Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting Transcript

May 04, 2023
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 May 4, 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

CERTIFIED ORIGINAL

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Chair
KAREN WELLER, Vice Chair
DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM
LOURDES DIAZ
MARY DONWORTH
VALROSE GRAHAM
MARISSA LEICHTER
LEIGH KOBIRNSKI
STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

BEVONE RITCHIE
CAROL BROGAN
DANIELLE BARRERAS
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES R. HAJ
JENNIFER MROENO
JUANA LEON
LISETE YERO
NATALIA ZEA
PATRICIA LEAL
RACHEL SPECTOR
SUSAN MARIAN
TATIANA CANELAS
WILLIAM KIRTLAND
YULIET ALFONSO

GUEST APPEARANCES:

GINNY EHRlich
AUDREY ARADANAS
ANNIE LORD
VICTORIA MALLETTE
GUEST APPEARANCES, Cont.:

SHELLEY JACOBY
MOLLY O’DOHERTY
LEIANN PALMA
LISA BLAIR
IRE DIAZ
JOSE FONTANEZ
DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
VITAC CAPTIONER
MANUEL SARRIA
ALLISON WEINSTEIN
DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
PROCEEDINGS
(Thereupon, the following proceedings were held at 3:30 p.m.)

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I’d like to welcome all of you to the Program Services and Childhood Health Committee meeting. Today is Thursday, May 4th. Welcome to everyone.

I’m sure -- I’m seeing -- I’m looking around and seeing so many of you that I saw at that wonderful luncheon last Thursday. I know that a great time was had by all. Kudos to the staff, to all of you that worked so hard to make a very special afternoon for so many of us.

Many, many thanks. And it was so great to see so many people that I literally had not seen in person since before the pandemic. So, it was just wonderful. Thank you so much.

I will also share that our CEO is joining us via telephone, telephonically today. So, hello, Jim, and welcome.

MR. HAJ: Thank you, Madame Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Do we have any public comments?
MS. LEON: There are no public comments, Madame Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay, terrific.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 30, 2023 PROGRAM SERVICES AND CHILDHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES SUMMARY

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Then committee members, let’s move to the approval of the March 30, 2023 Program Services and Childhood Health Committee minutes. By now, you will have had an opportunity to review. May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

(Motion to approve the March 30, 2023 Program Services and Childhood Health Committee minutes summary was made by Mary Donworth and seconded by Dr. Edward Abraham). Thank you. All those in favor? Are there any opposed? The minutes are approved.

And at this time, we’re going to punt to Jim, our CEO who has a presentation for us.

CEO PRESENTATION

MR. HAJ: Madame Chair, good afternoon, Board members. We have a brief presentation dealing with our funder collaborations. So, we take great pride in our partnerships throughout the community. The funder collaboration is one
way in which we do so and it goes into reso
2023-D, E, and F are collaboration-procurement
methods.

And I’d like to turn it over to Natalia
just to -- again, it’ll be brief -- but just to
highlight our funder collaboration, how we get
there, and give you a little bit of background
on that. So, Natalia?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: I don't know that we
have sound for you, Natalia.

PRESENTATION REGARD RESOLUTION 2023-D, 2023-E, 2023-f

MS. ZEA: I learned that in my old world.
Thanks, Lisete. Okay. So, through the Board’s
guidance and with the Board’s support, the
Children’s Trust has been able to engage in
various funder collaborations over the years
with more on the horizon. And you’ll see some
of those in your packets as Jim mentioned. We
have some additional initiatives also coming up
in the fall.

The Trust really has established itself as
a convener and a collaborator. I think you saw
the level of partnership that we have with the
1,200 attendees at Champions for Children.

We partner in so many different ways and
also, what’s been really great is that fellow funders have come to us as a sounding board for really, as they look to come to Miami-Dade and invest and those who are here looking to expand partnerships. So, it’s been a really helpful opportunity to be able to have collective impact.

Here we go. Through the Board’s guidance and with the Board’s support, we have engaged in funder collaborations as I mentioned. And we do so for a few different reasons.

