



Board of Directors Meeting

March 18, 2019

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THE CHILDREN'S TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Children's Trust Board of Directors Meeting was held on Monday, March 18th, 2019, commencing at 4:00 p.m., at 3150 Southwest 3rd Avenue, Ryder Room, Miami, Floirda 33129. The meeting was called to order by Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chair.

Officers/Executive Committee:

- Kenneth G. Hoffman, Chair
- Mark Trowbridge, Vice Chair
- Karen Weller, Secretary
- Steve Hope, Treasurer

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THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Dr. Magaly Abrahante
- Laura Adams
- Dr. Daniel Bagner
- Sanford Bohrer
- Rodester Brandon
- Constance Collins
- Mary Donworth
- Dr. Antonia Eyssallenne
- Gilda Ferradaz
- Lourdes P. Gimenez
- Nicole Gomez
- Mindy Grimes-Festge
- Pamela Hollingsworth
- Hon. Barbara Jordan
- Maurice Kenp
- Tiombe-Bisa kendrick-Dunn
- Dr. Nancy Lawther
- Marissa Leichter
- Frank Manning
- Dr. Susan Neimand
- Dr. Marta Perez
- Hon. Orlando Prescott
- Javier Reyes
- Hon. Isaac Salver
- Rita Vega
- Shanika Graves
- Dale Clarke

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STAFF:

James Haj, President/Chief Executive Officer
Bevone Ritchie
Chelsea Alfonso
Dalila Gonzalez
Deborah Robinson
Donovan lee-Sin
Felix Becerra
Garnet Esters
Imran Ali
Joanna Revelo
Jorge Gonzalez
Juana Leon
Juliette Fabien
Lianne Betancout
Lisanne Gage
Lisete Yero
Lori (Katherine) Hanson
Maria-Paula Garcia
Muriel Jeanty
Rachel Spector
Sabine Dulcio
Sheryl S. Borg
Stephanie Sylvestre
Susan Marian
Tatiana Canelas
Vivianne Bohorques
Wendy Duncombe
William Kirtland
Ximena Nunez
Zafreen Jaffery

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GUESTS:

- Som Van Leer
- Christine Hughes
- Shawn Langer
- Jackie Roth
- Mary Ana Wieg
- Moises D. Ariza
- Kristyna Pena
- Nehemie Etienne
- Heidy Valdes
- Mille Cullen
- Dannielle Dixson
- Nicole Vasconcellos
- Norma Schwartz
- Linda Freeman
- Chloe Wicklas
- Terry Joseph
- Milagros Hernandez
- Isabel Chica

1 (Thereupon, recordings of the meeting commence at
2 4:05 p.m.)

3 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Let's bring the meeting
4 to order. It is 4:05 p.m.

5 Muriel, do we have public comments?

6 MS. JEANTY: No, sir, no public comments.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: All right.

8 So the first order of business would be the
9 approval of minutes of the last meeting.

10 MS. WELLER: The Board of Directors met on
11 Tuesday, February 19th, 2019. The minutes from
12 the meeting are in the packets and
13 (indistinguishable) hopefully everyone has had an
14 opportunity to review (indistinguishable).

15 MR. HOPE: (Indistinguishable).

16 MS. WELLER: Any discussion?

17 All those in favor?

18 BOARD: Aye.

19 MS. WELLER: Opposed?

20 The motion carries, Mr. Chair.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: I have a couple of
22 announcements before we begin the business part of
23 the meeting.

24 First of all, last week the Selection
25 Committee (indistinguishable) the Champions for

1 Children Award luncheon met for the
2 (indistinguishable) Lawrence (phonetic) Champion
3 for Childen Award, Judge Jeri Beth Cohen will be
4 given that award.

5 For excellence in direct service to Children
6 and Families Award, which is given to a staff
7 member and a provider, Michelle Gorman (phonetic)
8 (indistinguishable) who is a mentor and acapella
9 group leader will get that award.

10 And then we give three awards to our
11 programs, our programs that we fund, and this year
12 the awards will go to Easter Seals, Centra Medera
13 (phonetic) and Nicklaus Children's Hospital, their
14 School Health Services Division.

15 (Applause).

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

17 Thank you to those Board members who showed
18 up and deliberated and gave their time and energy
19 to helping us select those.

20 I want to congratulate Karen Weller on her
21 article in Miami Today announcing the well-being
22 survey being run by the Miami-Dade Public --
23 Miami-Dade Health Department which will help in
24 fomulated community health improvement plan.

25 I want to congratulate Mindy Grimes-Festge on

1 winning her reelection as secretary-treasurer of
2 the United Teachers of Dade.

3 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Thank you.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: (Indistinguishable)
5 Congratulations.

6 MS. GRIMES-FESTGE: Thank you.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: And finally, although she's not
8 here at this meeting, I wanted to announce that
9 Nicholas Duran will be replaced by Senator Anitere
10 Flores. I assume we will see her at a subsequent
11 meeting and you know, (indistinguishable) thank
12 you.

13 (Indistinguishable).

14 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, it's my honor to
15 recognize Insum Kim (phonetic) for her services to
16 the Trust.

17 She served on the Trust for, I believe, a
18 little over two years, been a silent leader of the
19 Trust and has served on the Finance Committee and
20 this Board.

21 So Insum, we would like to present you with a
22 small token of our appreciation for your service
23 to this community.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. KIM: Thank you very much.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

2 Okay. And now we will turn it over to Steve
3 Hope, our Finance and Operations Committee, for
4 your report (indistinguishable).

5 MR. HOPE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6 Good afternoon, everyone.

7 Back in 2018, the audit firm of Marcum was
8 selected and approved by the Board to conduct our
9 annual audit.

10 Their presentation today is the first audit
11 since the engagement of the auditor, so obviously
12 knowing you tend to find it, there's some anxiety
13 when you transition from one auditing firm that
14 you've worked with for the past five years and I
15 think that the synergy that this audit firm
16 brought to the table made that transition pretty
17 easy for the Children's Trust staff.

18 The preparation for the financial audit is
19 normally a very tedious process, so before
20 discussing the auditor's finding, I want to take
21 this opportunity on behalf of the Finance
22 Committee and Board to express our deepest
23 appreciation to Bill Siepo (phonetic), Wendy the
24 Comptroller at the finance (indistinguishable) for
25 showing that we had such a successful audit.

1 So I think-- I just want to recognize the
2 staff for the great job done.

3 In addition on those, I would like to extend
4 our deepest appreciation to the audit firm for the
5 diligence and professionalism displayed in
6 conducting the audit.

7 Now, attaching your tab, you will see the
8 audit communication letter to the Board and the
9 comprehensive annual financial report for the
10 fiscal period 2018 -- I'm sorry, 2017 to 2018 for
11 your review.

12 So I hope you had an opportunity to take a
13 look at those reports prior to the meeting.

14 While the CAFRs will have a described pretty
15 good bedtime reading, one of the most important
16 information that comes out from the process is the
17 communication letter from the auditors.

18 And what that letter does it pretty much
19 highlights whether or not there are any
20 significant findings or difficulties that the
21 auditors experienced during the audit process.

22 Now, the independent audit report that we
23 received is an unmodified opinion without any
24 additional matters noted such as any significant
25 fiscal deficiencies or any material weaknesses or

1 any management (indistinguishable) comment.

2 So for someone in a finance background, that
3 would be considered an exceptionally well report.

4 So what this tends to demonstrate, and it's
5 evident by the fact that this is the seventh
6 consecutive year that the agency has yielded a
7 financial report with no management letter
8 comments or significant deficiencies.

9 So I encourage the Board to review the
10 management discussion and analysis report and this
11 report tends to provide substantial information
12 that enables management and the Board to sort of
13 look at the audit process as it relates to the
14 organizational performances and activities during
15 the fiscal period.

16 I think we have one of the auditors here
17 today, so if there are any specific questions
18 prior to putting this motion forward for a vote, I
19 want to extend the opportunity to see first if you
20 have anything to say, sir, and then we can then
21 extend an invitation to the auditor if the Board
22 members have any questions.

23 MR. KIRKLAND: Well, at the risk of not
24 sounding like a gentleman, Mr. Hope, when you're
25 giving acknowledgment for good job or job well

1 done, I wanted to also thank back to you as the
2 Finance chairman for the support that you have
3 provided throughout the audit process, the auditor
4 selection process and all of the Finance Committee
5 or the Finance and Operations Committee and the
6 supports that we've received there and the Board,
7 in its entirety, has allowed us to generate an
8 audit environment that is conducive and supports
9 our staff to acknowledging and recognizing the
10 policies and procedures that allow us all year
11 round to insure that our annual audit goes
12 smoothly and is a success.

13 So I, as well, was going to thank Wendy
14 Duncombe, our comptroller, as well as our Finance
15 staff and the entirety of our staff for supporting
16 the procedures of the audit as well as Marcum for
17 again, as you mentioned, providing an audit
18 environment that was very smooth in the transition
19 from one auditor to another was seamless and we
20 found it very simple and not as painstaking as we
21 expected, so with that, again, I'll turn it back
22 to you, Mr. Hope, or field any questions as it
23 relates to the audit.

24 MR. HOPE: Thank you, sir.

25 So, I guess we've -- raise the motion first

1 and then we will open the floor for discussion.

2 Can I get a motion, please?

3 MR. SALVER: I'm Isaac Salver.

4 MR. HOPE: Do we have a second?

5 MR. BRANDON: Second, Brandon.

6 MR. HOPE: I doubt we have any recusals, but
7 any recusals?

8 Any discussion?

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Chair, do we -- this is so
11 fast, you know, I'm not used to
12 (indistinguishable).

13 MR. HOPE: (Indistinguishable)

14 (Laughter.)

15 JUDGE JORDAN: I'm not used to this on the
16 County Commission.

17 (Laughter).

18 Mr. Chair, did we hear from the auditor?

19 MR. HOPE: If the Board so desires, yes,
20 ma'am.

21 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, I do.

22 MR. HOPE: Okay.

23 JUDGE JORDAN: I'd like to hear from the
24 auditor. I think usually they give a summary
25 report.

1 MR. HOPE: Okay.

2 JUDGE JORDAN: As their findings.

3 MR. HOPE: Okay. So we'll -- all right, so
4 can we just finish -- well, we've got the motion
5 and second, correct?

6 Someone seconded? Okay.

7 All right. So for the discussion, we will
8 just have the auditor to come up, please and I'm
9 sure the Board members may have some questions for
10 you.

11 MR. HOFFMAN: Can I just interject while he's
12 getting set up, our reporter is not familiar with
13 the voices and faces here, so can you please
14 announce your name when you're (indistinguishable)
15 speaking.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. ARIZA: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Moises Ariza and I served as the senior manager as
19 part of the audit team of Marcum.

20 Marcum was engaged to perform an audit of the
21 Trust for the period ending September 30th, 2018.

22 This is the first year of our contract. We
23 were awarded a five year contract, and as Bill had
24 mentioned, it was the first year of our
25 transition.

1 It was an effortless transition. We work on
2 a paperless environment and the Trust was able to
3 produce our audit requests in either electronic
4 format or some sort of format that was on paper
5 (indistinguishable).

6 Today you have in front of you the
7 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This
8 report in itself is put together by your Finance
9 Department but inside the report you have several
10 reports that us, as your auditors, include and it
11 makes reference to our opinion and conclusion of
12 our audit.

13 Most importantly is our audit report that
14 starts on Page 1. It makes reference to the
15 standards that we follow, which are U.S. Auditing
16 standards, also government auditing standards.

17 As the Trust is a government entity in the
18 State of Florida, we're required to follow
19 government auditing standards.

20 It also makes reference to the standards that
21 your Finance Department applies under financial
22 framework which is the United States generally
23 accepted auditing -- accounting principles and it
24 also includes our opinion paragraph, which is on
25 Page 2 of our auditor's report.

1 And that, in essence, it's the most important
2 paragraph in the auditor's report and it gives our
3 opinion and conclusion of our audit, and in the
4 case of the Trust, you received a clean opinion, a
5 modified opinion, which is the -- it's known as
6 the highest regard when it comes to a financial
7 audit.

8 It's the only audit opinion you, as a Board,
9 want to be associated with.

10 So we did mention the fact that there's no
11 modified opinion, that we have no non compliance
12 issues, no internal control related matters to
13 report to the Board at this time.

14 The document is lengthy, but following our
15 auditor's report is a section called Management
16 Discussion Analysis.

17 That -- the short version is called MD&A and
18 it compares current year activity versus prior
19 year activity.

20 The nice thing about the MD&A is not only it
21 shows to you monetary differences and pattern of
22 form, but it also provides the underlying
23 justification underlying reason of why there was
24 changes in the activity from prior year to current
25 year.

1 So if you don't decide to read the entire
2 document outside of the auditor's report, I'd
3 suggest you read the MD&A, it's about ten pages,
4 and it gives you a good financial aspect and
5 future of the Trust as it stands today.

6 Outside of the CAFR, we'd also release our
7 communication letter.

8 The purpose of the communication letter is to
9 follow up professional standards and summarize,
10 outside of the CAFR, as a result of our audit.

11 We mention the fact that there was no
12 difficulties during the audit.

13 We had no disagreements with the Finance
14 Department.

15 We had no disagreements in the recording of
16 any certified transaction and we also mention the
17 fact that we had no non compliance issues or any
18 findings to report in time.

19 Again, the CAFR was presented to the Audit
20 and Finance Committee last week. It has been
21 issued, and if you have any questions, I hope I
22 can answer them.

23 MR. HOPE: So Board members, anyone have any
24 question for the auditors?

25 Okay.

1 All right, if we could vote on the approval
2 of the auditor's report?

3 Oh, I'm sorry, ma'am.

4 DR. ABRAHANTE: I have a question.

5 Just a comment. One, I was just making sure
6 because he did an excellent job with the Finance
7 Committee in going over the report.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. ARIZA: Thank you.

10 MR. HOPE: All right.

11 So for approval, all in favor?

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 MR. HOPE: Opposed?

14 It passes.

15 Moving on to the Resolution.

16 Thank you, sir.

17 Resolution 2019-42, authorization to
18 negotiate and execute a contract with Armstrong
19 Creative Consulting, Inc., an agency selected from
20 the approved vendor pool for a term of six months,
21 commencing April 1, 2019 and ending September
22 30th, 2019, to plan and execute the 2019
23 Children's Trust Expo in a total amount not to
24 exceed \$290,000.

25 Can I get a motion, please?

1 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

2 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Second

3 (indistinguishable).

4 MR. HOPE: Any recusals?

5 Discussion?

6 Yes, ma'am.

7 JUDGE JORDAN: Are you talking to me?

8 When I read the item, I understood that there
9 were three applicants.

10 One was disqualified because of lack of
11 capacity and the other had a conflict, WLW
12 Marketing, I think.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable).

14 JUDGE JORDAN: What kind of conflict? What
15 was that conflict, and I have a couple of
16 questions based on that.

17 MR. HOPE: She's walking up to the --

18 MS. JIMMENA: Good afternoon.

19 (Indistinguishable) communication.

20 So for the -- (indistinguishable) Marketing,
21 they have another planned -- that is a Youth Fair,
22 so they have both (indistinguishable) events.

23 (indistinguishable).

24 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. I thought that was the
25 first one, that --

1 MS. JIMMENA: No. (indistinguishable) so we
2 have three vendors. One is Armstrong Creative,
3 that is the one that we're requesting the
4 (indistinguishable) for.

5 The second one is (indistinguishable), that
6 is the client or the entity that is not -- doesn't
7 have the capacity to take care of an event
8 (indistinguishable).

9 And the third vendor is World Marketing.
10 That's the one that they had the conflicting
11 dates.

12 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

13 MS. JIMMENA: (Indistinguishable).

14 JUDGE JORDAN: So maybe next year?

15 MR. HOPE: Yes, ma'am.

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Armstrong is -- also stated in
17 the item that they have been doing business with
18 us for more than nine years. Also here appear to
19 be they headed up the Expo?

