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 March 30, 2023, commencing at 3:32 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
DR. DANIEL BAGNER
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
LOURDES DIAZ
MARY DONWORTH
GILDA FERRADAZ
LOURDES P. GIMENEZ
KENNETH HOFFMAN (ex-officio)
LEIGH KOBRENSKI
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

AMANDA GORSKI
BEVONE RITCHIE
CAROL BROGAN
DANIELLE BARRERAS
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILIA
JAMES R. HAJ
JAMIA HOOD
JUANA LEON
KATHLEEN DEXTER
KISANNE GAGE
LISTETE YERO
NATALIA ZEA
RACHEL SPECTOR
TATIANA CANELAS
WILLIAM KIRTLAND
YULIET ALFANSO
GUEST APPEARANCES:

JANICE ROSADO, Town of Bayharbor Islands
JOEL JACOBI, Town of Bayharbor Islands
ANTONIO DRAYTON, M-DCPS
SAYRA HUGHES, Sayra Hughes & Associates, LLC
DANIEL SANTOS, Greater Miami Youth for Christ
STACY MORALES, Greater Miami Youth for Christ
ANGELINE EVANS, YWCA South Florida Inc.
JOSE FILPO, YWCA South Florida Inc.
VERONICA BROWN, YWCA South Florida Inc.
IARISSA ECKERMANN, My Little World
VIRGINIA ZAMBRANO, My Little World
J MARTINEZ, Family and Children Faith Coalition
FRANK PEREZ-BLONA, Thinking Child Academy
KRISTINE PEREZ-CARRION, FLIPANY
ANGELICA PEREZ, Miami Music Festival
VIRGINIA JACKO, Miami Lighthouse
BARBARA CESAR, Centro Campesino Farmworker
BLOSSOM GROUP FLORIDA, Blossom Group Florida
SHEILA WOMBLE Arts for Learning
PROMISE JACKSON, Global Speech & Rehab Services
DIDIER DOMINIQUE, Sports Konnect
MYRNA CHARLTON, The Arc of South Florida
GUEST APPEARANCES, Cont.:

SUMER JARMAN, City of Miami Beach All Stars
BROOKE MANETTI, Miami Children’s Museum, Inc.
DEVIN BROWNE, Sports Konnect
VERONICA WARD, Promised Land Academy
MICHAEL ROSSI, Miami Music Festival
MELODY PEREZ, City of Miami Beach – Parks and Recreation
VICTOR MARTINEZ, NFTE
SUSANA VELA, Amigos for Kids
LINDA FREEMAN, Trinity Church / Peacemakers Family Center
KARINA PAVONE, Amigos for Kids
KYESHIA CURTIS, MCM SMART
CHRIS BRIGNOLLE, NFTE
SALIHA NELSON, URGENT
JANALLIE TOOMER, Shepherd of God Christian Academy Corp
VANESSA CAINZOS, FL Academy
JENNIFER JOHNSON, FLOTA INC
MONICA TOOKES, Future Leaders of Tomorrow Academy
P R O C E E D I N G S

(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 3:32 p.m.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thanks to -- thank you very much for thinking about us. It's good to see everybody today. And I'd like to welcome you all to our second Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting for March. And we have just a few resolutions for you today.

Wanda (phonetic), any public comments?

MS. LEON: No public comments.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: But I do believe we have our Board Chair joining us via Zoom. I'll pause to see if Ed would like to say hello.

All right. Hearing -- hearing no hello.

Let's move on to the approval of the March 2, 2023, Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting minutes. Committee members, by now you will have had an opportunity to -- to review the minutes. May I have a motion for approval, please?

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Second.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. We have a
first and a second. All those in favor.

CHORUS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed? The minutes are approved as provided. Before we move into resolutions, I believe our CEO has a presentation for us.

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. The presentation actually ties into the first reso. This is our youth development reso. We have been working two years, three board retreats, a lot of committee meetings, and a lot of effort with staff and Board leading up to today. So, I just want to go through a quick PowerPoint of where we come from, the work that has been behind the scenes to get to this point. So, we're almost at the finish line of the next five-year cycle. So, Wanda, if you can pull up the PowerPoint. Next page.

