The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting was held on June 1, 2023, commencing at 3:30 p.m., at 3250 Southwest 3rd Avenue (Coral Way), United Way, Ryder Room, Miami, Florida 33129. The meeting was called to order by Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair.

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Chair
KAREN WELLER, Vice Chair
DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM
LAURA ADAMS
DR. DANIEL BAGNER
MARY DONWORTH
PASTOR RICHARD DUNN II
BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

GILDA FERRADAZ
LOURDES GIMENEZ
DR. CLARA OSPINA
LEIGH KOBRSKI

STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

BEVONE RITCHIE
CAROL BROGAN
IMRAN ALI
JACQUES BENTOLILA
JAMES HAJ
JENNIFER MORENO
JUANA LEON
LISETE YERO
NATALIA ZEA
PATRICIA LEAL
RACHEL SPECTOR
WILLIAM KIRTLAND
YULIET ALFONSO
GUEST APPEARANCES:

IRE DIAZ
CELIA MION
IVELISSE CARDE-SERRANO
GLORY PEREZ
LEIDY RAMIREZ
DEBRA RUDNICKI
LUZ RUIZ-MEHARRIS
TIM TYLER
JOYCELYN LAWRENCE
KETIA HARRIS
MARK HADLEY
MARIA MOTTA
AUDELIA MARTINEZ
FRANCINE ANDERSEN
JEANNIFER BONNET
JASON JENT
DAINELYS GARCIA
ELANA MANSOOR
JENNIFER DUROCHER
DAINELYS GARCIA
GLORY PEREZ
(Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced at 3:30 p.m.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Good afternoon. It's good to see everybody on this rainy Thursday. Welcome to the Program Services and Childhood Health Committee. It's good to see all of you here today. Do we have any public comments?

MS. WELLER: There are no public comments, Madame Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. Thank you. With no public comments, let's move to the approval of the May 4th, 2023 committee minutes. By now, committee members, you will have had an opportunity to review the minutes. And may I have a motion to approve? Thank you, Mary. And a second? Thank you, Dr. Abraham. All those in favor of approving the minutes as laid forth?

COMMITTEE: I.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed? The minutes are approved. We're going to move right to resolutions this afternoon. Resolution 2023-A, Authorization to waive the formal competitive procurement process and to negotiate and execute contract renewals with eight providers
identified herein, for Trust Academy Quality Supports, in an amount not to exceed $4,249,893 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September 30th, 2024, with three remaining contract renewals. Further delegation of authority to adjust paid providers and some program components. May I have a motion please?

MS. GIMENEZ: Lourdes Gimenez.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a second? Are there any recusals? With no recusals, let's move to discussion. Committee members, as you are aware, the Trust Academy partners provide supports for quality program implementation and fiscal and administrative functions. Partner agencies train and coach the trust service providers to achieve meaningful and measurable results, consistently deliver high quality services, and to effectively and efficiently satisfy trust contractual expectation.

The -- also, I'll add that the Trust Academy partners conduct initiative specific community awareness outreach and planning policy supports related to family services, youth development, inclusion supports of a couple of areas -- in a couple of areas, as well as organizational capacity
and leadership development. Feedback? Discussion from the committee?

MR. BAGNER: Madame Chair, I just had a clarification. So, I -- am I understanding correctly that we -- that this is just to let -- allow the organizations to shift around funds for who they're partnering with? Is that -- is that my -- am I understanding that correctly?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Gilda?

MS. FERRADAZ: No, this is quality support to order. They don't provide direct services. They may have a direct services contract with us to a different contract, but this one is solely to provide quality support to like all those initiative -- Pam -- listed. It could be coaching, training --

MR. BAGNER: Right. No, I understand that.

MS. FERRADAZ: -- yeah.

MR. BAGNER: It sounds like we approved this already but -- Right?

MS. FERRADAZ: No.

MR. BAGNER: Am I not understanding that correctly?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: You're referring to that --
MR. BAGNER: No.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- chain delegation?

MR. BAGNER: Yeah, the changes. Correct.

MS. KOBRINSKI: He's asking about the delegation of authority.

MS. FERRADAZ: Oh, okay. So, that's what you are talking about -- the delegation of authority? So, pretty much we got advice from our -- from our attorney to add this language because we have some pay partner -- partners that were included originally as part of the application that we have to remove -- I mean, to the contract negotiation. So, that's the reason we were advised to add this language.

