



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

July 1, 2021

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PROGRAM SERVICES & CHILDHOOD HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING
"VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBINAR"

The Children's Trust Program Services and
Childhood Health Committee Meeting was held on July
1, 2021 commencing at 3:30 p.m., in teleconference
via Zoom Webinar. The meeting was called to order
by Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair (Zoom)

Karen Weller, Vice-Chair (Zoom)

Edward Abraham (Zoom)

Laura Adams

Dr. Daniel Bagner

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall (Zoom)

Mary Donworth

Pastor Richard Dunn II

Lourdes P. Gimenez

Nicole Gomez (Zoom)

Tiombe-Bisa Kendrick-Dunn

Annie Neasman (Zoom)

Sandra West

Kenneth Hoffman (ex-officio) (Zoom)

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Continued):

2

3 Leigh Kobrinski

4

5 STAFF:

6 Bevone Ritchie

7 Danielle Barreras

8 Diana Beltre

9 Carnet Esters

10 Imran Ali

11 James Haj

12 Joanna Revelo

13 Juana Leon

14 Juliette Fabien

15 Lisete Yero

16 Lori (Katherine) Hanson

17 Maria-Paula Garcia

18 Muriel Jeanty

19 Natalia Zea

20 Rachel Spector (Zoom)

21 Sabine Dulcio

22 Sheryl Borg

23 Stephanie Sylvestre

24 William Kirtland

25 Ximena Nunez

1 GUESTS:

2 Liana De Angelis

3 Lindsay Dolce

4 Shevrin Jones

5 Zulema Santacruz

6 Alexandra Cornelius

7 Zafreen Jaffery

8 Okezi Otovo

9 Cristina Rodriguez

10 Shameequa

11 Fiorella Christie

12 Jacques Bentolila

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PROCEEDINGS

(Recording of the meeting began at 3:30 p.m.)

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to, on this July 1, to our July Program Services and Childhood Health Committee meeting. It's my great pleasure to see all of you live and in-person today. And welcome to all of you as you prepare for what I hope will be a fun July 4th weekend.

Muriel, do we have any public comments today?

MS. JEANTY: Madam Chair, we don't have any public comments.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Very well. Thank you so much. And so let's proceed to the approval of the minutes for our last meeting. Committee members, by now you would have had an opportunity to review the minutes from our June 3rd meeting.

May I have a motion to approve the minutes?

DR. ABRAHAM: So moved, Abraham.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Dr. Abraham.

MS. DONWORTH: Second, Donworth.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Mary.

All those in favor?

ALL: AYE.

MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed? The

1 minutes are approved.

2 We have three resolutions on the schedule today.

3 And for the reading and discussion of the first
4 resolution I'm going to pass the baton to Karen
5 Weller. Karen?

6 MS. WELLER: Okay. Good afternoon, everyone.

7 Resolution 2021-A: Authorization to amend
8 resolution number 2021-28, approved by the board on
9 March 15, 2021 to authorize(1) a contract amendment
10 with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-
11 Dade/Monroe (ELC) to increase funding for Thrive by 5
12 child scholarships, in an additional amount not to
13 exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a new total of
14 \$11,500,000.00, and (2) the encumbrance of an
15 additional \$500,000.00 via a purchase order for high-
16 quality tiered payment differentials for a new total
17 amount of \$10,500,000.00, both for a term -- both of
18 these for a term of 15 months, commencing July 1,
19 2021, and ending September 30, 2022, subject to
20 annual funding appropriations.

21 May I have a motion, please?

22 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: So moved, Bendross-
23 Mindingall.

24 MS. GIMENEZ: Second, Gimenez.

25 MS. WELLER: Okay. Any recusals?

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

3 MS. WELLER: Okay, thank you. As we move into
4 discussion, I just needed to let everyone know that
5 this resolution is really -- you have in your packet
6 a copy of the resolution 2021-28 for your review and
7 your consideration. What we are approving today is
8 adding the 1.5 million to the child scholarships. We
9 currently have 842 children that are on the waitlist
10 and parents are ready to go back to work and they
11 need the high quality care for their children. We
12 receive calls daily with parents asking for the
13 support. And adding \$500,000 to the tiered payments
14 to support the school readiness increases what had
15 been put forth by the Office of Learning, which is a
16 much needed subsidy payment rate that is kind of low
17 here in Miami-Dade County.

