



Board of Directors Meeting

January 22, 2024

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The Children's Trust
Monday, January 22, 2024
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)
United Way - Ryder Room
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors
(Present)
Kenneth C. Hoffman, Chairperson
Pamela Hollingsworth, Vice Chair

Board Members
(Present)
Dr. Edward Abraham
Laura Adams
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi
Matthew Arsenault
Dr. Daniel Bagner
Norie Del Valle
Lourdes Diaz
Reverend Richard P. Dunn II
Jacqueline Exceus
Gilda Ferradaz
Honorable Norman Gerstein
Lourdes P. Gimenez
Nicole Gomez
Valrose Graham
Mindy Grimes-Festge
Honorable Keon Hardemon
Nelson Hincapie
Maria Norton
Ashna Paudel
Honorable Orlando Prescott
Honorable Isaac Salver

President & CEO
James R. Haj

County Attorney's Office
Leigh Kobrinski
Assistant County Attorney

1 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: All right.
2 Thank you. We have a quorum present, so
3 we'll start the meeting. Looks like we
4 have a really big imbalance between the
5 left wing here and the right one. You're
6 in the right wing. I like being in the
7 right wing. I'm just filling in.

8 First of all, I want just to a few
9 mechanical things. I want to remind
10 everybody that if you're speaking to
11 please turn your microphone on; and if
12 you're not, to please turn it off.

13 Also, as we get to the resolutions
14 later in the meeting, if anybody has to
15 recuse themselves, please state your name
16 and agency and the reason for recusal. I
17 wanted to mention -- okay, never mind.

18 I wanted to congratulate Dr.
19 Bendross-Mindingall on her reappointment
20 to the Board. She's not here right now,
21 but she might be. Judge Prescott also for
22 receiving the Justice Peggy Quince
23 Judicial Excellence Award. The award is
24 named in honor of retired Supreme Court
25 Justice, and honors outstanding judiciary

1 members for service, high standards of
2 judicial conduct and their contributions
3 to the administration of justice.

4 I want to congratulate the members of
5 our Finance committee, Bill, Wendy, and
6 the rest of the finance staff, on the
7 receipt of the GFOA's Certificate of
8 Achievement of Excellence in Financial
9 Reporting for the 11th year in a row. To
10 those of you who don't know, it's the
11 highest form of recognition in
12 governmental accounting, and obtaining it
13 represents a significant accomplishment.
14 So thank you, Bill, and, finance staff.

15 Just a reminder that we'll be holding
16 Champions for Children on April 11th.
17 This year we're awarding -- Dr. William E.
18 Pelham, Jr. will be posthumously awarded
19 the David Lawrence Champion for Children's
20 Award for his outstanding contributions to
21 child welfare throughout his life, Dr.
22 Pelham, who served for many years on the
23 Trust Board and was director of the Center
24 for Children and Families at Florida
25 International University.

1 The Excellence in Direct Service
2 Award will be given to Bianca Sandoval, a
3 dedicated counselor at Kayleen's Learning
4 Center Corp.

5 The Excellence in Youth Leadership
6 Award will be given to Zoe Terry, a
7 remarkable 12th grader at Miami Country
8 Day School.

9 The Excellence in Advocacy Award will
10 be given to Ruban Roberts for his advocacy
11 work including his teen talk dialogue
12 sessions program.

13 And, finally, we'll recognize three
14 outstanding programs of the year: Our
15 own, The Children's Trust Books for Free
16 program, the Liberty City Optimist Club of
17 Florida, Inc, and University of Miami Jump
18 Start.

19 So I hope you all will join us at
20 that event to celebrate all those programs
21 and individuals.

22 Finally, I want to give you a
23 reminder that the Board retreat will be
24 held February 22nd, in lieu of our next
25 Board meeting. It will be at 8:30 a.m.,

1 United Way, right?

2 MR. HAJ: Probably.

3 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: To be
4 determined.

5 Okay. Are there any public comments?

6 MS. LEON: There are no public
7 comments, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Okay. Then
9 I'll turn it over to -- (inaudible) is not
10 here. So the minutes of the November 13th
11 Board of Directors meeting were in your
12 packets.

13 Is there a motion to approve those
14 minutes?

15 BOARD MEMBER HINCAPIE: So moved,
16 Hincapie.

17 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Hincapie.
18 Second?

19 BOARD MEMBER FERRADAZ: Second, so
20 moved.

21 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: All in favor?

22 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Any opposed?

24 Okay, the motion carries. Thank you.

25 We have two -- Ms. Morris is not

1 going to be here today?

2 We have -- with us today are now
3 former Board Member, Annie Neasman, who's
4 a gubernatorial appointee for the last I
5 think six years, or something like that,
6 and we're here to give her an award for
7 her service and to thank her for her
8 service.

9 Annie, I think we originally met when
10 we did a field trip to her Jessie Trice
11 Agency, and she's just done outstanding
12 work in our community, been an active
13 member for our Board and we thank her for
14 her service.

15 Jim, do you want to say something and
16 then Annie you can come up here.

17 MR. HAJ: Sure, please.

18 Annie, always great seeing you. I
19 just want to thank you for your years of
20 service to this Board. Also, I think
21 everybody knows Annie from Jessie Trice,
22 but even before Jessie Trice, she had
23 another career with the Florida Department
24 of Health. And your leadership at the
25 local level, at the statewide level and

1 just being an advocate for Children and
2 Families and being a great friend to us,
3 truly we appreciate. We tried to keep
4 Annie on the Board, but she wants to go
5 enjoy her retirement, so it's bittersweet,
6 but we will miss you and I know that you
7 will still be in the community advocating
8 for Children and Families.

9 BOARD MEMBER NEASMAN: Just thank
10 you. It has been a tremendous journey for
11 me. Serving the Children's Trust has been
12 tremendously precious, because you all
13 have taken care of the children and
14 families in this community, and certainly
15 my current organization has benefited from
16 that with the many children that we serve
17 in the schools and their families. We
18 could not have done it without your
19 support. And I know that you will
20 continue to do that as the new CEO, his
21 name is Ryan Hawkins, will be coming
22 onboard next month. I know that you will
23 be continuing to support those children,
24 all children, throughout Miami-Dade
25 County.

1 And, Jim, I can't thank you and staff
2 for that trip that you talked about at
3 Jessie Trice, which really tremendous and
4 shows how much you care about the entire
5 community. So thank you all very much for
6 this.

7 MR. HAJ: Thank you, Annie.

8 BOARD MEMBER NEASMAN: Thank you for
9 having me.

10 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: With that, I'll
11 turn it over to Dr. Dan Bagner for the
12 Nominating Committee report.

13 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Okay, thank
14 you, Mr. Chair.

15 So just to give everyone a little bit
16 of a background, an e-mail was sent to the
17 Board on October 30th soliciting
18 applicants for the Board officer
19 positions. The deadline for applications
20 closed November 30th. And our chair, Ken
21 Hoffman, indicated he will not serve
22 another term as chair unfortunately, but
23 we thank him for his tremendous service
24 over the many years and appreciate him
25 leading us as a board.

1 So Mark Trowbridge had indicated that
2 he was interested in serving as Chair, and
3 was nominated by three other Board Members
4 for this specific position, for the Chair
5 position. And then there was also one
6 nomination for the Treasurer position in
7 the event that Mark Trowbridge is chair,
8 and that is Matt Arsenault, who is
9 nominated for the Treasurer position.
10 Vice Chair Pam Hollingsworth and Secretary
11 Marissa Leichter also expressed interest
12 in serving another term in their present
13 positions.

14 No other applicants or nominees were
15 presented to us. So we met as a
16 committee, the nominating committee, on
17 December 4th to approve this nomination,
18 and we present the following slate of
19 officers for you all to review and
20 approve: As Chair, Mark Trowbridge, as I
21 mentioned; as Vice Chair, Pam
22 Hollingsworth; as Treasurer, Matt
23 Arsenault and as Secretary, Marissa
24 Leichter. We approved this slate
25 unanimously and presenting it to you for

1 your approval.

2 So, as such, I'd like to have a
3 motion to approve this nomination for
4 slate of officers to serve between
5 April 2024 and April 2026.

6 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: I'll move it,
7 Salver.

8 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Can I have a
9 second?

10 BOARD MEMBER GERSTEIN: (Inaudible).

11 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any discussion?
12 Okay, with that, all in favor?

13 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

14 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any opposed?
15 That passes. Our new -- congratulations
16 to our new board members.

17 And thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 BOARD MEMBER EXCEUS: I'd like to say
19 we're going to miss you, Ken.

