THE CHILDREN’S TRUST

PROGRAM SERVICES AND CHILDHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING

(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting was held on January 12, 2023, commencing at 3:30 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue, United Way, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Chair
KAREN WELLER, Vice Chair
MARY DONWORTH
GILDA FERRADAZ
LOURDES P. GIMENEZ
MARISSA LEICHTER
DR. CLARA LORA OSPINA
KENNETH HOFFMAN (ex-officio)
SHANIKA GRAVES
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

AMANDA GORSKI
CAROL BROGAN
DANIELLE BARRERAS
GINA ALONSO
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES R. HAJ
JENNIFER MORENO
JOANNA REVELO
JUANA LEON
LISANNE GAGE
LORI HANSON
NATALIA ZEA
PATRICIA LEAL
RACHEL SPECTOR
SUSAN MARIAN
TATIANA CANELAS
WENDY DUNCOMBE
XIMENA NUÑEZ
YULIET ALFONSO

GUEST APPEARANCES:

EMPERATRIZ GERMAN
CORINA FEBRES
PROCEEDINGS

(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 3:30 p.m.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Public comments?

MS. LEON: We do not have any public comments.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. So, let's start with the approval of the October 6th Programs Committee minutes. And before we -- we begin, committee members, I want to remind all of you to speak clearly. If you move something or sec -- first or second something so that we can -- and we will then repeat it for the record so that we can take -- make sure that we have all the information that we need when we go to transcribe.

So, committee members, by now, you will have had an opportunity to review the minutes from our last meeting. If you can believe it, it was October 6th in 2022.

May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Approved -- moved by Donworth. And a second?

MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that second, Lourdes Gimenez. All those in favor?

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

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Any opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The minutes are approved. We're going to move into several resolutions today, and I will tell you in advance that you will be very familiar with many of them. They have been visited in one form or another in terms of meetings, summits, and things of that nature over the last year.

Many of them are -- deal with a procurement waive -- waiver and also deal with Thrive by 5. It's primarily early childhood. So, we do have a packed agenda, but we're are going move through it quickly. And with that, I'm going to pass the mic to Karen Weller for the first resolution.

MS. WELLER: Good afternoon, everyone.

Resolution 2023-A, authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe,

Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human
Services Department, and the United Way Miami-Dade for local match funding for the federal Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant in a total amount not to exceed $2,270,000 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September 30th of 2024.

May I have a motion?

MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Thank you Ms. Gimenez.

And may I have a second?

MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Thank you. Marissa Leichter is the second. Any recusals?

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal, Ferradaz, on the ELC board.

MS. WELLER: Okay.

MS. DONWORTH: Recu --

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

MS. WELLER: Okay. Do I need to repeat --

MS. DONWORTH: Yep.

MS. WELLER: -- recusals or --

MS. DONWORTH: Wait. And recusal, Donworth. I work for United Way.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Did you all get the
recusals or you need to repeat them? We're good? Okay. All right.

So, moving into discussion. This authorization will award the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe, Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department, and the United Way of Miami-Dade -- Dade the match funds needed to provide for 2062 high-quality early learning slots.

The match funds are used to leverage federal funding for infant and toddler care into the grant, and agency funding amounts can be found on page 7 in your packet. Note that the service delivery continues to be satisfactory, and all slots are being utilized by all three agencies.

Is there any further discussion?

Questions?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE 1: Madam Chair, can I make a statement?

MR. HAJ: Just a reminder, $3.6 million the Trust is investing is bringing in $28 million in federal funds to Miami-Dade. Just want to highlight that. Thank you.

MS. WELLER: Thank you. Okay. All those
in favor?

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

MS. WELLS: Opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. WELLS: The motion carries.

Resolution 2023-B. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade and Monroe for local match funding for the State of Florida School Readiness Program Match grant in a total amount not to exceed $1,230,000 for a term of 12 months commencing October 1st of 2023 and ending September 30th of 2024.

May I have a motion, please.

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. WELLS: Ms. Donworth moves it.

Second?

MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

MS. WELLS: Ms. Gimenez, second. Any recusals?

MS. FERNANDEZ: Recusal, Ferradaz on the ELC board.

MS. WELLS: Okay. Ferradaz recused.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Hollingsworth, I worked
for the Early Learning Coalition.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Ms. Hollingsworth recused. That's it? Okay. Then moving into discussion. The School Readiness Program Match is a public/private partnership that helps employers meet the needs of working parents.

Through this program, federal and state funding is matched with contributions from the local governments, charitable foundations, and participating businesses on the dollar-for-dollar basis to provide childcare services for participating families.

The Children's Trust provides this local match funding according to the terms and conditions set forth above to assist the Early Learning Coalition in drawing down the maximum funding for the State School Readiness Program match childcare subsidy program, formerly known as a Child Care Executive Partnership.

Are there any questions or further discussion? All those in favor?

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

MS. WELLER: Opposed?

(No audible response.)
MS. WELLER: The motion carries.

Resolution 2023-C. Autho --

All right. I hope that doesn't mean I'm meant to start all over.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE 4: No.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Okay. Resolution 2023-C. Authorization to negotiate and execute contract renewals with six providers identified herein for early child community research demonstration projects within high-need communities in a total amount not to exceed $1,939,358 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st of 2023 and ending September 30th of 2024 with two remaining contract renewals.

May I have a motion, please.

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. WELLER: By Mary Donworth. May I have a second?

MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

MS. WELLER: And Marissa Leichter, second.

Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal, Hollingsworth, I work for the Early Learning Coalition. We are fighting for this project.

Any others? Okay. In that case moving into discuss --

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal. I'm on the board of the Early Learning Coalition.


The Early Childhood Community Research Demonstration Projects was early childhood development by implementing and evaluating programs with high-need populations and underserved communities in Miami-Dade County.

These projects require active partnerships between community-based early childhood organizations and qualified research partners. Participating projects are expected to build evidence that will contribute to the scaling and sustainability of successful practices outside of the Children's Trust Fund.

Are there any other discussions, items, or questions. Carrying on. All those in favor?

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

MS. WELLER: Opposed?

(No audible response.)
MS. WELLER: The motion carries.

Okay. Resolution 2023-D. Authorization to negotiate and execute a single source contract with Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership for expanded Reach Out and Read early literacy programming in a total amount not to exceed $700,000 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st of 2023 and ending on September 30th, 2024.

Also, requesting an amend -- res -- amending resolution number 2022-50 and the current contract with services from October 1st of 2022 to September 30th of 2023 and to add $200,000 for a new total amount not to exceed $555,664 and enter into a research and evaluation agreement as part of a collaborative research effort in a total amount not to exceed $50,000 for a term of 12 months, commencing retroactively on January 1st of 2023 and ending December 31st of 2023.

May I have a motion, please.

MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

MS. WELLER: And moved by Ms. Gimenez.

Second?

MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.
MS. WELLER: Okay. Second, Marissa Leichter. Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recused, Hollingsworth. I work for the Early Learning Coalition, and the agency CEO serves on the board of directors for the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership.

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal, Ferradaz. I'm on the board of the Early Learning Coalition.

MS. WELLER: So we have two recusals. Pamela Hol -- Hollingsworth and Gilda Ferradaz. All right. Anyone else? Okay. Moving into discussion. The Reach Out and Read is a national model in North American Academy of Pediatrics that champions positive effects of reading daily and engaging in other language-rich activities with your children. The 2022/'23 contract includes a $200,000 increase to expand the Reach Out and Read to include infants from birth versus six months.

Any other discussions?

MS. GIMENEZ: I'd like to make a comment. All of these resolutions are great. I am very much for this one because of early learning, and that's where my area of expertise is in. And I think children from even when they were in the
womb, the parents read to them.

There is already scientific studies that have proven that the child is learning from listening to the mother read. When they're older or when they were younger, whatever age from 0 to 5, just watching the mother or father or caretaker hold the book in their hands is a very good role model for them.

