consider the resolutions we are bringing before you today. We move to resolutions. I'm going to
punt to Jim for a special presentation.

MS. ZEA: Thank you, Jim, and I will be brief since this is the third presentation. We'll move quickly. Go ahead to the next slide, Ana.

So, you know, this quote is just really to make the point that together we can do a whole lot more. The Trust is really a convener and a collaborator. We work with various funders and other partners who really come together. And they utilize us also as a sounding board for projects in the community, for investments, to learn from our programs and processes, and to actively explore ways to collectively make a positive impact. That matters much to us. Next slide.

So, why does the Trust engage in funder collaboration? A few different reasons. Together with fellow funders and partners, we're able to bring forward impactful initiatives that couldn't be accomplished by one entity alone. And funder collaboration also drives innovation projects that are out of the box that may not fit within traditional funding mechanisms. And also, funder collaborations allow us to work on
time-sensitive opportunities that benefit kids and families.

And through these efforts, the Trust has been able to expand our capacity to address large-scale community challenges and better contribute to positive change. And also from this slide, you can tell it makes economic sense. Together in the 21/22 fiscal year, $9.4 million of Trust-match funding and funder collaboration investment leveraged $50.7 million of other funds. So for every Trust dollar invested, the average return on investment is $5.39. Next slide.

Funder collaborations require 2:1 return on investment for the Trust. So, for every dollar we invest in, other funders must cover at least $2. And these are just -- some of the -- these are some of the nine different funder collaborations that the community engagement team currently manages.

One is set to Sunset in September, and a new one is before you in your packet today for consideration. And these contracts and collaborations run the gamut from tutoring services and hands-on technology access for kids
and teens to college savings accounts for kindergartners. This is ringing a bell because you've seen these resos coming before you, and also free Internet and digital literacy supports for families, which you'll see in your packet.

And as the board knows and has long supported, the Trust is a founding funder of the Summer Youth Internship Program, which started — we helped to start that program in 2015. And together, the partners in this collaborative have facilitated more than 16,000 paid high school summer internships since this program began. That's what happens when you work together.

Our own summer and school year intern, Amaya Borroto, shared her experience in the program through this op-ed that was published in the Miami Herald, told through her voice. And with a new recent million dollar contribution to this collaboration by Ken Griffin, the founder of Citadel, we're now on track for more than 3,100 students engaging in internships this summer.

It's also important to note charter school students will now be included in this program
for the first time. And we're also working on
an exciting project in partnership with the
collaborative; you see their logos there on the
bottom. This summer, the collaborative is
working directly with the county's juvenile
services department to create a unique and
direct pipeline for justice-involved youth to
receive additional supports to enter the
program. Next slide.

Sometimes long-standing partnerships
through funder collaborations can lead to
exciting expansions. You guys voted -- and we
really appreciate the board's support on these
items -- you voted to expand the Fab Lab to
South Dade. This was something that began as a
really successful project in Liberty City, and
we saw that it -- the model was working so well,
why not bring other funders to the table and
talk about an expansion in South Dade. And so
now, thanks to your support, the South Dade Fab
Lab will focus on agricultural technology and
will be -- and is slated to open in the fall.

Also, we connected with various funders who
had an interest in South Dade, and that gives us
an opportunity to look at what else we can do
together. Each of these projects enables more innovation and more future collaboration. Next slide.

Thanks to the board's support, the Trust has also partnered with the U.S. Soccer Foundation through a funder collaboration since 2017, facilitating the inclusion of Soccer for Success into various partners and provider programs, with support of additional funders, including Adidas.

When Miami was selected as a host site for the 2026 World Cup, the Trust was the U.S. Soccer Foundation's first local partner that they called, based on all of our previous collaboration with them, to collaborate on additional exciting projects leading up to the World Cup. The first of those projects is up for your consideration today in your packet, and it is an expansion of the long-standing collaboration that we've had.