20 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: One of the
21 items discussed -- one of the items that
22 we discussed and approved at the bylaws
23 committee and it was tried -- also
24 discussed with the Board was to transition
25 the way that we conduct board meetings, to

1 make it more informative and interactive.
2 Considering this, during this Board
3 meeting, we're going to have staff provide
4 an Early Childhood presentation directly
5 tied to the first six resolutions. And
6 during that presentation, Board Members
7 can discuss the topics presented, provide
8 comments and input to staff.

9 If we obtain -- get 21 members at
10 present, right now we have 20 members, we
11 were intending to adopt these resolutions
12 as a consent agenda. Directors have had
13 the opportunity -- we'll go through that
14 if we get the 21st member, but for right
15 now, I want to turn it over to staff to do
16 the presentation.

17 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you.

18 In front of you we have -- there will
19 be a PowerPoint popping up to go through
20 our Early Child Care and our Thrive by 5
21 presentation.

22 There has been great work from the
23 Board since 2016, when we pivoted from
24 Quality Counts to our current Thrive by 5
25 system. I think we're preaching to the

1 advocates here when I think everybody here
2 knows that 90 percent of brain development
3 happens before age five. So the earlier
4 we invest in children, the earlier we send
5 children to quality investment programs,
6 the better we'll be long term.

7 When we did the pivoting in 2016,
8 when we looked around, there was lack of
9 quality in the low income areas. So we
10 pivoted our entire investment strategy,
11 and all the supports and we went to a
12 Thrive by 5. We knew if we build it, they
13 will come.

14 So what we want to do, provide you
15 here, it's kind of an overview what's
16 happening at the state level, what's
17 happening at the local level and also
18 what's happening from the business
19 community, because we also talk about
20 doing early child care, but we cannot do
21 this without the business community.

22 There's some slides. Pretty much
23 every week, there's another national
24 article, media article, something coming
25 out about the crisis of early child care.

1 From access to early child care, the
2 businesses cannot find employees, and one
3 of the major obstacles is child care, and
4 we do know that even this year, or 2022,
5 the last time we read it, we had
6 46 percent of the kids enter kindergarten,
7 at what they call kindergarten readiness
8 rate. So they're entering kindergarten
9 behind the eight ball. So we know all
10 these things and we get a piecemeal, but
11 today we're trying to get the collective
12 approach and we have some presenters both
13 at the state level and from the business
14 community.

15 So what I'd like to introduce is one
16 of our speakers, and I believe Kyle is on.
17 Kyle Baltuch is the Vice President of the
18 Florida Chamber Foundation. He is a great
19 partner. The chamber -- the Florida
20 chamber has been outstanding in many
21 things throughout this community,
22 throughout the state, but the early child
23 care, the last three to four years, they
24 really embraced and started pushing from
25 the business community to take care of our

1 youngest children in this community and
2 our state.

3 So, Kyle, I'd like to turn it over to
4 you. Welcome to the Children's Trust.
5 You're here in front of an amazing board.
6 And, Kyle, I believe -- I'm not sure if
7 you're in Orlando or in Tallahassee
8 today.

9 MR. BALTUCH: I'm in Tallahassee
10 today, but thank you. Thank you for the
11 introduction.

12 And, yeah, as you can see on the
13 slide, you know, I think there's been
14 interesting conversation taking recently
15 around early learning in the State of
16 Florida and really around the country.
17 And for years, we all, and of course all
18 the advocates in the room, have been
19 having this conversation about what it
20 means to the long-term development of
21 children and their educational advancement
22 in the state, but recently the
23 conversation has really shifted here in
24 the capitol to talk a lot about what it
25 means for our economy and what does it

1 mean for the business community.

2 If we jump to the next slide, you
3 know, the question essentially that's
4 being asked, and we ask when we did this
5 untapped interim report was, does access
6 to child care and early learning impact
7 today's workforce? And, you know, again,
8 let me blow the lead in here and tell you
9 that the answer is yes.

10 If we jump to the next slide here,
11 what we can see is that the study that we
12 conducted towards the end of 2023, or I
13 would say throughout the second half of
14 2023, in Florida, it's the only report
15 that's done that takes Florida specific
16 data, Florida specific surveying, it found
17 that the access to child care is costing
18 us -- the lack of access to child care is
19 costing our economy about \$5.4 billion a
20 year annually, and those are direct costs,
21 so relatively conservative calculation
22 there.

23 We saw over the past six months that
24 15 percent of all parents with children
25 under the age of five had to leave their

1 job due to challenges accessing child
2 care. It is the number one reason that
3 parents with children under the age of
4 five are leaving their job right now. It
5 is above they're leaving their job,
6 because they got another job, so it is a
7 significant challenge.

8 On top of just leaving your job,
9 we're also seeing parents struggle with
10 missing work, whether they're having to
11 move to part-time, or they're having
12 challenges accessing full time care or
13 they're having trouble accessing care that
14 goes beyond normal hours. Sixty-four
15 percent of parents have had to miss at
16 least one day of work over the past
17 quarter to take care of their children.

18 And then another big one is that we
19 are seeing that those parents that are
20 leaving their jobs, and leaving the
21 workforce, they're not going out for short
22 stints. They are leaving the workforce
23 and plan to be out for more than a year,
24 at least 45 percent. So, again, a really,
25 really significant challenge.

1 We jump to the next slide, we see
2 that, you know, what is causing this
3 challenge, and it's in a few different
4 areas, we'll kind of talk about them here
5 one by one.

6 One is just access. Do we have
7 enough child care slots for the demand
8 that we may have in the state? As you can
9 see, there's just some national
10 conversations and some work done by the
11 bipartisan policy center that shows that
12 our gap is about 100,000, between the
13 slots that we have and the slots that we
14 need. So, again, how do we get just more
15 child care facilities and more child care
16 slots open in the State of Florida? And
17 we'll have to hold that one just constant
18 here for a second, but just to be thinking
19 in the back of your mind, how do we get
20 more slots available?

21 We jump to the next slide, another
22 big challenge that we have is cost. In
23 the State of Florida, the median cost is
24 about \$1,260 per month to access child
25 care for all under the age of five. As

1 you can see, infant care is obviously much
2 more expensive than school age care. And
3 when we talk about parents, at the end of
4 the day, in the State of Florida, making
5 incomes anywhere in the -- I'm sorry, is
6 there a question? As we see incomes
7 ranging, you know, for the middle income
8 families anywhere between 50 and \$60,000,
9 it's just not an affordable situation to
10 be in. So affordability is a big
11 challenge that we face, access and
12 affordability.

13 And as we jump to the next slide
14 here, we just have a challenge with the
15 number of actual front line providers. As
16 you can see, our numbers are still not
17 rebounded from pre-Covid. In pre-Covid,
18 we had challenges with child care. And a
19 lot of that is to due to the fact that
20 child care front line work is financially
21 not the most rewarding. So, again, that's
22 a challenge there as well. We need to get
23 more slots, we need to make it more
24 affordable, and more accessible, but at
25 the same time, we need to find a way to

1 incentivize more people to come back into
2 the fold and work in the childcare sector.
3 So, you know, kind of a three-headed
4 monster that we're dealing with.

5 If we jump to the next slide here. I
6 just want to kind of give you a high level
7 of what's going on in the state. Again,
8 right now we anticipate that there are
9 upwards about 388,000 individuals across
10 the State of Florida that are out of work,
11 either temporarily or somewhat
12 permanently, because they are at home
13 taking care of a child. We need to speak
14 about getting this correct, could bring
15 back about 150 to 175,000 parents back
16 into the workforce.

17 Another one, which I didn't really
18 touch on yet, but a very interesting data
19 point that's coming out from the Census
20 Pulse Survey, it shows that about 609,000
21 respondents, or 600 -- an estimated
22 609,000 families in Florida are planning
23 to change or reduce their child care
24 arrangements to save money. Terrifying
25 when we consider that there are really

1 only about 1.1 million children under the
2 age of five in the State of Florida. So
3 we're looking at about half of families
4 right now are saying this is a major
5 stressor in causing them to potentially
6 change their plans here in the short term.

7 So, again, we need to make sure that
8 we're getting affordability right, and
9 we're getting access right and we're
10 getting care right and making sure that
11 it's all quality at the end of the day,
12 because we can't lose that perspective
13 that the long-term range goal and
14 long-term educational development is
15 really, really key, but today's business
16 community is also being impacted
17 dramatically.

18 That's why we are very, very
19 supportive of a few bills that are working
20 their way through legislature along the
21 policy side. Our Florida Chamber of
22 Commerce and the lobbying team has done a
23 great job working with legislators, such
24 as Representative Fiona McFarland,
25 Representative Dana Trabuisky, Senator

1 Alexis Calatayud, Senator Erin Grall, and
2 others, as they really work to address
3 challenges in all those fields, from
4 affordability to regulation, to how
5 businesses might be able to invest. I'm
6 really excited if -- really excited to see
7 where this is headed.