20 MS. JIMMENA: No. They -- this is the fourth
21 year that they will be doing the Expo now.

22 JUDGE JORDAN: For the nine years, though,
23 they didn't do -- because the item said that for
24 nine years, three year period, each three years.

25 That's why I was asking if that --

1 MR. HAJ: (Indistinguishable) the original
2 answer is they have not done expos the last three
3 years. (Indistinguishable) the prior vendor
4 backed out, I believe it was three years ago and
5 we had to go through a vendor pool and Armstrong
6 was the best fit at the time.

7 We are currently under a brand new vendor
8 pool right now to expand the pool for the next
9 five years to have a larger selection.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: That was going to be my next
11 question, does the next vendor pool
12 (indistinguishable)?

13 MR. HAJ: Yes.

14 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you very much.

15 MS. JIMMENA: Yes, we're (indistinguishable)
16 vendor pool and right now we have four applicants.

17 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

18 MS. JIMMENA: (Indistinguishable).

19 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

20 MR. HOPE: Any additional discussion?

21 No?

22 Okay. Now, you can vote.

23 All in favor?

24 THE BOARD: Aye.

25 MR. HOPE: All opposed?

1 Okay. Next the Resolution 2019-43,
2 authorization to retroactively approve a service
3 agreement with Rex Free, Inc., to print and
4 prepare for distribution The Children's Trust
5 trilingual monthly (indistinguishable) newsletter
6 for a term of twelve months commencing on October
7 1, 2018 and ending on September 30th, 2019 in an
8 amount not to exceed \$50,000.

9 Can I get a motion, please?

10 MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

11 MR. HOPE: Can I get a second?

12 MS. WELLER: Second, Weller.

13 MR. HOPE: Any recusals?

14 Discussions?

15 Commissioner?

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Nobody else has any questions?

17 (Laughter.)

18 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Don't get mad with me,
19 okay?

20 (Laughter.)

21 MR. HOPE: Not at all.

22 JUDGE JORDAN: All right. I understand that
23 we were trading dollars because we were combining
24 the December and January report and doing the year
25 end report, and my only question is is that going

1 -- so we will have eleven publications instead of
2 twelve. Is that going to be the process moving
3 forward?

4 MS. JIMMENA: No. (Indistinguishable)
5 monthly issues with just one exception for the
6 (indistinguishable) year that we had the special
7 edition for (indistinguishable).

8 MR. HOPE: Any other discussion?

9 All in favor?

10 THE BOARD: Aye.

11 MR. HOPE: All opposed?

12 It passes.

13 The next Resolution 2019-44, authorization to
14 execute a contract amendment with Miami-Dade
15 County to retroactively modify the
16 (indistinguishable) payments of 16
17 interventionists, two data specialists and program
18 coordinate the (indistinguishable) Foundation and
19 new education initiative (indistinguishable) is
20 subcontractor under (indistinguishable) contract
21 SPE1821-7600 and reclassify the 17
22 interventionists, two data specialists and program
23 coordinator as professional service consultants
24 instead of employees and amend other provisions
25 within the contract and attachment thereto

1 commencing February 1, 2019 and ending July 31st,
2 2019.

3 Can I have a motion, please?

4 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: So moved, Hollingsworth.

5 MR. HOPE: Can I have a second?

6 MS. FERRADAZ: Second, Ferradaz.

7 MR. HOPE: Any recusals?

8 MS. WELLER: Weller, recusal.

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

10 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Kendrick-Dunn, recusal.

11 MR. HOPE: Any additional recusals?

12 Okay.

13 (Multiple voices - indistinguishable.)

14 DR. ABRAHANTE: Abrahante, recusal.

15 (Indistinguishable).

16 JUDGE JORDAN: To my understanding, I don't
17 have -- Commissioners, the custom and practice of
18 this Board because it has a standard of
19 appearances and propriety, any relationship, Board
20 members recuse and then after the item is voted
21 on, the members who recused, if they want to ask
22 questions and (indistinguishable), they are given
23 the opportunity at that time.

24 MR. HOPE: Okay, that's changed since I was
25 here before.

1 All right. Thank you.

2 JUDGE JORDAN: But I do have questions after
3 the vote.

4 MR. HOPE: Okay.

5 All right.

6 Any discussions?

7 MR. SALVER: Yeah.

8 I don't understand, so I would like it to be
9 explained to me.

10 MR. HOPE: Right. (Indistinguishable).

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Perhaps, Vivian, could
12 you --

13 MR. SALVER: Write it down.

14 MS. BOHORQUES: Sure. Viviana Bohorques,
15 Chief Operations Officer.

16 This contract requires -- we require an audit
17 of the County who also requires an audit of the
18 Foundation for the program specific audit.

19 During that audit, there was -- it was
20 discovered that the Foundation was paying the
21 interventionists (indistinguishable) where the
22 budget that we worked by hour.

23 So that was discovered during the audit and
24 what we're bringing forward is an opportunity to
25 adjust the language in our budget to make sure

1 that there's alignment between how the Foundation
2 is paying interventionists and what it states in
3 our budget.

4 MR. SALVER: Because I've never seen this on
5 any other --

6 MS. BOHORQUES: So let me --

7 MR. SALVER: I've never seen this in any
8 other circumstance.

9 MS. BOHORQUES: Let me get some background.

10 So as we all know, we have this agreement
11 with the County put together for children.

12 It's a three party agreement, well, four,
13 because the Trust contracts with the County, and
14 then the County contracts with Miami-Dade County
15 Public Schools and the Foundation for new
16 education initiatives.

17 The Trust contracts with the County and the
18 County contracts with the Foundation and the
19 School District provided for employees to be paid
20 at an hourly wage.

21 The Foundation, however, had a contract with
22 subcontractors that paid them based on
23 deliverables.

24 And it identified those individuals that were
25 identified as employees in the other contract as

1 professional service consultants, I believe.

2 And so in December, the audit was being
3 conducted on the Foundation as a part of the
4 County's contract.

5 And at that point, and we still don't have a
6 final audit report, but at that point, the auditor
7 indicated to the County or inquired about how were
8 the employees paid.

9 And that's when the issue arose is they said
10 the County contract with the Foundation wasn't the
11 same as what the Foundation's contract with those
12 professional service consultants were.

13 In order for the County to pay these
14 individuals as provided -- as the Foundation
15 currently does, the County contract with the Trust
16 has to be amended and that's the authority that
17 the County has for its contract with the
18 Foundation and the School District.

19 The Resolution that this Board has approved
20 authorizing the DO to amend contract doesn't give
21 all of the authority required here and that's why
22 this is coming back to the Board.

23 MR. SALVER: (Indistinguishable) having been
24 through this a couple of times so the staff,
25 there's no change in our funding for this or the

1 underlying service, it's just the recognition of
2 how the Foundation was performing or paying for
3 the service that they were, they're providing the
4 services on this relating to interventionists.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: In the past through our
6 contracts for our normal providers, the ones that
7 we have (indistinguishable) with call for the
8 Trust to determine how the method of payment
9 should be to a professional service provider,
10 whether it be employee or, you know, a
11 subcontractor, 1099 or independent subcontractor
12 (indistinguishable).

13 I've never ever seen us do anything like
14 this.

15 MS. BOHORQUES: The reason this is necessary
16 is because our contract said we're paying these
17 people forty hours per week and that was in all
18 the contracts, everyone agreed with it.

19 The practice, however, was not to pay them
20 forty hours a week.

21 The practice was to pay them based on
22 deliverables.

23 That came out as a result of the audit.

24 So during the audit, the auditor contacted
25 the County and inquired how are these individuals

1 being billed.

2 And the County said forty hours per week.

3 The auditor, at that point, said well, they
4 didn't have documentation to support those forty
5 hours per week.

6 So after further discussion with the
7 Foundation is when the discovery was made that
8 they were basing payment based on deliverables and
9 not the forty hours per week.

10 So typically, if there's any issue about how
11 employees or personnel will be paid, that occurs
12 during the contract negotiation.

13 Unfortunately, this is now an issue because
14 it came up after the contacts had been negotiated
15 and what appeared that everyone was in agreement
16 with, but the practice was different than the
17 language of the contract.

18 So this wouldn't be something that normally
19 occurs, but because we know that the payment
20 practice is different from the terms of the
21 contract, it's just prudent for us to say we're
22 going to make what they do say what the contract
23 says what they are actually doing.

24 MR. SALVER: So it sounds to me like we're
25 retrofitting, you know, a contract that has been

1 executed in a manner that we really didn't approve
2 of.

3 MS. BOHORQUES: Partially.

4 So the -- and that's why a part of it is
5 retro, it is starting February 1st of this year,
6 the contract predates that.

7 So, as I stated earlier, if there's still an
8 outstanding audit, that audit will capture
9 whatever the findings, if there are any, will
10 capture what should have been done at the time the
11 contract was executed up until the audit period.

12 So this would -- this is not being done to
13 cure any potential finding, this is saying that we
14 recognize now this is the best, I guess, method
15 for the Foundation to be able to access what the
16 professional services consultants are doing and to
17 assist them into getting that done.

18 MR. HOFFMAN: Isaac, to your first point, we
19 didn't -- we, as a Board, didn't specifically
20 approve whether they would be subcontractors
21 versus employees, but for our providers do
22 provide, and in this case, it's a consortium of
23 three entities to provide a budget and the budget
24 has categories whether somebody's an employee or a
25 subcontractor that work in the like.

1 So I think, you know, in this instance, we
2 are, obviously, aligning the contract with the
3 practice, but as was said earlier, it doesn't have
4 any effect on our commitment or on the underlying
5 services, those remain the same
6 (indistinguishable).

7 MR. SALVER: But let's just take a
8 hypothetical situation. And I might be able to
9 save you this, but if one of the contractors
10 applies for unemployment, and they find that your
11 public records request and they find multiple
12 contracts that they should be paid as employees
13 but they were paid as contractors, that could
14 produce a liability to the Trust for unpaid
15 payroll taxes or something like that.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: This is, we're on reimbursement
17 basis, so we don't -- we don't run --

18 MR. SALVER: So then --

19 MR. HOFFMAN: -- (indistinguishable) any
20 provider --

21 MR. SALVER: So then, we shouldn't be doing
22 this, because this is a County problem, this is
23 not a Children's Trust problem.

24 MR. HOFFMAN: Well, again, we may have an
25 objection to doing this to align the contract, but

1 we're just going to align the contract to the fact
2 this, and if we had been submitted a contract with
3 another provider that they have a mismatch with
4 (indistinguishable), they're probably going to
5 direct a rider. Here we have a contract with both
6 the County and the underlying provider to do the
7 service, so --

8 Again, I don't debate that there's a -- we
9 shouldn't necessarily have to do this or -- on
10 every instance, but in this case, we've been
11 advised to align the contract with the practice
12 and --

13 MR. SALVER: Do you feel that you're giving
14 us completely impartial guidance here? That
15 you're not representing the County?

16 MS. BOHORQUES: I am representing the Trust
17 and I would just say for the record that the
18 Children's Trust is a County Board, and in
19 addition to that the ordinance creating the Trust
20 provides that the County is ultimately responsible
21 for the Children's Trust and such there is no
22 conflict in that.

23 These programs have been proceeding for a
24 number of years. During those times I speak with
25 the Trust and with the County, and if there's any

1 issue that would appear to affect my objectivity.

2 There are other lawyers in our office that
3 can handle it.

4 At this point there's never been a time that
5 I felt I would not be able to properly represent
6 either the Trust or the County for these programs.

7 And the reason this is here is that
8 everything is done, the County sends it to the
9 Trust for approval, so that because it's cost
10 reimbursement it's so things have to be done.

11 Now some of these other provisions in the
12 contract, the County executed prior to the Trust
13 but the Trust had agreed to some of those terms
14 back in November, 2018.

15 And so this is to put all the terms that the
16 parties have agreed to together and so that all
17 the Boards will know what their representative
18 agencies have agreed to for these programs.

19 MR. SALVER: Well, just for the record, I'm
20 definitely going to vote against it. I mean, I
21 don't buy any of it. And, you know, everybody
22 else can do what they feel comfortable with.

23 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable) what
24 they feel comfortable with (indistinguishable).

25 MR. SALVER: I need to know a lot more about

1 what happened here before I vote on something like
2 this.

3 MS. BOHORQUES: Do you have specific
4 questions that you would like to --

5 MR. SALVER: Well, I -- it's not that I have
6 a question. I mean, I've been on the Trust for,
7 you know, since 2006 and I don't remember ever
8 saying, you know, telling an entity that's not
9 even our direct, you know, directly contracting
10 with us how to treat the contractors versus
11 employees.

12 MS. BOHORQUES: And we're not
13 (indistinguishable).

14 MR. SALVER: I'm not telling him how to treat
15 (indistinguishable) --

16 (Multiple people speaking.)

17 MR. SALVER: I'm not putting their aligning
18 into their practice, which we were not aware of.

19 That, and again, I think that -- I've been
20 through this a couple of times I understand
21 (indistinguishable).

22 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I know and I apologize for
23 (indistinguishable).

24 MR. HOFFMAN: But I do think that we have
25 done in the past, we have had several instances in

1 my tenure here where we amended a contract to
2 align to some practice that wasn't either our
3 mistake or where they, the provider's mistake.

4 In this case, again, I think that we're not
5 -- I'm not sure what your -- what your concern is
6 vis-a-vis a conflict or otherwise.

7 I was satisfied that the underlying issue was
8 one that we could resolve without, again, we could
9 have done it initially when we found out about the
10 practice and it's not changing the nature of our
11 contract, our commitment to the -- together with
12 the Children's Fund.

13 MR. SALVER: You know, Mr. Chair, can I hear
14 from the CFO what his thoughts are on this?

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Sure.

16 MR. KIRKLAND: Speaking just typically to
17 this amendment, essentially we are looking at a
18 situation where essentially we are aligning some
19 terms of the contract with what's occurring.

20 I think to the statement that you made this
21 morning, Isaac, about maybe retrofitting, I think,
22 this contract to adjust the employment terms at
23 the Foundation's -- at the Foundation's operations
24 is not quite the instance that we're dealing with.

25 However, there are terms of the subcontract

1 agreement that include aligning the method of
2 payment with what's actually occurring at the
3 Foundation.

4 Typically, in contracts that -- and again, I
5 can look to the rest of the staff to correct me if
6 I'm wrong, but if we do have a method of payment
7 discrepancies in our contracts, maybe depending on
8 the materiality, then the effect of what that
9 method of payment means to the contract that could
10 come before the Board in the form of an amendment.

11 However, I'm not sure whether or not every
12 instance where we have specific line items that
13 need adjustments that all of those instances would
14 come as an amendment to the Board.

15 But in this particular items since we're
16 looking at a line item within a subcontractor
17 agreement, which is a little bit more further
18 removed than what we're typically used to bringing
19 in as an amendment to the Board for approval.

20 I don't know if there's anything else you'd
21 like me to speak more directly to.

22 MR. SALVER: No, that's perfect.

23 MR. HOPE: So if I may add to that, prior to
24 the Finance Committee meeting I did have a similar
25 discussion with the staff in the sense that this

1 was not the normal process because you're dealing
2 with a two party provider that has a contract with
3 the County.

4 However, the -- after the explanation I did
5 not see any significant impact in voting for the
6 alignment.

7 However, I guess just one question I would
8 ask, does this set a precedent as we move forward
9 that this is something that we may see again in
10 other contracts or is this an aberration in terms
11 of this particular resolution before us,
12 (Indistinguishable) come here to a meeting and
13 want to address that.

14 MS. BOHORQUES: It would set a precedent, but
15 again, this is something that is unusual. The
16 Trust does not have many programs where it liked
17 together for children.

18 I think it's together for children, some are
19 used internship programs are the two programs
20 where the Trust contracts with the County and the
21 County contracts with other parties to authorize
22 this huge collaboration that otherwise would not
23 be permitted statutorily.

24 There's always -- this boils down to the
25 Foundation not complying with the terms of a

1 contract and us saying look at the language of a
2 contract, so a more careful reading of the terms
3 in the contract could have prevented this.

