



**Program Services Committee
Meeting Transcript**

October 05, 2023

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The Children's Trust
Thursday, October 5, 2023
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way - Ryder Room
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Program Services Committee Meeting

Committee Members
(Present)

- Pamela Hollingsworth, Chairperson
- Daniel Bagner, Vice Chair
- Laura Adams
- Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
- Hon. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Ph.D
- Lourdes Diaz
- Jacqueline Exceus (via Zoom)
- Gilda Ferradaz
- Valrose Graham

President & CEO
James R. Haj

County Attorney's Office

Leigh Kobrinski
Assistant County Attorney

1	Staff
2	Amanda Gorski
3	Andrei Galatanu
4	Bevone Ritchie
5	Carol Brogan
6	Danielle Barreras
7	Edward Hudson
8	Felix Becerra
9	Garnet Esters
10	Imran Ali
11	Jacques Bentolila
12	James R. Haj
13	Juana Leon
14	Juliette Fabien
15	K. Lori Hanson
16	Lisete Yero
17	Natalia Zea
18	Patricia Leal
19	Rachel Spector
20	Sebastian Del Marmol
21	Tatiana Canelas
22	Victoria Gandul
23	Wendy Ducomber
24	William Kirtland
25	Ximena Nunez Yuliet Alfonso

1 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Good
2 afternoon, Committee Members, Staff,
3 Guests. We'll be getting started in just
4 a moment.

5 Good afternoon. Good afternoon,
6 Everyone. Great to see everybody here
7 today.

8 Welcome to the Program Services
9 Committee meeting for the Children's
10 Trust. Today is Thursday, the 5th of
11 October.

12 And I'd like to begin our meeting by
13 welcoming two members to the program's
14 committee. The first member is Nancy
15 Adebisi. Welcome, Nancy. If you'd like
16 to unmute and say a few words, we'd
17 welcome that.

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: Good
19 afternoon, Everyone, and thank you so much
20 for welcoming me to the Committee and to
21 the Board. I'm super excited to serve in
22 this capacity representing the Florida
23 Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.

24 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
25 you, and welcome again.

1 And our second new member, and I
2 understand is joining us via Zoom, and
3 that's Jacqueline Exceus.

4 Ms. Exceus, if you are here and would
5 like to say a few words, we'd welcome
6 that.

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER EXCEUS: Yes, hi.
8 Again, sorry, pardon me for my distance
9 presence, and thank you. I'm really
10 pleased to be a part of the Committee as
11 well.

12 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
13 you, Jacqueline.

14 And let's move now to public
15 comments, and I am told we do have one
16 public comment.

17 Is Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld on the line?
18 We're getting some --

19 DR. ROSENFELD: I'm here. Can you
20 hear me?

21 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Yes, we
22 can hear you now, Dr. Rosenfeld. I
23 understand that you'd like to make some
24 comments today.

25 Please begin by stating your name and

1 your agency of association.

2 DR. ROSENFELD: Leslie Rosenfeld.
3 I'm with the City of Miami Beach. We
4 would like to thank the Children's Trust
5 for being a partner for over a decade with
6 our city, and our neighboring
7 municipalities, and the Miami Beach
8 Chamber in our support to provide mental
9 health support, behavioral health services
10 to the children of Miami Beach program and
11 the partnership that's been incredibly
12 successful, and very valuable and heavily
13 utilized. And we thank you for your
14 ongoing support and your support today as
15 well for Resolution 2024-B. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
17 you, Dr. Rosenfeld.

18 And another very special new
19 Committee Member today, we're happy to
20 welcome Dr. Daniel Bagner as our newly
21 appointed Vice Chair.

22 Welcome.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Thank you.
24 Honored to be in the role.

25 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank

1 you, Dan.

2 All right. Well, let's begin with
3 the approval of the June 29th Program
4 Services & Childhood Health Committee
5 minutes. Was it really that long ago?
6 June 29th.

7 May I have a motion to approve the
8 minutes as laid forth in your packet?

9 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ: I'll make
10 a motion.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
12 you.