8 I'm not sure if I have another slide
9 or not, apologies for that. If we jump to
10 the next, we'll see. It will either be
11 myself or will either be handing over to
12 my friend Michele Watson. Looks like I'll
13 be handing it over to Michele.

14 MR. HAJ: Kyle, I appreciate it.
15 Michele? Is Michele on the line?

16 So I'd like to introduce Michele.
17 Michele is a friend to all of us. I think
18 if you've been a board member for a couple
19 of years, you've seen Michele. Michele is
20 -- we have an association of children
21 councils and trusts, and there's the
22 trust, Miami-Dade Trust, and 10 others,
23 and we meet weekly, every Friday we're on
24 a call, to really talk about these issues
25 and many other issues across the State of

1 Florida. And Michele is not only leading
2 this, all our efforts, but she is an
3 expert in the early child care arena.

4 So, Michele, with that, I'd like to
5 turn it over to you.

6 MS. WATSON: Thank you so much, Jim.
7 Thank you for having me.

8 You know, when we talk about
9 affordability of care, we talk about what
10 programs have been put in place. And so
11 School Readiness is the program that's
12 been put in place for our lowest earners
13 that is known as our School Readiness
14 program, but also as subsidized child
15 care. So to qualify, you have to be
16 150 percent or below the federal poverty
17 level to qualify for School Readiness.
18 Once you get in the program, you're able
19 to stay in until your income reaches 85
20 percent state median income.

21 So what that lends itself to is the
22 fact that we have a small subset of
23 families that can actually qualify for
24 these services, especially now since the
25 minimum wage amendment has gone into

1 effect and we're starting to see wages
2 rise post-pandemic.

3 And we also know that the program is
4 not fully funded. So right now, out of
5 the state's eligible children in the
6 School Readiness program, only 24 percent
7 are about a quarter of families actually
8 have access to subsidized child care. So
9 when there's not access to the care, as
10 Kyle pointed out, they're either staying
11 home so that they can care for their young
12 children and/or they're moving into very
13 informal or underground care opportunities
14 where there's not health and safety or
15 education actually happening. It's more
16 just how that child can be taken care of
17 when that individual family is at work.

18 So there's approximately 1.3 million
19 children younger than age six in Florida.
20 So what this means for Miami-Dade, is
21 185,000 children and only 9,400
22 approximately receiving services. So
23 under six, in School Readiness, is about
24 five percent. And that's because the cost
25 of living in Miami-Dade is actually really

1 high, and so the wages are keeping up with
2 that, but when you have a statewide
3 eligibility threshold of 150 percent
4 federal poverty level, what's happening is
5 families in your community are no longer
6 qualifying, because the wages have
7 outgrown that 150 percent federal poverty
8 level.

9 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Can I ask a
10 question?

11 MS. WATSON: Of course.

12 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Yeah. With
13 those figures that you're showing, the
14 5.09 percent of the children in Miami-Dade
15 County receiving S. R., is that the
16 percentage who are eligible for S. R. in
17 Miami-Dade County?

18 If you look at the federal poverty
19 level and the number who qualify, is it
20 just five percent of all the children in
21 Miami-Dade County or is there a higher
22 percentage that qualify and only 5.09
23 percent are actually receiving services?

24 MS. WATSON: So I am not going to
25 answer for the Early Learning Coalition.

1 I know Pam Hollingsworth is in the room.
2 She might be able to tell us if Miami-Dade
3 County has a waiting list. If Miami-Dade
4 County does have a waiting list, that
5 means that that is the presented known
6 need, and so children on the waiting list
7 are not receiving services. If there's
8 not a waiting list, then what it would
9 show us through the data is, yes, only
10 five percent are actually accessing
11 services at this time.

12 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Yeah. I'm
13 actually asking a different question.

14 What percentage of the children would
15 be eligible for services, right, not -- I
16 understand how many are actually accessing
17 that.

18 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Uh-hum.
19 So I don't have a clear answer to that.
20 If that's something that the coalition is
21 working very hard to find out and identify
22 at this time.

23 I can say to Michele's point that the
24 coalition does not have a waitlist. It's
25 one of the few coalitions in the state

1 that does not have an ongoing waitlist.
2 You know, we clear up -- we've been
3 clearing our waitlist each month as a
4 unified point of entry and we've been
5 clearing it each month for the past
6 (inaudible).

7 So we have all kinds of data in terms
8 of those that apply, how many of them
9 actually qualify, but we do believe that
10 many of the barriers are just as Michele
11 mentioned, you know, with the salaries
12 going up, and, you know, families are
13 unable to access services. So there's
14 some legislation, you know, happening now
15 that --

16 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Yeah, I was
17 wondering, do we know what percentage of
18 the families in Miami-Dade County fall
19 below the 150 percent level?

20 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: We do not.

21 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: We don't?

22 MS. WATSON: So there is census data
23 that will allow you to look at that from
24 the last census.

25 The difficult part of the School

1 Readiness program is you have to be
2 working or in school. So what that data
3 doesn't tell us is, out of that total
4 number of families, 150 percent or below
5 the federal poverty level, how many of
6 them are working or in school versus how
7 many of them are not and able to stay home
8 and care for their child.

9 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Okay. I mean,
10 I was asking sort of a basic question.

11 That in the County, of the families
12 with children, how many fall below that
13 150 percent level? You know, I understand
14 other criteria, but, again, I would
15 imagine the percentage is much, much
16 higher than five percent.

17 MR. BALTUCH: It will -- sorry, this
18 is Kyle Baltuch. It will be. You have
19 142,000 families, give or take. The
20 problem is families can obviously define
21 above the age of five.

22 In Miami-Dade that fall below that
23 150,000 -- I'm sorry, 150 percent of the
24 federal poverty line figure, if I were to
25 give you a rough estimate, you know, just

1 falling below 100 percent of the federal
2 poverty line for children in Miami-Dade,
3 that's 19.3 percent. So you're probably
4 looking at a factor that's at least 50
5 percent greater than that. So that would
6 be anywhere in that say I would 27 to 33
7 range is probably where you're looking at
8 that percentage being.

9 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Okay. Thank
10 you.

11 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Yes. I don't
12 know the exact data in terms of where --
13 what that number looks like, but I can say
14 this, and I believe Commissioner Hardemon
15 will bear me out with this, probably Judge
16 will also. I know a lot of it is driven
17 by areas like Liberty City, Little Haiti,
18 Overtown. And probably if you go to the
19 south, places like Perrine or so, but I
20 know the data, because at one time the
21 City of Miami was the third poorest city
22 in the nation at one point. I don't know
23 what it is now. And we know, and this is
24 no pun, but we know it didn't come from
25 areas like Brickell. We know that. So it

1 came from areas such as District 5, in the
2 City of Miami, or District 3, in
3 Miami-Dade County. It's driven by those
4 areas. And it's sort of a dubious
5 recognition, but that's what it is. It's
6 those numbers, you'll find the bulk of the
7 people in that below -- and probably let
8 me throw another area in there. Probably
9 areas like the Redlands or the Homestead
10 area, that would factor into those areas.
11 So you can get all your data from there,
12 and that will give you a guesstimation of
13 what it kind of looks like.

14 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Yeah. And,
15 clearly, what's behind my question is,
16 that there is this huge unmet need here,
17 right? Children who would be eligible for
18 this kind of program, but just aren't able
19 to receive it, right?

20 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Yes.

21 MR. BALTUCH: Yeah.

22 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: I think we all
23 know that, but I was just trying --

24 MR. BALTUCH: No, I appreciate that.

25 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: -- to wrap my

1 head around how big that gap was. It's
2 big.

3 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: It's huge,
4 enormous.

5 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Right.

6 MR. HAJ: Michele, go ahead.

7 MS. WATSON: Perfect. So we can move
8 on to the next slide.

9 I also want to say that School
10 Readiness slide doesn't include those
11 families that are still low income
12 133 percent below the federal poverty
13 level that are participating in Head Start
14 and Early Head Start as well, so that is
15 also capturing a subset of your low income
16 families that weren't contemplated in the
17 numbers in that slide.

18 So expand School Readiness
19 eligibility threshold, what we're seeing
20 now is, Kyle just told us, \$5.38 billion
21 in loss revenue. Twenty-four percent of
22 low income families were forced to leave
23 the workforce due to lack of access.
24 Florida has one of the six lowest income
25 eligibility thresholds in the nation. So

1 that is how we calibrated the entry
2 threshold correctly to what we're seeing
3 today, in today's market.

4 We have the ability -- Florida's low
5 eligibility threshold directly impacts the
6 ability for parents to enter and thrive in
7 the workforce, and two-parent-working
8 households right now cannot qualify at
9 minimum wage. So if you have two
10 individual parents making \$13 an hour,
11 they are already not eligible for the
12 program, because their income would come
13 in about 200 percent federal poverty
14 level.