18 Do we have any other comments or requests?

19 DR. BAGNER: If I may, Madam Vice Chair?

20 MS. WELLER: Sure.

21 DR. BAGNER: So just a comment that this is
22 extremely important. The amount of money going
23 towards those on the waitlist is just putting a small
24 dent. I think it covers right under 200 kids. So I
25 know we're waiting to see what the federal government

1 provides, but hopefully we can do more and get most
2 of those 700 kids services that they need.

3 MR. WELLER: Thank you. Any other comments?

4 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: I have a question, but I
5 think Stephanie may be in the process of answering
6 it. I know this is a resolution to approve
7 additional funds, but I wanted to learn or better
8 understand the differences between the five tiers.
9 Because I know -- I guess there's differences between
10 the quality. And then I told her I wanted to know
11 what the ethnic and racial background of the children
12 attending the tier four and five, which, I guess, are
13 the higher quality pair, so.

14 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, if I may, I'm going to
15 ask Rachel to answer. Tiombe, some of that we have
16 for you, some of that's going to need to wait until
17 next week. We'll have it before the board meeting.
18 But just so all the board members are well aware that
19 our Thrive By 5, when we did pivot, all our providers
20 in Thrive By 5 are in high need neighborhoods
21 throughout the high census tracts.

22 So, Rachel, do you have -- I know we have a
23 partial answer for Tiombe's question.

24 MS. SPECTOR: WE do have the ethnic and racial
25 breakdown for all the children that are either

1 participating in the scholarship program or on the
2 waitlist. The rest of the children that are
3 attending the four and five program, I have already
4 reached out to Evelio at the Early Learning Coalition
5 to get that data as well. So hopefully next week
6 we'll be able to share it all with you.

7 And then, regarding your question about the
8 differences in tiers, so we used the class tool,
9 which measures the interactions between children and
10 educators, and then we assess 50 percent of the
11 classrooms by tier level, so 50 percent of infant, 50
12 percent toddler, 50 percent Pre-K. And then we have
13 a composite score which is essentially an average of
14 all the different dimensions. And that's what
15 separates the tiers.

16 So a tier 5, the class is a 7 point tool, so a
17 tier 5 is a 6.01 to 7, it's extremely, like, it's a
18 very, very high score. We use that tool because the
19 -- some of the domains instructional support are
20 linked to better off child outcomes in terms of
21 school readiness. But I can also send you the exact
22 breakdown of the tiers, if that will be helpful.

23 You're welcome.

24 MS. WELLER: Is there any other comments or
25 questions?

1 MS. GIMENEZ: I have a question, Madam Chair,
2 what happens to the children that remain on the
3 waitlist, are there other options available for them?

4 MS. SPECTOR: Well, not at this time. I mean,
5 there's no other funding. We'll see with the
6 American Rescue Plan, there is going to be some funds
7 coming down for parents to pay. A lot of families
8 that are on the waitlist are paying right now, right,
9 they don't have a choice, they have to work. They're
10 paying, but it's extremely difficult for them. I
11 speak to mom's that are just trying to make it work
12 and they keep calling, I can't afford \$600, \$700 a
13 month per child.

14 And so -- but they remain on the waitlist. So
15 yeah, we're working through the waitlist. We do
16 expect that when the summer ends and children
17 transition to kindergarten, we'll have additional --
18 I think we have close to 100 children that are
19 transitioning to kindergarten, so that will open up
20 another 100 slots. But yeah, we try to assist, but
21 there's not really any other funding at this point.

22 MS. GIMENEZ: Thank you.

23 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, if I may. The state and
24 the feds, there's a lot money coming down. Right now
25 there's over one billion dollars sitting at the state

1 level. And as of today, we all just moved under the
2 Department of Education. So there should be
3 guidance. And the nice thing is we have a spot at
4 the table with Michelle Ovelio from the ELCs at that
5 table, looking at where this money goes, knowing
6 that's going to function at 1 three years, so how do
7 we use that money wisely to start building
8 infrastructure.