13 And we have a second with Dr.
14 Bendross-Mindingall.

15 All those in favor?

16 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
18 any opposed? The minutes are approved.

19 Moving now to resolutions, beginning
20 with Resolution 2024-A. "Authorization to
21 release requests for proposals (RFPs) in
22 the total estimated amount of
23 \$2,348,500.00 to procure multiple
24 communications and community outreach
25 services, as described below." That's

1 pages 4 and 6.

2 May I have a motion, please?

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: I'll move,
4 Bagner.

5 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
6 you.

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER GRAHAM: And a
8 second.

9 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
10 any recusals? Hearing no recusals, moving
11 to discussion.

12 A reminder that the Trust seeks to
13 issue a request for proposals for
14 advertising creative African-American and
15 Haitian Creole media buying and community
16 outreach event planning for Champions for
17 Children awards ceremony, general media
18 buying and public relations.

19 This resolution will authorize the
20 Trust to release multiple competitive
21 solicitations for the services mentioned
22 inside of your -- inside of your packet,
23 and the table presents each initiative's
24 estimated timing to release -- timing for
25 release and to prepare for funding

1 recommendations.

2 And I'll remind you that all funding
3 recommendations will be returned to the
4 Board for approval concurrent with the
5 recommendation to award.

6 Feedback, discussion from Committee
7 Members today?

8 Hearing no discussion, all those in
9 favor?

10 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
12 any opposed? The resolution carries.

13 Resolution 2024-B. Thank you.

14 "Authorization to accept a contribution of
15 up to" -- thank you. I'm being partially
16 blocked by the screen. Thank you, Dan.

17 "Up to \$192,600.00 from Miami Beach
18 Education Chamber Foundation, Inc., the
19 fiscal agent for the City of Miami Beach
20 and neighboring municipalities, and to
21 negotiate and execute a contract renewal
22 with Borinquen Medical Health Center, a
23 funded school-based health provider, to
24 provide behavioral health enhancements in
25 all eight Miami-Dade County Public

1 Schools," that's "MDCPS system public
2 schools in Miami Beach, at a cost equal to
3 the same dollar amount for a term of nine
4 months, commencing retroactively on
5 October 1, 2023, and ending June 30,
6 2024".

7 May I have a motion, please?

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:

9 (Inaudible).

10 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
11 you.

12 And a second?

13 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI:

14 (Inaudible).

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
16 you. Are there any recusals? Hearing no
17 recusals, moving now to discussion.

18 In 2013, the City of Miami Beach and
19 the Miami Beach Chamber Education
20 Foundation, Inc., spearheaded a health
21 task force with several community
22 stakeholders, and the city found -- the
23 city sought guidance from the Children's
24 Trust, the Florida Department of Health
25 and Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County

1 Public Schools and other health
2 stakeholders to plan for the health care
3 needs of the students attending the eight
4 public schools in Miami Beach. And those
5 schools are listed on page 8 in your
6 packet.

7 The City of Miami Beach has long
8 prioritized student behavioral health and
9 it has raised funds to staff all eight
10 Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the
11 city with two licensed mental health
12 professionals, who will, among other
13 things, promote schoolwide wellness,
14 implement protocols that ensure behavioral
15 screenings are administered effectively,
16 collaborate with various clinical teams,
17 and deliver culturally competent services
18 and support systems.

19 During the school year 2022 to '23,
20 168 students received 1,368 services,
21 including counseling, consultation and
22 psychosocial behavioral assessments and
23 programming highlights from the 22-23 year
24 include the fact that 159 students
25 received 703 counseling sessions and 40

1 families received 50 family sessions.

2 Feedback? Discussion from the
3 Committee?

4 Hearing none, all those in favor?

5 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
7 any opposed? The resolution carries.

8 Passing to our Vice Chair for
9 Resolution 2024-C.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Thank you,
11 Pam.

