



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 2023, at 3:00 pm
6302 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Suite 100
Tampa, FL 33619

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Facilitator: Aakash Patel

Board Members Present:

Lee Bowers*, Dr. Daphne Fudge*, Dr. Stephe Holmquist Johnson*, Kelley Parris*, Commissioner Gwen Myers*, Dr. Shawn Robinson, Michelle Zieziula*, Amanda Jae, Dr. Jodi Marshall*, Stacie Ward*, Melissa Raburn, Dr. Jacquelyn Jenkins*, Tracye Brown*, Carl Harness*, Dr. Larissa Baia, Cynthia Chipp, and Beth Pasek

Board Members Absent:

Adam Giery, Dr. Lise Fox, Allison Nguyen and Aakash Patel

ELCHC Staff:

Dr. Fred Hicks, Kelley Minney*, Kiyana Scott*, Alison Fraga*, Gary Meyer*, Rick Rampersad, Stacey Francois*, Abigail Perez*, Nancy Will, Stacey Francois*, Casie Haines*, and Sabrina Ruiz

Other Attendees:

Frazier Carraway,

**Indicates attendance via Zoom meeting platform.*

CALL TO ORDER

Quorum Verification

Noting a quorum had been established, Chair Aakash Patel called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment I

There was no public comment.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Aakash Patel welcomed the newest Board Members: Derek Zitko, Dr. Daira Barakat and Chantal Porte with the Department of Child Children and Families licensing.

A. Mission Moment

Board Member Dr. Daira Barakat shared why she wanted to serve on the Early Learning Coalition Board of Directors. She shared that children are the future leaders of our community and ensuring every child receives a good educational foundation is the reason she wanted to serve on the ELCHC Board of Directors.

B. Committee Appointments

Chair Aakash Patel asked Michelle Zieziula if she wanted to serve as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee. Board Member Zieziula agreed. Chair Aakash Patel appointed Michelle Zieziula as the Vice Chair of the Finance Committee.



Chair Aakash Patel called for a motion to appoint Michelle Zieziula as the Finance Committee Vice Chair. Dr. Stephe Holmquist Johnson made a motion. Dr. Shawn Robinson made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Matrix

Chair Aakash Patel shared the importance of filling out the Board Matrix to ensure that the Board of Directors reflects the community and encouraged members to fill it out if they had not.

The newest member of the ELCH Board of Directors, Chantal Porte, introduced herself to the Board, staff, and members of the public in attendance. She shared her position as the regional manager of the Department of Child and Families licensing and carries many counties. Ms. Porte shared her passion for being the voices of children and reminded all in attendance that the coalition is molding the future leaders of the community.

Chair Patel recognized Board Members that were registered for the upcoming Young Children's Summit. He recognized the ELCHC staff along with Mrs. Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer for heading the creation of the summit.

Chair Patel also recognized the sponsors of the Young Children's Summit.

Chair Patel also reminded the Board of Directors of the upcoming visits to visit provider centers with Dr. Frederick Hicks, Chief Executive Officer of ELCHC.

Chair Patel shared that the next legislative session was starting up in January 2024 and if any Board member was interested in joining Adam Giery, Chair of the Legislative Committee, Dr. Fred Hicks, CEO and himself to contact Adam Giery.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were included under the Consent Agenda:

- A. June 26, 2023 Board of Directors Annual Meeting Agenda
- B. April 17, 2023 Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Beth Pasek made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Cynthia Chip made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Nomination and Election of Board Members

Dr. Stephe Holmquist Johnson, Chair of the Governance Committee brought forth the recommendation of the committee, Mr. Gino Casanova, for ELCHC Board membership.

There was discussion among Board members of the character and expertise of Mr. Gino Casanova in the business and political world.

Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Governance Committee, Mr. Gino Casanova, for ELCHC Board membership. Mr. Lee Bowers made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Authorize staff to enter into a contract with City of Tampa Fiscal Year 23-24

Dr. Frederick Hicks, CEO of the ELCHC spoke to the contract.

Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson made a motion to authorize staff to enter into a contract with City of Tampa Fiscal Year 23-24. Mrs. Allison Nguyen made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Hillsborough Infant & Toddler Initiative (HITI) Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Request for Proposal (RFP) vendor contract

Dr. Frederick Hicks, CEO of the ELCH presented the contract.

The Board of Directors had some discussion on the market rate for the same supplies. Several board members were very familiar with the company and spoke about their competitive pricing.

Beth Pasek made a motion to approve. Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson made a second. The motion carried.

D. Approval of allocation of funds to contract with Roebuck Technologies for Information Technology Managed Services

Dr. Frederick Hicks, CEO ELCHC thanked the Board of Directors for the return of this contract. Dr. Hicks explained that the RFP was out for 31 days and received 12 bids and Roebuck Technologies was the winning bid.

Susan Chambers, Account Manager and Doug Coleman, both with Roebuck Technologies introduced themselves and shared their experience with providing services to the ELCHC and the working relationship built over the years.

Dr. Shawn Robinson made a motion to approve the allocation of funds to contract with Roebuck Technologies for Information Technology Managed Services. Mr. Lee Bowers made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE

Chair Aakash Patel, Committee Chair, stated the Executive Committee met on August 14, 2023, to review and discuss the following items:

- August 21, 2023, Draft Board of Directors meeting agenda
- Committee Reports (Governance, Finance, Service Delivery & Efficiency, and the Development Committees)
- CEO Report

Chair Patel noted a vacancy on the Legislative Committee and appointed Mr. Gino Casanova.

