



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2024, at 3:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Michelle Zieziula*

Committee Members Present:

Michelle Zieziula*, Allison Nguyen and Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins

Committee Members Absent:

Stacey Ward

ELCH Board Members Present:

None.

ELCHC Staff:

Gary Meyer, Alison Fraga, Kelley Minney, Rick Rampersad, Sabrina Ruiz, Dr. Fred Hicks, Nancy Will, Yarima Hernandez Tamayo*, Kevin Smith*, and Abigail Perez*

Other Attendees:

Frazier Carraway, Joe Medina, and Jill Bertelsen*

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Zieziula called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of minutes from the October 2, 2023, Regular Finance Committee Meeting

Chair Michelle Zieziula called for a motion to approve the October 2, 2023, regular Finance Committee meeting minutes. Allison Nguyen made a motion. Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins made a second. The motion carried unanimously.



B. Approval of allocation of funds for family provider and provider training

Chair Zieziula called for a motion to approve the allocation of funds for family provider and provider training. Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins made a motion. Allison Nguyen made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Zieziula opened the floor to discussion. There was no discussion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Gary Meyer, Chief Financial Officer presented the Budget to Actual FY 2023 through December 31, 2023, as outlined in the agenda packet and reported the following:

- Meeting grant expenditure restrictions related to direct services and quality expenses.
- Meeting School Readiness (SR) administration expense parameters (at 3% not to exceed 5%).

Mr. Meyer reported that the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County (ELCHC) is expected to spend under the allocated funds by \$2 million dollars.

Mr. Meyer shared that all teams were working together to make a big push to try and enroll as many children as possible. He reported that the budget was set to fund 13,500 children and the current enrollment was 12,613, making the coalition fall 7% below the allocated budget. Mr. Meyer stated that many coalitions throughout the state are having an issue with enrollment as many families are being over income and not able to qualify within the parameters currently in place.

Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins shared with the committee that at the federal level she is seeing teacher shortage play a major role in the decreases in enrollment. Dr. Jenkins asked what can be done to help the circumstances, as every county is struggling with lower-than-expected enrollment.

Dr. Hicks shared that the coalition is seeing a double effect shortage of teachers and families that are over the threshold to qualify for services. Dr. Hicks reported that at the state legislative level there are bills in place that could potentially raise the qualifying income threshold.

Mr. Meyer shared that with ARPA funds soon going away directors and owners are trying to find ways to make teaching of young learners more attractive. Mr. Meyer also shared that the coalition is helping center owners and directors to be able to offer medical insurance, mental health support, and stipends. He also stated that the coalition is spending millions in the short term but the long-term challenge will remain and what can we do to keep the teachers already in classrooms.

Mr. Meyer continued his reporting with page 38 of the agenda packet; the ARPA breakdown of funds and the 42 initiatives put in place to help spend down this large sum on money, Mr. Meyer shared the budget was set at \$38.9 million dollars. In total the coalition received \$1.3 million dollars to help homeless children in Hillsborough County.

Lastly, Mr. Meyer shared with the committee that the coalition was in the middle of an external audit. He thanked Jill Bertelsen of Bertelsen Education for coming out to the Day of Play and shared how successful the event was.

CEO REPORT

Dr. Frederick Hicks, CEO ELCHC gave reports on the following:

A. ARPA Update

Dr. Hicks thanked Mr. Meyer for this breakdown and gave an explanation of how ARPA dollars have been and are being spent. Dr. Hicks mentioned that the coalition would find a way to continue to support as many teachers, providers and students as possible.

B. Hillsborough Day 2024 Recap

Dr. Hicks shared that several bills up for vote in the legislature could truly help with the issues of enrollment including adjusting the scale for income qualification to help with the eligibility cliff concern. Dr. Hicks also shared that last year the legislator favored a tool using market rate which is not a true reflection of the everyday costs of living. Dr. Hicks reported that the governor has in mind to cut the state budget by \$4 billion dollars and that the specific impact is unknown.

Dr. Hicks shared that Children's Week was around the corner and that he would be attending.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Zieziula shared that the next Finance Committee is scheduled for March 25, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Citing no further business, Chair Zieziula asked for motion to adjourn. Allison Nugyen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 pm. Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved by:

_____ Date: _____

Dr. Stephie Holmquist, Secretary