12 Resolution 2024-C. "The
13 authorization to: (1) provide additional
14 funding to the Early Learning Coalition of
15 Miami-Dade/Monroe (ELC) in the amount of
16 \$3,000,000.00 for Families Forward child
17 scholarship payments; (ii) to have The
18 Children's Trust encumber a purchase order
19 in the additional amount of \$1,000,000.00
20 for high quality tiered payment
21 differentials for early learning
22 providers; (iii) have The Children's Trust
23 encumber a purchase order in the
24 additional amount of \$1,000,000.00 for
25 A\$CEND payments to early learning

1 educators, and (iv) amend Resolution No.
2 2023-25 accordingly".

3 Do I have a motion for this
4 resolution?

5 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: You have
6 a number of recusals.

7 Is there a motion?

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Everyone is
9 shy. I can't make a motion myself, right?

10 Okay, I'll make the motion.

11 Do I have a second?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: Second.

13 Adebisi.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Any recusals?

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal,
16 Hollingsworth. I work for the Early
17 Learning Coalition, and Gilda Ferradaz.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Any other
19 recusals?

20 So a little background about the
21 resolution. So this is part of the Thrive
22 by Five quality improvement system or QIS.
23 And the goal is to increase access to
24 high-quality, early learning for young
25 kids, in particular, kids living in

1 poverty. And this builds on our previous
2 efforts, takes into account Board guidance
3 and the State's early learning quality
4 improvement investments.

5 So the components here that are
6 addressed first is the Families Forward
7 Child Care scholarships enrollment and
8 payments to address early learning
9 capacity issues in our community. So this
10 is, you know, essentially providing
11 scholarships to families at incomes from
12 150 to 300 percent of the federal poverty
13 guidelines. So providing scholarships to
14 those families for those kids to attend
15 child care programs.

16 The second piece is tiered payment
17 differentials. So this is to provide
18 additional payments to child care centers,
19 who have high quality based on our class
20 or classroom assessment scoring system
21 assessments that measure teacher/child
22 interactions.

23 And, third, is our wage incentives
24 program, or the Ascend program, which
25 essentially provides teacher salary

1 supplements. And there's a bit of a
2 change in this that is tied to be or
3 intended to be a more equitable design.

4 I asked a little bit more details
5 about that, and some of the things that
6 were put in place that were barriers to
7 higher education, particularly from
8 marginalized communities, that there's
9 been things put in place to help not just
10 degree earning, but other things that in
11 conjunction with their education can get
12 these wages incentives.

13 No discussion? Questions? Comments?

14 MR. HAJ: Just several things on
15 this item. One, I would like to
16 congratulate Rachel and her team. They
17 were at a national conference last week
18 presenting on the topics that are in front
19 of you, so we are getting national
20 attention in being called out to some
21 significant conferences to show what's
22 happening in Miami-Dade.

23 The scholarship waitlist, I don't
24 even know what it is today, I think it's
25 1800. It moves everyday. So we -- the

1 Board asked us -- we added three more
2 million. The Board, with this budget, it
3 will take in effect that's in front of
4 you. We're also pleased that the Mayor
5 just approved her budget, and there's
6 another \$3,000.000.00 that she is adding
7 to the scholarships to help move the
8 waitlist. And we're additionally looking
9 for private funders in getting out there
10 and been in the last year beating bushes
11 and hopefully some of that comes to
12 fruition in the near future.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Thank you,
14 Jim.

15 Any other comments or questions from
16 the Committee? Okay, with that, all in
17 favor?

18 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Aye.

20 Any opposed? Motion passes.

21 Back to you, Pam.

22 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
23 you, Dan.

24 Resolution 2024-D. "Authorization to
25 negotiate and execute contract renewals

1 with eight providers, identified herein,
2 to provide 635 slots for therapeutic
3 health and early intervention summer camp
4 services for children aged birth to five
5 years, in a total dollar amount not to
6 exceed \$2,517,499.00, each for a term of
7 six months, commencing March 1, 2024, and
8 ending August 31, 2024, subject to annual
9 funding appropriations."

10 May I have a motion, please?

11 COMMITTEE MEMBER GRAHAM:

12 (Inaudible).

13 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
14 you.

15 And a second?

16 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:

17 (Inaudible).

18 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
19 you.