9 So we're waiting until that comes out, and then
10 we want to reconvene an early childcare workgroup for
11 this board. But just to see what's coming from the
12 state and feds first, and then we kind of look
13 holistically at what our investments are, are there
14 things that we need to pivot on, or are there things
15 that are coming down the pipe. So we're hoping
16 sometime in the next six months, the next month or
17 two we'll have the guidance from the state and the
18 feds, and then we can reconvene the childcare
19 workgroup.

20 DR. BAGNER: I do just have one more question.
21 remind us how much of the day these scholarships
22 cover. I know we've had this discussion way back, I
23 can't remember if it's a full day until five or if it
24 doesn't include aftercare. And I think if not,
25 that's something important we want to consider as we

1 think about the funding.

2 MS. SPECTOR: No, the scholarship covers a full-
3 time slot. So typically the programs are open 10
4 hours a day, it covers the whole slot. And the
5 payment is, there's a parent copayment of \$70 a week,
6 which is right above the threshold of the highest
7 copayment if you qualify for the school readiness
8 federal childcare subsidy. And then the only time
9 our scholarship covers half is for the 4-year-olds
10 that participate in VPK, then we pay the wraparound
11 rate so they can stay the whole day.

12 DR. BAGNER: All right, thank you.

13 MR. HAJ: Rachel, just for the benefit of the
14 group and perhaps new board members, can you just
15 talk about the poverty threshold and where we're at
16 for our scholarships?

17 MS. SPECTOR: The income requirements?

18 MR. HAJ: The 150 percent to 300.

19 MS. SPECTOR: Yeah, so in order to qualify for
20 the federal childcare subsidy through the school
21 readiness program, families are able to earn up to
22 150 percent of the federal poverty rate. And then
23 upon renewal, which is every two years, they're able
24 to go up to 200 percent of the federal poverty rate.
25 Our scholarships cover those families of the 300

1 percent of the federal poverty rate. So these are
2 families that are making like \$12, \$13, \$14, \$15 an
3 hour, that don't often times, you know, we have
4 people, I've spoken to women who turned down job
5 career opportunities to bring themselves better
6 incomes on a path of self-sufficiency because they'll
7 lose their childcare subsidy if they earn too much
8 money. So these are those families. This is
9 supporting a family of three that's making up to
10 about \$60,000, remember the cost of childcare is very
11 expensive, so these are families that are barely
12 making it.

13 MS. WELLER: Any other questions? Okay. All
14 those in favor?

15 ALL: AYE.

16 MS. WELLER: Opposed? The resolution carries.

17 Back to you, Madam Chair.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Madam Secretary.

19 Resolution 2021-B: Authorization to negotiate
20 and execute contracts with six providers, identified
21 herein, and selected following a competitive
22 solicitation for early childhood community-research
23 demonstration projects within high-need communities,
24 in a total amount not to exceed \$1,939,358.00, for a
25 term of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2021, and

1 ending September 30, 2022, with four remaining
2 contract renewals.

3 May I have a motion, please?

4 MS. BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: Bendross-Mindingall,
5 move it.

6 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, ma'am, and a
7 second?

8 DR. ABRAHAM: Second, Abraham.

9 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any
10 recusals? I don't know if Constance Collins is with
11 us today, but I do have a recommendation for recusal
12 from Constance. Any other recusals?

13 DR. BAGNER: Recusal, Bagner, I know it's not a
14 legal recommendation, but I do work closely with one
15 of the consultants on the resolution because I'm
16 employed by FIU with him.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: All right, thank you, Dan.
18 And let's move into discussion. In a brief overview,
19 the early childhood community research demonstration
20 project, as you will recall, focused on implementing
21 and evaluating programs with high need populations
22 and underserved communities across Miami-Dade County
23 to support early childhood development.

24 On March 8, 2021, The Trust issued request for
25 proposals and that was RFP number 2021-06 to fund

1 active community research partnerships. The intent
2 here is to use community-based participatory research
3 frameworks focused on implementing and evaluating
4 evidence-based practices or promising practices that
5 support early childhood development within high need
6 communities.

7 Eleven applications were received and reviewed.

8 The comprehensive review process included an
9 independent program and application rating by three
10 trained reviewers. A review team debriefing, a
11 fiscal audit review, and an initiative wide review.