15 So what you're seeing now is family
16 profile eligibility current income
17 threshold of 150 percent of what that
18 means. So what you're seeing now is who's
19 eligible and who's not eligible. So right
20 now two parents, three children, I think
21 this might be switched around. And the
22 key, just to be honest, what you're going
23 to see is -- never mind. It's two
24 parents, three children are eligible, but
25 two parents, two children are not. The

1 more children you have, if you're two
2 parents, you can actually qualify, but one
3 parent, one child is eligible all the way
4 until we hit the minimum wage threshold in
5 2016 -- I mean, 2026, at \$15 an hour, and
6 then one parent, two children will remain
7 eligible past \$17 an hour.

8 So what we need to make sure is that
9 we are looking at what is the right
10 calibration of entry that's going to serve
11 the maximum number of families, so that we
12 can make sure that they're all having high
13 quality early childhood experiences.

14 So with that, on the next slide,
15 you're going to see that the legislature
16 is really working really hard on making
17 sure that we can calibrate these programs
18 in the right way.

19 So SB 916, so Senate Bill 916,
20 entitled The School Readiness Program by
21 Senator Alexis Calatayud out of Miami is
22 proposing that we take in Florida --
23 instead of using federal poverty level,
24 that we take state median income. And
25 that's because state median income is

1 actually rising in Florida faster than
2 some of the other 50 states. Median
3 income is rising, which makes the federal
4 poverty level kind of depressed for usage
5 of determining eligibility for School
6 Readiness.

7 So she's contemplating that we change
8 the entry threshold at 55 percent state
9 median income. So 55 percent for state
10 median income means for a family of two,
11 so one parent, one child, you can come in
12 at approximately that equates to 163
13 percent federal poverty level. For a
14 family of three, it's about 159 percent
15 federal poverty level and for a family of
16 four, it's 157 percent federal poverty
17 level. So it's really trying to work hard
18 to increase those eligibility thresholds
19 so that we can capture more families.

20 The counterpart to that bill is House
21 Bill 929 by Representative Dana Trubulsky,
22 out of Saint Lucie County where they also
23 have a Children's Services Council, and so
24 that is the companion to that bill that
25 also looks to calibrate it at 55 percent.

1 So we're really excited.

2 Those bills were introduced last week
3 in the second week of session. They were
4 up in committees, and hitting their first
5 committee stop, which means that there is
6 still time for them to be able to be heard
7 and passed, which will hopefully help
8 alleviate some of the access issues that
9 we're seeing, not only in Miami-Dade
10 County, but across the State of Florida.

11 Next is -- oh, sorry, I was going to
12 the next bill, Rachel.

13 Next is Senate Bill 820, Child Care
14 and Early Learning Providers, and House
15 Bill 635 is the companion, by Senator Erin
16 Grall out of Fort Pierce and
17 Representative Fiona McFarland out of
18 Sarasota. These bills really look to do a
19 number of things. They look to reduce
20 cost for child care providers. So one of
21 the things they do is they include
22 insurance requirements. Insurance cost
23 have gone up for child care providers over
24 the last few years, almost 80 percent. So
25 they're looking to figure out ways that

1 they can help with those insurance costs,
2 so those costs aren't passed on to
3 families.

4 They're also looking at the licensing
5 standards to be legally operating. So for
6 child care licensing, there was conducted
7 a report that's there's 537 distinct child
8 care licensing standards; and out of
9 those, 64 were the ones that were most
10 tied to health and safety. So how do you
11 really look at getting rid of redundant or
12 health and safety standards that don't
13 relate to the health and safety of the
14 child.

15 And then lastly, part of this bill is
16 five million dollars for the creation,
17 through a child care tax credit, that can
18 be given to businesses in the State of
19 Florida that can be a tax credit from
20 their sales tax, it can be a tax credit
21 from their alcohol and tobacco tax, their
22 insurance tax, there's multiple taxes that
23 a business can get if they provide a child
24 care stipend on behalf of their employees,
25 for their employees' children or

1 grandchildren, up to \$3,600 a year. So
2 that could be a stipend of \$300 per child,
3 per month.

4 The other portion of that bill is it
5 helps -- allows businesses to tap into a
6 plot of dollars to create their own child
7 care facilities within their own business
8 enterprise. So if they have extra land
9 that they're not using, if they have
10 within their current building extra space,
11 they absolutely can turn that into a child
12 care center. As part of that, they have
13 to be accredited by a national accrediting
14 association to meet the health and safety
15 standards. They also have to have staff
16 that are background screened and have the
17 40 clock hours to be a child care
18 instructor. And so as long as the
19 provider provides the child care services,
20 that individual company can draw down tax
21 credits to offset the costs of building
22 out those centers.

23 And so we are really excited that
24 that is a solution. One hopefully by
25 reducing duplicative and expensive

1 licensing regulations will help kind of
2 offset the increasing cost of child care
3 as well as having employers be part of the
4 solution on behalf of their employees,
5 will help with employee retention, will
6 help with employee recruitment, but also
7 will help ensure that children are in
8 really safe and learning -- educational
9 environments.

10 So then we have Senate Bill 1026 is
11 Early Learning by Senator Erin Grall and
12 House Bill 1353, Early Learning by
13 Representative John Snyder. And so what
14 you will see in those bills is those are
15 policy bills. Those really look at how we
16 run our School Readiness in our VPK
17 Programs.

18 Some of the highlights of that bill
19 is previously early learning coalitions
20 only had a four percent admin to do all of
21 the work to administer VPK. It moves that
22 up to five percent to align with the
23 School Readiness program. It also makes
24 some technical changes to some ways that
25 we calculate the VPK performance metric.

1 It also includes executive functioning as
2 a domain that children need to learn in
3 the early childhood space.

4 And I think one of the neatest pieces
5 of this legislation is that creates a
6 summer bridge program, so it allows
7 students who participate in the VPK
8 program after their four-year-old year,
9 who are in the lowest 20 percentile in
10 terms of what they received on their
11 formal final assessment, to access a
12 hundred hours summer bridge program. So
13 100 extra hours during the summer, four
14 hours a day to be able to get more
15 intensive early literacy and early math
16 skill training before they hit
17 kindergarten.

18 So, as you know, Jim has started off
19 with, you know, we have seen lower school
20 -- kindergarten readiness scores and gave
21 that percentage as part of his
22 presentation. That summer bridge program
23 is hoping to make sure that we are
24 reaching and providing interventions in
25 our most at-risk and at-need children the

1 summer before they hit kindergarten.

2 And then Senate Bill 1400, School
3 Readiness Program and HB 487 by
4 Representative Robert Bartleman and
5 Senator Shev Jones, this really deals with
6 our children with special needs. Right
7 now, to participate in the School
8 Readiness program, you can have an IEP and
9 receive access to services, but if you
10 have an ISSP, so that is the infant plan
11 for how you receive accommodations and how
12 we best have a supportive environment for
13 you as you are a young, young child with
14 special needs, this includes having those
15 that have an ISSP or a diagnosis from a
16 physician to allow them to access School
17 Readiness services to be able to be served
18 in environment that make sure that it has
19 trained professionals in there. There's
20 10 hours of training as well as there's
21 accommodations being made for that child.

22 So I will say that this is just
23 probably the early learning bills that are
24 moving the most. I will tell you in my
25 20 years of working with the legislature

1 and in legislative sessions, this year is
2 the most early learning bills we've seen
3 on record. So there's a number of
4 significant early learning bills related
5 to having -- requiring child care
6 providers to have cameras in their
7 facilities so parents can remote in and
8 some others. We haven't seen those move
9 yet, but these are the ones that will most
10 likely move in a way that will help offset
11 the cost and the burden of serving and
12 making sure that our children are
13 receiving the best early education.

14 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: I have a
15 question.

16 MS. WATSON: With that, I'm going to
17 turn it back over to Rachel.

18 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: Wait, before
19 you leave.

20 MR. HAJ: She has a question, so hold
21 on a second.

22 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: Yes, I have a
23 question, Michele. I'm Lourdes Gimenez,
24 by the way.

25 Regarding the senate bill and the

1 house bill 1026, 1353, you mentioned
2 funding for summer before they enter
3 kindergarten, correct?

4 MS. WATSON: Yes, ma'am.

5 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: Will there be
6 any funding while the child is in the
7 pre-K program where they can receive the
8 interventions already during their regular
9 pre-K time?

10 MS. WATSON: So one bill that's not
11 on here that showed up last week that I'm
12 very excited about that they're starting
13 to include is Senate Bill 7038. It's
14 actually an education bill in its title,
15 but what they did is, right now a child
16 who is not performing well, a child who is
17 not performing well in their kindergarten,
18 first grade or second grade assessments,
19 all the way through fifth grade, can
20 receive a read -- step-up reading
21 scholarship where they can access tutoring
22 services for children who are struggling
23 with their program assessment.