20 Are there any recusals?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Recusal,
22 Bagner, employed by FIU.

23 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Other
24 recusals?

25 Hearing no further recusals, moving

1 to discussions.

2 As we know, pardon me, children with
3 identified delays, disabilities and/or
4 special needs in early childhood, who
5 receive appropriate responsive and
6 therapeutic early intervention, are much
7 more likely to develop to their full
8 potential. The IDEA ensures that children
9 with disabilities get the appropriate
10 services to succeed during the academic
11 school year.

12 And services are offered through IDEA
13 part B, as well as part B. However, that
14 leaves the summers. In the eight agencies
15 listed on Page 13 in your packets offer
16 full-day, summer health and early
17 intervention programs for children, young
18 children, who receive school year
19 intervention services.

20 Now, during this past summer, more
21 than 140 children were served than during
22 the prior summer, and children with
23 complex medical needs attended the
24 programs in person, again, with the
25 average number of sessions also increasing

1 from the previous summer. A total of 702
2 children were served.

3 Contracts were increased over last
4 year's funding amounts as indicated to
5 account for the increased cost of
6 providing services and salary adjustments.

7 Feedback, discussion from the
8 Committee?

9 Hearing none, all those in favor?

10 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
12 any opposed? Resolution carries.

13 Resolution 2024-E. "Authorization
14 for a procurement waiver of the funding
15 limits for training and professional
16 development services to provide programs
17 and quality training and evidence-based
18 model training for the Youth Development
19 and Parenting & Family Strengthening
20 initiative providers and their staff, as
21 well as TCT staff, in a total amount not
22 to exceed \$189,000.00. Retroactively
23 effective on October 1, 2023, and
24 continuing through September 30, 2024."

25 May I have a motion, please?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: So moved,
2 Bagner.

3 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
4 you.

5 And a second?

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINIMALL:
7 Second.

8 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
9 any recusals?

10 Moving to discussion. PD support is
11 an important cornerstone of the success of
12 the Trust's strategic initiatives and
13 direct services. Now when a new funding
14 cycle begins, it is critical for
15 contracted agencies to engage in
16 evidence-based practice training and equip
17 the staff with knowledge and the skills to
18 effectively implement funded programs.

19 The Trust uses a coordinated approach
20 to the specific EBT trainings when
21 multiple provider agencies needed to be
22 trained with consistency.

23 Provider in the Children's Trust
24 staff and external observers are trained
25 in the noted tools, models and assessments

1 allowing Trust staff to be knowledgeable
2 to provide the support necessary to
3 support the fidelity of these models. And
4 there are four evidence-based practice
5 trainings listed on Page 19 in your packet
6 that are connected to this resolution.

7 Feedback, discussion from the
8 Committee?

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: I have a
10 question.

11 As someone who provides training on
12 evidence-based practices, I do want to say
13 I commend staff for putting together
14 evidence-based practices and training. I
15 wonder about ongoing consultation, 'cause
16 we know that just training once and then
17 -- and then go off and do this program is
18 not going to work.

19 Mr. Haj, so if staff or anyone can
20 speak to what consultation looks like
21 beyond the training?

22 MS. RITCHIE: So the great thing
23 about working with these organization, is
24 we always have the opportunity to consult
25 with them. So part of the training

1 relationship that we have with them, we
2 meet. As a matter of fact, one of the
3 trainers is here and has scheduled
4 sometime for us to sit down to talk about
5 what is happening, what's new with the
6 initiatives and the EBP trainings. So we
7 have regular opportunity to consult and
8 speak to them about our needs and for them
9 to share what's happening in the industry.

10 I was just going to add that the
11 providers each have their own budgets, and
12 they are expected to cover training in
13 their Trust budgets. These are just
14 specific ones that we have brought out for
15 the initial, you know, training for the
16 sake of cost savings and efficiency. So
17 each provider would also be expected to
18 have their own relationship with their
19 evidence-based partner.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: So if I'm
21 hearing correctly, the organization has
22 the expectation to pay for, like, once
23 they're trained in Incredible Years, they
24 need to provide the financial support to
25 get continued consultation from the team

1 that they're providing this program with
2 efficacy and fidelity, right?