So, together with our fellow funders and partners, we can bring forward impactful initiatives that we can’t accomplish by ourselves. In fact, in the Finance Committee, we had a similar conversation about the importance of collective impact. The Trust can do what it can do but with others, we can do a lot more.

Funder collaboration drives innovation, also, projects that might be outside of the box and that are not, that do not fall within our larger, traditional funding mechanisms.

Also, through these efforts, the Trust has been able to expand our capacity to address
large-scale community challenges which I know is really a priority of this Board as we’ve heard in the Board retreat, and ultimately, to contribute to positive change.

So, it also makes economic sense. Stole this from Laurie right out of the annual report, that the -- due to the funder collaborations in the ’21–’22 fiscal year, as well as the match contracts which you’re familiar with, $9.4 million of Trust match funding and funder collaboration investment leveraged $50.7 million of other funds. And that means the return on investment for every Trust dollar spent in total is an average of $5.39.

So, funder collaboration requires a 2:1 return on investment for the Trust. You’ve read that in the resos. As you see, often that’s really just the bare minimum. It’s usually a lot more of an investment than that.

And here, right here, just your sum of the nine different funder collaborations that we currently have in place. We also, the Community Engagement Team manages these and it’s fluid. Some come on; some come off and you’ll see that.

One is set to sunset in September and
there’s a new one for you in your packet for consideration today. 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 to free internet service and digital literacy supports.

All of that I know is ringing a bell from the different resos that you’ve read throughout the time and the approvals that you’ve given.

And while each collaboration is unique, it’s really important to note that we manage the contracts with a clear and consistent process. And we align with our partners on strategy, outcomes, and timelines.

And I’d like to highlight just a few of our funder collaborations. So, as the Board knows and has long supported, the Summer Youth Internship Program is one that we are proud that we are a founding funder of in partnership mostly with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well as Miami-Dade County CareerSource South Florida, EdFed, and most recently with a $1 million donation from Ken Griffin, the founder of Citadel coming on board as another funder.
And over the time since 2015 that we’ve supported Summer Youth Internship Program, we’ve facilitated more than 16,000 paid high school summer internships since the program began.

Our own summer and school year intern, Amaya Barreto shared her experience about the program in this column that was published last week in the Miami Herald through her own eyes.

And as I mentioned, that Ken Griffin donation of an additional million has now put the collaborative on track to engage 3,100 students in internships this summer.

Also, important to note that for the first time, charter school students will be included in this program. And the collaborative is working on an exciting new initiative as well with the Department of Juvenile Services at the County to help determine a unique and direct pipeline for justice-involved youth to be able to enter this program and go through the prerequisites a little bit more easily.

Also, as you know, longstanding partnerships sometimes lead to expansion of funder collaboratives. And one example of this is the FabLab, which has been operated by Key
Biscayne Community Foundation since 2020.

They’ve been serving primarily in Liberty City providing the technology maker space and activities for kids from various after school and summer programs. And some of you saw the FabLab recently at the Board site visit.

And it is a support, this really supports our youth development providers because they’re able to bring them in and allow many programs to utilize the programming at the FabLab. And because this model was working so well, we saw the need for one in south Dade. And that’s where we brought that to you in March understanding that in south Dade, it’s a unique environment there.

There are unique opportunities. So, the FabLab in south Dade will focus on agri-technology and really look at what kind of agricultural career opportunities through technology there are in the south.

And we, for that project, we connected various funders who were not prior ever working with us on funder collaborations. It’s the opportunity to bring in additional foundations to leverage our resources and support these
kinds of initiatives.

So, thanks to the Board’s support, the Trust has also partnered with the U.S. Soccer Foundation through a funder collaboration since 2017 facilitating Soccer for Success with various partners and providers across the community.

And when Miami was selected as the host site for the 2026 World Cup, the Trust was the U.S. Soccer Foundation’s very first call in determining where they could take the next phase of this project which, as I’ll play in this news clip, you will see and many of you have already heard about the expansion thanks again in part to Ken Griffin of Citadel who provided a $5 million donation for 50 mini pitches across our community.