24 So I'm very pleased to announce that
25 as part of that Senate Bill 7038, they

1 included pre-K or VPK students in those
2 tutoring dollars. So not only at the end
3 of their program, if they still aren't
4 ready for Kindergarten, but during their
5 program, they'll be able to access those
6 tutoring dollars to get really specific
7 interventions that will help them to be
8 more ready for Kindergarten across the
9 way, and we're waiting to see where that's
10 going to go.

11 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: I'm glad to
12 hear that. Michele, did I lose you?

13 MS. WATSON: No.

14 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: Because I'm a
15 firm believer -- I was a former -- I am
16 still an educator, but I am former
17 official professional educator, and I
18 firmly believe in early interventions and
19 the earlier we can provide those
20 interventions when see a child who's
21 developmentally not functioning at the
22 rate that he should be, that if we provide
23 those interventions early, we can help,
24 you know, fill in the gap a lot sooner.

25 MS. WATSON: Absolutely. No, I 100

1 percent agree and was very excited to see
2 that.

3 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: Thank you.

4 MR. HAJ: Michele, thank you.

5 Turn it over to Rachel.

6 MS. WATSON: Do I have another
7 question?

8 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Just an addendum
9 to my comments. Lest my colleague take me
10 in the woodshed, I forgot to mention
11 District 2 in the Miami-Dade County School
12 Board, that's our colleague Dr. Dorothy
13 Bendross-Mindingall. I just wanted to put
14 for the record that those are the areas
15 that usually drive the below the poverty
16 level threshold, so I just wanted to put
17 that on the record. So I don't know if
18 she's watching, but she'll laugh about it
19 later with me. I rather her laugh about
20 it than take me to the woodshed.

21 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: I just want to
22 make a quick comment, too, and a question
23 that might lead what you're going to talk
24 about Rachel.

25 With these points about this huge gap

1 in families not getting the services even
2 when they're eligible. So I think that's
3 an important point, because one of the
4 things we put a lot of efforts is these
5 families that are just missing that cut
6 point. So they're struggling, because
7 they're not poor enough and they can't
8 benefit from the services already
9 existing. So we've done a lot from the
10 Trust perspective to help those families,
11 which is what you're going to talk about,
12 what we're voting on today, which is
13 great, but I think the other side of the
14 coin that maybe you can speak to a little
15 bit more is, how do we get more of these
16 families who are eligible to actually get
17 the services that they're eligible for.
18 Given that there's no waitlist, right, it
19 sounds like -- and given the low numbers
20 and low percentages we're seeing of
21 families who are eligible, but not
22 actually getting the services, what can we
23 do as the Trust to help engage those
24 families?

25 MS. SPECTOR: Sure. Yeah, I think we

1 will hit on that. So, yeah, okay.

2 So back to Jim mentioned, I think
3 that a lot of what I'm gonna talk about is
4 gonna respond. So your investments and
5 our Thrive by 5 system are in response to
6 a lot of what you heard Kyle -- both Kyle
7 and Michele mention. That's happening,
8 not only at the state level, but obviously
9 here in our community.

10 So back to what Jim mentioned, back
11 in 2016, '17, we had a Board early child
12 work group, which is when we came together
13 to really look at our investments in our
14 previous child care quality system,
15 Quality Counts and when we were moving to
16 Thrive by 5. And one of the asks from
17 that group, which some of you were a part
18 of that group, was really taking a look
19 comprehensively at our county.

20 And so Laurie and her team prepared
21 this early childhood system mapping that
22 we spent a lot of time surveying and
23 interviewing all of the early childhood
24 partners from around the County, and you
25 can see that the investments here

1 represent the federal investments, the
2 state investments and the local
3 investments. Most of the federal
4 investments are for Early Head Start, Head
5 Start, house services, early intervention
6 services and whatnot, but you can see how
7 our -- the Children's Trust local
8 investment is really contributing to the
9 overall early childhood system in our
10 community.

11 And another thing to point out that
12 was very important to our Board where
13 group was serving infants and toddlers,
14 really focusing on children birth to two,
15 you could see that 23 percent -- only
16 23 percent at that time when we did this
17 were really being served by those dollars,
18 but now through Thrive by 5, we have a big
19 focus on serving infants and toddlers, so
20 we're hoping to continue to see that
21 number rise.

22 Next slide, Juana.

23 So the second piece of the map was
24 showing the Children's Trust investments
25 in the three different components of early

1 childhood funding that we categorize our
2 investments at the Children's Trust. So
3 early childhood quality is our Thrive by 5
4 quality improvements system. I'm going to
5 get into more detail about the different
6 components and then early child care
7 access and early intervention.

8 So the resolutions that you are gonna
9 see before you today are all related
10 actually to early childhood access and
11 early intervention. So here is where we
12 are providing match funding in order to
13 drawdown the maximum amount of federal and
14 state dollars into our community to serve
15 those families that you're asking about
16 that are under 150 percent of the federal
17 poverty rate, but do not qualify for the
18 School Readiness program, because the
19 families are not working. And so these
20 investments that you're voting on today
21 allow us to serve the maximum number of
22 children in our community.

23 And then our early intervention
24 services as well were to fund all children
25 birth to -- well, birth to five. Children

1 that have special needs that are not able
2 to access statewide early intervention
3 services, because they don't meet
4 criteria, but they still have significant
5 needs that the earlier -- as Lourdes
6 mentioned, the earlier we intervene, the
7 better chance the child has of catching
8 up, so those are the resolutions that
9 you'll be voting on today.

10 And I'm moving onto our Thrive by 5
11 early learning system. So this is where
12 our Board group and some of you really
13 forced us to go back to the table. We met
14 with a lot of partners. We really
15 re-envisioned what our investments could
16 look like. And then our goal is very
17 simple, you can read it on the screen, but
18 essentially we want every single child in
19 our community to have access to high
20 quality early learning experiences,
21 whether that be through Head Start,
22 through the School Readiness program and
23 through our investments in Thrive by 5.

24 So one thing is to support programs
25 to achieve high quality, and another thing

1 is to create access so that children can
2 actually get into those programs and we're
3 trying to do both.

4 So our system has multiple
5 components, as you can see on the slide.
6 We partner with most of the early -- the
7 early childhood system partners. We do
8 leverage state funding and we build off of
9 our state system.

10 Our state, through the department of
11 early learning and the early learning
12 coalition, has a tiered payment
13 differential system where we reward
14 providers for having high quality, and
15 they received a tiered payment
16 differential. We stack our differentials
17 on top of what the state offers to really
18 give a meaningful investment into program
19 so that they can reinvest into their
20 program to achieve high quality to invest
21 in their early childhood teachers, who,
22 you know, make very low wages, as you
23 heard Kyle mention. And so those
24 supports, our providers report to us their
25 enrollment monthly and we provide them

1 with an award every month.

2 You also heard Dan refer to, and
3 Kyle, like, families that just aren't
4 meeting the criteria for the School
5 Readiness program.

6 So there actually is no waitlist in
7 Miami-Dade County, as Pam mentioned, for
8 the School Readiness program. So we would
9 assume that the majority of the people
10 that qualify have signed up and they're
11 being served. It is a workforce program,
12 but we have over close to 1400 children on
13 our Children's Trust Families Forward
14 scholarship waitlist. So these are
15 families that are between 150 and 300
16 percent of the federal poverty rate. So
17 in Michele's example, these could be,
18 like, a family of two, two working
19 parents, with two children, who each earn
20 \$15 an hour. Those are the people that
21 are qualifying, some of the people that
22 are qualifying for our scholarship
23 program. And we're going to show a video
24 and a little bit more information.

25 And then another -- oh, not yet. And

1 then another -- another issue that Kyle
2 raised is retention and the amount -- the
3 number of child care educators that we
4 have, which has gone down following the
5 pandemic and continues to go down, because
6 in our community, the median rate is about
7 \$13.00 -- well, the minimum wage is 12
8 right now I think, so 13, 13.50 is the
9 median. That's what we're making --
10 that's what they're making on average.

11 And so our Ascend program, which we
12 have -- I think I've spoken about here,
13 and we just redesigned, is to -- serving
14 to retain -- help the program retain
15 teachers, but also to incentivize teachers
16 to come into the program. They can earn
17 awards up to \$6,000 a year and they can
18 earn their award twice a year by applying
19 directly with us.

20 We also have a robust educator
21 scholarship program in partnership with
22 the children's forum. We support
23 scholarships for all educators in our
24 community, including public school --
25 early learning public school teachers,

1 Head Start teachers, all teachers that
2 want to continue their professional
3 development, teaching strategy goals.

4 We have a partnership with the United
5 Way to support ongoing child assessments.
6 It's important for teachers to understand
7 how children are progressing in their
8 classrooms, how they're developing and it
9 helps them to be able to individualize
10 instruction. That's a marker of a high
11 quality program.