12 Six applications are today being recommended for
13 funding. This is the second cycle of the early
14 childhood research demonstration projects. There are
15 four projects which are continuing from the previous
16 cycle by significantly changing the research
17 questions and offering a different intervention.

18 We have two brand new projects in this cycle.

19 This RFP was extremely competitive. We received far
20 more proposals than we could fund. We were, however,
21 able to add \$200,000.00 from Help Me Grow, since
22 nobody applied for that particular solicitation.

23 Further discussion, questions, observations from our
24 committee?

25 MS. KENDRICK-DUNN: I just have a comment about

1 the one that's, FIU's black mother care plan. I
2 just, you know, I read through all of these, I think
3 they're all phenomenal and great. In particular,
4 this one I was very happy to see. I'm sure that
5 everyone is aware of the health disparities and many
6 places in our country, including our community, with
7 people of African-American descent, but including
8 black women.

9 This is, I think its huge, because it is a huge
10 problem across the country. The services and
11 healthcare that black woman that are in the process
12 of giving birth or when they're pregnant, this is --
13 I just wanted to say thank you for having this here.
14 And then, also, I saw one, I think, that deals with
15 the multitiered system of supports and educating
16 children and adding the piece with the social-
17 emotional. Again, I think they're all great, but
18 those two just stand out for me, especially for the
19 mothers, the black mothers.

20 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that, Tiombe.
21 Committee members, further input?

22 Hearing none, all those in favor?

23 ALL: AYE.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed?

25 The resolution carries. Our final resolution of

1 this afternoon --

2 DR. BAGNER: Madam Chair, if I may?

3 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, is that Dan?

4 DR. BAGNER: Yes. I know I have to -- I had to
5 recuse myself but I do want to speak about the
6 resolution after the vote. I can't emphasize enough
7 how proud I am of The Trust for doing this work. We
8 met, an early childcare workgroup, I think five years
9 ago now, to start this. These projects are so
10 exciting. It's really combining, providing important
11 early childhood services with actually conducting and
12 evaluating the effectiveness of the programs that
13 they're using. And I hope we can do more of this.
14 I'm excited to see the results. We've had a couple
15 of exciting presentations where we saw results from
16 previous of these demonstration projects. So kudos
17 to the staff for continuing to do this work.

18 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, thank you, Dan. I
19 couldn't agree more. Thank you for your ongoing
20 support and enthusiasm surrounding the demonstration
21 projects.

22 Let's move on to Resolution 2021-C.

23 MS. KOBRINSKI: Madam chair, just a second.

24 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes?

25 MS. KOBRINSKI: Can you check your agenda --

1 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Is somebody -- I can't hear
2 you.

3 MS. KOBRINSKI: I'm just checking -- it's Leigh
4 Kobrinski. I'm just checking on the title of that
5 last resolution. Does it say 2021-B?

6 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: B.

7 MS. KOBRINSKI: Okay.

8 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: We're going into 2021-C now,
9 our final resolution.

10 MS. KOBRINSKI: Okay, just clarifying for the
11 record that it was 2021-B. I think there was a typo
12 on the agenda item itself. Thank you.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that. And if
14 I misspoke, I apologize.

15 Resolution 2021-C: Authorization to negotiate
16 and execute a contract with Florida Introduces
17 Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY)
18 for after-school snacks and meals, in a total amount
19 not to exceed \$600,000.00, for a term of 12 months,
20 commencing October 1, 2021, and ending September 30,
21 2022, with four remaining contract renewals.

22 May I have a motion, please?

23 MS. GIMENEZ: So moved, Gimenez.

24 MR. DUNN: Second, Richard Dunn.

25 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you. Are there any

1 recusals? I don't have any recommended recusals
2 here. Calling for recusals. Hearing none, let's
3 move into discussion.

4 Committee members, if you are aware, The
5 Children's Trust requires all afterschool and summer
6 programs to provide participating children with food
7 that meets the United States Department of
8 Agriculture, or USDA, nutrition program requirements.
9 On February 8, 2021, The Children's Trust released
10 requests for qualifications, that's RFQ number 2021-
11 05, for one agency to act as the afterschool meals
12 program food sponsor. One application was received,
13 reviewed and recommended for funding.