The Trust is in a unique position as a convener and a collaborator with the longstanding partnership with U.S. Soccer Foundation to help select many of these sites, including many of our providers, and we are supporting it as well with your approval from today’s reso with programming.

I’d like to just play this very quick clip
briefly. (Clip played.) So, just a little bit
of a taste of some of the exciting projects that
we have been working on and that are for your
consideration.

I’d also like to thank Garnett Esthers, our
Strategic Community Initiatives Manager who
directly manages the funder collaborations. And
it is great fun and it is a privilege to lead
this work.

It is also a challenge when you’re working
with various outside organizations and everyone
is aligning together. But really applaud her
and the work of the Community Engagement Team in
making this happen. Thank you so much.

MR. HAJ: Natalia, thank you. Madame
Chair, that is it for us.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Natalia.
Thank you, Jim. Questions from the Committee?
Hearing none, thank you so much. And now for
the resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Resolution 2023-A:
Authorization to wave the formal competitive
procurement process and negotiate and execute
contracts with Be Strong International, Inc.,
Florida International University (FIU), and 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 $1,500,000.00, for a one-time contract extension term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion? And a second? Are there any recusals? Moving to discussion. The Children’s Trust Parent Club was launched in September 2019 consisting of brief evidence-based parenting workshops and these are delivered in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole for diverse groups of primary care givers across Miami-Dade County.

Last fiscal year, the Parent Club held a total of 2,052 workshop sessions with a total of 9,910 attendees, 98 percent of which indicated that they had gained skills they intend to put into practice. And as noted, this is a one-year contract extension for three providers with new contract amounts that paves the way for planned enhanced services. Feedback, questions from the Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor?
Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

Punting to Karen Weller for Resolution 2023-B.

MS. WELLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

Resolution 2023-B: authorization to negotiate and execute renewal contracts with the Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership, Inc., and All in One Mail Shop, Inc., d/b/a 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 $2,602,239.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with one remaining 12-month renewal, subject to annual funding appropriations. May I have a motion, please? Thank you. A second?

MS. LEICHTER: Second, Leichter.

MS. WELLER: Thank you. Any recusals?

MS. DIAZ: Recusal Diaz. I work for Miami-Dade County Schools.

MS. WELLER: Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recuse, Hollingsworth. I work for the Early Learning Coalition and the CEO sits on the Board of the Family Learning Partnership.
MS. WELLER: Thank you. As we go into
discussion, the Children’s Trust Book Club
provides free monthly age-appropriate books and
supporting materials for the Miami-Dade County
families with children from birth to their fifth
birthday.

By participating in the book club, parents
and caregivers are provided with the means to
help their children build strong learning and
social skills. The book club 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 through the
following year. Any questions or further
comments? Hearing none, all those in favor?
Opposed? The motion carries. Thank you, Madame
Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Karen.

Resolution 2023-C: 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
pogrom, in a total amount not to exceed
$450,000.00, for a term of 12 months, commencing
October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.
May I have a motion, please? And a second? Recusals?

Moving into discussion. The Books for Free program ensures young children through age 8, birth through age 8 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 this program’s progress and determined the provider is performing satisfactorily and meeting or exceeding all contractual benchmarks.

And during the contract year ’21-’22, Miami-Dade College successfully operated 77 bookshelves sites that received regular deliveries, collected 76,116 books, and distributed 106,771 books, provided more than 50 percent in-kind match to the program leveraging an additional $362,486 value to the program.

Discussion from the Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor? Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-D: 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
$150,000.00 for a term of 12 months, commencing on October 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024.

May I have a motion, please? And a second? Thank you. Are there any recusals?

Moving to discussion. Miami Connected offers no or low-cost broadband internet to eligible families and students across Miami-Dade County. Miami Connected collaborates with schools and engages community-based organizations, CBO’s, to support outreach to families and provide technical assistance to ensure full adoption of these internet service opportunities.