Also, thanks to a generous donation from Ken Griffin of Citadel, again, there is a new expansion, and we received a lot of news coverage for this exciting project. So, I want to -- if you can play this little -- very short
MR. HAJ: One of the first mini-pitches will be installed right here where we're gathered today.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: And the Villas Del Lago public housing community in Miami Gardens has been chosen to receive the first mini-pitch, which, by the way, is a scaled-down soccer field with a harder surface.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE 4: My colleagues who play team sports are accustomed to collaborating, to performing under pressure, and to getting things done.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: It's all being kick-started by a $5,000,000 gift from Citadel founder, Ken Griffin, which was needed to launch the Miami-Dade County Soccer Initiative.

MR. GRIFFIN: So, what we are doing is putting these in at-need communities, so they have access -- not only access to the sites, but access to the programming as well.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 2: The Miami-Dade Children's Trust is still working with community
members to decide 49 other locations by 2026. It will also work to start the Just Ball League with partners and continue its Soccer for Success after-school program, which it estimates helps 86 percent of participants stay away from antisocial behavior and 83 percent have improved health outcomes.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 3: It's like a second home, if you ask me, walking on to the field. The adrenaline and just everything is great.

(Video concludes.)

MS. ZEA: And so, young people like that is exactly why we engage in these different innovative partnerships that -- that can make a difference for others. We would like to thank the board again for your guidance and for your support on these projects. Some of them are outside of the box, that's the point, and we appreciate the support on that. You've got a few that are in -- in your packet for consideration today. There will also be more coming your way in the fall. And the community engagement team is working on some additional new projects for your future consideration, even outside of that. So, I'm really privileged to
lead these efforts. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Natalia.

And moving on to resolutions.

Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process -- this is Resolution 2023-42. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute contracts with Be Strong International, Inc. --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- with Be Strong International, Inc., Florida International University (FIU), and the University of Miami (UM), to deliver brief parenting workshops and educational or public health events as part of the Children's Trust Parent Club, in a total amount not to exceed $1,500,000, for a one-time contract extension term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. GIMENEZ: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

MR. DUNN: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any recusals?
MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by FIU.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Other recusals?

Moving into discussion. The Parent Club was launched in September 2020 -- 2019, consisting of brief evidence-based parenting workshops. They're delivered in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole for diverse groups of primary caregivers across Miami-Dade County. The point is to enhance awareness and knowledge for parents with children birth to age 18. Last fiscal year, the Parent Club held a total of 2,052 workshop sessions, with a total of 9,910 attendees. 98 percent indicated that they gained skills they intend to put into practice.

Feedback, discussion from the board. Hearing none. All those in favor? Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

Punting to Karen Weller for 43.

MS. WELLER: Thank you.

Resolution 2023-43. Authorization to negotiate and execute renewal contracts with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Incorporated, and All In One Mail Shop,
Incorporated, doing business as All In One Direct Marketing Solutions, for the support and maintenance of a birth to five book club, in a total amount not to exceed $2,602,239, for a term of 12 months commencing October 1st of 2023 and ending September 30th, 2024, with one remaining 12 -- 12-month renewal subject to annual funding appropriations.

May I have a motion, please?

MR. PRESCOTT: --

MS. WELLER: Thank you.

MS. NEASMAN: Neasman, second.

MS. WELLER: Thank you. Any recusals?

MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by FIU, which is part of this, and I'm also contributing in kind to the book club.

MS. WELLER: Thank you, Dr. Bagner.

Thank you. Any other recusals?

Okay, then moving into discussion. The Children's Trust Book Club provides free monthly age-appropriate books and supporting materials for Miami-Dade County families for -- for children from birth to their fifth birthday. So far, the book club has reached its target goal of 40,000 active members and plans to retain
that number taking into account natural monthly attrition due to aging out throughout the following year.

Any other questions or further discussions? In that case, all those in favor? Opposed? The motion carries.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Resolution 2023-44. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade College for the Children's Trust Books for Free program, in a total amount not to exceed $450,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 20 -- September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. DONWORTH: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

MR. PRESCOTT: (No verbal response.)


Moving into discussion, the Books for Free program ensures that young children through age eight have access to books to take home and keep at no cost from bookshelves placed in public
spaces throughout Miami-Dade County. The
Children's Trust assessed the program's progress
and determined the provider is performing
satisfactorily in meeting or exceeding all
contractual benchmarks.