All right, so the past several years we had -- we talked about the Board retreats. We -- we -- the -- the last three Board retreats really had been giving staff direction about funding opportunities, where to invest, and the staff has carried out the Board's directives, and also to improve our solicitation process. We have
put all stakeholders under an umbrella leading up to this process. We have a parent survey that went out to all the parents, with 2000 parents and caregivers giving us feedback.

We conducted 27 focus groups with parents and youth, and we also focused -- had 28 youth -- one -- and we'll talk about later. We have -- we have opportunity that we've never funded in this area, but how do we reach those kids who may not be in school, may be in and out of the -- the justice system or the foster care system, and how do we reach the hard-to-reach youth and provide them the necessary programs and giving the providers the flexibility to meet those kids where they are at. We also conducted a provider input session in July 2022, with over 500 community stakeholders in attendance giving us also feedback.

The -- the next slide we go into the -- just the community engagement efforts. So, throughout the years, we -- we've learned through every process is how to get out to the community and let them know the RFP is coming. The -- the large organizations, the people in
our system, the new people, individuals who want
to get into our system, so we --- we went out
there and went to 37 different collaborative
meetings, as well as the engagement team worked
with the programs team. So, anyone who
requested information, we went to meet with
them, how to apply for RFP. Again, there was a
lot of people who requested a prior --
assignments, and we went out there and met
everyone and answered everybody's questions.

And then the -- the area that we're very
proud of -- next slide -- is the new population
that we added for this cycle. It's a system
involving youth who are disconnected from school
and work. With -- with the board's guidance, we
undertook the -- the efforts -- this new
development cycle to explore new ways to expand
our supports for youth involved in the child
welfare system or the juvenile justice system,
or those students who are just disconnected from
school and work with no programs serving them.

In addition to the 27 research-led focus
groups I talked about before, we also met with
more than two dozen leaders in their respective
fields ranging from faith-based community
leaders, leaders of CBOs who know how to effectively reach these youth, grass -- grassroots community organizers who work with a army of parents to reach troubled teams, experts in the juvenile justice system, psychologists, experts related to how to best serve prosecuted youth, as well as DCF. And those listening sessions really prepared us for this RFP.

And then the reviewer training. So, as we are now in five-year cycles and we also have a lot of new staff the last several years was how to train our staff. So, the last six months, we went on a big training session about the RFP and how to score RFPs, and not only external, we also trained -- and not only internal, but we also have external reviewers. So, any RFP, when individuals apply or organizations apply, they are reviewed by two internal staff and one external reviewer. So, we thank the community because we had an army of external reviewers who were trained.

And for the staff, we have 80 staff members; every single staff member was trained through a course of six weeks. We also gave them homework assignments, came back, gave them
feedback on the scoring, and it really helped to
align the scoring system. Also at -- at the
end, we have debriefing meetings. And what a
debriefing meeting is that those -- the
reviewers review independently, and then they
come together collectively in a public setting.

And the public setting is open to the
public, and people come and hear, and those
providers who are being scored can be in the
room or be on Zoom, and hear their scores. The
scores are compiled and that's where it gets
moved into the funding opportunity. So, we
enhanced our internal/external reviewer
training, six sessions for internal reviewers
over a three-month period. We had a pre-
training video for our volunteer committee
reviewers, in-person training with assignments
and practice sessions, and we also included
evaluation for reviewers with feedback.

And here are some of the numbers and the
results of where we're at. We continue our
efforts to -- it gets -- we're all under
continuous improvement, so we continue our
efforts in simplifying our application review
process, including improved reviewer selection
training. We had more than 460 separate reviews that were conducted with a -- conducted out of 154 applications submitted, since every application is indi -- individually reviewed by three reviewers.