3 MS. RITCHIE: Correctly.

4 Particularly, if the EBP requires
5 certification or annual renewal. Those
6 relationships are had between the provider
7 and the entity, whether it's Incredible
8 Years or Triple P, they maintain those
9 relationships. And we're providing this
10 as onetime training. So when individuals
11 leave, sometimes what happens is, they
12 have a need for training throughout the
13 year. So agencies do budget for the
14 purpose of those situations as they occur
15 throughout the year.

16 MS. HANSON: And just one other point
17 of clarification, because we combined the
18 couple of initiatives here. So the
19 parenting ones are the ones we've been
20 primarily talking about I think in our
21 responses, and I just want to make the
22 point for the forum for youth investment,
23 that is actually an annual relationship
24 that we have. And those are -- those are
25 -- that's a training plan. You can see

1 it's a higher cost item. It's a training
2 plan that covers the whole course of the
3 year, you know, with different trainings
4 and different purposes and points in time
5 based on when we're using the
6 social-emotional learning program quality
7 assessment tool with the youth development
8 providers.

9 And we typically have an annual
10 contract with them. It comes out of the
11 research budget, but it's usually under
12 \$25,000.00, because it's, like,
13 maintenance mode. And this is new. This
14 year, you know, we have a lot of brand new
15 Trust after school and summer providers,
16 and so we just needed to go, like, an
17 amped up amount that comes before you for
18 that, but that one is, like, an ongoing
19 training relationship.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: And it's meant
21 to supplement what the agencies are
22 already doing.

23 MS. HANSON: In that case, the SEL
24 PQA, we pay for all of that. Like, the
25 providers don't pay for that.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: That's what I

2 --

3 MS. HANSON: Because it's more of a
4 quality assessment tool, yeah.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Okay. Great.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
8 you, Dan.

9 Further discussion, questions from
10 the Committee?

11 Hearing none, all those in favor?

12 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
14 any opposed? The resolution carries.

15 Resolution 2024-F. "Authorization to
16 enter into a match service agreement with
17 Miami-Dade County to support Miami-Dade
18 Public Library System's STEAM-based
19 programming and academic tutoring, in an
20 amount not to exceed \$175,000.00, for a
21 term of 12 months, retroactive to
22 October 1, 2023, and ending September 30,
23 2024.

24 May I have a motion, please?

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Move, Bagner.

1 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
2 you.

3 And a second?

4 COMMITTEE MEMBER GRAHAM:
5 (Inaudible).

6 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
7 you. Are there any recusals?

8 Okay, then moving to discussion. As
9 you are very likely aware, STEAM and
10 current learning encourages creativity and
11 critical thinking and provides
12 opportunities to support the skills that
13 children need to thrive in today's
14 classrooms and workplaces. The Technobus
15 stimulates children's natural curiosity.
16 And this program is particularly valuable
17 for children in high-need communities for
18 whom access to state-of-the-art technology
19 is somewhat limited.

20 And in terms of academic support
21 services and tutoring, these services help
22 strengthen the subject comprehension,
23 boost confidence and build essential
24 learning skills through individualized
25 attention.

1 As of July 1 -- pardon me -- 31,
2 2023, the Technobus visited 333 sites,
3 including 83, the Children's Trust
4 supported sites, Children's Trust
5 supported sites, and served 1,646
6 children. And, actually, the number is
7 larger than that, including teens. And
8 this includes participation in two of the
9 Children's Trust family expo events. The
10 estimated total cost of this project is
11 more than a million dollars,
12 \$1,069,000.00, and the trust contributes
13 \$175,000.00. And so that means there is
14 more than a \$6.10 return on every Trust
15 dollar invested.

16 May I have a motion, please? Oh,
17 pardon me, further discussion? My mind
18 was drifting. I was thinking about the
19 next resolution.

20 Further discussion from our Committee
21 Members?

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: I'll just make
23 a comment.

