



**Program Services and Childhood Health
Committee Meeting Transcript**

March 30, 2023

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
PROGRAM SERVICES AND CHILDHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
(IN PERSON QUORUM WITH SOME VIRTUAL ATTENDANTS)

MEETING MINUTES

**CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL**

The MDC Children's Trust Meeting, Program Services and Childhood Health Committee Meeting was held on March 30, 2023, commencing at 3:32 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

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Chair

KAREN WELLER, Vice Chair

DR. DANIEL BAGNER

DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL

LOURDES DIAZ

MARY DONWORTH

GILDA FERRADAZ

LOURDES P. GIMENEZ

KENNETH HOFFMAN (ex-officio)

LEIGH KOBRINSKI

1 STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

2

3 AMANDA GORSKI

4 BEVONE RITCHIE

5 CAROL BROGAN

6 DANIELLE BARRERAS

7 IMRAN ALI

8 JACQUES BENTOLILIA

9 JAMES R. HAJ

10 JAMIA HOOD

11 JUANA LEON

12 KATHLEEN DEXTER

13 KISANNE GAGE

14 LISETE YERO

15 NATALIA ZEA

16 RACHEL SPECTOR

17 TATIANA CANELAS

18 WILLIAM KIRTLAND

19 YULIET ALFANSO

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1 GUEST APPEARANCES:

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3 JANICE ROSADO, Town of Bayharbor Islands

4 JOEL JACOBI, Town of Bayharbor Islands

5 ANTONIO DRAYTON, M-DCPS

6 SAYRA HUGHES, Sayra Hughes & Associates, LLC

7 DANIEL SANTOS, Greater Miami Youth for Christ

8 STACY MORALES, Greater Miami Youth for Christ

9 ANGELINE EVANS, YWCA South Florida Inc.

10 JOSE FILPO, YWCA South Florida Inc.

11 VERONICA BROWN, YWCA South Florida Inc.

12 IARISSA ECKERMANN, My Little World

13 VIRGINIA ZAMBRANO, My Little World

14 J MARTINEZ, Family and Children Faith Coalition

15 FRANK PEREZ-BLONA, Thinking Child Academy

16 KRISTINE PEREZ-CARRION, FLIPANY

17 ANGELICA PEREZ, Miami Music Festival

18 VIRGINIA JACKO, Miami Lighthouse

19 BARBARA CESAR, Centro Campesino Farmworker

20 Center

21 BLOSSOM GROUP FLORIDA, Blossom Group Florida

22 SHEILA WOMBLE Arts for Learning

23 PROMISE JACKSON, Global Speech & Rehab Services

24 DIDIER DOMINIQUE, Sports Konnect

25 MYRNA CHARLTON, The Arc of South Florida

1 GUEST APPEARANCES, Cont.:

2

3 SUMER JARMAN, City of Miami Beach All Stars

4 BROOKE MANETTI, Miami Children's Museum, Inc.

5 DEVIN BROWNE, Sports Konnect

6 VERONICA WARD, Promised Land Academy

7 MICHAEL ROSSI, Miami Music Festival

8 MELODY PEREZ, City of Miami Beach - Parks and

9 Recreation

10 VICTOR MARTINEZ, NFTE

11 SUSANA VELA, Amigos for Kids

12 LINDA FREEMAN, Trinity Church / Peacemakers

13 Family Center

14 KARINA PAVONE, Amigos for Kids

15 KYESHIA CURTIS, MCM SMART

16 CHRIS BRIGNOLLE, NFTE

17 SALIHA NELSON, URGENT

18 JANALLIE TOOMER, Shepherd of God Christian

19 Academy Corp

20 VANESSA CAINZOS, FL Academy

21 JENNIFER JOHNSON, FLOTA INC

22 MONICA TOOKES, Future Leaders of Tomorrow

23 Academy

24

25

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced
3 at 3:32 p.m.)

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thanks to -- thank you
5 very much for thinking about us. It's good to
6 see everybody today. And I'd like to welcome
7 you all to our second Program Services and
8 Childhood Health Committee Meeting for March.
9 And we have just a few resolutions for you
10 today.