4 So I can't say this is an aberration or not
5 because you may have other providers who don't
6 carefully read their contracts and say, well,
7 Trust, you know, I'd like the amendment, and as
8 Bill just stated, there are times when they do
9 change line items and it doesn't come to the
10 Board.

11 MR. SALVER: Tom, I have another question
12 (indistinguishable).

13 MR. HOFFMAN: And I do think it's important,
14 again, I don't -- I did not go into this with the
15 County Attorney's office, but many of the
16 amendments, as I think she had said at the outset,
17 or was it (indistinguishable) authority to change.

18 We can't change the budget.

19 MR. SALVER: Right.

20 MR. HOFFMAN: We can increase the amount of
21 funding --

22 MR. SALVER: Right.

23 MR. HOFFMAN: -- but we do ignore certain
24 types of administrative changes that we do -- can
25 effect without Board approval.

1 MR. SALVER: Shanika, does the fact that the
2 audit was not completed yet, what impact did that
3 have on this whole dynamic here?

4 MS. GRAVES: So there could be audit -- there
5 could be a finding. And as you well know, if --
6 so the finding could have other fiscal
7 consequences under the contract as far as
8 repayment. It's --

9 There are some issues, we don't know, to be
10 candid with you, the audit back in December, the
11 County was asked for an extension on the audit
12 because of the upcoming holiday, and at that point
13 was advised that the audit report should have been
14 prepared and ready sometime in January.

15 Last week, the auditors say the draft report
16 will be provided.

17 I checked this morning, the County still has
18 not received anything.

19 I have concerns about this audit firm. And I
20 have talked with staff about my concerns about the
21 audit firm.

22 I have suggested that the report is not
23 credible.

24 I have also, in this case listened to another
25 issue with the audit firm was selected from a list

1 of Trust approved and it says a vendor pool.

2 I recently learned that although the pool of
3 CPAs for the audit firm is authorized by this
4 Board, it's not a vendor pool as defined in your
5 procurement policy.

6 And that I was not aware of until some
7 digging and asking some other questions and I, you
8 know, was going to come to the Board today because
9 I didn't know if you all were also unaware of that
10 it being called a vendor pool but it's not
11 actually a vendor pool.

12 I have made some suggestions about fixing the
13 name so it's no confusion about that, but I've
14 also suggested that that may be looked at, that
15 audit firm, and for just complete transparency,
16 and I'm not suggesting that anything was done
17 wrong but I did learn at a later date that there
18 is a professional relationship between the CFO and
19 that audit firm.

20 And so I don't -- I don't know anything other
21 than the County was told in December the report
22 would come back in January and it is mid March,
23 the report still has not come back.

24 And we know that there's a suggestion that
25 there could be a finding.

1 Now, a draft was emailed to the Trust, and
2 this has become an issue because the audit firm is
3 communicating more with the Trust than the County.

4 The Trust has then advised the firm that it
5 should not be contacting the Trust for anything
6 and has made clear that the County is the entity
7 that the audit was commissioned for and not the
8 Trust, and all communications should be directed
9 to the County.

10 But in the draft we received in an email, and
11 I got the draft from Trust (indistinguishable)
12 what was initially discussed as a potential
13 finding with County staff has been revised to
14 maybe a note on the audit report which is a
15 significant difference.

16 So I have -- I'm waiting to see the report
17 before I can give any advice to anyone about what
18 could or couldn't be done on as far as compliance
19 with the contract.

20 I will request now that once the audit report
21 is received that the County transmit it to the
22 Trust and the Trust transmit it to all the Board
23 members and also suggest that further discussion
24 be had at the Finance Committee about the audit
25 vendor pool and maybe look at definitely calling

1 it something different but maybe also looking at
2 the process being used to select the auditors and
3 what, you know, the Trust needs, just maybe want
4 to look at the whole process.

5 And it's important for those list of vendors
6 who are approved by the Trust because those are
7 the only auditors that the Trust will pay for
8 auditing any of its providers.

9 So if you're not approved by the Trust, a
10 provider can have another auditor audit them, but
11 the Trust will not pay for that.

12 So it's an incentive for a Trust provider to
13 use something that the Trust has approved as an
14 auditor.

15 MR. SALVER: Right. Yeah, I know. I'm aware
16 of those procedures because I crafted them.

17 So, you know, and they have been working
18 wonderfully up until now.

19 And as I stated before that the vendor pool
20 -- that that vendor pool which is not really a
21 vendor pool, which is a kind of a suggested vendor
22 pool, of CPAs firms, is up to like sixty firms.

23 And it's -- and the entire community is
24 broadly represented demographically,
25 geographically, et cetera, et cetera so --

1 I think that will, you know, that the vendor
2 pool which is not a vendor pool has been working
3 pretty, pretty well.

4 MR. HOPE: If I may add also, it implies that
5 the Trust has some influence on the selection of
6 the audit firm but the -- if I understand the stat
7 -- the entity had access to our vendor pool they
8 chose the auditors out of the sixty vendor pool.

9 So I -- is it -- it's safe to say therefore
10 that there was no influence by the Trust in terms
11 of dictating to that entity who their auditor
12 should be. It so happened, based on what I'm
13 hearing, coincidence of the, that the audit firm
14 that is selected, the sample may have previously
15 worked at the organization, but I don't think that
16 in my understanding and having a discussion that
17 there was any input from the Trust as it relates
18 to what auditing firm that the entity should have
19 selected.

20 MS. GRAVES: And I'm sorry if I gave that
21 impression because that's -- that's definitely not
22 what I was saying, and in fact, this firm has been
23 used by the Foundation prior to this audit.

24 So it wasn't selected based on that
25 relationship.

1 MS. BOHORQUES: This is the firm who conducts
2 the Foundation's annual audit and so it just so
3 happened that they were also in the vendor pool
4 and they used them to do the program
5 (indistinguishable).

6 MR. HOFFMAN: Maybe another point of --

7 MR. SALVER: Stop calling it the vendor pool.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Maybe another point of
9 clarification also being that the program specific
10 audit procedures that were performed in this --
11 given the nature of this contract were not
12 restricted to the use of any of the sixty firms
13 within that vendor pool either.

14 MR. SALVER: Okay. Thank you.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: Because I just wanted to
16 clarify --

17 MS. GRAVES: Just for the record, I'm not
18 sure if that's correct, Bill. Listed in the
19 contract, the audit vendor pool is Exhibit, I
20 think, E-1 and they select from that vendor pool.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Within our direct contract with
22 providers not with our subcontractors.

23 MS. GRAVES: That isn't -- pardon, that is in
24 the contract the Trust has with the County and the
25 County has (indistinguishable) those same terms

1 and the same contract language and the same vendor
2 pool requirements to the subcontractor.

3 MR. KIRKLAND: The County has conveyed those
4 terms to the subcontractor but not in our contract
5 with the County did we require those requirements
6 with the subcontractor.

7 MS. GRAVES: That's the part of this
8 amendment and that goes back to the agreement back
9 in November of '18 where the terms were agreed
10 upon that those audit requirements would be
11 included in the Trust contract with the County,
12 and so at that time, although the contract wasn't
13 executed, the County had agreed to those terms.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Well, those negotiable
15 terms aren't documented anywhere in the contract
16 that I see or review or requires
17 (indistinguishable) --

18 MS. GRAVES: I sent an email that showed
19 those terms that were agreed upon with an
20 amendment, and I'm happy to send it again so that
21 can -- can transmit it to the Board if necessary.

22 MR. HOPE: Okay.

23 So just for the record, before we take the
24 vote, just for clarity because I think some may
25 walk away seeking, yeah, maybe and I don't think

1 it was intended to, but that may be the
2 assumption, so the fact that they -- the CPA pool
3 may have previously worked for this organization a
4 number of years ago, but had not input in terms of
5 what auditing firm the entity selected.

6 So I just want for the record that it's not
7 implied or at least someone walking away with the
8 impression that this process was influenced, and
9 so just to ensure that there's some clarity on
10 that issue.

11 So if there are no other discussions, if we
12 can take a vote on the motion, please?

13 All in favor?

14 THE BOARD: Aye.

15 MR. HOPE: All opposed?

16 MR. PRESCOTT: I oppose.

17 MR. HOPE: Okay.

18 All right. That's it for the --

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Commissioner Jordan.

20 (Indistinguishable).

21 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22 First of all, I need to understand the
23 organizational structure because in reading the
24 Finance, Children's Trust funded Miami-Dade
25 County.

1 Miami-Dade County then is considered the
2 prime contractor.

3 Miami-Dade County through, together with
4 Children's, and I still don't understand what kind
5 of organization Together For Children are -- would
6 be because there's nothing online that tells me
7 that the 501c3, which is what -- where the County
8 should have given the money, but the money went to
9 the Foundation for New Education initiative, which
10 is a School Board foundation.

11 It sounds to me like it's a pass-through that
12 the Children's Trust what it sounds like, which is
13 what I object to, quite honestly, is that the
14 Children's Trust cannot give money, I've heard
15 that said around here, directly to the School
16 Board, so the County was a go between to pass
17 through the money to the Children's Trust.

18 The reason I'm saying that is because unless
19 you can tell me that Together for Children is a
20 legitimate organization, a 501c3 and the money was
21 provided for truancy as far as the County's
22 portion was concerned, based on your item.

23 MS. BOHORQUES: Can I share?

24 The Together for Children is not a 501c3.
25 It's a County wide initiative that has a lot of

1 different partners. The County's a partner, the
2 School District is a partner, the Children's Trust
3 is a partner and many other entities are partners.

4 So it's a large initiative focused on
5 reducing violence in communities across -- it's
6 different classes of the community using several
7 different programs within the Together for
8 Children initiative.

9 One of them is a choice (indistinguishable)
10 prevention which is a big part of what we fund.

11 The County provides the medical prevention
12 program through the Juvenile Services Department
13 and the School District provides the One Stop
14 Centers for youth who have already entered the
15 system.

16 So this is a comprehensive program that
17 involves many partners.

18 The Truancy piece is (indistinguishable)
19 operated by the School District with our funding.

20 JUDGE JORDAN: I understand that.

21 So I have to go back to the County to find
22 out why are we contracting Children's Trust money
23 directly with the School Board, with the School
24 Board's Foundation?

25 I can legitimately share the argument that

1 you all are making if the -- Together with
2 Children was a legitimate organization.

3 I understand it's a coalition. I read all
4 that.

5 But that's not what is - that's not the
6 impression that's given in the item.

7 The impression that's given in the item is
8 that the County through Together for Children
9 which contracted Together with Children contracted
10 with the initiative in order to give them the
11 money, and I want to know why would the County do
12 that because it certainly wasn't anything on our
13 agenda.

14 So I -- that's my first concern is if this
15 were passing through the dollars, whether that's
16 the intent or not, that's the way it appears to
17 me.

18 The other question I have is that I don't
19 understand why the audit has not been completed or
20 submitted to the County.

21 If the County contracted the services, then
22 the County should be hearing the audit which makes
23 me want to say, well, maybe we need to have Kathy
24 Jackson (phonetic) doing on it, on the program,
25 and I know we don't want that. Believe me, we

1 don't want that.

2 The other thing that I have is what are the
3 deliverables?

4 You know, we talk about deliverables, but how
5 do you cost it out?

6 If you're giving a certain amount of money
7 for deliverables, tell me how each of those
8 deliverables would be costed out.

9 If you're going to perform a service, you
10 have to have people to perform that service, so
11 you're putting -- you're submitting your contact
12 based on the level of personnel that you need and
13 you're costing out your personnel costs.

14 Tell me how the Trust costs out deliverables,
15 unless it's with (indistinguishable).

16 I don't know. I need that lesson because
17 that to me helps me to better understand how I can
18 put in a proposal and say I need ten teachers to
19 perform grade level teaching, bring children up to
20 grade levels.

21 So are you doing your deliverables based on
22 how many grade levels each child meets? And how
23 much does it cost per grade level that they
24 achieve?

25 It's very confusing.

1 The other thing that I need to understand,
2 perhaps somebody can explain all of this to me,
3 how does this change the -- we're not saying
4 anything in here about how much money was given.

5 Nothing in this item indicates how much money
6 was given to the initiative.

7 But we're talking about people who were
8 classified as employees and now we're saying
9 they're going to be professional service
10 consultants.

11 How do you change employees who have benefits
12 to professional service consultants?

13 MS. BOHORQUES: I'm sorry, I just want to
14 clarify that piece because in the budget, in the
15 initial budget that the contractor budget between
16 the County and the Foundation, they were always
17 classified as professional services, that the
18 Foundation does not hire staff and the --

19 JUDGE JORDAN: But the choices of hiring
20 (indistinguishable).

21 MS. BOHORQUES: The choices are professional
22 services.

23 JUDGE JORDAN: You're not hiring.

24 MS. BOHORQUES: No, the Foundation --

25 JUDGE JORDAN: The County is hiring.

1 MS. BOHORQUES: Right.

2 And in that contract they were always defined
3 as professional services in the budget. But the
4 pay was hourly as opposed to deliverables, which
5 was a difference in practice and how the
6 Foundation (indistinguishable).

7 JUDGE JORDAN: And I still need to know --
8 tell me how you get those deliverables.

9 MS. BOHORQUES: Sure.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: Because it doesn't make sense
11 to me is the deliverables transfer into employees.
12 People have to perform.

13 MS. BOHORQUES: Right. Right. And if they
14 do --

15 JUDGE JORDAN: Then how do you measure what
16 it is that they're delivering --

17 MS. BOHORQUES: Uh-huh. --

18 JUDGE JORDAN: -- and attach a cost to it?
19 It still translates to employees whether you call
20 them deliverables or not.

21 MR. HOFFMAN: Commissioner Jordan, I mean
22 this goes back, obviously, several years when the
23 initiative was launched and there is a specific
24 budget, there is a specific contract with a dollar
25 amount of the Trust participation.

1 And again, this sub set of issues was not a
2 shifting of dollars or adding of dollars, but if
3 you would like, if we can have the details on some
4 of the --

5 JUDGE JORDAN: No (indistinguishable).

6 MR. HOFFMAN: -- Together for Children
7 initiative and what our participation is here
8 or --

9 JUDGE JORDAN: If I may, Mr. Chair?

10 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: And I keep referring back to
12 when I was here before, they talked about
13 deliverables then, too.

14 But you also had employees where people
15 submitted their budgets. You get funding,
16 agencies get funding from more than one source.

17 So it's the percentage of the employee that
18 may go towards your deliverables, but you're still
19 an employee who is making that deliverable happen.

20 And to me, it's just not clear. Maybe it's
21 clear to everybody else because you've all been
22 here more recently, you know, than I have and I
23 don't want to take up the time, but we're passing
24 an item, you passed an item that is not clear.

25 We have a responsibility as a Board to

1 protect the public's tax dollars and make sure
2 that they're being used properly, and not being
3 redirected because we can't do it any other way
4 and that's the way it appears, and I don't think
5 we want it to appear that way.

6 So those are the concerns that I have because
7 now we're talking about changing six or seven
8 employees who were counted as employees that you
9 count as deliverables, and these people will be
10 then become consultants.

11 Now, how you count --

12 MS. BOHORQUES: They were always consultants.
13 They were never actually -- they were never actual
14 employees, they were always consultants.

15 JUDGE JORDAN: But they're still responsible
16 for deliverables.

17 MS. BOHORQUES: Absolutely.

18 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, what is a consultant?
19 Is a consultant an employee who is contracted for
20 professional services?

21 MS. BOHORQUES: Is contracted-- it's a
22 contracted (indistinguishable).

23 JUDGE JORDAN: It's a person.

24 MS. BOHORQUES: It's a person, yes.

25 JUDGE JORDAN: It's a person that was based

1 on the level of service.

2 MS. BOHORQUES: Uh-huh.

3 JUDGE JORDAN: So we can use semantics
4 because that to me is what deliverables versus
5 employees is is a matter of semantics, because it
6 still takes people to perform the task and we're
7 talking about changing six or seven people from
8 one level to another level and my question is how
9 does that impact that person, those individuals'
10 benefits and everything else
11 (indistinguishable).