12 And then one of our program of the
13 year, this year, at Champions, is our Jump
14 Start program. This is early childhood
15 infant mental health services, and this
16 program really works to support children
17 with challenging behaviors as well as
18 providing teachers the tools to most
19 effectively work with children and
20 families for children that are
21 experiencing challenging behaviors in the
22 classroom.

23 And I think I'm going to -- we're
24 going to show you the video for Families
25 Forward. We showed this at Champions.

1 This was one of our programs of the year
2 last year.

3 (Thereupon, a video was presented).

4 MS. SPECTOR: So the program is not
5 free. You heard the mom mention that she
6 pays, but she pays less. So this is an
7 opportunity for families that you can see
8 the income threshold for our program,
9 Families Forward. So for a family of
10 four, they're able to access our
11 scholarship with an income of up to
12 \$79,500. They are paying a co-payment of
13 \$70.00 a week, and then it reduces in half
14 for the second or the third child, so
15 it's -- you know, it's \$280.00 a month as
16 opposed to the average of 1200, 1300,
17 \$1400 a month. So it's really significant
18 when families are making choices about,
19 you know, their economics and their work
20 situation.

21 Next slide.

22 So we currently -- I mentioned, we
23 have a waitlist. We have over 1300
24 children on our waitlist right now. So
25 these are families that are calling us,

1 e-mailing us, asking us when they're
2 coming off the waitlist. Some of them are
3 working and have other types of
4 arrangements that may or may not be the
5 best for their children. Others are
6 waiting to go back to work or waiting to
7 go to work. Everyone is in a different
8 situation. So we're actively trying to
9 work on our waitlist. We have almost 12
10 -- actually, I think, today we have more
11 than 1200 children that are actively
12 enrolled using our scholarships across 214
13 child care programs.

14 So we have 323 child care programs
15 that are participating in Thrive by 5, but
16 only our top high quality programs are
17 able to accept scholarship children. So
18 we have 214 out of the 323 that are
19 eligible to accept the scholarships.

20 Can you show the next slide?

21 We're showing a map, so you can see
22 that we have sites covering the entire
23 County. So that was part of our goal, was
24 access. We didn't want families to have
25 to get out of their neighborhoods and out

1 of their communities to find quality child
2 care. We want them to be able to stay in
3 their community.

4 When we started Thrive by 5, we had,
5 like, 70, maybe, options for families.
6 And as we continued to invest in tiered
7 payments and provide all of the supports
8 to programs, we see the quality continuing
9 to improve, and we have built already up
10 to 214 that meet our standards for
11 quality.

12 And then so how it works, another
13 thing we're proud of that I don't think we
14 shared yet, next slide, is when families
15 receive a letter from the Early Learning
16 Coalition letting them know that they've
17 been awarded a scholarship, mind you most
18 of them have been at this point on the
19 waitlist, some of them for a year, maybe,
20 you know, it depends. They're very
21 excited. They want to find a program
22 right away. So they can come to the
23 Children's Trust website. We have this
24 find a program tab. If you want to check
25 it out, when you get onto our website,

1 there's a big button that says find a
2 program and they can just type in here --
3 it's a very friendly map. They can type
4 in their address, their zip code, the zip
5 code where they live, where they work,
6 wherever they're looking for care, and it
7 will pop up the child care programs and it
8 will indicate which of the child care
9 programs are eligible to receive
10 scholarships. And then I know it's very
11 small, but when they click on the little
12 dot, it tells them the phone number, and,
13 you know, the website and all the
14 information they need to immediately reach
15 out and find a program.

16 We're also -- oh, yeah, we're going
17 to show the video? Yeah. Okay. We have
18 one more video. We're also excited that
19 we've been asked to present nationally.
20 I'll let the video play first.

21 (Thereupon, the video was presented).

22 MS. SPECTOR: So I was saying, so
23 this video obviously was about Ascend, our
24 salary supplement program. We built this
25 program from scratch. We met and searched

1 around the country for other models, and
2 this is an innovative model. It's the
3 only model we believe in the country
4 that's taking into account professional
5 development, longevity and competency. So
6 we use the class score. And as you could
7 hear educators are earning 2000, 2700.
8 And you hear the owner saying that it's
9 really impacting the retention rate and
10 the teachers feel valued.

11 So we have been invited to present
12 nationally on different pieces of Thrive
13 by 5, but most recently on Ascend and
14 Families Forward. So these are just some
15 of the places that we have presented
16 lately and we continue to do so.

17 And then we also have published some
18 of the work around Thrive by 5 in national
19 journals, and I was -- had the honor of
20 participating in a Webinar training
21 session and had a written article with the
22 Federal Reserve system around the impact
23 of child care and some of the crisis, so
24 thank you.

25 I'm going to hand it to Natalia to

1 talk about some of our local efforts.

2 MS. ZEA: Thank you.

3 So as you can tell, we can't do this
4 alone. I'm going to scooch over a little
5 bit Rachel. I'm leaning there. Nice and
6 close. So we know that we can't do this
7 alone. The Children's Trust doesn't do
8 this alone. Obviously we have some of our
9 valued partners here at the table as part
10 of this Board.

11 We also know that to have
12 collaborative partnerships and public
13 awareness helps to bring more advocacy.
14 The early learning bills that have been
15 filed are a good example of that. The
16 more folks are educated on the issue, the
17 more they try to strive to do something to
18 solve it. This is why we convene some of
19 our strongest partners in the area of
20 advocacy, workforce development, economic
21 development, and stabilization and
22 philanthropy quarterly as part of this
23 fiscal cliff collaborative, and bringing
24 some familiar friends together and others
25 who focus on economic issues to make sure

1 that we have the business community with
2 us and some of the other economic
3 development drivers with us, because this
4 is ultimately an economic issue for our
5 greater community.

6 Also, I 'd like to thank the
7 associate director of public policy,
8 Amanda Gorski, for her hard work on this.

9 Next slide.

10 So the Children's Trust staff also
11 works closely with a wide array of
12 invaluable partners. We're part of Mayor
13 Levine Cava's Children's Commission, which
14 really has a hyper focus on the early
15 childhood space, and with this
16 collaborative of partners as part of their
17 steering committee and in co-chairing
18 various subcommittees, we worked together
19 to create the road map for child success
20 allowing us to work together and reach
21 beyond the Children's Trust world into the
22 greater community.

23 We also are in the middle of
24 developing community awareness and
25 advocacy campaigns around some of these

1 early childhood issues. Some centered
2 around the fiscal cliff issues that we've
3 been talking about, but some also just
4 making sure that parents and other
5 caregivers are aware of the very basics of
6 early childhood, and its incredible
7 importance and the things that they can do
8 at home, if they have their kids home, to
9 help them.

10 We also played a significant role in
11 Miami leadership local summit at Bilzin
12 Sumberg offices. This was Miami Herald
13 Miami Foundation collaborative, child
14 care, K-12 education and the importance of
15 keeping the fiscal cliff in mind as
16 different employees are upscaling. Those
17 were just some of the panels that Jim and
18 other Trust staff participated in.

19 We also keep our community
20 collaboratives informed that the community
21 engagement team sits on to make sure that
22 everyone is aware.

23 We also know policies of Miami-Dade's
24 36 municipalities, who are also key
25 employers. Their policies matter. They

1 are important employers in our community,
2 and we make sure that they are aware as
3 well. We organized and presented a panel
4 with partners from that fiscal cliff task
5 force at the Miami Dade County League of
6 Cities best practices conference to make
7 sure that city managers, elected
8 officials, and other government staff were
9 aware of the importance of the fiscal
10 cliff and the work that we're doing.

11 Now, Trust staff also works closely
12 with the Florida Department of Early
13 Learning serving on the informal career
14 pathway advisory committee. The Trust
15 began our own informal pathway as part of
16 Ascend. As you heard, Rachel's great
17 work. And that's going to further assist
18 early learning educators in a more
19 equitable way, so it's not only focused on
20 college credit and course work, so we're
21 helping to lead the way statewide.

22 Next slide.

23 So we know that it's important, too,
24 that there's some widespread awareness, so
25 these are just a few -- these are a few of

1 the news outlets that we've been able to
2 put out opinion pieces or secured news
3 coverage to make sure that the voice of
4 this work is being heard.

5 We're also talking with a few
6 national media entities right now, who've
7 expressed an interest, because they see
8 what we're doing in Miami-Dade and they
9 think it's working. And, you know, Rachel
10 has been on countless calls with reporters
11 and otherwise, but we think it's
12 important. We're setting a stage here
13 that the nation could follow.