11 Wanda (phonetic), any public comments?

12 MS. LEON: No public comments.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: But I do believe we
14 have our Board Chair joining us via Zoom. I'll
15 pause to see if Ed would like to say hello.

16 All right. Hearing -- hearing no hello.
17 Let's move on to the approval of the March 2,
18 2023, Program Services and Childhood Health
19 Committee Meeting minutes. Committee members,
20 by now you will have had an opportunity to -- to
21 review the minutes. May I have a motion for
22 approval, please?

23 MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

24 DR. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Second.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. We have a

1 first and a second. All those in favor.

2 CHORUS: Aye.

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
4 The minutes are approved as provided. Before we
5 move into resolutions, I believe our CEO has a
6 presentation for us.

7 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. The
8 presentation actually ties into the first reso.
9 This is our youth development reso. We have
10 been working two years, three board retreats, a
11 lot of committee meetings, and a lot of effort
12 with staff and Board leading up to today. So, I
13 just want to go through a quick PowerPoint of
14 where we come from, the work that has been
15 behind the scenes to get to this point. So,
16 we're almost at the finish line of the next
17 five-year cycle. So, Wanda, if you can pull up
18 the PowerPoint. Next page.

19 All right, so the past several years we had
20 -- we talked about the Board retreats. We -- we
21 -- the -- the last three Board retreats really
22 had been giving staff direction about funding
23 opportunities, where to invest, and the staff
24 has carried out the Board's directives, and also
25 to improve our solicitation process. We have

1 put all stakeholders under an umbrella leading
2 up to this process. We have a parent survey
3 that went out to all the parents, with 2000
4 parents and caregivers giving us feedback.

5 We conducted 27 focus groups with parents
6 and youth, and we also focused -- had 28 youth -
7 - one
8 -- and we'll talk about later. We have -- we
9 have opportunity that we've never funded in this
10 area, but how do we reach those kids who may not
11 be in school, may be in and out of the -- the
12 justice system or the foster care system, and
13 how do we reach the hard-to-reach youth and
14 provide them the necessary programs and giving
15 the providers the flexibility to meet those kids
16 where they are at. We also conducted a provider
17 input session in July 2022, with over 500
18 community stakeholders in attendance giving us
19 also feedback.

20 The -- the next slide we go into the --
21 just the community engagement efforts. So,
22 throughout the years, we -- we've learned
23 through every process is how to get out to the
24 community and let them know the RFP is coming.
25 The -- the large organizations, the people in

1 our system, the new people, individuals who want
2 to get into our system, so we --- we went out
3 there and went to 37 different collaborative
4 meetings, as well as the engagement team worked
5 with the programs team. So, anyone who
6 requested information, we went to meet with
7 them, how to apply for RFP. Again, there was a
8 lot of people who requested a prior --
9 assignments, and we went out there and met
10 everyone and answered everybody's questions.

11 And then the -- the area that we're very
12 proud of -- next slide -- is the new population
13 that we added for this cycle. It's a system
14 involving youth who are disconnected from school
15 and work. With -- with the board's guidance, we
16 undertook the -- the efforts -- this new
17 development cycle to explore new ways to expand
18 our supports for youth involved in the child
19 welfare system or the juvenile justice system,
20 or those students who are just disconnected from
21 school and work with no programs serving them.

22 In addition to the 27 research-led focus
23 groups I talked about before, we also met with
24 more than two dozen leaders in their respective
25 fields ranging from faith-based community

1 leaders, leaders of CBOs who know how to
2 effectively reach these youth, grass --
3 grassroots community organizers who work with a
4 army of parents to reach troubled teens, experts
5 in the juvenile justice system, psychologists,
6 experts related to how to best serve prosecuted
7 youth, as well as DCF. And those listening
8 sessions really prepared us for this RFP.

