



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

**June 01, 2023**

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

MEETING MINUTES

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.

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

**CERTIFIED  
ORIGINAL**

BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES:

PAMELA HOLLINGSWORTH, Chair

KAREN WELLER, Vice Chair

DR. EDWARD ABRAHAM

LAURA ADAMS

DR. DANIEL BAGNER

MARY DONWORTH

PASTOR RICHARD DUNN II

1 BOARD MEMBER APPEARANCES, Cont.:

2

3 GILDA FERRADAZ

4 LOURDES GIMENEZ

5 DR. CLARA OSPINA

6 LEIGH KOBRINSKI

7

8 STAFF MEMBER APPEARANCES:

9

10 BEVONE RITCHIE

11 CAROL BROGAN

12 IMRAN ALI

13 JACQUES BENTOLILA

14 JAMES HAJ

15 JENNIFER MORENO

16 JUANA LEON

17 LISETE YERO

18 NATALIA ZEA

19 PATRICIA LEAL

20 RACHEL SPECTOR

21 WILLIAM KIRTLAND

22 YULIET ALFONSO

23

24

25

## 1 GUEST APPEARANCES:

2

3 IRE DIAZ

4 CELIA MION

5 IVELISSE CARDE-SERRANO

6 GLORY PEREZ

7 LEIDY RAMIREZ

8 DEBRA RUDNICKI

9 LUZ RUIZ-MEHARRIS

10 TIM TYLER

11 JOYCELYN LAWRENCE

12 KETIA HARRIS

13 MARK HADLEY

14 MARIA MOTTA

15 AUDELIA MARTINEZ

16 FRANCINE ANDERSEN

17 JEANNIFER BONNET

18 JASON JENT

19 DAINELYS GARCIA

20 ELANA MANSOOR

21 JENNIFER DUROCHER

22 DAINELYS GARCIA

23 GLORY PEREZ

24

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

2 (Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced  
3 at 3:30 p.m.)

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

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

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

19 COMMITTEE: I.

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?  
21 The minutes are approved. We're going to move  
22 right to resolutions this afternoon. Resolution  
23 2023-A, Authorization to waive the formal  
24 competitive procurement process and to negotiate  
25 and execute contract renewals with eight providers

1 identified herein, for Trust Academy Quality  
2 Supports, in an amount not to exceed \$4,249,893 for  
3 a term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023  
4 and ending September 30th, 2024, with three  
5 remaining contract renewals. Further delegation of  
6 authority to adjust paid providers and some program  
7 components. May I have a motion please?

8 MS. GIMENEZ: Lourdes Gimenez.

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

20 The -- also, I'll add that the Trust Academy  
21 partners conduct initiative specific community  
22 awareness outreach and planning policy supports  
23 related to family services, youth development,  
24 inclusion supports of a couple of areas -- in a  
25 couple of areas, as well as organizational capacity

1 and leadership development. Feedback? Discussion  
2 from the committee?

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

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Gilda?

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

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

18 MS. FERRADAZ: -- yeah.

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

21 MS. FERRADAZ: No.

22 MR. BAGNER: Am I not understanding that  
23 correctly?

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: You're referring to that -  
25 -

1 MR. BAGNER: No.

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- chain delegation?

3 MR. BAGNER: Yeah, the changes. Correct.

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

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

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

22 So, when it came back to the board, I said  
23 this needs to have a procurement waiver because it  
24 wasn't the same -- the services that were initially  
25 procured. And then additionally, the staff is



1 asking for delegated authority in order to change  
2 some of the program components that are being  
3 funded and the paid partners without coming back to  
4 the board to reflect those changes.

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

7 MS. KOBRINSKI: Yes.

8 MR. BAGNER: Okay.

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

12 COMMITTEE: I.

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

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

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Secret shop -- shopper

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

8 And note that this work includes maintenance  
9 of an up-to-date, searchable online community  
10 resource directory. And as you look at the visual  
11 that accompanies this resolution, I'd invite you to  
12 note that housing is by far the top need expressed  
13 along with mental health and substance abuse.  
14 Feedback? Conversation from the committee?