During the contract year '21/'22, the
program operated 77 bookshelf -- bookshelf sites
that received regular deliveries, collected
76,116 books, and distributed more than 106,000
books and provided more than the 50 percent in
kind match to the program, leveraging an
additional $362,486 in value through the
program.

Feedback, discussion from the board? Okay.
Yes?

MR. DUNN: --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Pastor.

Further comments from the board? Hearing
none. All those in favor? Are there any
opposed? The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-45. Authorization to renew
a funder collaboration contract with the Miami
Foundation as the fiscal agent for Miami
Connected, in a total amount not to exceed
$150,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing on
October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion, please?

MR. BAGNER: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And a second?

MS. GIMENEZ: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any recusals?

And let's move into discussion. You'll recall that Natalia mentioned this initiative in her presentation. Feedback, comments from the board?

MS. GIMENEZ: Sort of a comment/question.

I think this is a great initiative. This is basically getting, you know, Internet access to those who can't pay for it themselves. I have noticed in our work, in our research, we've encountered some families who had no idea about this. And when we told them about it -- it was a great opportunity for them. So, I'm just wondering, from the staff or others involved, how do we get the word out more that this is available to families? Because I think it's a great resource.

MS. WILLIAMS: Hello, Nikisha Williams, managing director of collective impact at the Miami Foundation. So, it's a great question.
We are working very hard to get the word out to as many people as possible. And so I will say, as you probably know, we are not only pushing our offering, but we're also pushing the federal offering. And so I would say it could be possible that perhaps sometimes folks are confusing the two. We are making sure that we are getting people free Internet, and so whichever option works best for them, we're helping to do that.

But then outside of that, as you all probably know, the Miami Foundation works with lots of nonprofits, and so we are working with our 1000-plus network of nonprofits to make sure that we are sharing this information, so that they can in turn share it with their clients, so -- we're also -- we've hired a PR firm, in addition to that, to help us leverage media opportunities. We are using social media. We actually just implemented a new strategy where we're working with media influencers to post about it. So, we are trying very hard to make sure that we are driving reach into the community, so everyone knows about this opportunity.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Nikisha.

Further questions? Yes,

Dr. Bendross-Mindingall?

MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Nice to meet you. Now, the question probably to all of us, we get this information out --

MS. WILLIAMS: So, that's a really good --
good question that we -- I don't know that we are
-- we've had a lot of discussion about that,
particularly when you -- so the way the program works, in order to access the Internet, usually it is grounded, you know, based on where you live.

And so while this program might not be appropriate for them, I think there are lots of other programs that could be, but I think it's something that is worth us exploring a little bit further, to figure out how we can make sure that they also have access to Internet.

MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Madam Chair?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes.

MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: I would --

probably the poorest in the state. I'm interested in knowing, each time I travel to the
office, it stays on my mind because I really do know that they are in need -- the greatest of need. So, since we have each other's contact information, I would be interested in talking more.

MS. WILLIAMS: I welcome that and would love to.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thanks to you both. All those in favor? Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-46. Authorization to execute a funder collaboration contract renewal with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the implementation of a -- of a new Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed $250,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing August 1, 2023, and ending July 31, 2024. And note, this is an increase of $120,000 -- $125,000.

May I have a motion, please?

MR. DUNN: (No verbal response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

MS. WELLER: (No verbal response.)
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any recusals?

And as we move into discussion, I'll remind you that this project is also mentioned in Natalia's presentation. Before we begin presenting resolutions, the floor is open for questions, comments from the board.

Pastor?

MR. DUNN: -- Furthermore, it's a big deal that we are able to get this in 2026 -- and it really serves our diverse communities and --

Did I say that right?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, you did. Thank you, Pastor.

Further feedback from the board?

Hearing none, all those in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-47. Authorization to negotiate and execute a funded collaboration contract with Miami Homes for All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through service linkage, advocacy, and engagement in an amount not to
exceed $234,000, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

Further, authorization to negotiate and execute an IT contract with Miami Homes For All and the Homeless Trust, in an amount not to exceed 90 -- $91,000, for a term of 16 months, commencing June 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, for a pilot program in which Miami Homes For All will consult on the research, design, procurement, and population of a housing inventory software database for the Homeless Trust. And, if necessary, authorization to negotiate and execute a related collaborate -- a related collaborative data-sharing agreement.