9 And then the reviewer training. So, as we
10 are now in five-year cycles and we also have a
11 lot of new staff the last several years was how
12 to train our staff. So, the last six months, we
13 went on a big training session about the RFP and
14 how to score RFPs, and not only external, we
15 also trained -- and not only internal, but we
16 also have external reviewers. So, any RFP, when
17 individuals apply or organizations apply, they
18 are reviewed by two internal staff and one
19 external reviewer. So, we thank the community
20 because we had an army of external reviewers who
21 were trained.

22 And for the staff, we have 80 staff
23 members; every single staff member was trained
24 through a course of six weeks. We also gave
25 them homework assignments, came back, gave them

1 feedback on the scoring, and it really helped to
2 align the scoring system. Also at -- at the
3 end, we have debriefing meetings. And what a
4 debriefing meeting is that those -- the
5 reviewers review independently, and then they
6 come together collectively in a public setting.

7 And the public setting is open to the
8 public, and people come and hear, and those
9 providers who are being scored can be in the
10 room or be on Zoom, and hear their scores. The
11 scores are compiled and that's where it gets
12 moved into the funding opportunity. So, we
13 enhanced our internal/external reviewer
14 training, six sessions for internal reviewers
15 over a three-month period. We had a pre-
16 training video for our volunteer committee
17 reviewers, in-person training with assignments
18 and practice sessions, and we also included
19 evaluation for reviewers with feedback.

20 And here are some of the numbers and the
21 results of where we're at. We continue our
22 efforts to -- it gets -- we're all under
23 continuous improvement, so we continue our
24 efforts in simplifying our application review
25 process, including improved reviewer selection

1 training. We had more than 460 separate reviews
2 that were conducted with a -- conducted out of
3 154 applications submitted, since every
4 application is indi -- individually reviewed by
5 three reviewers.

6 We -- we were very blessed, again, to
7 recruit a large pool of interested volunteer
8 reviewers. And we -- we trained the whole staff
9 when we trained all the external reviewers. We
10 did not use them all, but, as you know, we've
11 just released parenting. We have a parenting
12 RFP going out that we're going to need some
13 reviewers. We have five RFPs going out for our
14 kind of back-end support, our auditing service,
15 our HR service, and that we're going to need
16 reviewers as well.

17 So, we trained everybody, knowing through
18 the course of the year we'll be using a variety
19 of different people. And we also -- we also met
20 after the funding recommendations. There's --
21 there's a chance to appeal. We had several
22 people appeal, but those appeals were denied
23 because there were no procedural violations, but
24 there was another button to click to come and
25 meet with us and review. So, we're happy to

1 meet with everyone. We met with 27
2 organizations, and some of those organizations
3 we met with more than once. And staff, for the
4 last three weeks, have been meeting day and
5 night with all the people who took -- were
6 approved and those people who were not approved.

7 Our intern -- our intentional efforts the
8 last several months -- the last couple of years
9 -- the last several months has truly paid off.
10 We are -- we are now recommending the largest
11 youth development investment -- investment in
12 the history of the children's trust.

13 So, a couple of highlights; this cycle new
14 agencies to the initiative. So, let me back up
15 -- through last cycle -- when we went through
16 last cycle five years ago, we looked at some of
17 the narrative out there, about it was hard to
18 get trust funding, we didn't have a grant
19 writer, big, small, university, not university,
20 but the reality was, it was -- the barrier to
21 entry was getting into the trust ecosystem.
22 People in the trust ecosystem, usually continue
23 to get funding. There was a barrier to
24 entrance-- a barrier to entry for new providers.

25 So, we worked on that. Three -- three

1 cycles ago there was 8 percent probability of
2 those -- 8 percent success rate to get into our
3 system, last cycle was at 59, and this cycle was
4 78 percent of the new funders were able to get
5 into our ecosystem. In addition to the overall
6 -- oh, that is 24 new programs, if you look at
7 the number; 78 percent was 24 new programs.

8 In addition to the overall increased
9 success by new agencies, 88 percent of the
10 applicants that were previously funded as
11 subcontracts, so many of these were
12 subcontractors working through somebody else,
13 were able to apply, and they are now fully
14 funded as the lead agency. And finally, what
15 we're very proud about, we had efforts the last
16 several years over the small CBO; 100 percent of
17 our small CBO applicants who applied received
18 trust funding per the recommendations.