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

18 MS. DIAZ: Good question, Lourdes. Gilda?

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

1 services.

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

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mary.

9 MS. DONSWORTH: Thank you.

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

12 COMMITTEE: I.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?  
14 The resolution carries. Resolution 2023-C,  
15 Authorization to negotiate and execute a match  
16 contract with Miami-Dade County Department of  
17 Cultural Affairs for Cultural Arts programs in an  
18 amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for a term of 12  
19 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending  
20 September 30th, 2024. May I have a motion please?  
21 Thank you, Dan.

22 And a second? Thank you, Karen. Are there  
23 any recusals? Hearing no recusals. Moving into  
24 discussion. This resolution authorizes match  
25 funding for Miami-Dade County Department of

1 Cultural Affairs to support nonprofit organizations  
2 that provide cultural art programs for children and  
3 families across the county.

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

13 And just a -- just a couple of the 2021, 2022  
14 highlights. There were 86 funded programs. 42,547  
15 children and youth were served with 6,245 of those  
16 served identifying at least one disability.  
17 Conversation? Discussion from the committee?

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

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Terrific. Okay. All  
25 those in favor?

1 COMMITTEE: I.

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?  
3 The resolution carries. And punting to Ms. Weller  
4 for Resolution 2023-D.

5 MS. WELLER: Thank you, Madame Chair.  
6 Resolution 2023-D, Authorization to negotiate and  
7 execute contracts with 45 prov -- providers  
8 identified herein, to deliver evidence-based  
9 parenting and family strengthening services in a  
10 total amount not to exceed \$23,230,563 each for  
11 term of 12 months, commencing October 1st, 2023 and  
12 ending September 30th, 2024, each with four  
13 remaining annual renewals subject to annual funding  
14 appropriations. May I have a motion please?

15 MS. DIAZ: LOURDES DIAZ.

16 MS. WELLER: Thank you. Second? Thank you.  
17 Any recusals?

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

20 MS. WELLER: Okay.

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

24 MS. WELLER: Okay. Thank you. Okay. As we  
25 move into discussion, in preparation for this

1 particular solicit -- solicitation -- excuse me --  
2 the Children's Trust conducted 16 focus groups with  
3 more than a hundred parents and considered results  
4 from a community parent survey of nearly 37 --  
5 3,700 parents and caregivers of children and youth  
6 of all ages.

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

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

23 COMMITTEE: I.

24 MS. WELLER: Oppose? The motion carries. And  
25 I give it back to you, Madame Chair.

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Ms. Weller.  
2 Authorization to waive the -- Resolution 2022-E,  
3 Authorization to waive the formal competitive  
4 procurement process and to negotiate and execute  
5 contract renewals with 22 providers identified  
6 herein, for family and neighborhood support  
7 partnerships in an amount not to exceed  
8 \$13,408,796.

9 And for the Children's Trust to encumber a  
10 purchase order in the amount of \$500,000 for pooled  
11 family stabilizing funding for total amount not to  
12 exceed \$13,908,796 for a term of 12 months,  
13 commencing October 1st, 2023 and ending September  
14 30th, 2024 with three remaining contract renewals.  
15 Further -- further delegation of authority to  
16 adjust paid providers and some program components.  
17 May I have a motion please?

18 MR. DUNN II: So moved, Dunn.

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

21 MR. BAGNER: Sorry, I'm -- I -- I was on a  
22 roll here. I I'm recusing again. Bagner, employed  
23 by FIU. I have a colleague who's funded on this  
24 with the Christie house, so I'm going to recuse  
25 from this one as well.