Further, delegation of authority to adjust funding between the initiatives.

May I have a motion, please? And a second?

Motion – Ms. Grimes-Festge, Second by Mr. Prescott

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any recusals?

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal, Ferradaz. I'm on the board of the Homeless Trust.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay, Gilda.

Other recusals? Okay.

And this is -- this is the new project that Natalia talked about in her presentation. So, to give you a little more information, this funded collaboration project builds upon the foundations of the HOMY Collective and adds a direct service component for homeless youth. And additionally, this item authorizes the establishment of a pilot initiative for MHFA to research and assist the Homeless Trust in developing and populating a live housing inventory database.

Specifically, this collaboration aims to improve outreach, identification, and assessment of the needs of homeless youth and families to ensure disconnected and vulnerable youth develop healthy, permanent relationships. To support the social, emotional, and physical well-being of youth and to expand homelessness prevention efforts, and improve collaboration across systems.

Feedback questions from the board?

Yes, Pastor.

MR. DUNN: --
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-huh.

MR. DUNN: -- place to lay my head --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Pastor.

MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Madam Chair?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes?

MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: I -- I just want to say how I agree 100 percent with you. As an educator, as someone who is in our schools often enough, we see so many families going through very difficult times. And, you know, you -- we always say that children are very resilient. However, they know exactly what's happening in their families.

And I think with everything happening with property insurance increases, I think we're going to be seeing more of this. So, I think this is very -- very timely to make sure that we, you know, find ways to do as much as we can to help the children and families in this community.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mindy.

Further feedback from the board?

MR. HAJ: --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim.

All those in favor?
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-48. Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and enter into a contract with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc., as a result of a change in agency and ownership from Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc., to ensure the continuous delivery of evidence-based parenting services.

May I have a motion, please?

MR. PRESCOTT: Certainly.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

MR. NEASMAN: Yes, ma'am.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any recusals? Hearing none, moving into discussion.

Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc., Miami Bridge, has notified the Trust of its pending merger with Lutheran Services Florida, Inc. Through this change, Miami Bridge is absorbed as part of Lutheran Services and will be a new entity with a new EIN.
This requested action will ensure there is no interruption to the parenting services provided to the families currently served by Miami Bridge. Services will continue to be implemented seamlessly as direct and management staff will remain the same after the merger.

The floor is open for discussion from the board.

Hearing none, all those in favor?

Yes?

MR. PRESCOTT: Just by way of trying to let you know how important it is, just today, I have a family that is in such need that I contacted the Miami Bridge --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-huh.

MR. PRESCOTT: -- on this very issue. And I will have the opportunity to speak to the clinician, but the child was not there, and the clinician says from what they've seen, they have the services that they can put in place.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-huh.

MR. PRESCOTT: There are not many locations in the State of Florida that have a Miami Bridge. And when the Miami Bridge was on the verge of shutting down, I almost had a meltdown
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-huh.

MR. PRESCOTT: -- because there are so many families that come before us and we need to have some place for them to go. Services that they're setting forth -- they're giving forth are meeting those -- if they are meeting those needs. So, I'll ask you to support this because I see it working every day.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-huh. Thank you, Judge Prescott.

All those in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

This resolution also carries.

Sending it back to you, Mr. Chair.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Pamela.

We'll move on to the next item, which is the approval of the reappointment of Matthew Arsenault as an at-large board member. Each of our at-large board members serves two-year terms with an opportunity to serve up to three
consecutive terms. Matt was first appointed in August 2019, and his second term expires in August 2023.

According to our by-laws, if an at-large board member's term is expiring and he or she is eligible for and interested in reappointment, the president and CEO will include on the board agenda the reappointment of the at-large member. Matt has expressed as -- his desire to continue to serve on the board, and he served us well on the board -- I -- I believe he served us well on the board and as a member of our Finance and Operations committee, and I strongly recommend that we reappoint him for a third and final term.