24 A few of us went to the Fab Lab for a
25 tour. I think it was within the past

1 year, right? I'm losing track of time,
2 but, anyway, it was fantastic. They're
3 doing excellent work so to be commended
4 for this work, this program. That was one
5 example.

6 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Yeah.
7 Thank you, Dan.

8 All those in favor?

9 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
11 any opposed? The resolution carries.

12 Resolution 2024-G. "Authorization to
13 execute a funder collaboration contract
14 renewal with Catalyst Miami, Inc., for
15 Future Bound Miami, a Children's Savings
16 Accounts program, in a total amount not to
17 exceed \$285,000.00, for a term of
18 12 months, retroactive to October 1, 2023,
19 and ending September 30, 2024."

20 May I have a motion, please?

21 I'll move it, Hollingsworth.

22 And a second?

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:

24 (Inaudible).

25 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank

1 you. Are there any recusals?

2 Okay. Then we move to discussion.

3 There is strong evidence suggesting a
4 correlation between postsecondary savings
5 and postsecondary graduation. And through
6 Future Bound Miami, upon entering
7 kindergarten, parents and caregivers of
8 children enrolled in Miami-Dade County
9 Public Schools will be able to choose to
10 gain access to a no-fee savings account in
11 their name.

12 The Children's Trust investment in
13 this initiative is \$285,000.00, which is
14 at the same level as during the 2022/23
15 fiscal year. And as such, the program is
16 fully scaled and expanded, and operations
17 for this year will be focusing on data and
18 the analysis of data.

19 For every dollar, the Children's
20 Trust invests in this initiative, \$4.54 in
21 direct funding is leveraged in return.
22 And you'll find the complementary funders
23 and investors on pages 26 and 24 in your
24 packet.

25 Feedback from the Committee?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: I don't want
2 to be the only one to talk, but I do have
3 a question. I think this is a great
4 program. I remember David Lawrence came
5 to -- when we put this in place at first,
6 and I feel like I always ask this
7 question, but is there a way to increase
8 the amount of that initial deposit,
9 perhaps even -- especially for -- you
10 know, I know it's available for all kids,
11 but is there a way to differentially give
12 more funding to children living in poverty
13 for these accounts?

14 MR. HAJ: Yeah. If I can just get up
15 and take over for Natalia.

16 When we first started, we kind of
17 wondered if we build it, they will come.
18 Let's start moving this and then let's
19 start looking for industry and other
20 people that come on board to incentivize
21 attendance, grades, whether it's the lower
22 impoverished areas or whatnot. So it's
23 really getting this off the ground. We
24 started with the City of Miami. Now we're
25 in all across the county, in all schools.

1 It's getting it moving, but, Natalia, in
2 terms of additional investments in the
3 future.

4 MS. ZEA: I can say generally that
5 the Future Bound Consortium discusses
6 other ways to secure additional
7 investments. I know that that is a
8 priority of the consortium members.
9 Additionally, when it comes to students in
10 higher need, that is built into the
11 program in terms of the initial investment
12 for students who qualify for free, and
13 reduced priced lunch, they receive a \$50
14 allocation those who do not receive the
15 \$25 allocation. So at this time that's
16 the way that they're accounting for that.

17 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
18 you, Natalia.

19 Further questions, discussion from
20 the Committee?

21 All those in favor?

22 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
24 any opposed? The resolution carries.

25 Resolution 2024-H. Authorization to

1 negotiate and execute a contract with
2 Miami-Dade County for the HERO truancy
3 prevention program, a component of the
4 Case Management Referral Program, in a
5 total amount not to exceed \$880,000.00,
6 for a term of 12 months, commencing
7 August 1, 2024, and ending July 31, 2025."

8 May I have a motion, please?

9 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:
10 Move it.

11 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
12 you. And a second?

13 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:
14 (Inaudible).

15 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
16 you.

17 Are there any recusals? Hearing
18 none, then we move to discussion.

19 The HERO -- and I always enjoy
20 reading these words out here everyday,
21 ready on time. Truancy prevention program
22 is a component of the case management
23 referral system. And this is a
24 districtwide systemic approach to reducing
25 youth violence, and it does this by

1 identifying the most at-risk children and
2 providing them with the necessary
3 prevention and intervention services to
4 increase school attendance.