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dan. Other  
2 recusals? Hearing none. Moving into discu --  
3 discussion. Family and neighborhood support  
4 partnerships offer a comprehensive and  
5 individualized support for children, youth, and  
6 their families experiencing challenges that may  
7 limit them from realizing their total health,  
8 social, educational, and economic potential.

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

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

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

25 COMMITTEE: I.



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

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

15 MR. BAGNER: Daniel Bagner.

16 MS. WELLER: Thank you. Second? Thank you.  
17 Any recusals?

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recuse. Hollingsworth. I  
19 worked for the Early Learning Coalition.

20 MS. WELLER: Okay. All right. Moving into  
21 discussion. In Resolution number 2023-05, This  
22 board approved the Ascend program, which is the  
23 salary supplement program for early learning  
24 educators working in Thrive by Five programs.  
25 Approval of this resolution will amend Resolution

1       number 2023-05 to allow for an amendment to the  
2       current contract with the ELC to amend the scope of  
3       service to add an additional cont -- contract  
4       activity.

5               With this activity, the ELC will be able to  
6       award qualify -- qualifying ascend educators a one-  
7       time bonus payment using limited term funds, up to  
8       5 million, available from the Coronavirus Response  
9       and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the  
10      Adminis -- Administrations of Children's and  
11      Families. Any further discussion?

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

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

21             MS. FERRADAZ: No, to the same teachers that  
22      are currently getting incentives that's been vetted  
23      to our process. So, it's an additional payment.  
24      They will receive an addition to what they're  
25      getting from us.

1           So, we just want to make sure we leverage that  
2           \$5 million, keeping them in the community to get  
3           these qualified individuals.

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

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

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

13          MS. WELLER: Okay. Any further discussion?  
14          All those in favor?

15          COMMITTEE: I.

16          MS. WELLER: Opposed? The motion carries.

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

21          And so, while this money was awarded to the  
22          Early Learning Coalition, we actually had to write  
23          a grant to receive it. And in order to demonstrate  
24          need, we used the extensive data that the  
25          Children's Trust has -- has been able to pull

1 together over the years in terms of the impact of -  
2 - you know -- reducing turnover and -- you know --  
3 all of the positive things -- you know -- focusing  
4 on also the incentivization of additional education  
5 and so forth.

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

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

22 So, I -- I applaud this grant for making it  
23 competitive and attractive to those who are already  
24 in this field. Of course, ideally speaking, we  
25 want to expand it, but we want to make sure that we

1 can salvage what we have at this point.

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

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Certainly.

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

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.

11 MR. DUNN II: Yeah.

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

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

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: -- However as --

18 MR. DUNN II: No pun intended.

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

23 MR. HAJ: Yes.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Jim, we'll punt to you for  
25 the CEO report.

1 MR. HAJ: Madame Chair, thank you. And you  
2 know, just want to comment before I forget -- the  
3 CEO report of the reso that was just passed. Pam,  
4 Madame Chair, thank you -- with Rachel. A lot of  
5 the executive team, the ELC team and our attorneys  
6 who have worked very hard las -- last month. Just  
7 to clarify, these \$5 million were going to be  
8 returned.

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

20 The Family Expo -- We have three that will be  
21 held before school starts and we -- you know, we  
22 learn every year. We are putting these under AC.  
23 So, these are going to be venues that have AC, July  
24 22nd, July 29th, and August 5th throughout Miami-  
25 Dade County. And we hope as many board members as

1 possible could attend at least one of these events.

2 Thank you, Madame Chair.

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. And with  
4 that, ladies and gentlemen, we are adjourned.  
5 Thank you for joining today.

6 CEO: Yeah.

7 MR. DUNN II: Go Heat.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That's great.

9 MR. DUNN II: Yes, Lord.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Great.

11 MR. DUNN II: Yeah.

12 (Thereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 3:52:  
13 p.m.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

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

7 *Audrey Chiquito*  
8 

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9 AUDREY CHIQUITO, Transcriber

10 June 13, 2023  
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