MR. SALVER: I'll move it -- Salver.

MR. HOFFMAN: So I'll entertain a motion.

MR. SALVER: You -- you -- you had-- you had me at hello.

MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Isaac.

MR. HOFFMAN: Second. Did we vote already?

MR. SALVER: Not yet.

MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. I don't think there's a recusal here, so all those in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. HOFFMAN: Any opposed? Okay. The motion carries.

The next item on the agenda -- I think it's actually the last item -- is a -- except for the CEO report -- is a refresh of our strategic framework. As you know from earlier in the year, we had our -- our board retreat, gave staff some direction. We said we would bring things back to the board and -- that we did in a couple of meetings so far. But I think that -- again, we're refreshing the framework and -- and we'll continue to, you know, bring this before the board over the course of the year as it relates to resolutions and -- and initiatives.

So, I'll turn it over to Jim to -- actually, is it Lori? But -- I will turn it over to Lori to give us a little update on where we are with our strategic framework.

MS. HANSON: Thanks, Ken, and thanks everybody for hanging in there through a presentation-heavy meeting today. We talked at the board retreat about what we currently have posted on our website that's labeled a strategic plan is really more of a strategic framework.
It has sort of guardrails and guiding principles. So, we want to rebrand it. We need to bring it up to date. It has our old logo on it. It's -- it's kind of, you know, it just needs a refresh to come to current state.

It -- probably not a lot of significant substantive revisions are needed, but we wanted to bring back to you the update. Ignore formatting at this point. Just look at content because we'll get the formatting experts to help us with design and layout once we now have the substance approved by you-all. The first page that you have in your packet just kind of shows our mission and vision, which we didn't think needed any significant revision.

In the old strategic plan, the -- there was a Values page that was a little bit more detailed and formatted in a different way. Some of you who've been through our board orientation sessions in recent years have seen it in this way. So, we think this is a nicer way to lay it out. It's a little more simple and straightforward, but also, maybe needs a little explanation.

So, in the second page -- if you can scroll
down -- we thought we could just give some key -- scroll back up just a little bit -- key terms and definitions so that in that graphic earlier, this just goes into explaining, you know, what we mean by, investing significantly in early childhood is critical, but also continuing across the developmental lifespan. You can see some of the other terms about continuous learning, community engagement, and so forth, that are described in this content here.

Our prior version was pretty narrative-heavy, hence -- and so I think we've tried to simplify here -- more sort of bolding some terms and being brief without losing the content that was there before.

So, go ahead to the next page. So, this is just our priority investment areas mostly being brought up to current lingo that we use. So, we didn't -- in the last version of this, we didn't have Thrive by Five created yet. So, we're putting -- you know, we use Thrive by Five now when we talk about our early childhood development investments. We didn't have the summer youth internship program called out in the prior version because it was so long ago
that it was done.

So -- so some of the terminology here that's listed with the initiatives under each investment area has just been brought to current terminology. Otherwise, it's really the same budgeting areas that we have had in our budget over the years.

Go ahead to the next page. And this last page just gives some -- some explanation about how we see the importance of tracking community results in a collective manner. Not that any one entity can move the needle for such a large community, but how we work together with others. As you heard in many of our funder collaborations and so many other ways that we work across the community to make the impact that we make in the -- the basic areas sort of in the two columns, Family and Community Supports, that lead to child and youth well-being indicators in the areas that you see there.

So, this is really just sort of simplifying our content, but would -- we would welcome your input, questions, edits, suggestions that -- anything that you think is missing or needs
further clarification. We would love to hear
from you on that, either direct to me or to your
-- your executive point of contact or Jim. And
then we would like to put this together in a
nice framework format that we can put more
current on the web for everybody to see.

I'll take any questions that you have.

Thank you.

MR. HOFFMAN: Terrific. Thank you.

And now I'll turn it over to our CEO, Jim
Haj, for his report.

MR. HAJ: --

MR. HOFFMAN: Great. Thank you, everybody,
for attending. And with that, we're adjourned.

(Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 5:27
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.

Cecil Clark

Cecil Clark, Transcriber

May 31, 2023