12 (Multiple voices.)

13 MR. HOFFMAN: We're not changing anybody,
14 we're changing --

15 JUDGE JORDAN: You're not, but the County is.

16 MR. HOFFMAN: The County is not. The County
17 -- we're changing the contract to reflect the
18 reality of how the County through -- how the new
19 education issue was paying her deliverables such
20 as we're all paying for.

21 JUDGE JORDAN: If through the County, which
22 has a contract with the initiative and if that
23 contract says employee --

24 MS. BOHORQUES: It does not. It says
25 professional services in the budget and in the

1 payments were based hourly. However, the way that
2 the -- but they were always consultants, they were
3 never actual employees receiving benefits or any
4 of those things.

5 JUDGE JORDAN: But it's hourly based on a
6 classification, is it not? You called them --

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable)
8 where somehow --

9 JUDGE JORDAN: You called them in this item
10 classification, different classifications.

11 MS. SYLVESTRE: The very, not appointed, when
12 you hire a consultant you can either get
13 consulting can charge you an hourly rate and they
14 will give you on a weekly or biweekly basis how
15 many hours they work or a consultant can say every
16 time I complete a piece of work, I'm going to
17 charge you X dollars.

18 And that's what the difference is.

19 Before it was being -- they're being charged
20 -- in the contract it said that they are going to
21 get charged hourly, so every week the consultant
22 was supposed to have met and a time sheet saying I
23 worked forty hours or I worked thirty hours, but
24 what was happening in reality was that consultants
25 was providing deliverables so when they finished a

1 deliverable, they would submit the deliverable
2 with how many hours they worked to get that
3 deliverable complete and then they get paid.

4 So this amendment is to insure that the way
5 we're working in reality is aligned with what's on
6 paper because to Shanika's point, we want to make
7 sure that when we audit what's on paper and what
8 happens in real life is aligned.

9 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

10 The item says Miami-Dade County modified the
11 method of payment of the 16 interventionists, two
12 data specialists and program coordinator from
13 hourly to deliverables.

14 You're modifying a classification. A
15 classification comes with a pay level and it comes
16 with benefits to consultants.

17 We're not going to agree on this, I can see
18 that, okay? But I've been through this too much
19 to see this as a straightforward amendment. It's
20 not straightforward.

21 And the fact that we don't have the audit and
22 that they're not -- there are not communications,
23 if we don't have the audit fighting, then we're
24 approving something that we don't even know what
25 the audit says.

1 MS. GRAVES: It --

2 JUDGE JORDAN: I'm just saying we need to
3 look at this one here.

4 MS. GRAVES: If I may?

5 Commissioner Jordan, you, fortunately, are
6 the only Board member here who have another
7 opportunity to look at Together for Children when
8 it comes to the County Commission.

9 JUDGE JORDAN: I sure will.

10 MS. GRAVES: Because we audit, it's
11 commissioned by the County, it really has no
12 bearing here which is why I had questions about
13 why the auditor was contacting The Children's
14 Trust because all communications pertaining to
15 that audit should have only been with the County.

16 And I also just wanted to clarify something
17 for the record to say that these individuals, the
18 interventionists were identified as things other
19 than professional service consultants in the
20 contract and we're clarifying that, but it's not
21 -- it has not always been they've been identified
22 as that and that again was identified and
23 submitted to -- in an email to the Trust.

24 So if the Board members want further
25 clarification, I have other information, feel free

1 to contact me or staff and we can get you the
2 information that you want but I just want to be
3 transparent with the Board that this was done to
4 conform all of the contracts to the practice of
5 the Foundation.

6 JUDGE JORDAN: I'm going to make my final
7 point, Mr. Chair.

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, ma'am.

9 JUDGE JORDAN: The fact that this auditor and
10 I don't know how it happened in terms of the Trust
11 and the background, whatever, but one key factor,
12 this thought, the vendor pool, is not a vendor
13 pool. It should be cause of concern for everyone
14 around this table.

15 And how is it that we have something that
16 we're calling a vendor pool that this Board thinks
17 will be qualified to do its job?

18 We're vulnerable. We're vulnerable as a
19 Board, as a Board. When we agree to serve on a
20 Board, we can be sued individually if we know
21 certain things are happening or if we are not
22 diligent with our due diligence as a Board.

23 And maybe because I am a Commissioner, I take
24 it with -- very seriously, very seriously.

25 And I'm just going to let this stand and I'd

1 like to get more of a extensive explanation on how
2 that aspect could happen that we have a pool that
3 is really not a vendor pool.

4 MR. HOFFMAN: And Commissioner, you mentioned
5 earlier and as Bill mentioned earlier, first of
6 all it is a misnomer because I don't think it was
7 ever intended as a vendor pool in the sense of the
8 vendor pool that we have for our selection of
9 providers.

10 And the second, as Bill said, it is a list is
11 -- there's no exclusivity in the list, anybody
12 could get on the list and the list is, I think
13 Bill said sixty providers as fairly representative
14 of the community, and I think in talking to staff
15 about why there wasn't a list that I didn't have a
16 background for -- or from what Isaac would have
17 had in helping create it, part of it is dealing
18 with the only real qualification that we need, I'm
19 assuming he has to be properly licensed but also
20 trained in our program (indistinguishable).

21 I think anybody can get trained in our
22 program in understanding what a Trust specific
23 (indistinguishable) would just be a
24 (indistinguishable).

25 MR. SALVER: I think the criteria was

1 (indistinguishable). It was being a Certified
2 Public Accountant in the State of Florida, making
3 sure that their license was current, your firm is
4 a peer reviewed firm, involved with peer review
5 which is monitored by the Florida
6 (indistinguishable) -- a CPA and that they
7 attended Children's Trust training within these
8 types of (indistinguishable).

9 And that's really -- that's really a hang
10 firm -- it didn't matter of size, it didn't matter
11 of location.

12 JUDGE JORDAN: What is the process? I guess
13 my question then becomes what is the process for
14 creating a vendor pool?

15 Usually, and I'm not saying that it should be
16 the same way here, but usually there is a
17 competitive -- there is a process where you have
18 certain standards and qualifications that they
19 have to meet in terms of the ability or the range
20 and the size of what they're going to be
21 (indistinguishable).

22 Just because you get training and just
23 because you're registered, just because you meet
24 minimum standards as a CPA doesn't make you
25 eligible, it becomes an honor for a program.

1 So you know, if that is the standard, then we
2 need to look at what that standard should be to be
3 a part of a pool where you're going to have a
4 rotation that goes down.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: I understand exactly what
6 you're -- again, we're not selecting -- we're not
7 selecting from the pool who and what, if anybody,
8 were just (indistinguishable) we were just, among
9 other things, probably should (indistinguishable)
10 a list of vendors that were both properly licensed
11 and had been Trust trained.

12 And again, this misnomer certainly it is not
13 a vendor pool in the sense of the way we use it or
14 in the way it's traditionally used.

15 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, if I may.

16 Well, the vendor pool, again, I think it was
17 we need to bring back that the Finance looked and
18 the name was created ten years ago or eight years
19 ago, through a Board Reso, and it has come to the
20 Board.

21 What happened, we did not have a vendor pool,
22 what we consider a vendor pool for IT and
23 communication until three or four years ago, so if
24 we created a vendor pool after that.

25 So this was created ten years ago, there was

1 no such thing as a vendor pool for the Trust. We
2 did not have enough procurement policy. This was
3 really just to create a ref, qualified by what we
4 want to determine, but there were procedures. It
5 was brought to the Finance Committee. It was
6 brought to the full Board of how this takes place.

7 And then, three or four years ago, we started
8 a technical vendor pool for communications and IT.

9 MR. KIRKLAND: (Indistinguishable).

10 I think for the record as you requested
11 earlier, I had the fortune of doing a little bit
12 of historical research myself before the weekend
13 just to go into the history of the vendor pool, as
14 I should say, and I know we're discussing the
15 nomenclature of, established a little bit of --
16 before my time, back in, I think in early 2013 and
17 was approved through Resolution 2013-24, came out
18 of discussion, I think, of various months, three
19 months of discussions that the Finance and
20 Operations Committee had to at least establish
21 some basic criteria for a qualified network of
22 CPAs or CPA firms to be a part of the opportunity
23 and a part of -- a basis for which our providers
24 could select from a qualified network of CPAs.

25 And as the criteria was mentioned earlier,

1 that we have an ongoing process of introducing the
2 firms to the Children's Trust and the method of
3 how we do things, basic understanding of our
4 contracting processes.

5 And then we essentially have a get to know
6 you process and looking at what type of audit
7 clients they've had in the past and whether or not
8 there's any government or non profit related
9 experience, and then the ongoing process of making
10 sure that their quality control of those firms is
11 receiving passing reports by the State of Florida
12 and the FICPA, that they have passing grade
13 scores.

14 So we think as we've had this wide dimension
15 that we do have a very diverse set of regional and
16 large firms available through our providers.
17 Again, it is from the notes that I've read that
18 there was seeking to establish a basic criteria
19 and a fluid process where -- which programs as
20 they enter our infrastructure they have been doing
21 business with a CPA firm for multiple years, and
22 as such, we may have experienced in this most
23 recent funding cycle expansion is that we
24 onboarded a number of new organizations that may
25 have been audited by different CPA firms than we

1 currently had in our infrastructure.

2 We have a process in place to onboard those
3 organizations if they meet that criteria to insure
4 that they have some level of understanding and
5 credentials to be a part of this type of program
6 specific (indistinguishable) requirement.

7 MS. PEREZ: Mr. Chairman?

8 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes, Miss.

9 MS. PEREZ: Yes. This has been a long
10 discussion on this item but it has something, a
11 bit of a different and they are very, a lot of
12 young people here around the table, and it's
13 something that has concerned me with the Together
14 for Children movement.

15 And it is as, it was supposed to start with
16 the researchers and it's not about keeping
17 children and gun violence in school. It is not
18 about that. It is about gun violence on the
19 street.

20 In all due respect, just this Saturday we
21 lost a child, six years old, and that is what this
22 is supposed to be preventing.

23 And it was supposed to start, it's not about
24 keeping children safe in school. That's a
25 different topic. This is about keeping children

1 in the street and it was supposed to start with
2 the researchers, they were not even called -- from
3 the University, they never called the scholars,
4 like they was going to come down and give us all
5 this research and all of these things that we
6 should be doing.

7 And when it happened is now when they talk
8 about it, all we talk about are programs for
9 absenteeism and truancy, which are important, but
10 the whole emphasis on parents or
11 (indistinguishable), all these other things.

12 And obviously, the University, FIU was going
13 to lead it, that -- we don't even talk about the
14 universities or the research any more.

15 And when I asked about the
16 (indistinguishable), I get research about violence
17 in schools, that's not what this was about.

18 There are a lot of issues about this movement
19 that as you know throughout the years I have been
20 not so satisfied with, and as I say, we -- let us,
21 before we finish this discussion, just this week
22 there was a horror in the community and that's
23 with all this money is supposed to be going for.

24 DR. BAGNER: Can I just comment? I have
25 some of the sentiment you bring up. We've talked

1 about this a lot at the beginning
2 (indistinguishable) I think at this time it seems
3 like it would a (indistinguishable) place, your
4 presentation from books from the iaa. You're
5 aware of things are now.

6 I know I've shared some of the concerns that
7 Dr. Perez places on --

8 MR. HOPE: Okay.

9 We'll absolutely do that at an upcoming
10 meeting.

11 (indistinguishable) for the record just as it
12 relates to the so-called vendor pool for the
13 auditors, I think vendor pool implies that there
14 are certain procurement protocols that has to be
15 followed.

16 If, I think what this was intended to be, and
17 you have these more, recommended list of auditors
18 for providers to refer to.

19 So I think maybe as we move forward, rather
20 than using the term vendor pool as it relates to
21 those auditors, it is more a recommended list of
22 auditors that our grantees can refer to if they
23 are looking for an auditor, and it does not follow
24 that the procurement protocols that the Trust has
25 because we are not really entering into contract

1 with these providers, but it is more a recommended
2 list.

3 So I think those type of verbiage might bring
4 some clarity and avoid some of the confusion that
5 is perceived today.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I'll turn it over
8 to Pamela Hollingsworth, Program Services and
9 Childhood Health Committee.

10 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 The Program Services and Childhood Health
12 Committee met on Thursday, March 7th to discuss
13 and consider the resolutions that are coming
14 before you today.

15 But before we discuss and consider these
16 resolutions, I'm pleased to say that we are going
17 to be receiving a presentation on the excellent
18 drive by five program today, and I think that's
19 timely on a couple of levels.

20 One is that it speaks very much to several of
21 the resolutions that the Board of Directors will
22 be considering today, and secondly, for many of
23 our new Board members, it really will provide you
24 with a good strategic road map for the motivation,
25 the kind of work that the Children's Trust is

1 doing in the birth to five space, and with that, I
2 will punt to Jim to (indistinguishable).

3 MR. HAJ: Pam, thank you. I'll turn it over
4 quickly to Rachel for the sake of time, but I just
5 note two and a half years ago their Early
6 Childhood Work group met to re-evaluate our
7 strategy and see what we needed to move the
8 needle.

9 In documenting for early childhood we know
10 that 85 percent of brain development happens
11 before age 3, and if we do this well and we do it
12 right before they enter kindergarten, we solve a
13 lot of problems on the back end.

14 So we have a lot of residents before you
15 (indistinguishable) but the power for what you
16 guys are trying to connect the dots and give us
17 some historical knowledge in what we're doing in
18 each of these (indistinguishable).

19 Rachel?

20 MS. SPECTOR: (indistinguishable) so, i front
21 of you, everyone should have two brochures. The
22 one of them that looks like this with a little
23 bird on the front is the one I'm going to sort of
24 walk through first.

25 As Jim mentioned, knowing that 85 percent of

1 brain development happens by the age of 3, I think
2 that one of our goals is to get, going back in an
3 array of strategies, and align our investments to
4 the (indistinguishable) of children's development
5 over all the dimensions including physical
6 development, cognitive development and social and
7 emotional readiness for kindergarten.

8 So many of the -- many of the programs
9 incorporated in our Five By Five portfolio will be
10 presented today for your consideration.

11 I'm sure that most of you have probably seen
12 this live and heard of James (indistinguishable)
13 Nobel Prize winning economist, and he's done a lot
14 of work on the return of investment on investing
15 in early childhood development.

16 And so you can see by the graph, I think the
17 Power Point slides are on the iPads, so if you
18 want to follow along and have a better feel on the
19 details.

20 Really investing between the birth and three
21 years old is where we get the most return on the
22 investment in human capital.

23 If he -- according to him, even sometimes
24 investing in three, four and five year olds is
25 often like a little bit too little, too late, as

1 he would say.

2 So knowing that that's our window, real
3 window to intervene early and get the most impact
4 for children's development, it's still important
5 to understand sort of where our children are at,
6 and so right now, about one in three children are
7 arriving into kindergarten without the basic
8 skills that they need to succeed.

9 And early language and development the last
10 have been documented as early as 18 months, and so
11 by age two, children, mostly low income children,
12 coming from low income neighborhoods are already
13 are behind their peers in listening, counting and
14 many other skills that are essential for
15 kindergarten readiness.

16 And you've heard Jim and Gloria and many of
17 our programs focus on the 30 million work jobs,
18 and it's a significant disparity for children who
19 enter school essentially knowing 30 million words
20 less than their peers that are coming from
21 disadvantaged neighborhoods, mostly due to lack of
22 exposure in, either in their family or in their
23 early learning experiences.

24 This -- another statistic about Miami-Dade
25 County has a very high need for specialized early

1 intervention services and you can just see by the
2 graphs that we have a higher prevalence of young
3 children with special health needs higher than the
4 State of Florida and even in the nation.

5 So what are we doing?

6 So I am going to give you some details about
7 early intervention, the early learning quality
8 improvement system and some early childhood health
9 services that will be presented in resolutions
10 today.

11 Parenting and home visiting services and our
12 early literacy support will be presented in
13 meetings, I think in May, perhaps.