There was a study that was conducted, I can't remember where, where the parent did not read -- could not read, but would sit in front of the child and makeup the story. And that child did a lot better and began reading more books because of the fact that saw the father or the mother making believe they were reading. Of course they didn't know that.

So, I think this is a really good wrestle for us, you know, for children, especially in areas where the parents may not be able to access a lot of books and/or may not be able to even read it for them, but they can talk about the picture, ask questions about the pictures. So, I'm very glad that we're supporting this.

MS. WELLER: And we're also expanding it.

Thank you. Any other comments? Okay. All
those in favor?

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

MS. WELLER: Opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. WELLER: The motion carries.

Resolution 2023-E. Authorization to amend resolution number 2022-48 and the current contracts with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership Incorporated and All in One Mail Solution doing business as All in One Direct Marketing Solutions for services from October 1st of 2022 to September 30th, 2023 for the support and maintenance of the -- of a birth to five book club to add $285,000 for Haitian-Creole book purchases, accompanying guide development and translation, and related purchase and fulfillment costs.

We're also wanting to add $15,000 for outreach and community engagement activities for the Haitian-American families for a new total not to exceed $2,617,239. Further authorization to approve a budget amendment to increase the book club budget and allocate these funds in the appropriate budget --
Okay. May I have a motion?

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. WELLER: Thank you, Mary Donworth, for the motion. Second?

MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

MS. WELLER: Okay, Lourdes Gimenez for the second. Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal, Hollingsworth. I work for the Early Learning Coalition, and the agency CEO is on the board of the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Pamela Hollingsworth is a recusal. Anyone else?

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal for Ferradaz. I'm on the board of the Early Learning Coalition.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Thank you. Gilda Ferradaz is also recusing.

All right. As we move into discussion, the Children's Trust Book Club provides free monthly age-appropriate books and supporting materials to families in Miami-Dade County with Children from birth to their fifth birthday. The book club is implemented by Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership and All in One Mail Shop and community partners.
Anyone else want to provide any more information? Questions? Okay. Hearing none, all those in favor?

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

MS. WELLER: Opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. WELLER: The motion carries.

Resolution 2023-F, authorization for a procurement waiver from the formal competitive procurement process to award a total amount not to exceed 27,890,000 for the delivery of an integrated childcare quality improvement service -- services described below.

The total amount includes $14,900,000 to negotiate and execute in multiple contracts with providers identified herein and $12,990,000 for The Children's Trust to encumber in purchase orders for educator scholarship payments, salary supplement payments to early learning educators, and high-quality tiered payment differentials to providers for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st of 2023 and ending September 30th of 2024.

May I have a motion, please.
MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.


Can I have a second?

MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

MS. WELLER: And Marissa Leichter seconds.

Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recused, Hollingsworth.

I work for the Early Learning Coalition.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Recusal for Pamela Hollingsworth.

MS. FERRADAZ: Recusal, Ferradaz. I'm on the board of the Early Learning Coalition.

MS. WELLER: Okay.

MS. DONWORTH: Recu --

MS. WELLER: Gilda Ferradaz also recuses.

MS. DONWORTH: And recusal, Donworth. I work with the United Way.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Mary Donworth also recuses. Thank you. Okay. As we move into discussion, the Thrive by 5 integrated childcare quality improvement system strives to increase access to high-quality early learning for young children in low-income neighborhoods.

Using an equity lens, the QIS intervenes across systems for a healthy development for
children by help -- helping to build two
generational economic stability for families.

Does anyone else who want to add to the
discussion? No? Hearing none, all those in
favor?

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

MS. WELLER: Opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. WELLER: The motion carries. And then
I send it back to you, Madam Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ms. Weller.

Resolution 2023-G. Authorization to
negotiate and execute a contract with Redlands
Christian Migrant Association, RCMA, for local
match funding to draw down federal-state funds
to subsidize early childcare in an amount not to
exceed $102,000 for a term of 12 months,
commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September
30, 2024.

May I have motion, please.

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Moved by Donworth. Any
second?

MS. FERRADAZ: Second, Ferradaz.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Second by Ferradaz.