And you will see the impact report. And also, a list of all the funders inside of your packet. Discussion, feedback from the Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor? Are there any opposed? Resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-E: Authorization to execute a funder collaborative contract renew with the U.S. Soccer Foundation to support the continuation of the Soccer for Success program and the implementation of a new Just Ball program, in a total amount not to exceed
$250,000.00, for a term of 12 months commencing August 1, 2023, and ending July 31, 2024. This is an increase of $125,000.00.

May I have a motion, please? And a second?
Are there any recusals?

Okay. And moving into discussion and I will note that this initiative was prominently featured in Natalia’s presentation regarding fund collaborations. Thoughts, feedback from the Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor? Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

Resolution 2023-F: Authorization to negotiate and execute a funder collaboration contract with Miami Homes for All, Inc., to support partnerships to end youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County through a service linkage, advocacy, and engagement, in an amount not to exceed $234,000.00, 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 $91,000.00, 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 collaborative data sharing agreement. Further, delegation of authority to adjust funding between the initiatives.

May I have a motion, please? And a second? Are there any recusals?

And moving into discussion, I will briefly add that this collaboration project builds upon the foundation of the homing collective and adds a direct service component for homeless youth.

And additionally, this item authorizes the establishment of a pilot initiative for Miami Homes for All to research and assist the Homeless Trust. And the Miami Homes for All seeks to work in partnership with multi-sector organizations to create a comprehensive system of care. And specifically, this collaboration aims to improve outreach and show disconnected and vulnerable youth develop healthy, permanent relationships, support the social, emotional,
and physical well-being of youth and expand homeless prevention efforts and improve collaboration between systems.

Discussion from the Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor? Are there any opposed? The resolution carries.

And our final resolution for today: 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 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? Thank you. And a second? Are there any recusals? Okay.

And moving into discussion, Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc. has notified the Trust of its pending merger with Lutheran Services of Florida, Inc. Through this change, Miami Bridge is absorbed as part of Lutheran Services, Florida, and will be a new entity with a new EIN.

This action will ensure there is no interruption to parenting services provided to
the families currently served by Miami Bridge.
And services will continue to be implemented
seamlessly as direct and management staff will
remain the same after the merger. Feedback,
discussion from the Committee?

--

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That is correct.

--

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Further
feedback, questions, comments from the
Committee? Hearing none, all those in favor?
Are there any opposed? This resolution carries.
Jim, punting to you for the CEO report.

CEO REPORT

MR. HAJ: Madame Chair, thank you. Just a
couple announcements, upcoming events. Ken teed
it up a couple months ago. We had four Board
field trips throughout the year.

There’s one coming up May 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Mexican-American Counsel, the MAC, has their
annual Farmworker Student graduation program.
If you’ve never attended, it is exceptionally
special. It’s a lot of the migrant students who
are graduating and the first in their family to
graduate high school.
It will be at Miami-Dade College at 7:00 p.m. We will send an email tomorrow. If you’d like to attend, please let us know.

Our Youth Advisory Committee, they act as a service project that this is the culminating event. They’ve been working on their service projects all year. And that is Saturday, May 13th, at 10:00 a.m. Again, all the Board members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

And our Young Talent Big Dreams is Saturday, May 13th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Miracle Center.

And as Pam had teed it up at the beginning, just want to thank all the Board members for their support and being in attendance at Champions last Thursday. I think it said a lot about our community with 1,200 people coming to celebrate advocates and heroes in our community. So, appreciate all of you being there and look forward.

We even started having our discussion yesterday about next year. And even, I don't know how you can do it any larger. We’ve got to look for a different venue or see what we can do. Madame Chair, thank you very much.
MS. LEICHTER: If you can just hire a valet, Jim, --
MR. HAJ: Yeah.
MS. LEICHTER: -- for parking.
MR. HAJ: Well, you know, we put everyone’s goals next year if they’d put on that vest and get out there and direct all the traffic.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Oh, that’s great.
MR. HAJ: Yeah.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Absolutely, absolutely.
Thank you, Jim, and thank you, Committee members. We are adjourned.

(Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 3:56 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

February 15, 2023