14 So we will be giving you some more
15 information about those, but in the brochure you
16 can read just a little bit of information.

17 So Resolution 2019-50 is a resolution for a
18 short term early intervention.

19 These are services for children, young
20 children, birth to five, who are -- do not meet
21 criteria for a Part C or Part D -- Part B or Part
22 C services.

23 These are children that are being evaluated
24 for services. They don't qualify. They are
25 coming through (indistinguishable) or early staff,

1 and if they don't qualify, but they still have
2 delays, then they are eligible to be short term
3 early intervention services through our partners
4 at the University of Miami.

5 And if they -- part of the contract we have
6 is they reach back to families very year that
7 receive the services.

8 In the previous year or from years back, and
9 the results are consistently high, and last year
10 the survey showed that 88 percent of the early
11 discovery participants that were served, that were
12 serving and enrolled in public schools did not
13 require any special education services.

14 And the second early intervention program you
15 will be hearing is Specialized Autism Cycle
16 Educational Evaluation for children beginning at
17 18 months through five years.

18 These are children who present at Early Steps
19 or at Fiddlers in Miami-Dade County public schools
20 with very, very complex and challenging behaviors
21 that suggest a possible autism spectrum disorder.

22 And these are children that have complicated
23 cases. They need specialized evaluations. They
24 need specialized attention and these are families
25 that would otherwise not be able to afford this

1 type of specialized evaluation, and they, at
2 least, partner with UM CART (phonetic) to offer
3 these evaluations.

4 This year 48 evaluations have been completed
5 to date and this contract works a little bit
6 different than our other contract in that it's a B
7 (phonetic) for service. We pay them on a
8 deliverable basis.

9 (Laughter).

10 For each evaluation that's completed, we pay
11 them, so if a family, you know, doesn't complete
12 the process, unfortunately we wouldn't pay. We
13 pay for completed evaluations.

14 So our numbers are as many children as we can
15 see or able to serve up to 103 children.

16 You will also be hearing about an early
17 childhood research demonstration process and they
18 are working to advise us about possible future
19 early childhood investments and they are programs
20 that are delivering an intervention as well as
21 they all have a research component in the most
22 vulnerable needs -- in the most vulnerable areas
23 in our community with different types of
24 vulnerable populations.

25 We did have a presentation last year when

1 planning, again, I believe, in the early summer to
2 have another presentation from all the providers
3 to come and present their research.

4 I know that many Board members attended and
5 found it very valuable and interesting, so I will
6 (indistinguishable) you all to come back and hear
7 about the specifics.

8 And then, we also will be presenting a vision
9 program which we partner with the Miami Lighthouse
10 for the Blind to offer comprehensive vision
11 evaluations and prescription glasses for those
12 children that otherwise wouldn't be able to access
13 those services.

14 Okay.

15 So here's what -- where we wanted to spend a
16 little bit of time today updating the Board on our
17 middle, early learning quality improvement
18 system.

19 As Jim mentioned I guess a few summers ago
20 now we had an early childhood board work group and
21 they really helped us to shape our new approach
22 and we really dove into some of the inherent
23 issues around child care in our community.

24 And so we know that our payment rates in
25 Miami-Dade, in Florida, but especially in

1 Miami-Dade County, are very low for children not
2 receive child care subsidies, that coupled with an
3 over saturation of our child care market,
4 especially in low income communities means that
5 programs are not full, and then that all combined
6 with the fact that it's not a markage (phonetic)
7 of an economy, so parents aren't really devising
8 the market in terms of quality.

9 So that's kind of what we're up against and
10 so we believe that we put together a very
11 innovative array of strategic investments to help
12 providers improve and be able to sustain their
13 quality.

14 Last year around this time we did a
15 presentation to sort of deprive (phonetic) our
16 shift, and so we shifted and we just want to share
17 with you how it's going.

18 We are -- shall we -- we don't know of any
19 other community or any other state in our country
20 that has put together such a vast array of
21 services and all the types of services, so we're
22 really proud of the work and we think that it's
23 going to be able to make a big impact.

24 Our new focus is really about equity and it's
25 not about a one size fits all. It's not about

1 everybody needs the same, so we really try to live
2 by the value that some neighborhoods, some
3 schools, some children, some families need more
4 than others, so we need to spread out our support
5 accordingly.

6 So this is just the criteria to participate
7 in our early learning quality and program system.

8 Our three criteria, and they're all
9 (indistinguishable).

10 So you must be, your program, your child care
11 program must be located in a low income census
12 tract.

13 You must serve at least 30 percent of your
14 population, must be children receiving a full
15 readiness subsidy, and you must service infant to
16 toddlers.

17 We have about almost 190 child care programs
18 participating this first year, which includes some
19 Head Start programs. It includes Family Care
20 Homes and it also includes Center Base (phonetic)
21 programs.

22 And on, in the presentation you will be able
23 to see closer this is a map of all of the child
24 care programs that are currently participating and
25 so you can see we have really a lot of programs

1 spread out from the Broward line all the way down
2 to Florida City.

3 The dark purple area on the map represents
4 the low income census tract.

5 So our -- we use the class, classroom
6 assessment scoring system to -- as our program
7 quality assessment tool and this is a tool that
8 measures interactions between children and
9 teachers.

10 And it looks at things like emotional
11 behavioral support, classroom organization and
12 instructional support, for instance, toddlers and
13 preschool students.

14 And our progress of the early learning
15 coalition are the entities that conduct the
16 classroom observations on 50 percent of every
17 single classroom of all the programs that are
18 participating by care level.

19 They do four cycles of a 20 minute
20 observation to really observe the interactions
21 between children and teachers which produces then
22 a score and then, from there, we assign them into
23 a level of quality which we call tiers.

24 So we have a tier system one through five,
25 five being the highest level.

1 And we also spoke last year about the --at
2 the Board meeting about this two generational
3 approach to looking at economic stabilization and
4 generational poverty, so this work was led by Dr.
5 Brittany Bergan (phonetic) when she was the CEO of
6 the Florida Women's Council and really
7 understanding that poverty is the single greatest
8 threat to children's development. It's not just
9 about putting out programs, right? We need to
10 work with the whole family and really try to help
11 families to create pathways to stabilization.

12 And so in many instances and child care being
13 one of them, it could become a -- the eligibility
14 requirement can force some of the services, some
15 of the families see economic success as a
16 disincentive, right?

17 Because the higher you go in your career,
18 you're making a little bit more money and then
19 you're losing other important benefits. It could
20 be food stamps. It could be many different social
21 services, but child care happens to be a very
22 expensive service.

23 So it's very difficult for families to move
24 slowly up a career pathway and lose access to
25 child care.

1 So they called it, in the work they call it
2 the fiscal cliff or the cliff effect when a family
3 is suddenly like reaching self sustainability and
4 then they hit this cliff that they're lose so many
5 benefits that they actually are going to be in
6 worse place if they, you know, were just staying
7 where they were.

8 And so we're, us in the early learning
9 coalition are really working with a lot of
10 families and we're hearing stories of -- real
11 stories of families that are having to choose
12 between do I really like become a manager, you
13 know, at CVS, or become a supervisor because then
14 I'm not going to be able to afford child care for
15 my children.

16 And without the child care, obviously they
17 can't continue working.

18 So, one of our main strategies that is
19 especially innovative is we're offering Children's
20 Trust, we're calling them Children's Trust Child
21 Scholarships and these are for families that are
22 not eligible for school readiness subsidies, but
23 they are still a low income family.

24 And so these are families, for example, for a
25 family of three to qualify for a school readiness

1 subsidy which is 150 percent of the Federal
2 poverty rate, you need to make under 31 --
3 approximately, like under \$31,000 a year for a
4 family of three.

5 If you make \$32,000, you're not eligible for
6 a child care subsidy.

7 And so the scholarship program that we put in
8 place is for assisting families up to 300 percent
9 of the Federal poverty rate.

10 So for a family of four, that is about
11 \$62,000 a year -- a family of three, excuse me, is
12 about \$52,000 a year.

13 So we're really trying to support families to
14 help them get past this fiscal cliff and become,
15 you know, encourage them to move up in their job
16 situation and their economic situation and support
17 them with child care, with the child care subsidy.

18 The difference between what we are doing with
19 scholarships and how the school readiness subsidy
20 program works is that we're only allowing the
21 families that we're supporting to take their
22 scholarship and go to high quality programs.

23 We're not allowing them to take their
24 scholarship and go to any program that they want,
25 so programs need to be, A, participating in our

1 quality improvement system, and then we allow them
2 to go to programs that are in Tier 4 and Tier 5,
3 so our highest quality programs.

4 We just recently, like two weeks ago, allowed
5 in a few very, very, very high Tier 3 programs
6 just to expand sort of the location and the
7 geographics for some family who were finding it a
8 little bit difficult to find a program.

9 So at this point we have 87 of the 189
10 programs are scholarships sites, and we have given
11 out 93 scholarships to families so far this year,
12 and we believe that when we're fully ramped up, we
13 will be able to serve about 350 to 400 families.

14 So we are very excited about that.

15 The second -- the second fundamental change
16 is the adoption of a tier payment system, if you
17 will, building off of the work that the State of
18 Florida has done and House Bill 1091 was passed
19 last session, which essentially allowed the early
20 learning coalition to offer a tier payment to
21 school readiness providers.

22 So we are supporting about almost 12,000
23 children through this tier payment and the
24 scholarship program, and what we're doing is we're
25 offering a payment differential on top of the base

1 school readiness rate.

2 So we believe that this is incentivizing our
3 child care providers to achieve and maintain high
4 quality and continue to move up the tier levels.

5 And you can see by the tiers, the higher you
6 go, the more payment differential you're going to
7 get.

8 And what this represents is that for every
9 single child in their program, that they have
10 enrolled in their program, including the children
11 that are paying privately, we will offer a like 12
12 percent, 15 percent differential per
13 (indistinguishable).

14 So if you are, let's say you are a child care
15 provider that has an enrollment of 50 children,
16 you are in Tier 4, so you're receiving 12 percent
17 and using the toddler rate for school readiness,
18 which is \$123 a week.

19 So if any of you have paid for child care
20 recently, you will recognize that child care,
21 quality child care costs way more than \$123 a
22 week.

23 We, if you're in Tier 4, we would give you
24 \$14.77 for every child in your program for every
25 week.

1 So it basically comes out to almost \$3000 a
2 month for a program, medium sized, 50 kids, in
3 Tier 4.

4 So it's a significant amount of money that
5 providers are able to reinvest into their
6 teachers, into capital improvements in their
7 school and to supplies and to whatever they feel
8 is necessary and important to improve and maintain
9 the quality.

10 And then, in the resolution you can actually
11 -- we included the breakdown of the program by
12 tier levels, so you can see where we're at.

13 We also have two resolutions that are going
14 to talk about our professional development
15 services.

16 So we have an early learning career center
17 which is staffed with early learning advisors and
18 their job is to help offer career counseling to
19 all of the early learning educators that are
20 seeking support and they manage our scholarship
21 fund which offer scholarships, educative
22 scholarships for teachers and directors to
23 participate in professional development
24 opportunities.

25 They have credit bearing course work that

1 they can participate in. We have a lot of special
2 (indistinguishable) the different institutions of
3 higher education in our community.

4 We fund document translation and high quality
5 training.

6 They also support our wage salary supplement
7 program so knowing all of what we know about the
8 importance of early childhood, the importance of
9 early learning experiences, the median income for
10 early learning educators is \$8.50 in our
11 community, so the wage salary supplement program
12 is investing in teachers, supporting teachers that
13 are staying where they are working, so retention
14 and education are two markers of high quality
15 programs.

16 So teachers essentially receive a check from
17 the Children's Trust as they are improving their
18 education and as they are remaining in service in
19 the programs that they're working.

20 We find that we have about a 7 percent
21 retention rate in the teachers participating in
22 our wage salary supplement program compared to a
23 national average of about 30 percent.

24 So we feel like that investment is really
25 worthwhile.

1 Did you have a question, Constance? Or are
2 you just (indistinguishable).

3 And so the supplements range from \$150 to
4 \$1500 every six months, depending where educators
5 fall on the salary scale.

6 And both of these programs, the scholarship
7 program and the wage supplement program are
8 available to all licensed early child care
9 programs in Miami-Dade County.

10 So even programs that are not participating
11 within the quality improvement system are eligible
12 for the support including Miami-Dade County public
13 schools, including Head Start, and our really only
14 criteria is being a licensed program.

15 And then we have two, these are just sort of
16 shots of the two different data systems that we're
17 using for our quality improvement system. Well,
18 on the last is our programmatic data base that
19 houses all of our program level data, and then the
20 professional development registry is where we keep
21 all of our teacher data related to professional
22 development.

23 We have thousands and thousands of teachers
24 in there. We produce a very robust work force
25 study every year and much of the data from these

1 two systems is going to be integrated into the
2 Children's Trust Integrated Data Repository once
3 done. And it will allow us to really look across
4 all of our programs and all of our investments
5 across the Trust and use the data, look at trends
6 and see the effects of our investment and really
7 use the data to continue to make data driven
8 decision about our investments.

9 And the last area I'll just mention because
10 you -- the Board approved the early childhood
11 mental health consultation resolution in January.

12 This was a new aspect of our quality
13 improvement system that we brought to you. We're
14 implementing the Georgetown model of early
15 childhood mental health and (indistinguishable)
16 study and I'll just report that they have hired 26
17 consultants from multiple community based
18 organizations.

19 And they are out in the field recruiting
20 early child care programs and working with
21 teachers to improve the social, emotional
22 environment of our early learning programs and
23 also working with County in some cases.

24 So our overall outcome for the early learning
25 quality improvement system are big, but we really

1 feel that the combination of the support that we
2 put together will help us get there and then
3 change our community.

4 As I mentioned, we haven't heard of any other
5 communities that are investing in the same way.
6 Many people are doing this piece or that piece but
7 not the full combination of the four.

8 And so we are -- our goals are here and you
9 can read them. I think our main goal is that
10 every single child in our community has access to
11 high quality early learning experiences no matter
12 what the (indistinguishable).

13 And that we're supporting our child care
14 providers to be able to offer that.

15 So with that said, I'm happy to answer any
16 questions that anybody has and then I would like
17 to invite one of our provides to come up and just
18 share a few words about her experience
19 participating in our program.

20 MR. HOPE: Any questions?

21 MS. COLLINS: Thank you, Rachel.

22 MS. SPECTOR: Constance.

23 MR. HOPE: Yes, Constance.

24 MS. COLLINS: Yes. Thank you for the report.

25 I have a quick question. In the various

1 initiatives that you have, do any of these
2 supplements or stipends or salary boosts or
3 anything along these lines deal specifically with
4 the need of poor working mothers, families, for
5 child care on an extended -- with extended hours?

6 So not necessarily the nine to five which you
7 often find most child care centers offering and
8 the reason I ask this is because by the time a
9 mother takes a bus or two buses to get her child
10 to child care and then the bus or two buses to get
11 to work and go through that process again on the
12 pick up side, she's not in a nine to five work
13 world in any kind of labor environment where she
14 could actually be financially self sufficient.

15 And I'm wondering if any of these programs
16 deal with that issue or if you go, it's almost
17 financial empowerment of working families that
18 have small children because that nine to five is a
19 rare commodity for those who are in the lowest
20 socioeconomic status.

21 MS. SPECTOR: That, I mean, I think that the
22 school readiness subsidy and the Children's Trust
23 scholarship covers full time care, so whether that
24 is like nine to five or, you know seven to four,
25 whatever it is, it's full time care. I don't

1 know, off the top of my head, there are not that
2 many programs in our community that are open like,
3 you know, 24 hours, but there are a few, but most
4 of them, that I know of, are open like from seven
5 to six or seven to seven.

6 But I could probably get you that information
7 and that would be a resource (indistinguishable).

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: And actually, we can
9 provide a list for you, Rachel.

10 MS. SPECTOR: Okay.

11 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Through the coalition of
12 program -- the hours and any programs that operate
13 with extended hours (indistinguishable).