MS. KOBRINSKI: So, that -- that explains the procurement waiver. So, they did the competitive process. This item came to the board with certain lead organizations and the paid partners. And then after it came to the board last year, they entered contract negotiations and some of the paid partners changed.

So, when it came back to the board, I said this needs to have a procurement waiver because it wasn't the same -- the services that were initially procured. And then additionally, the staff is
asking for delegated authority in order to change
some of the program components that are being
funded and the paid partners without coming back to
the board to reflect those changes.

MR. BAGNER: Oh, okay. So, that's in the
future if they change, right? Is that --

MS. KOBRINSKI: Yes.

MR. BAGNER: Okay.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Leigh. Further
discussion from the committee? Hearing none. All
those in favor?

COMMITTEE: I.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
The resolution carries. Resolution 2023-B,
Authorization to negotiate and execute a single
source contract with Jewish Community Services of
South Florida, JCS, to operate the 2-1-1 Miami
helpline for a term of 12 months, commencing
October 1st, 2023 and ending September 30th, 2024
in a total amount not to exceed $1,374,176. May I
have a motion please? Thank you. And a second?

Are there any recusals?

MR. BAGNER: Recusal. Bagner, employed by FIU
and their paid to shop service.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Secret shop -- shopper
service. Thank you, Dan. Other recusals? Hearing none. Brief discussion? The 2-1-1 Miami helpline is a 24/7 source of information and resources for health and human services in Miami-Dade County. And among the services that are provided is a 24 hour staffed call center, enhanced advocacy for the most vulnerable call -- callers.

And note that this work includes maintenance of an up-to-date, searchable online community resource directory. And as you look at the visual that accompanies this resolution, I'd invite you to note that housing is by far the top need expressed along with mental health and substance abuse.

Feedback? Conversation from the committee?

MS. DIAZ: Quick question. Do we have any data comparing how mental health was before? Did it increase by a lot because of the pandemic?

MS. DIAZ: Good question, Lourdes. Gilda?

MS. FERRADAZ: Yeah, I suppose so. I can turn to -- I don't think I have the numbers in front of us to compare, but we would have to compare with what we used to collect -- you know -- the report previously versus what we have now. But I mean it's -- it's around the country -- like we've seen the increase in mental health needs and -- and
services.

MS. DONSWORTH: I mean, I can just add I had a recent visit to JCS and they were telling me that the average time now to get a mental health appointment is three months in Miami-Dade County and the referrals they're getting from the school system has gone from 50 to 90 a month.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mary.

MS. DONSWORTH: Thank you.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Further discussion from the committee? Hearing none. All those in favor?

COMMITTEE: I.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries. Resolution 2023-C, Authorization to negotiate and execute a match contract with Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs for Cultural Arts programs in an amount not to exceed $1,500,000 for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September 30th, 2024. May I have a motion please?

Thank you, Dan.

And a second? Thank you, Karen. Are there any recusals? Hearing no recusals. Moving into discussion. This resolution authorizes match funding for Miami-Dade County Department of
Cultural Affairs to support nonprofit organizations that provide cultural art programs for children and families across the county.

The county issues competitive grant opportunities throughout the year and provides at least a 100% leveraged funding return for these youth arts education programs. And that's a total of 3.4 million leveraged. The three program areas are youth arts enrichment programs, all kids included, accessible arts experiences for kids, and summer arts and science camps for kids and their acronyms are included also.

And just a -- just a couple of the 2021, 2022 highlights. There were 86 funded programs. 42,547 children and youth were served with 6,245 of those served identifying at least one disability.

Conversation? Discussion from the committee?

MR. BAGNER: Madame Chair just to commend them. 62% kids with disability -- I think is commendable for these kinds of programs and it's -- it’s great that they got them in -- that they got those kids involved. So, just wanted to point that out.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Terrific. Okay. All those in favor?
COMMITTEE: I.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

The resolution carries. And punting to Ms. Weller for Resolution 2023-D.

MS. WELLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.

Resolution 2023-D, Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts with 45 providers identified herein, to deliver evidence-based parenting and family strengthening services in a total amount not to exceed $23,230,563 each for a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September 30th, 2024, each with four remaining annual renewals subject to annual funding appropriations. May I have a motion please?