5 So we're continuing this
6 collaboration with Miami-Dade County and
7 Miami-Dade County Public Schools. And
8 HERO services provided through this
9 funding will support more than 16,000
10 elementary and K-8 school children with
11 chronic un-excused absences across 40
12 Miami-Dade County Public Schools. And
13 this is an increase of one school from
14 previous years.

15 Feedback, discussion from the
16 Committee?

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:
18 (Inaudible).

19 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you
20 for that feedback.

21 Yes, ma'am.

22 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:
23 Thank you.

24 We work for the same children, so I
25 figure we've got to make sure that we

1 monitor this very carefully.

2 I'd like to know if we have a
3 relationship with Miami-Dade Public
4 Housing Authority.

5 MR. HAJ: We have a relationship with
6 Miami-Dade Public Housing Authority. On
7 this initiative, I'm not necessarily sure
8 what the Housing Authority's interaction
9 was.

10 Natalia.

11 MS. ZEA: Specific to the Housing
12 Authority -- what I would say is, we work
13 closely with Miami-Dade County across the
14 board. And I would say the more direct
15 connection is to our family neighborhood
16 support partnership providers, who, as
17 part of their contract, should have these
18 kinds of relationships with providers that
19 support affordable housing or public
20 housing.

21 So while I don't think HERO is
22 directly engaging with them, the
23 interventions that we support are
24 connecting to the providers that have
25 those relationships. And that's -- it's

1 really because it's the bread and butter
2 of what they do.

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:
4 I want to continue.

5 I'd like to have a conversation with
6 you, especially with that group, or
7 whomever you would recommend that I speak
8 with. Why? Because I know the history of
9 public housing children not being in
10 school the way they should. As a former
11 principal, it was my duty, my charge, my
12 call to go to the homes. If the children
13 didn't come to school, I went and got
14 them.

15 So I'd like to know what is happening
16 there, because this is very interesting.
17 I heard someone say they just really like
18 this program. I love it. But I want to
19 make sure, as we're discussing, that I
20 know more than what we're saying here,
21 because some of the organizations that you
22 mentioned, I do not know what they do for
23 children who are tardy.

24 And my partner across the way, we've
25 got to make sure that they get to school,

1 so we can teach them.

2 So maybe we can arrange something.
3 Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
6 you.

7 All those in --

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: Madam Chair,
9 another comment.

10 I'm also in favor of this resolution.
11 This was introduced initially way back in
12 response to gun violence. So I will say
13 -- I know I'm a dead horse on this, but
14 while this may address indirectly gun
15 violence, I don't think it addresses it
16 directly.

17 And I will say that in the New York
18 Times just today, if you haven't seen it,
19 there's a great article on the increased
20 rates of gun violence among kids, is the
21 highest leading cause of death in kids,
22 highest cause of morbidity. Lots of other
23 factors, predictors of death have gone
24 down, like car accidents and such. We
25 need to do more. And I hope that -- it's

1 not against this resolution, but I hope we
2 can do more with our unintentional injury
3 initiatives and other things to do more on
4 gun violence, 'cause it clearly is the
5 biggest problem for our kids today.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
8 you, Dan.

9 Further comments from the Committee?
10 All those in favor?

11 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
13 any opposed? The resolution carries.

14 And our final resolution for this
15 afternoon, Resolution 2024-I.

16 "Authorization to negotiate and execute a
17 match contract with Miami-Dade County for
18 the Summer Youth Internship Program,
19 internship program, SYIP, in a total
20 amount not to exceed \$2,500,000.00, for a
21 term of 12 months, commencing March 1,
22 2024, and ending on February 28, 2025".

23 May I have a motion, please? I'll
24 move it, Hollingsworth.

25 And a second?

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BAGNER: I'll second.

2 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
3 you.