14 MS. SPECTOR: So I would like to introduce
15 Shonna Pointville. She's the --

16 Shonna is the owner of FL Kids Academy which
17 has two locations, Miami Gardens and Liberty City.

18 And she has been participating in our
19 previous version Quality Counts and now in our new
20 Early (indistinguishable) program system and she
21 wants to share her experience.

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Good afternoon. Would
23 you please restate your name and the name of your
24 program for the record, please.

25 MS. POINTVILLE: Good evening everyone. My

1 name is Shonna Pointville of Excel Kids Academy,
2 Miami campus and Excel Kids Academy, Miami Gardens
3 campus.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

5 MS. POINTVILLE: I appreciate the opportunity
6 to be here with you today and I do say this in
7 your concerns that much too often our children are
8 exposed to violence.

9 Being on the front line in the most
10 vulnerable communities (indistinguishable) by Five
11 Initiative has gained, given us access to children
12 and families that need the services most.

13 We have -- we are the provider of that six
14 year old child. We take care of both him and is
15 sister.

16 So in the midst of planning and supporting
17 his family, I'm here today to express my gratitude
18 for the opportunity to serve the Children's Trust
19 and the other Miami Coalition in the communities
20 that need the services most.

21 It's very difficult to provide the high
22 quality care expected of us that includes \$120
23 reimbursement and we're compared to programs like
24 the United Way and like Coral Gables and Aventura
25 where I have to work and not take pay in order to

1 make my schools look filled and delivering the
2 services that are enhancement, that are available
3 in one point communities.

4 It's not easy but I'm willing to do the work
5 and with the support that I receive and the
6 incentives that we receive, it definitely gets us
7 towards the goal that we have to supplement staff
8 wait lists.

9 My staff receives from 12 to \$16 per hour in
10 the ghetto and I'm a provider that's willing to
11 make that sacrifice and has done it with funds
12 that were allocated for a beautiful playground.

13 My staff retention is superb in Liberty City,
14 but I service a community closer to a foster
15 program that recruits from my school because we do
16 have staff that are willing to take courses and
17 better their education status and service delivery
18 to the children in our community.

19 Not many people are willing to work and go to
20 school. Some people are just looking for jobs,
21 but at Excel I encourage them to embrace my vision
22 for the community and for the children and I'm
23 grateful that it's appreciated but it makes it
24 difficult to maintain the staff because I can't
25 offer the salaries that are offered by Community

1 Children's Services that take care of the foster
2 children on 199th Street, so they bring the
3 children for us to serve and they recruit the
4 staff while they're there.

5 (Laughter).

6 We improve our environment on a daily basis.
7 We have all types of enrichment opportunities that
8 are not typically available in our communities.
9 The children are playing violins. They
10 participate in singing activities. We have iPads
11 and different technologies sources and soccer
12 courses and just things that you don't typically
13 see in vulnerable communities.

14 The children benefit, the parents benefit,
15 the program is enrichment. You can go on our
16 social media pages.

17 I appreciate you for coming out and taking
18 time to just see for yourself what's taking place
19 under the (indistinguishable) and in our space we
20 have green, beautiful grass, florals, trees and
21 shrubs. Just all the beautiful things that you
22 see on the other side of tracks and I appreciate
23 the opportunity.

24 Thrive by Five could not have been a name for
25 the initiative because we want all our children to

1 thrive.

2 (Indistinguishable) from the videographer out
3 of the environment where there's love and support
4 resources and I've learnt that education is
5 meaningless without opportunity.

6 So thank you for the opportunity, for me to
7 share my passion and to do the work and I look
8 forward to this initiative being it's best. I've
9 already reaped the benefits.

10 My staff is doing well and appreciate the
11 opportunity to participate in the courses that are
12 available to them, and if you have any questions
13 for me, I'm more than willing to answer those.

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Questions, anyone?

15 MR. HAJ: No, but I would like to thank
16 Shonna for coming out. I visited her site and she
17 has two exceptional programs, but one day
18 hopefully hope we can get you back because her
19 story is also rather amazing. She worked at
20 Corrections and decided that she's going to shift
21 and work in early child's care to break the cycle
22 and she has a wonderful story.

23 Shonna, I hope we can bring you back at a
24 later time to share your story with the Board.

25 MS. POINTVILLE: I'm willing to do that.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, Ms.

4 Pointville.

5 And thank you, Rachel, for the lecture and
6 for a review of Thrive by Five.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Moving now to
9 Resolutions, and for Resolution 2019-45, I'm going
10 to punt to Madam Secretary to my left.

11 MS. WELLER: Resolution 2019-45,
12 authorization to waive the competitive
13 solicitation to allow for tier payments
14 differential and child scholarship slot payments,
15 and permission to negotiate and execute a contract
16 with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade
17 NUO for tier payment differential and child
18 scholarship slot payments to early learning
19 programs that meet various quality level
20 thresholds in a total amount not to exceed \$12
21 million for a term of twelve months commencing
22 August 1st, 2019 and ending July 31st, 2020.

23 May I have a motion?

24 MR. BRANDON: So moved, Brandon.

25 DR. BAGNER: Second, Bagner.

1 MS. WELLER: Any recusals?

2 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Recuse, Hollingsworth. I
3 work for the Early Learning Coalition.

4 MS. WELLER: Any discussion?

5 DR. BAGNER: Oh, I was just going to make a
6 point I would have made during the program with
7 (indistinguishable), so as I chaired earlier the
8 Childhood Work Group and we really commend the
9 staff for putting together several of these
10 initiatives, and in particular this one where the
11 impact is going to be on over 11,000 children
12 living in low income (indistinguishable) so I
13 think this is tremendous and it's going to have a
14 pretty big impact on damage in our community.

15 MS. WELLER: Thank you, Dan.

16 Commissioner?

17 JUDGE JORDAN: The -- my question is related
18 to -- I understand that priority funding is
19 support given to programs that, for Tiers 4 and 5
20 -- is it 3 --

21 MS. SPECTOR: 4 and 5.

22 JUDGE JORDAN: 4 and 5?

23 MS. SPECTOR: The tier payment is for 2, 3, 4
24 and 5.

25 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

1 I thought I heard that programs that -- there
2 were some programs that you did not fund? You
3 would not fund if they were a certain level?

4 MS. SPECTOR: Of the scholarships.

5 JUDGE JORDAN: Who is the scholarship --

6 MS. SPECTOR: The families are allowed to
7 take their scholarship, correct, and go to
8 (indistinguishable) this year 4s and 5s.

9 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

10 MS. SPECTOR: And sometimes free.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: What are you all doing for
12 those other programs that may not reach that level
13 in order to bring them up?

14 MS. SPECTOR: So we're -- we're offering a
15 lot of support so they have access to the
16 scholarship program so the teachers can
17 participate in professional development.

18 The Early Learning Coalition offers on site
19 coaching support to work one-on-one individually
20 with teachers.

21 The Early Learning Coalition also has a
22 professional development institute where there's
23 high quality training available. So there are a
24 lot of support. The idea is that people are
25 incentivized to move up to tier to reach, you

1 know, for Tier 4 and 5.

2 JUDGE JORDAN: The only reason I was asking
3 is because where your funding may not be
4 accessible transportation wise for individuals in
5 those neighborhoods or centers where they have not
6 reached the levels for 4 and 5 and would love to
7 have a scholarship.

8 MS. SPECTOR: Yeah. So there are programs in
9 every community. We could share that
10 (indistinguishable) with you.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: I'd (indistinguishable).

12 MS. SPECTOR: But that's precisely why a few
13 weeks ago we added some very high Tier 3 programs
14 because some parents were saying the drive is too
15 far, they're -- you know, so we, you know, we
16 didn't want to have to go down to Tier 3 so we did
17 respond to the needs in certain communities from
18 parents (indistinguishable) service.

19 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

20 I'd like to see those programs and where
21 they're located within 3, 4 and 5.

22 MS. SPECTOR: Okay.

23 JUDGE JORDAN: The other question I have is
24 this a sole source?

25 MS. SPECTOR: This is -- we're requesting a

1 procurement waiver.

2 JUDGE JORDAN: That's why I'm asking.

3 MS. SPECTOR: Yes.

4 JUDGE JORDAN: Because the way \$12 million,
5 that's a lot of money, to weigh -- and I
6 understand is this -- is there another entity out
7 there, and I understand the Early Learning
8 Coalition and how it all works, but if we're doing
9 a waiver to mean -- to waive this much money it
10 means that it should be a sole source. If it's a
11 sole source, I can understand that.

12 MR. HAJ: But Commissioner, as you're well
13 aware, ELC has all the systems in place. We're
14 utilizing everything, I think you're just talking
15 about the procurement aspect of it?

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Sole -- would they be the only
17 entity that has everything in place that we need
18 in order to carry out this only because ELC in
19 itself is a funding agency.

20 MR. HAJ: Yes. The answer to that --

21 JUDGE JORDAN: And we are providing
22 additional funding to them to carry out this
23 (indistinguishable), right?

24 So would they be the only entity which to me
25 is a reasonable (indistinguishable) that can

1 perform this service in a comprehensive manner the
2 way we have outlined here?

3 MR. HAJ: Yes.

4 JUDGE JORDAN: Or would there be other
5 entities out there that could (indistinguishable)
6 and would need to put out an RFD for whatever?
7 Make it competitive.

8 MR. HAJ: Right. No.

9 MS. SPECTOR: Early Learning Coalition is not
10 charging us for any staff, per se, so we're --
11 essentially, we're leveraging the fact that they
12 have the system in place.

13 Remember, we're collecting attendance on
14 every single child, even children that are paying
15 for school privately into data system --

16 JUDGE JORDAN: That's not my question. I
17 understand all of that.

18 MS. SPECTOR: Okay.

19 JUDGE JORDAN: My question is is this the
20 only entity that can perform it?

21 MS. SPECTOR: I -- I believe that there are
22 other entities that could perform it at a very,
23 very high cost for the Children's Trust because
24 there are no other systems in place to conduct --

25 JUDGE JORDAN: So we have not tested it to

1 find out?

2 MS. SPECTOR: (Indistinguishable).

3 JUDGE JORDAN: It's just that the amount, \$12
4 million that we're being asked to waive says to me
5 this is the only entity that we can contract with
6 or that we can provide this money to that can
7 carry out the service at this cost and provide the
8 service for the number of children that we're
9 talking about.

10 MR. HAJ: Right.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: But if there is -- for the
12 longest time I've felt that the only people who do
13 Head Start with the County. For the longest
14 (indistinguishable), I was proven wrong.

15 So because we put out the RFP, and of course,
16 there were others out there who could do it
17 cheaper and serve more children on a national
18 level because of that.

19 But if we have not tested the market to see
20 who is out there and what the cost is, we don't
21 know if we can get it done cheaper. That's why
22 I'm raising the point.

23 MR. HAJ: Right. Now, Judge, I think --
24 Commissioner, I believe that the ELC is the best
25 person to perform the job at the cost.

1 Of course you can put it out there, but it
2 would be cost prohibitive to build all new systems
3 to track attendance, to do everything we need to
4 report to the State and do everything else.

5 So from the point of view that, from a cost
6 effective point of view, they have all the
7 existing infrastructures to do it.

8 JUDGE JORDAN: I don't disagree with any of
9 that.

10 MR. HAJ: Yeah.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: I'm just saying, as a Board we
12 are asked to approve \$12 million and give that
13 money to another funding agency that also -- to
14 me, it should be a sole source if it's not.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It is a sole source.

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Then that's the answer I
17 needed. Thank you.

18 MR. HOPE: Just as a point of clarification,
19 maybe somebody who's got -- can do this, because
20 we're not giving \$12 million. \$12 million, most
21 of it is going to the programs. There is an
22 administrative cost.

23 JUDGE JORDAN: No. I understand that, okay.
24 I understand.

25 But if we're going to waive -- if we're going

1 to say there's nobody else out there that can do
2 this, then I can see it being a sole source and
3 we're giving them the money.

4 But if there is another entity out there, now
5 it's on the record they are (indistinguishable),
6 it's on the record.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. WELLER: Any other questions?

9 MR. HOPE: Yes, Steve Hope, quick question.

10 So, of the \$12 million it says some of the
11 monies going for payment differential and
12 scholarships. And I think on the second page says
13 to date 93 families have received scholarships.

14 What percentage of is scholarship versus the
15 differential payments?

16 Am I interpreting this correctly?

17 MS. SPECTOR: Yes. We anticipate about \$8
18 million going to our -- about I would say, 60
19 percent probably going toward the tier payment and
20 about 40 percent going towards scholarships.

21 MR. HOPE: Okay. So 4.8 million to what,
22 scholarship but to date, 93 families, so -- and to
23 date, are we talking about the fiscal period?

24 MS. SPECTOR: To date we're talking about the
25 (indistinguishable).

1 MR. HAJ: Steve, we just rolled this out
2 about a month ago and our communications director
3 sent the Board a list. We've been hitting the
4 media circuit for the last two weeks, so every day
5 it's going up. I think when we had the
6 (indistinguishable) 60, now we're at 93 and we're
7 continuing to get more and more. We really plan
8 on 350 to 400 is what we can afford as
9 scholarships and we hope to be there in the next
10 couple of months.

11 MR. HOPE: Okay. So what's the average
12 amount for a scholarship?

13 MS. SPECTOR: It's about ten-- I would say
14 \$11,000.

15 MR. HOPE: Okay.

16 And the second question, I think the first
17 paragraph made reference to I think leverage in
18 funding from the State, that the Trust will
19 leverage funding from the State to help, I guess,
20 I wouldn't say subsidize the program, but I guess
21 expand it. Has that been done?

22 MS. SPECTOR: Yes. So currently, the State
23 comes through the Early Learning Coalition
24 conducts all of the class assessments so that is
25 189 programs at least four or five assessments per

1 program.

2 They also fund the Professional Development
3 Institute at the Early Learning Coalition.

4 They are also funding all of the quality
5 improvement coaches and professionals that go in
6 to work one-on-one with the teachers and they are
7 also funding staff and Florida oversees the
8 program if we want to keep it running.

9 MR. HOPE: Okay. I have two --

10 MS. SPECTOR: Next --

11 MR. HOPE: I'm sorry, go ahead.

12 MS. SPECTOR: Now, I was just going to add
13 that because House Bill 1091 was passed in
14 Legislature last session in the year coming up, so
15 contract year now 1920 will be leveraging
16 additional funds because the State will be
17 providing also tier payment differentials not as
18 high as ours.

19 So, for example, the State -- it's still in
20 rule making, but the way it's looking is that Tier
21 3, for example, will be offered 4 percent.

22 So what the Children's Trust would be paying
23 is the difference between 4 and 10, which would be
24 6 percent.

25 So we're expecting to, at least, the

1 (indistinguishable) amount of programs that are
2 going to be able to participate since we will be
3 leveraging significant tier payments from the
4 State.

5 MR. HOPE: Okay. And I promise this is my
6 last two questions.

7 What percentage of your 12 million is
8 administrative costs?

9 MS. SPECTOR: 10 percent.

10 MR. HOPE: 10 percent.

11 And the geographic areas exist primarily in
12 low income areas?

13 MS. SPECTOR: Only in low income areas.

14 MR. HOPE: Okay.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. SPECTOR: Sure.

17 MS. WELLER: Any other questions?

18 JUDGE JORDAN: I don't -- I'm not sure if
19 this is for staff or --

20 MS. WELLER: For the attorney?

21 JUDGE JORDAN: The Board package that I was
22 sent, I think it was Thursday, was it, Ms.
23 Director, when you and I met?

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

25 JUDGE JORDAN: Thursday. And I think I

1 grabbed this package.

2 The item, this item appears to have been
3 amended online after and it was amended with a
4 sentence in the second paragraph, at the bottom of
5 the second paragraph, and I don't know about in
6 terms of legal sufficiency, are we -- are we
7 permitted to amend items that have already been
8 sent to the Board without doing it publicly in
9 this meeting?

10 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: The item would not be an
11 amended item for the Board to amend, but you're
12 considering a different item.

13 Typically in --

14 JUDGE JORDAN: You want me to tell you what
15 the amendment was?

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yes, please.