MS. DIAZ: LOURDES DIAZ.


Any recusals?

MR. BAGNER: Yes. Recusal. Bagner, employed by FIU. They're one of the providers.

MS. WELLER: Okay.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal. Hollingsworth. I have a relationship. My CEO has a relationship with one of the providers.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Thank you. Okay. As we move into discussion, in preparation for this
particular solicit -- solicitation -- excuse me --
the Children's Trust conducted 16 focus groups with
more than a hundred parents and considered results
from a community parent survey of nearly 37 --
3,700 parents and caregivers of children and youth
of all ages.

Additionally, more than 200 communities.
Excuse me. I think somebody needs to mute. Thank
you. Okay. Additionally, more than 200 community
stakeholders attending a parenting and family
strengthening information -- information provided
input and network -- networking session provided
input. Input was also sought from the juvenile --
juvenile justice and dependency systems partners.

As a result of this planning, as well as the
board's policy guidance, the solicitation included
a goal to expand services. The -- the services are
being expanded to -- to make available services
during the prenatal period, to also support
families with their mental health needs, and
fatherhood programs. Any further discussion?
Hearing none. All those in favor?

COMMITTEE: I.

MS. WELLER: Oppose? The motion carries. And
I give it back to you, Madame Chair.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ms. Weller.

Authorization to waive the -- Resolution 2022-E,
Authorization to waive the formal competitive
procurement process and to negotiate and execute
contract renewals with 22 providers identified
herein, for family and neighborhood support
partnerships in an amount not to exceed
$13,408,796.

And for the Children's Trust to encumber a
purchase order in the amount of $500,000 for pooled
family stabilizing funding for total amount not to
exceed $13,908,796 for a term of 12 months,
commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September
30th, 2024 with three remaining contract renewals.
Further -- further delegation of authority to
adjust paid providers and some program components.
May I have a motion please?

MR. DUNN II: So moved, Dunn.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And a second? And do we
have any recusals?

MR. BAGNER: Sorry, I'm -- I -- I was on a
roll here. I I'm recusing again. Bagner, employed
by FIU. I have a colleague who's funded on this
with the Christie house, so I'm going to recuse
from this one as well.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Other recusals? Hearing none. Moving into discus-- discussion. Family and neighborhood support partnerships offer a comprehensive and individualized support for children, youth, and their families experiencing challenges that may limit them from realizing their total health, social, educational, and economic potential.

To date 1,627 families -- and that's 404,151 individuals have received more than 22,000 hours of services to date. And I'd point out that residential stability is a top need that has been identified inside this work. Feedback?

Conversation from the committee?

MS. GIMENEZ: I -- I have a question. I saw that in one of the groups, Agape network -- Is that the one down South? I'm on the board of Agape Network -- the foundation board and I just don’t know if I need to recuse myself on this. 25 -- children inmates. I believe that it's probably same place.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Okay. Okay. Thank you very much. Further discussion? All those in favor?

COMMITTEE: I.
MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
The resolution carries. And punting to Ms. Weller again for Resolution 2023-F.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Resolution 2023-F, Authorization to amend resolution number 2022-24 and the current contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade and Monroe for services from October 1st of 2022 to September 30th of 2023 to adjust the scope of work to add an additional contract activity relating -- relating to the Ascend program wherein the ELC will award qualify -- qualifying ascend educators a one-time bonus payment from the non-trust funding sources. May I have a motion please?

MR. BAGNER: Daniel Bagner.


Any recusals?


MS. WELLER: Okay. All right. Moving into discussion. In Resolution number 2023-05, This board approved the Ascend program, which is the salary supplement program for early learning educators working in Thrive by Five programs. Approval of this resolution will amend Resolution
number 2023-05 to allow for an amendment to the current contract with the ELC to amend the scope of service to add an additional contract activity.

With this activity, the ELC will be able to award qualify -- qualifying ascend educators a one-time bonus payment using limited term funds, up to 5 million, available from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the Administrations of Children's and Families. Any further discussion?

MR. BAGNER: Just a comment and clarification. So, this is great. I think it's great to be paying our early childhood teachers more and it's great that there's no budget impact and they could spend money that they have.