Are there any recusals? Hearing none, moving to discussion. This authorization will provide local match funding to assist RCMA in drawing down the maximum amount of the federal and state childcare development funds through Florida's Division of Early Learning.

These funds subsidize childcare for the, in quotes, working poor, that we would federally designate it -- we would federally designate it as people who spend 27 weeks more a year in the labor force either working or looking for work but whose incomes fall below poverty level.

The Trust has contributed local match funding to RCMA for the past 16 contract periods. The total estimated match needed by RCMA and Miami-Dade County is 220,000, and that match is made up by Miami-Dade County, the Children's Trust, and with the additional 8,000 being raised by RCMA.

Discussion, feedback from the committee.

Hearing none, all those in favor?

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

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-H, authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University, UM-NSU, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, CARD for Autism Spectrum Disorders, ASD, diagnostic evaluation services in a total amount not to exceed $264,000 for a term of 12 months -- for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have motion, please.

MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Moved by Gimenez. And a second?

MS. WELLER: Second, Weller.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Second is Weller. Are there any recusals? Hearing none, moving to discussion. UM-NSU CARD is one of seven state-funded university based outreach and support centers in Florida dedicated to optimizing the potential of people with autism spectrum disorder.

This funding will support comprehensive
psycho-educational diagnostic evaluation
services for children ages 2 to 5 years old,
that's before kindergarten entry, provided by
UM-NSU CARD for young children as identified by
Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Early
Steps. And this is done at reduced unit cost.

The evaluation services are listed on page
30 in your packet. UM-NSU CARD continues to
work collaboratively with the school district as
well as Early Steps and The Children's Trust to
develop the referral criteria and the processes
to ensure children in need of these kinds of
specialty evaluation services and without other
means of accessing them are identified and
referred for evaluation.

During the contract year 2021/2022, 121
children were referred, 90 evaluations were
completed, resulting in 77 children with autism
spectrum disorder diagnoses.

Feedback, additional questions, comments
from Committee? Hearing none. All those in
favor?

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

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
(No audible response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-I. Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract renewal with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, UM, in an amount not to exceed $1,500,000 for comprehensive early intervention services for children with mild developmental delays, who do not meet eligibility requirements for the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act, IDEA parts B or C for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion, please?

MS. GIMENEZ: So, moved, Gimenez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Moved by Gimenez. And a second?

MS. WELLER: Second, Weller.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Second is from Weller. Are there any recusals? Hearing none, let's move to discussion. Early discovery, as mentioned, is provided by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine and it offers short-term speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and/or behavioral develop
developmental interventions based on
identified needs in the areas of concern for
children who do not meet the eligibility
criteria for the federal Indi -- Individual --
Individuals with Disabilities Act.
  In the contract year '21/'22, 595 children
received an average of nine short-term
intervention sessions. The sessions and
assessments took place both in person and
virtually via Telehealth when appropriate and
requested by parent. Outcomes of these
improvements can be find on -- can be found on
page 33 in your packet.
  Feedback, questions, comments from the
committee. Hearing none. All those in favor.
  (Whereupon, the committee members all responded
with “aye.”)
  MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
  (No audible response.)
  MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Resolution carries.
  And our final resolution for today,
resolution 2023-J. Authorization to amend
resolution number 2022-24 and the current
contract with the United Way of Miami-Dade for
services from October 1, 2022 to September 30,
2023 to increase the contract amount by $100,000
for a new total contract amount of $1,100,000
for the purpose of supporting staff retention.

May I have a motion, please.

MS. LEICHTER: So moved --

MS. WELLER: So moved --

MS. LEICHTER: So moved, Leichter.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Leichter moves it.

Second?

MS. WELLER: Weller, second.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Weller seconds.

MS. DONWORTH: Recusal, Donworth. I work
for United Way.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Donworth recuses.

Thank you very much. And then moving to
discussion, you will recall that on January
18th, the board approved a resolution for the
implementation of teaching strategies for
affirmative assessment that paves the way for
differentiated and effective instruction and
evaluation of young children.