Beth Pasek made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Gino Casanova onto the Legislative Committee. Dr. Shawn Robinson made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Patel noted the vacancy of a Vice Chair on the Legislative Committee and appointed Mr. Gino Casanova.

Dr. Shawn Robinson made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Gino Casanova as Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee. Beth Pasek made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Governance

Dr. Stephanie Holmquist Johnson, Committee Chair, stated the Governance Committee met on July 31, 2023, to review and discuss the following items:

- Board of Directors Membership Applications
 - 2-applications had been received and the decision was difficult for the committee to make as both candidates were highly qualified with wonderful credentials
- Board Matrix
 - New Board Members were encouraged to take the Board Matrix
- CEO Report

C. SERVICE DELIVERY & EFFICIENCY

Amanda Jae, Chair of the Service Delivery & Efficiency Committee, shared they met on July 20, 2023, to review and discuss the following items:

- Provider Spotlight!
 - Unfortunately, the provider needed to attend a training and was unable to attend the meeting.
- Upcoming Events for Providers and/or Families
- CEO Report

D. DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Shawn Robinson, Chair of the Development Committee, shared that the Committee met on August 16, 2023, to review and discuss the following items:

- Resource Development Department Updates
 - Animation campaign for social media and commercials was ready to go with the first public showing to be at the next committee meeting in September.
- Education of Young Children Summit
 - Wanting business leaders to be involved and learn more about the coalition and its mission.
 - The goal of the Summit was to educate the leaders in attendance rather than a fundraising event; more about long-term relationships.
- Host Committee Update

- Golf Tournament to be held at Top Golf hosted by the Mayfield Foundation with proceeds going to the Coalition.

There was discussion about the idea of having children at the Young Children's Summit. It was further discussed that the logistics would be more than anticipated and that the speakers, including Dr. Hicks, would capture the heart of those in attendance.

Alison Fraga, Chief Development Officer invited board members that wanted further discussion to join the next meeting of the Development Committee in early September which would be virtual, only.

E. Legislative

Chair Adam Giery reported that the Legislative committee would be meeting in early September to be discussing the upcoming legislative session and that the meetings would be less about policy and more about bringing people closer to our early education world.

F. Finance

Lee Bowers, Chair of the Finance Committee, shared the August 7, 2023, meeting was cancelled due to the lack of quorum. Mr. Bowers announced the next scheduled committee meeting for October 2, 2023.

FINANCE REPORT

Gary Meyer, Chief Financial Officer reported enrollment to date was up to 13,500 children being served with the highest in coalition history. Mr. Meyer reported all expenses are tracking with the budgeted amounts and the coalition is not overspending. Mr. Meyer also reported the ARPA dollar amount of \$108 million with the coalition to receive \$6.5 million.

CEO REPORT

Dr. Fred Hicks provided a brief update on the following items:

- \$305 million dollars in ARPA funds update
 - Gary Meyer, CFO spoke to the update in his report.
 - \$1 million to be set aside for children with unique abilities-Dr. Hicks reported that one of the legislative goals was to ask that children with unique abilities be moved to a higher level on the priority list. Currently, children with unique abilities rank 5 and the goal is to have them moved up to 3.
- Survey to Providers
 - Needing to get a full look into the most critical needs of providers.
 - Townhall possible
- CEO Evaluation
 - Encouraged Board members to complete the survey.
- RFP Status Update
 - Board of Directors Retreat being scored by external graders

Public Comment II

Kristin Wrinkler shared her 4-year-old son, Cameron has several challenges with no facility within 20-miles from her home. Ms. Wrinkler shared that her son has learned and progressed so much since she was able to get him into a center that would meet his needs. Ms. Wrinkler shared her concern over the costs of living coupled with lacking school readiness funding and the continued early education for Cameron.

Tina Gill shared that there was only 1 school in the county and 1 part time center that was equipped to educate children with unique abilities. Ms. Gill shared that out of the 13,500 children served by the coalition statistically about 13% would have some sort of special need. She reported her centers are serving less than 50. Ms. Gill shared that the state of Florida was failing in every county in the state in the early education of children with special needs. Ms. Gill stated that world-class coaching was the solution and that may not be at the coalition.

Keri Viriety shared about school readiness and the need her grandson had as she has guardianship of him. She spoke about her experience with teachers not having the correct training and education to meet the needs of children with IEPs.

Amanda Flowers shared an invitation to begin discussions on solutions with round table conversations to help program initiatives, the team at the coalition, board members, and providers. Ms. Flowers made a plea to provide resources and dedicated specialists in the classroom. Ms. Flowers also asked for an invitation to Tallahassee with coalition leadership.

There was further discussion on why so many public comments were made about children with special needs. Dr. Hicks, CEO of the ELCHC explained the mark was being missed in educating and caring for children with unique abilities and expressed the importance of the trips to Tallahassee to bring to light the need of these children and their families to state legislators.

All those who made public comments were thanked for sharing their unique experiences and bringing to light the depth of the need to care for the youngest in the community with special needs.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Shawn Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 pm. Beth Pasek made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Read and approved by: Stephanie Holmquist Jan 12, 2024

Dr. Stephie Holmquist Johnson, Secretary

Date

01/12/2024






08.21.2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes_Approved

Final Audit Report

2024-01-12

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