Just out of curiosity, is this going to fund bonuses for more teachers or is it just going to the same teachers that are already getting incentives and giving them more incentives?

MS. FERRADAZ: No, to the same teachers that are currently getting incentives that's been vetted to our process. So, it's an additional payment. They will receive an addition to what they're getting from us.
So, we just want to make sure we leverage that $5 million, keeping them in the community to get these qualified individuals.

MR. BAGNER: So, I assume there's no way -- is there not a possibility of trying to also expand it to other teachers?

MS. FERRADAZ: Expand? No. No, we're not expanding. Yes, because after -- I think Pam want to say something, but after -- since she recused, after we vote, she will.

MR. BAGNER: Okay. We'll vote and then -- and then I'll be curious to hear.

MS. WELLER: Okay. Any further discussion?

All those in favor?

COMMITTEE: I.

MS. WELLER: Opposed? The motion carries.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: May I? It's okay for me too. So, the -- the guidance that came down from the -- from the division of early learning was rather targeted.

And so, while this money was awarded to the Early Learning Coalition, we actually had to write a grant to receive it. And in order to demonstrate need, we used the extensive data that the Children's Trust has -- has been able to pull
together over the years in terms of the impact of --
-- you know -- reducing turnover and -- you know --
all of the positive things -- you know -- focusing
on also the incentivization of additional education
and so forth.

So, it just made sense. This partner just --
partnership just made sense and it was approved by
the division. Thank you.

MR. DUNN II: And not from the expert
perspective, but if I could opine my observation.
The early childhood learning educators are probably
in many ways like the Miami Heat if you will. They
don't get the proper recognition coming out of the
draft, but -- but they -- but they play a major
role in development stages of our children. I get
a chance now -- looking at it now, kind of new to
the game, if you will -- Ms. Gimenez, as an
elementary educator, if you will -- and I get a
chance to see what can happen or what the pros and
cons could be if that child does not get that
foundational skill set at an early stage.

So, I -- I applaud this grant for making it
competitive and attractive to those who are already
in this field. Of course, ideally speaking, we
want to expand it, but we want to make sure that we
can salvage what we have at this point.

And I'm -- again, I'm not the expert, you are
and -- and -- but I just -- I just see the value of
investing in making it competitive and commensurate
with the responsibility that's attached to it. And
the early childhood stage is a very critical and
crucial stage in my opinion.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Certainly.

MR. DUNN II: And money's always a crunch.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.

MR. DUNN II: Yeah.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Absolutely. And Pastor, I
appreciate the heat ana -- analogy. However, as a
Bost --

MR. DUNN II: It couldn’t come at a better
time, could it?

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- However as --

MR. DUNN II: No pun intended.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- However, as a Bostonian
and a diehard Celtics fans, this has been a very
difficult time. Thank you. And I -- I do see our
CEO on screen.

MR. HAJ: Yes.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Jim, we’ll punt to you for
the CEO report.
MR. HAJ: Madame Chair, thank you. And you know, just want to comment before I forget -- the CEO report of the reso that was just passed. Pam, Madame Chair, thank you -- with Rachel. A lot of the executive team, the ELC team and our attorneys who have worked very hard las -- last month. Just to clarify, these $5 million were going to be returned.

They're -- they're -- they're assessor funds. They're going to be returned. And the team worked very hard to make sure that $5 million stayed in our community. So, there was a lot of -- this last month -- of people burning the candle both ends to make sure that we spend the money before it gets -- before it needs to be returned. So, I appreciate everybody's hard work. On the CEO report, Battle of Books is going to be June 13th. These are summer camps across Miami-Dade County that will be participating.

The Family Expo -- We have three that will be held before school starts and we -- you know, we learn every year. We are putting these under AC. So, these are going to be venues that have AC, July 22nd, July 29th, and August 5th throughout Miami-Dade County. And we hope as many board members as
possible could attend at least one of these events. 

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. And with that, ladies and gentlemen, we are adjourned.

Thank you for joining today.

CEO: Yeah.

MR. DUNN II: Go Heat.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That's great.

MR. DUNN II: Yes, Lord.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Great.

MR. DUNN II: Yeah.

(Thereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 3:52: 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.

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AUDREY CHIQUITO, Transcriber

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June 13, 2023