14 A comprehensive review process included an
15 independent program operation rating by three trained
16 reviewers, a review team debriefing and a fiscal
17 audit review. FLIPANY has been providing snacks and
18 meals to Trust funded providers since June 2015. Now
19 during the first eight months of the current
20 contract, FLIPANY has provided 25,488 snacks to --
21 pardon me, and 9,481 suppers and lunches, which
22 resulted in \$60,031.10 in leverage federal
23 reimbursements. And received positive reviews from
24 cite staff who indicated students were overall
25 extremely satisfied with their food choices. The

1 afterschool staff is also extremely satisfied with
2 snack delivery and quality.

3 Discussion, feedback from the committee, please?

4 MS. GIMENEZ: I have a comment. I think it's
5 great that The Children's Trust also pays for those
6 snacks, meals and beverage, et cetera, when they do
7 not meet the DOH requirements. And I also think that
8 having additionally, some of these cites provide
9 supper for the children, is also great. We all know
10 that a child that has a good nutrition is able to do
11 better work in school on the day of or the next day.
12 So I do commend them for doing this.

13 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you for that, Lourdes.
14 Further comments from our committee? Hearing none,
15 all those in favor?

16 ALL: AYE.

17 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there any opposed? The
18 resolution carries. And committee members, that's
19 our final resolution of the day. I'm punting to Jim
20 for the CEO report.

21 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you. I just want
22 to let everyone know, I know the Surfside is on the
23 top of everybody's mind and how this community is
24 rallying around, I think we have tremendous amount of
25 support. And just like when there's any other

1 tragedy, this community steps up. We have been -- we
2 sent an email to the board, we have been coordinating
3 with our providers in that area. And I was telling
4 Dan a little while ago, we are concerned now, but
5 we're also concerned in two months when the media
6 leaves and then those families have a long-term
7 effect and how are we going to be there.

8 So we started a crisis page for help with all of
9 our providers and we'll continue updating that. We
10 are in constant communications with, again, our
11 providers there, as well as United Way and other of
12 the funders, and how are we going to be thoughtful of
13 how we do this. We have professionals who do do it,
14 so how are we going to coordinate efforts, also be
15 culturally sensitive. We talked about the orthodox
16 community and some other things going on in there.
17 But we have our continued support to work alongside
18 to support this community, not just this week and
19 next week, but for the years ahead.

20 Preliminary budget, this morning the Finance
21 Committee met, as you know, this month, July, the
22 next board meeting the board will vote on a millage
23 and budget approval to go to the TRIM meeting. They
24 did approve the half millage rate and approved the
25 budget. The half millage rate does allow us, if the

1 board does vote for it in July, to fund the board
2 priority items that came out of the board retreat.
3 So you will see that, that will be the top of your
4 discussion first up at the board meeting the
5 following Monday.

6 Champions for Children, this is our big event.
7 The Dave Lawrence Award as well as our providers of
8 the year. Those of you who have helped judged in the
9 past, you know the difficult job judging because
10 you've got phenomenal people applying. We have many
11 board members who have signed up to be judges. It's
12 July 7th, I believe, at 3:00. So if you have not
13 signed up and you want to participate in voting for
14 our David Lawrence Champion as well as provider of
15 the year and some others, please do so.

16 And TRIM I and II, are exceptionally important
17 that we need a full quorum of September 13 and 20.
18 And other than that, I'd just like to wish everybody
19 here and their families a wonderful Fourth of July.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair.

21 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you, Jim. Thank you
22 for that.

23 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, I'm sorry, one more, we
24 had a beautiful picture of Pastor Dunn. Thank you
25 for -- there was a picture of Pastor Dunn leading the

1 first responders in prayer at Surfside that we will
2 be posting on social media. But we talked about the
3 faith-based community coming out and support what's
4 going on. It was great to see one of our board
5 members out there and leading some efforts. So,
6 Pastor Dunn, thank you.

7 MS. HOLLINGSWORTH: That's wonderful. Thank
8 you, Pastor Dunn. Thank you, Jim. Thank you
9 committee members for your kind attention today.
10 Thank you to staff and guests for attending. And
11 with that, folks, we are adjourned. So wishing
12 everybody a happy Fourth of July and look forward to
13 seeing you at the board meeting.

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16 (Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m., the meeting was
17 adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

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

Christy Caldera, Transcriber

July 21, 2021