The TSG project represents one of the four
components of the quality improvement system,
which has been mentioned in several resolutions
this afternoon. The resolution before you now
seeks to support staff increases and retention
after three years of level of funding for this
project.

Comments, feedback from the committee.

Hearing none, all those in favor?

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

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

(No audible response.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: The final resolution
carries. And we will now cut to Jim for the CEO report.

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. This is just to remind the board members, our youth
development are -- is still out, still under the cone of silence. This is our largest
initiative, and this will be brought back in April to the board. We will be talking about this initiative much more on February 23rd at the board retreat. We encourage board attendance.

It is once a year that we get together as a board and set the vision for the year. The last two board meetings has really paved the way for this year of solicitations. So, we hope
everyone can be in attendance.

Next Tuesday, Monday is a holiday. Tuesday morning we have Community Newspaper events that will be at CasaCuba in South Miami where Dave Lawrence and myself will be speaking and the board's invited. We have elected officials and invite the community leaders, so if you have not RSVP'd, and you do want to attend, please do so.

The -- also, the Community Newspaper's just released an insert our special edition about The Children's Trust 20-year anniversary. We'll be sending you the link. And at the board meeting, you'll have a hard copy in front of you, which is really -- it's a great piece.

I've seen -- I haven't seen a hard copy yet, but I've seen an electronic version, and it's actually phenomenal that the Community Newspaper is highlighting the 20 years of the Trust and the impact that we've had.

The community health, and I'm not sure what the official name -- MICAMH, Lori? The MICAMH conference -- mental health conference that we fund -- that we sponsor is February 8th, 9th and 10th.

Lori, if you can briefly just explain about
that conference because it is open for our board members. If you want to attend, we just need to know sooner than later if you wish to attend. Lori, please.

MS. HANSON: Sure. MICAMH is the acronym because we all love acronyms. It stands for the Miami International Child and Adolescent Mental Health conference. It's held -- typically it's been held every year at the FIU Kovens Center ever since the Center for Children and Families relocated to Miami from -- from New York.

So, it's a great conference. They have continuing education hours for nurses, psychologists, other mental health professionals, some great keynote topics as well as in-depth workshops. They're going to have a research -- a poster session of research posters. So, yeah, we have -- we some registrations available, if that's your thing, to get into those topics.

This year, they have a number of topics related to family therapy and trauma, supports, and culturally responsive mental health, school-based mental health, positive youth development, a range of topics.
So, would -- if you're -- if you're interested, definitely let us know. And I think we'll probably be sending out a link to the people that we think might be most -- this might be most relevant to.

MR. HAJ: Thank you, Lori. The -- the e-mail, we sent this afternoon out to the members of this committee, so those who are interested just please let's us know, and we'll be happy to get you a ticket.

The clerk of the board, as you know, we're all retired in December. I just wanted to introduce you to people behind the scenes working. I know you saw invites come and invite disappear on your Outlook. That was -- that was tied to the clerk of the board.

We want to make sure that there were a group of people behind it moving forward that will be answering e-mails and serving the board well. So, Juana can you raise your hand. Everybody, I think knows Juana. Juana has been working alongside Muriel for years, so nothing is going to miss a beat. And then there's two new members of the team, Yuliet Alfonso. Yuliet --
MS. ALFONSO: I'm right here.

MR. HAJ: -- raise your hand. Yuliet's over there. And Gina Alonso. Gina raise your hand. So, that -- that is the team. You also have Jennifer here but Jennifer is moving over to a different department but she'll be here to help out.

But there will be a team behind as the clerk of the board. Now it's not the one person, there will be several people to meet your needs. Anything you need from the clerk of the board, please let us know.

Madam Chair, that's it for me. Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. And thank you, Karen, for the support today, and a final welcome for -- to Dr. Ospina, we look forward to seeing you at the board meeting in a couple of weeks. To the members, staff and guests, Thank you for joining us today and have a good evening. We are adjourned.

(Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at 3:59 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.

Jonathan Gonzalez
Jonathan Gonzalez, Notary Public
February 15, 2023