We -- we were very blessed, again, to recruit a large pool of interested volunteer reviewers. And we -- we trained the whole staff when we trained all the external reviewers. We did not use them all, but, as you know, we've just released parenting. We have a parenting RFP going out that we're going to need some reviewers. We have five RFPs going out for our kind of back-end support, our auditing service, our HR service, and that we're going to need reviewers as well.

So, we trained everybody, knowing through the course of the year we'll be using a variety of different people. And we also -- we also met after the funding recommendations. There's -- there's a chance to appeal. We had several people appeal, but those appeals were denied because there were no procedural violations, but there was another button to click to come and meet with us and review. So, we're happy to
meet with everyone. We met with 27
organizations, and some of those organizations
we met with more than once. And staff, for the
last three weeks, have been meeting day and
night with all the people who took -- were
approved and those people who were not approved.

Our intern -- our intentional efforts the
last several months -- the last couple of years
-- the last several months has truly paid off.
We are -- we are now recommending the largest
youth development investment -- investment in
the history of the children's trust.

So, a couple of highlights; this cycle new
agencies to the initiative. So, let me back up
-- through last cycle -- when we went through
last cycle five years ago, we looked at some of
the narrative out there, about it was hard to
get trust funding, we didn't have a grant
writer, big, small, university, not university,
but the reality was, it was -- the barrier to
entry was getting into the trust ecosystem.
People in the trust ecosystem, usually continue
to get funding. There was a barrier to
entrance -- a barrier to entry for new providers.

So, we worked on that. Three -- three
cycles ago there was 8 percent probability of
those -- 8 percent success rate to get into our
system, last cycle was at 59, and this cycle was
78 percent of the new funders were able to get
into our ecosystem. In addition to the overall
-- oh, that is 24 new programs, if you look at
the number; 78 percent was 24 new programs.

In addition to the overall increased
success by new agencies, 88 percent of the
applicants that were previously funded as
subcontracts, so many of these were
subcontractors working through somebody else,
were able to apply, and they are now fully
funded as the lead agency. And finally, what
we're very proud about, we had efforts the last
several years over the small CBO; 100 percent of
our small CBO applicants who applied received
trust funding per the recommendations.

And the next slide just shows a geographic
expansion. So, as a result, the RFP called out
several census designation places for expansion,
and these are places we want a larger footprint
where -- especially those living in poverty.
Our goal through the competitive solicitation is
to ensure that we have services throughout
Miami-Dade County. And the slides here show -- where the yellow dots in the pro -- currently -- our -- our youth development after school and summer footprint, those are where the yellow dots, and the purple background highlighting the areas designated for expansion. These maps are listed as part of YD RFP for applicants to consider.

And the recommendations before you represent an overall -- an overall increase in after school and summer programs from 484 sites to 682 sites. This is -- includes a 41 percent expansion in -- in the identified priority areas. This map also shows expansion areas in yellow and includes after school, summer, and full-day time frames. And if you look at the size of the dots, the size of the dots are correlated to the number of slots.

And just the last page; I just want to thank the team. It really has been this board, 80 staff members, and the community working exceptionally hard to get to this point. This is our largest investment. We are now setting ourselves up, if the Board approves -- by the way, we took this also to the Finance Committee.
this morning because we wanted the Finance Committee to be aware. It's coming to Programs Committee and the full Board on April 17th. If the Board approves on April 17th, this will set up our next five-year cohort, with 36,000 slots for kids that will be in after school and summer programs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. So, with that presentation, we will move into resolutions, and I'm going to punt to Karen Weller, who will present Resolution 2023-A.

MS. WELLER: Good afternoon, everyone, I apologize for being late. Anyway, Resolution 2023-A: Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts, with 143 providers identified herein, to deliver high-quality after-school programming for 17,413 elementary, middle, high school age children and youth and summer programming for 18,597 elementary, middle, and high school age children and youth, in the total amount not to exceed $76,662,000, for year-round and school-year programs.

The contract term will be 12 months, commencing August 15th of 2023 and ending August 14th of 2024. And for summer-only
programs, the contract term will be a term of six months, commencing March the 1st of 2024 and ending August 31st of 2024. Each with four remaining annual renewals, subject to annual funding appropriations --

MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

MS. WELLER: Thank you. A second?

MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

MS. WELLER: Thank you. Any recusals?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recused, Hollingsworth.

My daughter works for the Adrienne Arsht Center. Comment

MS. WELLER: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by FIU --

MS. WELLER: Okay. Anyone else? Now, as we move into discussion -- she gave a presentation on -- so does anyone else want to say anything? Comments? Okay, hearing none.

All those in favor?

CHORUS: Aye.


MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Karen.

Resolution 2023-B: Authorization to negotiate and execute a final contract renewal with
Florida International University Board of Trustees, FIU, for reading enhancement services in a total amount, not to exceed $945,752. For a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. May I have a motion, please?

MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Bendross-Mindingall, --

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second?

MS. DONWORTH: Second, Donworth.

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

MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, I'm employed by FIU.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Other recusals? And moving into discussion.

The trust has been funding reading enhancement services since 2013. And Reading Explorers serves existing trust-funded after school and summers programs along with trust-affiliated early education programs delivering literacy interventions directly to young children during the summer and on-site coaching and support during the school year. Summer
services are by far the most intensive. And note that this contract renewal considers the additional funding added in 2022/23 contract by way of an amendment to support increase staffing costs and for teacher quality.

Feedback/comments from the committee?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Hearing none. All those in favor?

CHORUS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed? The resolution carries. Resolution 2023-C:

Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount not to exceed 600,000 -- or $600,000.

For a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with two remaining contract renewals. May I have a motion, please?

MS. GIMENEZ: Gimenez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you and a second?

MR. BAGNER: Second.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Second is -- is Bag -- Bagner. Are there any recusals?
Hearing no recusals. Moving to discussion.

The trust requires all after school and summer programs to provide participating children with food that meets the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nutritional Program -- Nutrition Program requirements. FLIPANY is the after-school snack and meal provider for programs not located in a Miami-Dade County public school or a licensed childcare center, since those locations are already served through separate food programs.

FLIPANY provides nutritious lunches, snacks, and supper to 91 trust-funded after-school sites for children and youth in grades K to 12, and also offers administrative services for the relevant agencies to help them meet the requirements of the after-school meals program funded by the Florida Department of Agriculture and administered by the Florida Department of Health.

Thoughts, observations, comments from the committee? Hearing none. All those in favor?

CHORUS: Aye.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: All right. Are there any opposed? Resolution carries, and that
concludes our resolutions for this meeting. And so, I'll now turn to our CEO. Mr. CEO?

MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. Board of Directors site visit April 12, 3:00 to 4:00 at Shenandoah Elementary. We hope you can all join us. Last -- last one was at the COTE. It -- it was a great event. We had five -- five/six board members show up. We do -- we do value your time and we'll keep it condensed. So, I hope it will be no more than an hour.

Champions for Children on April 27th. If you have not RSVPed, please do so. We're doing the table assignments the next couple of weeks and the reservations are now flying in, so we want to make sure all the board members have a seat reserved. The Young Talent Big Dreams finale is going to be at the Miracle Theatre on May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

And lastly, summer camps. You know, summer's coming around the corner. Parents are going to start looking for summer camps. We have a great partnership with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and JCS have been working for months to get one site so parents can go look. So, there'll be a media
blitz and things popping up. We're trying --
we're in the last week of trying to wrap things
up. And you will start seeing a big push from
all four of us with a common theme and common
messaging that we'll start doing the media and
get a push out on the social media channel. So,
we appreciate the work with the county school
system and JCS to coordinate this effort.

And this is our first year coming out this
door, and we're going to improve on it year
after year. But it really has been -- to have
four large organizations work so well together --
and we started this several months ago because
we know that parents start looking right about
now for summer -- summer options. So, we're
very proud of that work and you'll see that in
the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Madam
Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim.

MR. HAJ: You're welcome.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And with that,
committee members, staff, and guests, we are
adjourned. Thank you for your time today..

MR. HAJ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 3:51 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

April 18, 2023