



# ELCHC Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2024 @ 3:00 pm

6302 E. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Suite 100 Tampa, FL 33619

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84877798816?pwd=ZCtJaEZkWXkwSDBjbVYzeWFiZmFXZz09>

Meeting ID: 848 7779 8816

Passcode: 428609



## Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Jae

A. Roll Call/Quorum Verification

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Jae

Individuals wishing to address the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County Board of Directors must complete a Public Comment Request Card and submit it to the official recorder prior to the noticed start time of the meeting. Said comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per individual on a first-come, first-serve basis, and only at such time as is identified on the official meeting agenda for public comment.

### III. ACTION ITEM

A. Jae

A. Approval of September 14, 2023 Committee Meeting Minutes - 3

### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Jae

A. Upcoming Events for Providers and Community

A. Perez

B. 2024 VPK Star Renaissance Testing Conversation

A. Provau

C. School Readiness Progressive Enforcement Procedures

C. Haines

D. General Provider Updates

### V. CEO REPORT

Dr. Frederick  
Hicks

A. ARPA Update & Provider Survey Results

B. Implementation and Evaluation of Plans for new initiatives set

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

A. Jae

Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 3:00 pm  
6302 E Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Suite 100, Tampa, FL 33619  
Zoom Option

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**Facilitator:** Amanda Jae, Chair

**Committee Members Present:**

Amanda Jae, Commissioner Gwen Myers, Dr. Larissa Baia\*, Dr. Daphne Fudge\*, Dr. Lise Fox, and Cynthia Chipp

**Committee Members Absent:**

Beth Pasek

**Board Members Present:**

None.

**ELCHC Staff:**

Dr. Fredrick Hicks, Gary Meyer\*, Casie Haines\*, Sabrina Ruiz\*, Abigail Perez\*, Clarence Thompkins\*, Stacey Francios\*, Alison Fraga\*, Rick Rampersad\*, and Nancy Will

**Other Attendees:**

Frazier Carraway, Anthony Flowers\*, and Genet Stewart\*

*\*Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Quorum Verification**

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Amanda Jae called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT I**

There was no Public Comment.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of July 20, 2023, Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Special Meeting Minutes

*Commissioner Myers made a motion to approve the July 20, 2023, Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee Meeting Minutes. A second was made by Dr. Lise Fox. The motion carried unanimously.*

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Upcoming Events for Providers & Families

Chair Amanda Jae, shared with the committee that the next Day of Play is scheduled for October 7, 2023, from 10:00-12:00 noon at DeSoto Park located at 2645 Corrine Street, Tampa, FL 33605 (near Ikea).

Chair Jae also announced the Communities of Practice (COP) meeting on September 20 being facilitated by Martha Aguiar, Early Childhood Workforce Coordinator with the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC). This meeting will include a dinner with Dr. Frederick Hicks, CEO of ELCHC, where he will be answering 15 of the most asked questions from providers throughout the evening. Chair Jae commended Mrs. Aguiar for the continued efforts with keeping the line of communication open between ELCHC leadership and providers.

Dr. Hicks shared with the committee that he attended a meeting the evening prior at Castles of Imagination and heard twenty-one parents share their struggle in receiving childcare services for their students with unique abilities. Dr. Hicks went on to share that these children will be pulled off the waiting list as soon as possible with an overhaul of the processes currently in place for parents to children with unique abilities in proving their student does indeed have a unique ability. Dr. Hicks also explained that keeping the line of communication open between providers, parents and ELCHC leadership is extremely important to better serve all students.

Dr. Hicks shared with the committee some of the conversation he had in his meeting with State Senator Burgess and the legislative priorities for the 2024 session. Dr. Hicks shared that 5.5 billion dollars would be lost with American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds running out at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2024.

There was committee discussion on inviting local officials to visit centers with Dr. Hicks so that leaders could gain a better understanding of the needs and importance of early education.

### **CEO Report**

Dr. Hicks reported on the following:

#### **\$10 million-dollar Homeless Initiative**

The state of Florida has given \$10 million to Early Learning Coalitions to use towards assisting the homeless population served throughout the state. ELCHC's part of these monies is approximately \$1 million dollars. Dr. Hicks shared that Sabrina Ruiz, Director of Family Services, has taken on this initiative. Mrs. Ruiz and her team have found that 241 families that ELCHC serves fall into the category of homelessness. Dr. Hicks reported that the Coalition would be partnering with organizations specializing in serving the homeless population in Hillsborough County to ensure the funds are distributed in the most efficient and effective manner possible to help these families.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Application Update**

Dr. Hicks shared that the Coalition's portion of the \$305 million set aside for Florida's Early Learning Coalition is \$33 million. Dr. Hicks shared a slide presentation explaining the breakdown of these funds and how they would be allocated to serve the families in Hillsborough County through the Coalition and its mission.

Chair Jae shared her and her staff's experience with the iSpy initiative explaining that there were multiple hoops to jump through to obtain funds and posed the question whether the processes could be streamlined.

Dr. Hicks responded that the team would be working on ways to streamline the process, however, to please keep in mind that all dollars come with various avenues to obtain them and that there are certain criteria that must be followed to the letter.

Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer shared that in the past two years the growth of focused services in specific zip codes has shown significant benefits to the populations in these areas. Mrs. Fraga shared that Stacey Francios, Director of Program Initiatives & Education, has taken these services to the next level to include four cultural attractions, STEM activities, and nature play. Mrs. Fraga explained that what is seen now is piecemeal successes with the goal being to be able to include county and city services for transportation and meals. Mrs. Fraga also went on to share that the support of the Board of Directors will be critical to achieving these goals.

Ms. Francios shared that along with the successes Mrs. Fraga reported on, the team is working on moving many of the processes from a paper system to the Web Author technology platform this fiscal year and through next calendar year, 2024.

Mrs. Fraga shared with the committee a brief update from the Development team on the Children's Summit that included the following:

- \*Focus of the Summit is to include the corporate business world that do not currently have a foot in early education and share the urgency and importance of the impact of early educational success. This is important for the long-term success of the community and future workforce.
- \*Summit will be held at the Portico Hall
- \*To date 16 sponsors
- \*Several elected officials will be in attendance including the superintendent of Hillsborough County Public Schools
- \*Two speakers-Bemetria Simmons will speak to the state of the region and Mark Wilson President of the Florida Chamber of Commerce and will be focused on speaking to some components of early education

Mrs. Fraga shared the intent of Dr. Hicks's vision for the Children's Summit was not for fundraising purposes but rather to begin building long term relationships with thought leadership throughout Hillsborough County.

The committee shared in the excitement of the Children's Summit.

Chair Amanda Jae announced that the next meeting of the Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee is scheduled for February 1, 2024, at 3:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Citing no further business, Chair Amanda Jae asked for a motion to adjourn.

*Commissioner Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 pm. Dr. Lise Fox made a second. The motion carried unanimously.*

Read and Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Dr. Stephe Holmquist Johnson, Secretary* *Date*

DRAFT