17 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

18 On this second paragraph on the version that
19 I have here it ends with: Early Learning Coalition
20 including professional development accreditation
21 and onsite technical assistance and coaching,
22 period.

23 On the version that came offline, because I
24 had asked my staff to call and ask the question
25 how many individuals were being served, so this

1 version, after coaching has the sentence: The
2 funding in this resolution purports more than
3 11,700 children in Early Learning programs, which
4 answered my question.

5 But my concern is usually amendments are made
6 on the record in a meeting as opposed to being
7 made --

8 (Multiple voices).

9 JUDGE JORDAN: On Boards we all hear the same
10 thing and know the same thing at the same time.

11 MS. GRAVES: And I've asked staff not to
12 change resolutions after they have been reviewed
13 by my office and when they get on the agenda not
14 too long ago so this is -- could be concerning.

15 Another thing I just want you all to know is
16 that if you're changing the resolutions based on
17 input from Board members and discussions are being
18 made with other Board members based on those
19 changes, there's a potential Sunlight violation.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: This change is not based
21 on one Board member. We convened before being
22 discussed as well as to prepare the Power Point
23 and through the presentation we thought it was
24 significant for people to know there were 11,700
25 children served, so it was added.

1 It wasn't the intent to mislead the Board but
2 just to highlight how many children were served in
3 the program.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That was also discussed in
5 the program today.

6 So the question I have is that was brought to
7 my attention from staff and I presented that
8 information. I've had the committee meeting.

9 I don't remember if that sentence was in the
10 committee resolution, but we did --

11 JUDGE JORDAN: It wasn't in the package.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It wasn't at the
13 committee, but the discussion came up and we
14 thought it would be prudent to put the number onto
15 the (indistinguishable).

16 JUDGE JORDAN: I just asked from my process
17 perspective that once I sign off and I send it
18 back to staff that it's legally sufficient, that
19 the item is not changed without my knowledge
20 because I can't say that whatever the changes are
21 are legally sufficient.

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay. Okay?

23 JUDGE JORDAN: Clarify -- usually, you know,
24 we correct stuff and I keep saying that, you know,
25 I don't mean to compare or whatever, but

1 scribner's error or whatever, it's usually
2 corrected in the meeting where everybody gets the
3 same information.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Counsel --

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay.

6 All those in favor?

7 THE BOARD: Aye.

8 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Opposed?

9 Motion carries.

10 MS. SPECTOR: Thank you very much.

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Resolution 2019-46,
12 Authorization to negotiate and execute a renewal
13 contract with the Children's Forum for an amount
14 not to exceed \$600,000 for the management of the
15 Early Learning Career Center and for the
16 Children's Trust to expend up to \$1 million for
17 educator scholarships in a total amount not to
18 exceed \$1,600,000 for a term of twelve months
19 commencing August 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2010
20 with three remaining twelve month renewals subject
21 to annual funding appropriations.

22 May I have the motion, please?

23 MS. GIMENEZ: Lourdes Gimenez.

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: And the second?

25 MS. DONWORTH: Second, Donwort.

1 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

2 Are there any recusals?

3 Moving on to the discussion, comments?

4 Hearing none, all those in favor?

5 THE BOARD: Aye.

6 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any opposed?

7 The Resolution carries.

8 Resolution 2019-47, Authorization to
9 negotiate and execute a contract with the
10 Children's Forum, grant (indistinguishable) not to
11 exceed \$250,000 for the administration of the
12 child care wages Florida program for the education
13 and employment stability of child care
14 practitioners and for the Children's Trust to
15 encumber a purchase order in the amount of
16 \$1,990,000 for wage supplement payments in a total
17 amount not to exceed \$2,240,000 for a term of
18 twelve months commencing August 1, 2019 and ending
19 July 31, 2020.

20 May I have a motion, please?

21 DR. BAGNER: Daniel Bagner.

22 MR. BRANDON: Second, Brandon.

23 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

24 Are there any recusals?

25 Moving to discussion and comments.

1 MR. HOPE: Question, Steve Hope.

2 In the second paragraph it talks about the
3 total of where we get about 40 percent. Based on
4 the investment of \$1.9 million, is there some
5 projections as to how we can see that trend on a
6 downward movement or are those projections not
7 available?

8 MS. SPECTOR: From the latest data that we
9 have actually shows that it's like
10 (indistinguishable) at 7 percent as far our
11 practice and (indistinguishable).

12 MR. HOPE: Okay.

13 And this investment is intended to reduce
14 that percentage?

15 MS. SPECTOR: It is.

16 MR. HOPE: Okay.

17 Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

19 All those in favor?

20 THE BOARD: Aye.

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any opposed?

22 The Resolution carries.

23 Resolution 2019-48, Authorization to waive
24 the competitive solicitation for the web based
25 Early Learning System Wells, and authorization to

1 negotiate and execute a contract with Wells
2 Systems Foundation for the use of the Wells data
3 system in a total amount not to exceed \$200,000
4 for a term of twelve months, commencing August 1,
5 2019 and ending July 31, 2020.

6 May I have a motion, please?

7 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Motion,
8 (indistinguishable).

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, and a second?

10 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any recusals?
12 Moving to discussion, questions?

13 Hearing none, all those in favor?

14 THE BOARD: Aye.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any opposed?

16 The Resolution carries.

17 Resolution 2019-49, Authorization to waive
18 the competitive solicitation for the professional
19 development registry and authorization to
20 negotiate and execute a contract with the
21 Children's Forum for the administration of the
22 professional development registry in a total
23 amount not to exceed \$365,000 for a term of twelve
24 months commencing August 1, 2019 and ending July
25 31, 2020.

1 May I have a motion, please?

2 MR. BRANDON: (indistinguishable) so moved,
3 Brandon.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: And a second?

5 MS. GIMENEZ: Lourdes Gimenez.

6 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any recusals?

7 Moving to discussion, are there any
8 questions?

9 MR. HOPE: Steve Hope, just one question.

10 Can staff talk to the need for the
11 solicitation waiver?

12 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Rachel?

13 MS. SPECTOR: Yes. So we previously in the
14 last funding cycle, we did bid out the
15 professional development registry and we awarded
16 it to the Children's Forum.

17 The other applicant that we had was a -- were
18 the Three Basin Wisconsin (phonetic) and in
19 meeting with them and reviewing their application
20 and looking at the prohibitive cost of shifting
21 from one to another to move, I think we have
22 probably about 10,000 records for educators in our
23 system, they indicated that in A, we wouldn't be
24 saving money by shifting and then, B, we would be
25 spending money to build a whole new system and we

1 would have to be down without a system for a
2 period of time.

3 So we have tried it and we have put it out
4 there and that's why we requested this.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, Rachel.

6 Any other questions?

7 Hearing none, all those in favor?

8 THE BOARD: Aye.

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any opposed?

10 The Resolution carries.

11 Resolution 2019-50, Authorization to
12 negotiate and execute a contract renewal with the
13 University of Miami, known as School of Medicine,
14 UM, in an amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 for
15 comprehensive early intervention services for
16 children with mild developmental delays who do not
17 meet eligibility requirements for the individuals
18 with Disabilities Education Act, IBEA, Parts B or
19 C, for a term of twelve months commencing August
20 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2020 with three
21 remaining twelve month renewals subject to annual
22 funding appropriation.

23 May I have a motion, please?

24 DR. BAGNER: So moved, Bagner.

25 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, and a second?

1 MS. WELLER: Second, Weller.

2 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any recusals?

3 Move into discussion, questions.

4 DR. BAGNER: Just a comment that

5 (indistinguishable) committee that this program is

6 an excellent program that really helps fill the

7 needs for kids that are falling in the cracks

8 because they are just missing the cut-off for a

9 Part C services and do need help. And they're

10 bringing nice success with the program.

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, Dan.

12 All those in favor?

13 THE BOARD: Aye.

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any opposed?

15 The Resolution carries.

16 Resolution 2019-51, Authorization to

17 negotiate and execute a contract with the UM in

18 its use Center for Autistism and Related

19 Disabilities, CART, for Autism Spectrum Disorders

20 (ASD), diagnostic evaluation services in a total

21 amount not to exceed \$300,000 for a term of twelve

22 months commencing August 1, 2019 and ending July

23 31, 2020.

24 May I have a motion?

25 MS. GIMENEZ: Lourdes Gimenez.

1 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, and a second?

2 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any recusals?

4 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Recusal, Kendrick-Dunn.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Recusal,

6 (indistinguishable).

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable).

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: The reason for the
10 recusal, please.

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: He works for Miami-Dade
12 County Public Schools.

13 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you. And Maggie
14 (phonetic)? Same, same reason.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

16 Moving to discussion, comments.

17 Hearing none -- Susan, did you want to say
18 something?

19 DR. NEIMAND: No, just that they're fabulous,
20 you know that (indistinguishable).

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

22 All those in favor?

23 THE BOARD: Aye.

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any opposed?

25 The Resolution carries.

1 Resolution 2019-52, Authorization to
2 negotiate and execute contract renewals with seven
3 providers for the Early Childhood Community
4 Research Demonstration Project. They support
5 early childhood development with the
6 implementation and evaluation of programs with
7 high need population in a total amount not to
8 exceed \$1,539,358 for a term of twelve months
9 commencing August 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2020
10 with a remaining twelve month renewal subject to
11 an annual funding appropriation.

12 May I have a motion, please?

13 MS. DONWORTH: So moved, Donworth.

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, and a second?

15 DR. NEIMAND: Second, Neimand.

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any recusals?

17 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable) from
18 FIU.

19 MS. COLLINS: Collins, Lotus House.

20 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable)
21 GCPS (phonetic).

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable)
23 employee (indistinguishable).

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

25 Thank you.

1 And this was one of the Resolutions or one of
2 the references that Rachel made inside of her
3 presentation, and Dan, you've also mentioned the
4 early childhood work group that you chaired so
5 expertly two and a half years ago and I think we
6 really made great inroads.

7 The presentation that many of us had an
8 opportunity to attend about a year ago was
9 excellent. I think we all felt that this was
10 money very well invested and we look forward to
11 the second presentation that will be coming up
12 soon.

13 I want take all your comments and say that we
14 have actually at Miami-Dade College, had some of
15 these presenters come out and present to our
16 students and faculty, so the work is magnificent.

17 Thank you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Question, Ms. Sessions
19 (phonetic)?

20 Hearing none, all those in favor?

21 THE BOARD: Aye.

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Somebody's hand is up?

23 DR. BAGNER: With your permission,
24 (indistinguishable) to recuse.

25 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Beg pardon?

1 JUDGE JORDAN: I need to recuse again?

2 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Yeah, Miami-Dade County
3 Head Starts.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Oh.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay.

6 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Can I put that one on
8 this thing for it?

9 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any further questions?
10 Hearing none, all those in favor?

11 THE BOARD: Aye.

12 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any opposed?
13 The Resolution carries.

14 Resolution --

15 DR. BAGNER: (Indistinguishable) I recused
16 myself but I wanted to go on the record to state
17 that this kind of initiative where you do more
18 outside this Board, out of all those that we
19 presented I know it's not as much money, I think
20 it should be more that we -- we sit -- where I
21 have conditions are really, make a tremendous
22 impact by providing service and also evaluating
23 the efficacy of the programs that we're looking at
24 and, as was said before, the presentations were
25 fantastic when they presented some of the initial

1 data, so I'm impressed. I hope we can invest more
2 in these types of research studies.

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, Dan.

4 The next resolution is the Comprehensive
5 Vision Resolution mentioned inside the Thrive by
6 Five presentation, Resolution 2019-53,
7 Authorization to negotiate and execute a contract
8 with Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually
9 Impaired, Inc. for comprehensive vision program
10 for a term of twelve months commencing July 1,
11 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 in a total amount
12 not to exceed \$400,000.

13 May I have a motion, please?

14 JUDGE JORDAN: Move it, Barbara Jordan.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

16 And a second?

17 MR. HOPE: (Indistinguishable).

18 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

19 We have a -- thank you, Steve.

20 Are there any recusals on this resolution?

21 Moving to discussion, questions?

22 Hearing none, all those in favor?

23 THE BOARD: Aye.

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any opposed?

25 The Resolution carries.

1 Resolution 2019-54, Authorization to
2 negotiate and execute renewal contracts with six
3 providers for the comprehensive school based
4 health services, each for a term of twelve months
5 commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020
6 in a combined total amount not to exceed
7 \$16,250,000.

8 It is also requesting authorization to use
9 funds from this initiative to leverage federal
10 funding to the low income pool program, LOT.

11 May I have a motion, please?

12 MR. BRANDON: So moved, Brandon.

13 MS. WELLER: Thank you, and a second?

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Second.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Selma Pool (phonetic).

17 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: City post?

18 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

19 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Hope was first.

20 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

21 Are there any recusals?

22 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I have a question, do I
23 need to recuse because it benefits Miami-Dade
24 County Public (indistinguishable)? Will it
25 benefit our students?

1 (Multiple voices.)

2 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay. With no recusals,
3 moving into discussion.

4 Hearing, none, all those in favor?

5 THE BOARD: Aye.

6 MS. WELLER: Any opposed?

7 The Resolution carries.

8 Jim, punting for you, I know you have an
9 Innovation video.

10 MR. HAJ: We have a very great -- actually,
11 we had -- we're going to show the Innovation
12 video. It's a two minute video.

13 If you have the Res, I know we're short on
14 time.

15 (Video playing).

16 MR. HAJ: What the intent was, the highlight,
17 this is a third -- we have two cohorts that have
18 successfully finished and this is the highlight.

19 Some of the success the last two years, the
20 Board started Innovation Fund three, four years
21 ago. They try innovative things that not -- not
22 are necessarily always in a wheelhouse, but to try
23 things that are not happening in this community
24 and we've had some great success, and we really
25 wanted to highlight it, at this time what was

1 (indistinguishable).

2 I can email the videos to the Board members
3 later on today or tomorrow so they can take a
4 look.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you. Thank you.

6 MR. HAJ: (Indistinguishable).

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Okay, and moving to the
8 Resolution, Resolution 2019-55, Authorization to
9 negotiate and execute contracts with twelve
10 providers identified herein and selected following
11 a competitive solicitation for Innovative Services
12 to pilot or test new ideas or methods that have
13 the potential to advance the Children's Trust
14 mission in a total amount not to exceed \$866,000
15 for a term of twelve months commencing April 1,
16 2019 and ending March 31, 2020.

17 May I have a motion, please?

18 MR. BRANDON: I'll move it, Brandon.

19 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you, and second?

20 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: Second, Kendrick-Dunn.

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

22 Any recusals?

23 MS. COLLINS: Collins, Lotus House.

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

25 And as we move into discussion, I do want to

1 say and in the little bit we saw of that video, it
2 says it much better than I ever could, but I find
3 this initiative particularly exciting working with
4 children from birth to age 18, a broad range of
5 initiatives, you have an opportunity to review the
6 twelve providers with whom we will be working and
7 we look forward to hearing updates on what's
8 happening with this work.

9 Directors, are there any further questions or
10 discussion on this Resolution?

11 All those in favor?

12 THE BOARD: Aye.

13 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Are there any opposed?

14 This Resolution carries.

15 Resolution 2019-56, Authorization to execute
16 a contract amendment in the City of North Miami
17 Beach to add Focus Learning Academy as a
18 subcontractor in Contract #YAS19147020.

19 May I have a motion, please?

20 DR. PEREZ: Marta Perez.

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

22 And a second?

23 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Susan Walker (phonetic).

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Thank you.

25 Are there any recusals?

1 Moving to discussion. Questions?

2 Hearing none, all those in favor?

3 THE BOARD: Aye.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Any opposed?

5 The Resolution carries and Jim, that
6 concludes our report.

7 I'll give it to you for the CEO report.

8 MR. HAJ: Thank you.

9 So I will be exceptionally -- as brief as I
10 can be.

11 One is the Census 2020 on January 23rd, 2019,
12 the Board of County Commissioners adopted a
13 resolution to create the Miami-Dade County 2020
14 census passport.