4 Are there any recusals? Hearing no
5 recusals, moving into discussion.

6 The internship program recruits and
7 connects rising 10th and 12th grade
8 students, who live in Miami-Dade County,
9 and attend either a Miami-Dade County
10 public school or a charter school, with
11 paid summer internships. There is an
12 emphasis on engaging high-need youth. And
13 the program is required to enroll at least
14 15 percent youth with disabilities. The
15 program intends to employ at least 3,000
16 youth interns in the summer of 2024.

17 This resolution seeks \$2,500,000.00,
18 an increase of 500,000 from the previous
19 year, and funding from the Children's
20 Trust to support the ninth year of the
21 program. And with this funding, the Trust
22 is leveraging, by way of South Florida
23 workforce, intended funding of
24 \$2,500,000.00, in Miami-Dade County's
25 intended funding of \$1,250,000.00.

1 Feedback, discussion from the
2 Committee?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER DIAZ: (Inaudible).

4 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
5 you.

6 Further discussion?

7 COMMITTEE MEMBER BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:
8 We seem to like the -- we like them all,
9 but this one I know we loved, because we
10 have wonderful interns, wonderful. So
11 wonderful, that Sam, I mean, Ms. Samantha,
12 is still working with us. Thank God for
13 technology. Tony, who's one of my
14 assistants, I think Tony is back there,
15 they commute almost daily. And Sam has a
16 very heavy schedule, but she did not want
17 to let go, she did not want to let go, so
18 we still work with her. So I want thank
19 you for that.

20 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Great
21 success. Thank you for sharing.

22 All those in favor?

23 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
25 any opposed? The resolution carries.

1 And I'll now punt to Jim for the CEO
2 report.

3 MR. HAJ: Madam Chair, thank you.

4 Spooky Symphony, our annual event is
5 October 29th at the Miami-Dade County
6 Auditorium at 3:00 p.m. We will send the
7 Board Members an invite. If you'd like to
8 attend, please let us know.

9 Our partnership with Miami Dade
10 College and the Book Fair is November 17th
11 through the 19th.

12 And I really didn't want to let this
13 pass by. I think I mentioned it before
14 the meeting, though. The after school,
15 the More After-School Choices and the More
16 School Grade Choices.

17 So as we're getting into summer last
18 year, starting in February, March, parents
19 start looking for summer centers to put
20 their kids during the summer, we started
21 more summer choices, more summer camp.
22 More summer camp?

23 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: More
24 summer camp choices, yeah.

25 MR. HAJ: And Natalia tells me this

1 pretty much every day and I keep on
2 forgetting the numbers, but we have a 100
3 (sic) people visiting the website before
4 we started this. And then with the
5 partnership, with the County, with the
6 school system, the 211, we coordinated our
7 efforts. And what was the summer?

8 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: 36,000.

9 MR. HAJ: So we brought 136,000
10 services. I think that brings awareness
11 about summer camp. We had great success.
12 So then we started with after school.
13 Same thing, concept with after school, we
14 just launched that, and we are working
15 again, same partners, building this. We
16 didn't get it perfect, but we're going to
17 continue building on it.

18 The next one that we're going to be
19 looking at is also the teacher workdays,
20 and the holiday breaks and how do we get
21 -- let the public know about that as well,
22 but it's great partnership. I'm pleased
23 -- I want to thank Lourdes and
24 Superintendent Dotres today. Our
25 executive team met with the school

1 system's cabinet members for a couple
2 hours before this meeting, just kind of
3 working together. The more that we work
4 together in this community, the more they
5 help children advance.

6 Madam Chair, thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank
8 you, Jim, and thank you Committee Members,
9 staff and visitors.

10 And with that, we are adjourned.

11 (Thereupon, at 4:09 p.m., the meeting
12 was adjourned).

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE)

I, Lorena Ramos, National Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did TRANSCRIBE the videotaped meeting of The Children's Trust, held before the Program Services Committee, on the 5th day of October 2023; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 41, is a true TRANSCRIPTION of the videotaped meeting, to the best of my ability.

DATED this 10/23/2023 in the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Lorena Ramos

LORENA RAMOS, COURT REPORTER
Registered Professional Reporter

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