14 Next slide.

15 We know we can only improve and
16 expand if we know the success of where
17 we've been, so there are two active
18 evaluations going on right now related to
19 the QIS. One is a cross-sector
20 evaluation, led by the U. M. Ideas
21 Consortium with partners from the ELC,
22 Miami-Dade County, MDCPS and the Trust.
23 Now, Thrive by 5 is one of the resources
24 that they're focusing on. They're doing a
25 comprehensive look, though, at equitable

1 access to early learning resources, which
2 includes other families supports, like
3 TANF and WIC.

4 The second project is that we're
5 looking at our supportive educators.
6 We're looking at the impact of
7 professional development scholarships and
8 the salary supplement programs, all the
9 great work that you just heard about in
10 relation to support and retention. And
11 the study is federally funded. It's
12 getting underway right now.

13 Finally, last project is the
14 development of a full scale evaluation
15 plan for Thrive by 5 supported by fact.
16 We're working with the policy equity group
17 out of D.C. to create the plan, which
18 could be funded by component to continue
19 to unlock opportunities and help inform
20 the policy changes that we need to see
21 state wide.

22 Jim.

23 MR. HAJ: Natalia, thank you.

24 Just one note. A couple more slides.
25 One is just to show you where we've come

1 from.

2 In '16, when we started the planning
3 group, we started moving Thrive by 5. In
4 '18, with 20.5 million for the whole
5 Thrive by 5, and we had five million in
6 scholarships. And this last budget that
7 you adopted, it was 13.9 million Thrive by
8 5 and 13 million in our scholarships.

9 Next slide, please. And go to the
10 last one, the last slide.

11 So we can't do this alone. We work
12 phenomenally with our partners, but we
13 also knew if we build it, we'd have other
14 funders to come in.

15 Natalia, Amanda, Rachel, Laurie, the
16 whole group has been out the last year
17 letting everybody know about the
18 importance of early child care and seeking
19 additional funding.

20 We are pleased at the last Board
21 meeting we mentioned that the Mayor,
22 Commissioner Hardemon and the rest of the
23 commissioners approved three million
24 dollars to add to our scholarships. We
25 just found out Deluca is considering -- is

1 strongly considering it, and we're hoping
2 to bring back in March an adoption of
3 one million dollar donation to our
4 scholarships. And we have Coral Gables
5 community, Ocean Reef coming in at 5,000.
6 And we also have hopefully, in the near
7 future, we have announcements of some
8 other private funders coming in to fund
9 this much needed program.

10 Mr. Chair, that is it for the
11 presentations. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Great.

13 First of all, I want to thank the
14 staff, because, as you can see, a lot goes
15 on between Board meetings that doesn't end
16 up directly on the agenda. Thank you,
17 All.

18 As I mentioned earlier, we're going
19 to start today to try a consent agenda.
20 Consent agenda is a mechanism, for those
21 of you who aren't familiar, where
22 resolutions with similar topics are
23 grouped for the Board to review before the
24 meeting so that they can be moved and
25 voted on as a group.

1 Items on the consent agenda do not
2 follow the traditional pattern we have
3 used in meetings where we will speak about
4 items, each item after it's introduced.
5 So they're voted on as a group rather than
6 being individually moved and discussed.

7 Before the meeting, we determined
8 those directors who needed to recuse or
9 would likely be recusing. If any director
10 has to recuse on the specific resolutions
11 that hasn't already recused, we should
12 know it.

13 We have a quorum, 17 members, plus an
14 additional six members now. So we have
15 five recusals on the entire set of
16 resolutions as of right now.

17 If the Board Member has a desire to
18 discuss comment or has to recuse on a
19 specific resolution on the consent agenda,
20 then we would need to bifurcate that
21 particular resolution, so it would be read
22 into the record, voted on separately from
23 the resolutions that are grouped as part
24 of the consent agenda.

25 If any Board Member would like to

1 pull an item, they can do so at the
2 beginning of the meeting. This is the
3 first meeting we're doing this. If any
4 yet -- we'll go over the resolutions, but
5 if any member would like to pull one of
6 the resolutions, I think Jim also
7 mentioned this in his notice, we can do so
8 before we start voting on the consent
9 agenda.

10 It's my understanding that currently
11 no director has requested to pull any of
12 the resolutions. And, again, there are
13 five directors in total, who have five
14 positions or otherwise had to recuse from
15 these resolutions. So they will not be
16 able to vote on any of them that are
17 packaged as part of the consent agenda.

18 Are there any questions?

19 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Was this -- was
20 this agenda published like this, just like
21 in this format? Because it doesn't say
22 that these items are consent agenda. And,
23 you know, having a quarter of a century in
24 government, I don't think, you know, 10 or
25 \$12 million worth of resolutions are

1 appropriate for a consent agenda format.
2 Yeah, I know that in our town, the consent
3 agenda aren't routine items in nature.
4 They're interlocal agreements or, you
5 know, things that are not materially
6 affecting the budget. I mean, here, you
7 know, we're talking about approving -- you
8 know, we had a beautiful presentation, an
9 in-depth presentation about the state of
10 affairs, Tallahassee, you know, but, you
11 know, I, for one, am kind of against
12 taking all of these items all at once, you
13 know, all 10 or \$12 million worth and
14 doing it on a consent agenda item fashion.

15 So if I don't have a consensus among
16 the Board for my feelings, I request that
17 we pull any item that's over a million
18 dollars and deal with it on a separate
19 basis, each item by item.

20 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: I would just
21 comment, I'll take other Board comments on
22 it, but a million dollar or two million
23 dollar item is routine here versus we have
24 30 million and 40 million dollar
25 resolutions that if we package some of

1 them together, I would tend to agree.

2 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Right, but
3 those are typically, you know, how we're
4 going to fund a certain program, you know,
5 like a body of programming. Some, you
6 know, like, Item No. 17, let's say, is,
7 you know, for 2.2, 2.3 million bucks.

8 BOARD MEMBER ADAMS: Laura Adams.

9 You know, one thing is that a lot of
10 these resolutions are discussed, like, at
11 the program and development committee. So
12 I think if you have concerns about the
13 individual resolutions, or where the money
14 is going or the amount of it, you come to
15 those meetings, 'cause that's kind of
16 where we flesh out a little bit more in
17 detail I think what the actual projects
18 are going to be.

19 And I think also just in
20 consideration of how much, you know, other
21 commitments that all the members of the
22 Board have, I think we've tried to
23 streamline as much as we can without
24 glossing over the importance of these,
25 just so that when we present these resos

1 to the Board at large, it's already been
2 vetted. So perhaps coming into those
3 meetings is one way to address your
4 concerns.

5 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Thank you for
6 that, Laura, and I appreciate that.
7 However, when Ken made his opening
8 comments regarding the changes in the
9 format of the meeting, he said that we're
10 trying to be more transparent. And in my
11 personal opinion, this is kind of
12 contraindicated to that. It seems less
13 transparent, because every -- you're
14 saying that everything is done on a
15 committee level and then brought to us
16 for, like, a tacit type of an approval, I
17 think that's less in the sunshine, because
18 people would be more apt to go to our
19 general Board meeting, which is held, you
20 know, 10 times a year than go to an actual
21 committee meeting. You know, there's a
22 lot of committee members that don't even
23 show up to the committee meeting much less
24 the public.

25 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Any other

1 comment?

2 MS. KOBRINSKI: So just to clarify.
3 Per the bylaws, any Board Member can
4 request that an item be bifurcated. Are
5 you requesting that those items be taken
6 out?

7 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Yeah. I said
8 everything over a million bucks, let's
9 just vote on it separately.

10 And I'd like to know -- I'd also like
11 to know who's recusing themselves on each
12 item as well.

13 And then I think a couple of years
14 ago, I had requested that every time we
15 fund an organization, that at least on a
16 fiscal year basis, that we are also
17 disclosing the total amount to date for
18 all programs, you know, for that
19 organization. For instance, University of
20 Miami, or the Early Learning Coalition,
21 or, you know, BCC or whoever, you know,
22 wherever we spend money. I'd like to know
23 not only this item or, you know, this
24 component of our budget, but I'd like to
25 see, you know, how much money University

1 of Miami is getting, how much money FIU is
2 getting, how much money the Early Learning
3 Coalition is getting, how much United Way
4 is getting, you know, for our fiscal year
5 cumulative.

6 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Except to the
7 extent that those are in the resolutions,
8 I'm not sure we have that information
9 available.

10 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Well, I mean,
11 it's just a matter of clicking, you know,
12 the page, or in our checkbook and getting
13 a subtotal, you know, for the fiscal year
14 or whatever. I'm sure Bill can do that.

15 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: So any
16 resolution, you're requesting --

17 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: It's seven
18 digits, let's vote on it separately.

19 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Anything over a
20 million.

21 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: But quickly for
22 Laura's sake.