15 The Children's Trust does have a seat as a
16 member of the Task Force. We have been working
17 with the (indistinguishable) and we will be
18 bringing updates the next -- regularly, next year
19 or two leading up to it.

20 But it's critically important about the
21 undercount in this community and how we need to
22 work together as organizations to
23 (indistinguishable) I'm not sure if you're aware,
24 everything's done electronically on online census,
25 so we need to work with our community to make sure

1 that we get as accurate a count as possible so
2 we're excited about having a seat at the table.

3 The other thing contracted out is updates.
4 We had 359 contracts the last year. We are down
5 to two and the reason why these two have not been
6 active yet is because of the detailed licenses.

7 One was issued today, so we should be
8 contracting that the next week and we have one
9 that's still pending.

10 And this we've automated our system to get
11 the detail licenses looking to bubble up so now
12 that we do know what our (indistinguishable) is so
13 we are working with our providers and working with
14 DCF to wrap this one up as well as next year to
15 get ahead of it so people are getting the detailed
16 licenses, we'll work on the providers to walk them
17 through this so we can do this as quickly and
18 effectively as possible.

19 But it is our hope within the next week or
20 two that they are all wrapped up.

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: And can I just say for
22 the record, the transparency these providers have
23 been working without a contract, operating under
24 what I guess would be the contract, and I asked
25 staff last week if the providers would be paid

1 because I was concerned about any
2 (indistinguishable) that the Trust could be open
3 to based on the program's operating without a
4 contract and without a license, and was told that
5 the providers would be paid after the license --
6 the licenses were obtained and the contract
7 (indistinguishable) to do that.

8 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Forgive me, I have
9 something. We've met with the staff and we're
10 going to -- you have to do more training for the
11 providers because the problem is that the
12 providers aren't providing all the documentation
13 that they need, so we think that we will be able
14 to have a process where we maybe have a proof
15 meeting where the provider can bring in all of
16 their documentation so that we -- so that that
17 will help in gathering the information.

18 So it's not that the department's not able to
19 (indistinguishable) licenses because, you know,
20 because we're late in issuing our
21 (indistinguishable) cards, the providers aren't
22 providing all the documentation that they need to
23 provide.

24 MR. HAJ: Yes, Commissioner?

25 JUDGE JORDAN: I want to make sure I clearly

1 understand.

2 Are we saying that we have funded agencies
3 that are not licensed and don't have a contract?

4 MR. HAJ: We issued award letter. When the
5 Board approved, they were issued award letter. We
6 do not -- we do have a signed contract, they have
7 not received payment.

8 JUDGE JORDAN: How could we issue an award
9 letter if they don't have a license?

10 MR. HAJ: It is just a notification when the
11 Board approves, approves the process, we notify
12 that the Board has approved and then they have to
13 go through the process of getting all the required
14 documentation for us.

15 The contract has not been signed. The award
16 letter is just to let them know that the Board has
17 approved funding.

18 JUDGE JORDAN: How can the Board approve
19 funding for agencies that are not licensed unless
20 when it comes to us the due diligence by staff
21 should have basically certified that they were
22 licensed and would be eligible for funding?

23 MS. SYLVESTRE: Our process is that once you
24 apply you are recommended for funding and you need
25 to have a license before a contract can be

1 executed.

2 So we adhering to our protocol, so we have a
3 number of people that have been awarded, sent an
4 award letter. Just because you get an award
5 letter doesn't necessarily mean you're going to
6 get funded because unless you have a contract, you
7 don't get any funding from the Children's Trust.

8 JUDGE JORDAN: Stephanie, please don't repeat
9 that any more because if they are getting a letter
10 of award, award means that you have been issued a
11 contract that --

12 MS. SYLVESTRE: No, no.

13 JUDGE JORDAN: (Indistinguishable).

14 MS. SYLVESTRE: No.

15 JUDGE JORDAN: Award --

16 MS. SYLVESTRE: No, not here,
17 (indistinguishable).

18 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Until it's signed, I
19 understand that, but you have -- you are saying to
20 the Board that these people, these agencies are
21 eligible to receive funding, they should not be
22 eligible to receive funding until they're
23 licensed.

24 MS. SYLVESTRE: Well, I --
25 (indistinguishable) I would be happy to have a

1 sidebar on the intricacies of that and the
2 hardship that you would create on most of our
3 community by requiring that they have a license
4 before they can get an award because that's --
5 that creates a lot of hardship on our community.

6 Our process has always been since 2015 when
7 DCF reinterpreted their rules to require us to
8 have licenses in our after school programs that
9 you get your license and then we execute a
10 contract, that's what we've been doing.

11 In previous years we've been working closely
12 with DCF to insure that all licenses are in place.

13 We, this year, we had a challenge with two of
14 our providers. As Jim said, we have a large
15 number of providers that we need to work through
16 the process and as Gilda said, we have made --
17 we've had some conversations with DCF about how to
18 streamline the process and ensure that we are
19 getting ahead of this problem.

20 JUDGE JORDAN: If an agency receives an award
21 letter and come to me and say, Commissioner, I
22 received an award letter but they still have not
23 funded me.

24 MS. SYLVESTRE: Yeah.

25 JUDGE JORDAN: Then the award letter to me,

1 unless you have in the award letter in terms of
2 your process that you sent out and you outline in
3 your process the solicitation, you must have a
4 license --

5 MS. SYLVESTRE: Yes.

6 JUDGE JORDAN: You must have a license, an
7 award to be awarded funding from the Children's
8 Trust.

9 MS. SYLVESTRE: To get a contract.

10 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: To get a contract.

11 JUDGE JORDAN: You must --

12 MS. SYLVESTRE: Because the award letter is
13 not legally binding. We have providers that we've
14 brought to the Board, made recommendations for
15 funding and still they have either said they're --
16 they've given us back the money or -- and so they
17 don't have a contract with us.

18 So until you have a contract with The
19 Children's Trust, we are not legally binding on
20 this.

21 JUDGE JORDAN: We are misleading agencies by
22 making them believe that they have an award from
23 The Children's Trust.

24 Mr. Chair, I'd like to have a Sunshine
25 meeting with you.

1 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay.

2 JUDGE JORDAN: Because, obviously, there's
3 some policies --

4 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. (indistinguishable).

5 JUDGE JORDAN: -- that they're funding --

6 MR. HOFFMAN: I'm not quite sure that's the
7 case. I think we should look at the form of the
8 award letter, but I don't think it's implicit in
9 the award, and my understanding of the process is
10 as it's carried on and described, if we've ever
11 paid any provider that doesn't have the requisite
12 license nor committed to them that we would pay.

13 JUDGE JORDAN: Let me ask --

14 MR. HOFFMAN: I think it is part of the
15 (indistinguishable).

16 JUDGE JORDAN: Let me ask you -- let me ask
17 you, Attorney.

18 Agencies that receive an award letter, is
19 there -- what does it imply? What does it mean?

20 MS. GRAVES: It depends on the letter,
21 Commissioner.

22 To be fair, I would like to see the actual
23 award letter to see if we could, you, if the
24 language needs to be revised or changed a bit, and
25 I'm happy to work with them on that.

1 To circle back to something, I just want
2 Stephanie to clarify, you stated earlier that, you
3 know, if they don't get the license, they would
4 have to pay the money back.

5 MS. SYLVESTRE: No, I didn't, I didn't say
6 that.

7 JUDGE JORDAN: Not to pay the money back.
8 They're not -- they haven't gotten any money.

9 MR. HOFFMAN: There were no money received.

10 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So that's what I wanted
11 to clarify and then also, can you identify the
12 providers, who the providers are and if there are
13 any subcontractors under those providers or if
14 it's just two providers, period, for this issue?

15 MS. SYLVESTRE: So we have one provider for
16 this issue and the provider does have
17 subcontractors and I just want to also state that
18 the services have been provided in school sites
19 which are not required to be licensed during the
20 day and this is our -- this is an issue that we've
21 also brought up as conflicted, so you have a
22 school site that is fine to have children for
23 seven hours a day, and then in the evening,
24 requires a license.

25 There's been some -- there's been some public

1 meetings around that and I'm not too sure where we
2 are from getting that result, so that's an issue
3 that treats us, a circular conversation with
4 trying to get license.

5 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I think further
6 discussion on that may be necessary because being
7 a school site, unless they are outside providers
8 providing the services during the day at the
9 school site, then the fact that a license is
10 required after school is out and the District is
11 no longer responsible for the children could be
12 the reason why a license is required by outside
13 providers and not during the day during the school
14 day.

15 MR. HOFFMAN: (Indistinguishable).

16 JUDGE JORDAN: So we have services that are
17 being provided by providers that are not licensed
18 in schools?

19 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: We have providers that
20 are providing services with expectations of
21 getting paid once a license is issued. So we
22 have --

23 JUDGE JORDAN: (Indistinguishable) Mr. Chair
24 I'd like to have a Sunshine meeting on this.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: Judge Prescott?

1 JUDGE PRESCOTT: (Indistinguishable) I'm just
2 going back to the -- a little to the basics. So
3 there's entities that are seeking a contract for
4 work and they don't have the requisite license to
5 perform the work for which they are acting for a
6 contract with, is that what I'm hearing?

7 And we -- it is our belief that we could vote
8 for this person to do the work and hope that they
9 get their license to do the work that they're
10 asked to do?

11 That's basically it?

12 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: And let me just add on.
13 In some instances they are doing the work without
14 the contact and without the license.

15 JUDGE PRESCOTT: Then why -- then if that has
16 been a policy of the Board, I'm going to ask that
17 we revisit that because I'm a very simple man.

18 If you're asking to do the work, you should
19 be qualified to do it from the day you ask to do
20 it.

21 And I don't know what the hardship would be
22 because if you're not licensed to do it, don't ask
23 to do it.

24 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Well, so,
25 (indistinguishable) can you explain the process

1 for licensing on site for these guests? Because
2 this is the issue is providing a licensing for a
3 site.

4 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yeah. I think that the
5 way I would address the concern is that the
6 licensing process is a tedious process and it
7 requires a lot of documentation and everything, so
8 I guess that if a provider weren't sure they were
9 going to have the funding or weren't providing the
10 services already, I'm not talking about the ones
11 that are already doing it, but if you're not
12 providing the service, and you don't know if
13 you're going to get funded to provide the service,
14 you know, they may say, you know, I'm not going to
15 go through all the trouble of, you know, applying
16 for a license and all the requires that go along
17 with that unless I know that I can get funding for
18 it.

19 MR. HOFFMAN: Question.

20 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Would it help that the
21 award letter have some caveat that make reference
22 to that this is contingent upon receipt of a
23 license?

24 Because a lot of small providers, for
25 example, when they apply to Children's Trust for a

1 grant, and the requirement is that you have an
2 audit, and the cost of the audit sometimes is
3 prohibitive for small providers, but there's no --
4 they're not trying to go get the grant, so it's
5 under (indistinguishable) like rather than spend
6 \$5,000 and then find out I can't get the grant, so
7 there have been some of the cases with the smaller
8 providers this does act as a rather, say, a
9 barrier to entry, so the question is, can there be
10 some caveat in the letter that would imply that
11 this award letter is contingent upon you receiving
12 a license within X time line, so that -- would
13 that make a difference?

14 And the lawyers might have to answer that.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Mr. Chair --

16 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable)

17 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I still have a problem
18 that the Commissioner and the Judge both
19 mentioned.

20 I don't have any problem with someone not
21 spending the money before they know they're going
22 to get money, but if you're required to be
23 licensed to engage in an activity, you can't
24 engage in that activity until you're licensed.
25 That's true for all of us.

1 So you can have the hope and the expectation
2 once you get an award notice that you're going to
3 get licensed, but if the State of Florida or the
4 County or some municipality requires you to be
5 licensed before you can do it, just my feeling,
6 you shouldn't do it until you get licensed.

7 Now I know that may create a problem for
8 someone because they get an award notice and maybe
9 it takes a long time to get a license, but if
10 that's -- I mean, why have a law if you're not
11 supposed to -- and why would we allow someone to
12 engage in an activity that violates the law?

13 MR. HOPE: And just for clarification, the
14 letter would not basically be an authorization to
15 be in service, but simply to say that you have
16 been awarded.

17 Now --

18 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable)

19 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: They can't be working for
20 -- working for free is very nice --

21 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I agree.

22 (Laughter)

23 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: -- if it's illegal, it's
24 illegal.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: So I would suggest, obviously,

1 Commissioner, this raised the question that
2 (indistinguishable) Board was not aware of that
3 process and I do suggest that we look into it and
4 have a report back to the Board and I'm happy to
5 have a Sunshine meeting with you and any other
6 Commissioner that would -- any other Board member
7 that had a desire to attend to look at the
8 practice and other practices relating to
9 contracting.

10 Commissioner, it might be a good suggestion,
11 but it might not -- it may or may not ameliorate
12 the issue that we're talking about.

13 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: I'll talk to --

14 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It can be arranged.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

16 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Mr. Chair, if I could?

17 MR. HOFFMAN: Yes.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It sounds like to me that
19 the process is helping to create an opportunity
20 for smaller providers that are doing the work but
21 are not necessarily licensed to do it yet, so I
22 would like to participate in the Sunshine meeting
23 that we have and better understand what the
24 process is rather than have kind of a reaction
25 ahead of time not understanding why this

1 particular set up was created, particularly the
2 fact that it doesn't seem like the Board is paying
3 her or signing a contract with people until they
4 have had a license.

5 So I think that's the important part of the
6 consideration.

7 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

8 JUDGE JORDAN: I'd like to ask what is the
9 process of the Children's Trust in terms of those
10 occasions my making contact with the Chair's to
11 set up a Sunshine meet because this is not the
12 only issue I want to discuss with him, what would
13 be the process?

14 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Commissioner, you can --
15 I would suggest that just working with staff and
16 asking staff to, you know, send some dates and
17 whatever the issues are and then they will notice
18 it and go from there.

19 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. And work with staff in
20 terms of developing the agenda?

21 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yes.

22 JUDGE JORDAN: For the Sunshine meeting?

23 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Yes, ma'am.

24 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Thank you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Madam Chair, one last --

1 Mr. Chair, one last thing.

2 There was a bullet that Isaac had requested
3 at the last Board meeting. There's a tab on your
4 iPad -- I just lost it.

5 MR. HOFFMAN: Talking (indistinguishable).

6 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It was in the top 20 to
7 the far right. Isaac's ask was can --

8 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: There we go.

9 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: We were talking about
10 funding for the top agencies so we listed those on
11 the iPad with a graphic at the bottom that show
12 the breakdown of the (indistinguishable) provided,
13 the municipalities as well as college,
14 universities.

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: (Indistinguishable).

16 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: It's not --

17 JUDGE JORDAN: I looked at this report, and
18 it's very good to have this information. And when
19 I met with you, Mr. Director, I asked for a
20 breakdown of the information in terms of
21 Countywide funding --

22 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Yeah, uh-huh.

23 JUDGE JORDAN: -- Level. It helps me to see
24 where the funding is going and we have had it by
25 district, Commission district, because that's the

1 entire County.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Correct. Correct.

3 JUDGE JORDAN: And of course, there are a
4 number of organizations like the University is
5 whom they say they serve with total County, so
6 that may need to be a separate kind of sheet that
7 the children information, but I think it would be
8 very helpful, and I know it takes sometimes you
9 guys who are familiar with computers know how to
10 just print (indistinguishable) --

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Yeah.

12 JUDGE JORDAN: -- and get the information. I
13 don't know how to do that. So if it takes a
14 while, I understand that.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: (Indistinguishable).

16 MR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Meeting is adjourned.
17 Thank you.

18 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
 : Ss
COUNTY OF MIAMI DADE)

I, emile brave, a Court Reporter in and for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did digitally report the foregoing proceedings in the above-styled cause, at the time and place set forth; that the foregoing pages, numbered from 1 to 143, inclusive, constitute a true and complete record of my notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I'm not a relative or employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of any of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor financially interested in the action.

Dated this 22nd day of April, 2019.



Emilie Brave, Court Reporter

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