19 And the next slide just shows a geographic
20 expansion. So, as a result, the RFP called out
21 several census designation places for expansion,
22 and these are places we want a larger footprint
23 where -- especially those living in poverty.
24 Our goal through the competitive solicitation is
25 to ensure that we have services throughout

1 Miami-Dade County. And the slides here show --
2 where the yellow dots in the pro -- currently --
3 our -- our youth development after school and
4 summer footprint, those are where the yellow
5 dots, and the purple background highlighting the
6 areas designated for expansion. These maps are
7 listed as part of YD RFP for applicants to
8 consider.

9 And the recommendations before you
10 represent an overall -- an overall increase in
11 after school and summer programs from 484 sites
12 to 682 sites. This is -- includes a 41 percent
13 expansion in -- in the identified priority
14 areas. This map also shows expansion areas in
15 yellow and includes after school, summer, and
16 full-day time frames. And if you look at the
17 size of the dots, the size of the dots are
18 correlated to the number of slots.

19 And just the last page; I just want to
20 thank the team. It really has been this board,
21 80 staff members, and the community working
22 exceptionally hard to get to this point. This
23 is our largest investment. We are now setting
24 ourselves up, if the Board approves -- by the
25 way, we took this also to the Finance Committee

1 this morning because we wanted the Finance
2 Committee to be aware. It's coming to Programs
3 Committee and the full Board on April 17th. If
4 the Board approves on April 17th, this will set
5 up our next five-year cohort, with 36,000 slots
6 for kids that will be in after school and summer
7 programs. Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. So,
9 with that presentation, we will move into
10 resolutions, and I'm going to punt to Karen
11 Weller, who will present Resolution 2023-A.

12 MS. WELLER: Good afternoon, everyone, I
13 apologize for being late. Anyway, Resolution
14 2023-A: Authorization to negotiate and execute
15 contracts, with 143 providers identified herein,
16 to deliver high-quality after-school programming
17 for 17,413 elementary, middle, high school age
18 children and youth and summer programming for
19 18,597 elementary, middle, and high school age
20 children and youth, in the total amount not to
21 exceed \$76,662,000, for year-round and school-
22 year programs.

23 The contract term will be 12 months,
24 commencing August 15th of 2023 and ending
25 August 14th of 2024. And for summer-only

1 programs, the contract term will be a term of
2 six months, commencing March the 1st of 2024 and
3 ending
4 August 31st of 2024. Each with four remaining
5 annual renewals, subject to annual funding
6 appropriations --

7 MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

8 MS. WELLER: Thank you. A second?

9 MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

10 MS. WELLER: Thank you. Any recusals?

11 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recused, Hollingsworth.

12 My daughter works for the Adrienne Arsht Center. Comment

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s

13 MS. WELLER: Oh, okay. Thank you.

14 MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, employed by
15 FIU --

16 MS. WELLER: Okay. Anyone else? Now, as
17 we move into discussion -- she gave a
18 presentation on -- so does anyone else want to
19 say anything? Comments? Okay, hearing none.
20 All those in favor?

21 CHORUS: Aye.

22 MS. WELLER: Opposed? Resolution carries.

23 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Karen.

24 Resolution 2023-B: Authorization to negotiate
25 and execute a final contract renewal with

1 Florida International University Board of
2 Trustees, FIU, for reading enhancement services
3 in a total amount, not to exceed \$945,752.

4 For a term of 12 months, commencing October
5 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024. May I
6 have a motion, please?

7 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Bendross-
8 Mindingall, --

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. And a
10 second?

11 MS. DONWORTH: Second, Donworth.

12 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there
13 any recusals?

14 MR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, I'm employed
15 by FIU.

16 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Other
17 recusals? And moving into discussion.

18 The trust has been funding reading
19 enhancement services since 2013. And Reading
20 Explorers serves existing trust-funded after
21 school and summers programs along with trust-
22 affiliated early education programs delivering
23 literacy interventions directly to young
24 children during the summer and on-site coaching
25 and support during the school year. Summer

1 services are by far the most intensive. And
2 note that this contract renewal considers the
3 additional funding added in 2022/23 contract by
4 way of an amendment to support increase staffing
5 costs and for teacher quality.

6 Feedback/comments from the committee?

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Hearing none. All
8 those in favor?

9 CHORUS: Aye.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?
11 The resolution carries. Resolution 2023-C:
12 Authorization to negotiate and execute a
13 contract with Florida Introduces Physical
14 Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY) for
15 after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount
16 not to exceed 600,000 -- or \$600,000.

17 For a term of 12 months, commencing October
18 1, 2023, and ending September 30, 2024, with two
19 remaining contract renewals. May I have a
20 motion, please?

21 MS. GIMENEZ: Gimenez.

22 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you and a second?

23 MR. BAGNER: Second.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Second is -
25 - is Bag -- Bagner. Are there any recusals?

1 Hearing no recusals. Moving to discussion.

2 The trust requires all after school and
3 summer programs to provide participating
4 children with food that meets the United States
5 Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nutritional
6 Program -- Nutrition Program requirements.
7 FLIPANY is the after-school snack and meal
8 provider for programs not located in a Miami-
9 Dade County public school or a licensed
10 childcare center, since those locations are
11 already served through separate food programs.

12 FLIPANY provides nutritious lunches,
13 snacks, and supper to 91 trust-funded after-
14 school sites for children and youth in grades K
15 to 12, and also offers administrative services
16 for the relevant agencies to help them meet the
17 requirements of the after-school meals program
18 funded by the Florida Department of Agriculture
19 and administered by the Florida Department of
20 Health.

21 Thoughts, observations, comments from the
22 committee? Hearing none. All those in favor?

23 CHORUS: Aye.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: All right. Are there
25 any opposed? Resolution carries, and that

1 concludes our resolutions for this meeting. And
2 so, I'll now turn to our CEO. Mr. CEO?

3 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. Board of
4 Directors site visit April 12, 3:00 to 4:00 at
5 Shenandoah Elementary. We hope you can all join
6 us. Last -- last one was at the COTE. It -- it
7 was a great event. We had five -- five/six
8 board members show up. We do -- we do value
9 your time and we'll keep it condensed. So, I
10 hope it will be no more than an hour.

11 Champions for Children on April 27th. If
12 you have not RSVPed, please do so. We're doing
13 the table assignments the next couple of weeks
14 and the reservations are now flying in, so we
15 want to make sure all the board members have a
16 seat reserved. The Young Talent Big Dreams
17 finale is going to be at the Miracle Theatre on
18 May 13th at 7:00 p.m.

19 And lastly, summer camps. You know,
20 summer's coming around the corner. Parents are
21 going to start looking for summer camps. We
22 have a great partnership with Miami-Dade County,
23 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and JCS have
24 been working for months to get one site so
25 parents can go look. So, there'll be a media

1 blitz and things popping up. We're trying --
2 we're in the last week of trying to wrap things
3 up. And you will start seeing a big push from
4 all four of us with a common theme and common
5 messaging that we'll start doing the media and
6 get a push out on the social media channel. So,
7 we appreciate the work with the county school
8 system and JCS to coordinate this effort.

9 And this is our first year coming out this
10 door, and we're going to improve on it year
11 after year. But it really has been -- to have
12 four large organizations work so well together -
13 - and we started this several months ago because
14 we know that parents start looking right about
15 now for summer -- summer options. So, we're
16 very proud of that work and you'll see that in
17 the next couple of weeks. Thank you, Madam
18 Chair.

19 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim.

20 MR. HAJ: You're welcome.

21 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And with that,
22 committee members, staff, and guests, we are
23 adjourned. Thank you for your time today..

24 MR. HAJ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

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3 The above and foregoing transcript is a true and
4 correct typed copy of the contents of the file, which
5 was digitally recorded in the proceeding identified
6 at the beginning of the transcript, to the best of my
7 ability, knowledge and belief.

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CECIL CLARK, Transcriber

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April 18, 2023

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