23 BOARD MEMBER ADAMS: Not for my sake.
24 It's (Inaudible) employee for 30 years.

25 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: I don't think

1 it was a question of expedience, Isaac, I
2 think as much as, again, these were
3 presented as a group because of the
4 similar nature of the subject and the fact
5 that they are relative -- relative to the
6 Trust budgets and the things that we do
7 approve, they're relatively small.

8 So, yes, Pastor.

9 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Yes, I concur
10 with my colleague that it's a valid issue
11 to raise. However, I believe it can be
12 resolved amicably by getting an opinion
13 from our County attorney. If she says
14 we're good, then I think, you know, why
15 should we -- why should we hesitate on it.

16 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Well, I think
17 she said every director has the
18 opportunity to pull any resolution from
19 the consent agenda, so we'll respect that.
20 And Isaac will --

21 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Okay. My
22 question to that question -- to that
23 comment, though, is, can one person make
24 that determination for the whole Board or
25 is that something that needs to be voted

1 on by consensus?

2 MS. KOBRINSKI: The language in the
3 bylaws says any Board Member shall be
4 entitled to request an item be bifurcated,
5 so it doesn't require that the Board
6 approve that.

7 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: So be it, okay,
8 so be it.

9 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: And this is the
10 first time we're doing it, Ken, right?

11 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: This is
12 correct.

13 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: We talked about
15 it last week.

16 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: I understand,
17 but the agenda was not even published with
18 the words "consent agenda item", and
19 explaining to the public, you know, what a
20 consent agenda item -- what a consent
21 agenda is, and, you know, the implications
22 of it.

23 So, you know, I'm not saying that I'm
24 not open to discussion on this matter. I
25 mean, for this particular meeting, I think

1 it wasn't published in a format that says
2 these items shall be taken as a consent
3 agenda item. So I think, therefore, we
4 should really take each and everyone of
5 them, you know, singly, and then really --
6 if we're reformatting the meeting, let's
7 reformat the agenda as well to make it
8 very, very clear, you know, that we're
9 voting in this manner.

10 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Isaac, we will
11 pull the individual resolutions that are
12 over a million dollars. I don't think
13 that we can ask the question about whether
14 it was published or not, but I think it's
15 not relevant if we're going to pull the
16 items from the agenda. So I'm sure we'll
17 announce it as a consent agenda. So I
18 will turn then to (Inaudible).

19 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: So point of
20 clarification, because I think Pam will
21 need to recuse.

22 MS. KOBRINSKI: Right. So you can
23 vote --

24 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Do you want me
25 to do as Vice Chair then?

1 MS. KOBRINSKI: There's still 2024-20
2 and 2024-21 that could be voted on a
3 consent agenda, and There are no recusals
4 on those.

5 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: We'll go
6 through it, why don't you go through the
7 first --

8 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: The first two,
9 correct, because Pam asked to recuse. So
10 I wasn't expecting this, so bear with me.
11 I wasn't prepared.

12 So as Vice Chair of the program, I'll
13 present the first two resolutions, because
14 Pam has to recuse.

15 MS. KOBRINSKI: Do you want to take
16 the consent agenda first? Those two
17 items, Mr. Hardemon moved for it.

18 BOARD MEMBER HARDEMON: Yeah, I took
19 a motion -- I move 2024-20 and 2024-21 to
20 approve.

21 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you.
22 That's 2024-21 and 2024-20 together?

23 BOARD MEMBER HARDEMON: Correct.

24 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Let me read the
25 two resolutions then that are being voted

1 on as a consent resolution together.

2 We have 2024-20, which is
3 authorization to negotiate and execute a
4 contract with Redlands Christian Migrant
5 Association, RCMA, for a local match
6 funding to drawdown federal state funds to
7 subsidize early child care, in a total
8 amount not to exceed \$102,000, for a term
9 of 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024,
10 and ending September 30, 2025.

11 And, in addition, we have Resolution
12 2024-21, authorization to negotiate and
13 execute a contract with the University of
14 Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center
15 for Autism and Related Disabilities, CARD,
16 or autism spectrum disorders diagnostic
17 evaluation services, in an amount not to
18 exceed \$264,000.00, for a term of
19 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and
20 ending September 30, 2025.

21 I think we had a motion already to
22 adopt those two. Do we have a second to
23 that motion?

24 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: Second, Richard
25 Dunn.

1 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you.

2 All those in favor?

3 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Any opposed?

5 The motions carry. And --

6 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: I'll do it, if
7 you want me to.

8 Alright, so we'll first start with
9 Resolution 2024-17, authorization to
10 negotiate and execute contracts with the
11 Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade,
12 Monroe, Miami-Dade County Community Action
13 and Human Services Department and the
14 United Way of Miami-Dade for local match
15 funding for the federal Early Head Start
16 Child Care Partnerships, EHS-CCP grant, in
17 a total amount not to exceed
18 \$2,270,000.00, for a term of 12 months
19 commencing October 1, 2024, and ending
20 September 30, 2025.

21 Do I have a motion?

22 BOARD MEMBER GIMENEZ: I'll move,
23 Gimenez.

24 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: And a second?

25 BOARD MEMBER ABRAHAM: I'll second,

1 Abraham.

2 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: And any
3 recusals?

4 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Recusal,
5 Hollingsworth. I work for the Early
6 Learning Coalition.

7 BOARD MEMBER FERRADAZ: Recusal,
8 Gilda Ferradaz. I serve on the ELC Board.

9 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any other
10 recusals? I'll open it up for discussion.
11 Any discussion? Questions?

12 BOARD MEMBER EXCEUS: I think for
13 discussion. So would this be merging the
14 gap that we spoke about earlier? I know
15 we spoke about one of the resolutions, and
16 you said that you would go back and talk
17 about that in the presentation about the
18 five percent and how it would be increased
19 by the resolutions.

20 MS. SPECTOR: This resolution is
21 supporting Early Head Start Child Care
22 Partnership, drawing down the federal
23 funds. So these are the families that are
24 below -- actually a 100, 120 percent of
25 the federal poverty, but they may or may

1 not be working, so this is getting at some
2 of what Dr. Abraham was asking. This is
3 getting at some of the families that are
4 in that income bracket, but don't qualify
5 for school readiness, but they're not
6 working or they're not in school.

7 MR. HAJ: Just indirectly, the money
8 that we're using here, it does answer what
9 Dr. Abraham brought up. Also that we're
10 bringing down \$28,000,000.00 for federal
11 and state money for 2. -- or 3.6 overall,
12 brings out \$28 million federal, state for
13 additional slots in Miami-Dade County.

14 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Thank you for
15 that. Just to add to, I guess one thing
16 just to throw out there to staff, what I
17 was kind of thinking is, we're getting
18 these funds to increase slots, even for
19 those in poverty, but how do we engage
20 them more, 'cause they're not -- they're
21 not, right -- we're creating the spots,
22 but then it sounds like a lot of them are
23 not getting the services that they are
24 eligible for. So that's just something I
25 think as a board and staff, we can think

1 about how to increase participation and
2 engagement, right? Is that your question?

3 BOARD MEMBER EXCEUS: Yes, 'cause I
4 know we spoke about there being no waiting
5 list. So I was just imagining, how would
6 that help the families who need the help
7 that are unaware of applying that they are
8 eligible?

9 MS. SPECTOR: Well, okay, there is a
10 waiting list for Early Head Start.

11 BOARD MEMBER EXCEUS: So that would
12 be under this one?

13 MS. SPECTOR: This one, yes, there is
14 a very big waiting list. Where there's
15 not a waiting list are those families that
16 are working for -- that are making too
17 much to qualify for the federal child care
18 subsidy. We have a waiting list on our
19 Families Forward, which is the next step.
20 And then these families that are not
21 working that would qualify are also on
22 waiting list. So, advocacy, I know, you
23 know, as grants come out, as the Federal
24 Government releases grants, I know that
25 all of our partners are actively seeking

1 the opportunity to serve more children.

2 And to, Dan, your point, I think,
3 yes, I guess our partners at the Early
4 Learning Coalition are going to -- I think
5 they already are constantly reaching out
6 to try to get families to apply for School
7 Readiness to get everyone, because they're
8 giving money back. If they don't serve
9 the children, they have to give the money
10 back, so I know they're actively
11 recruiting families.

12 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Thank you.

13 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: If I could say
14 it, like my mother used to say it, she
15 used to say, "Ricky, we're too poor to be
16 rich and too rich to be poor." Nobody
17 know about that.

18 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Anyone want to
19 follow that? Any other questions?
20 Comments?

21 Okay, with that, all in favor?

22 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

23 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any opposed?

24 Resolution passes.

25 Moving onto 2024-18, authorization to

1 negotiate and execute a contract with the
2 Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/
3 Monroe ELC for local match funding for the
4 State of Florida School Readiness program
5 match grant in a total amount not to
6 exceed \$1,230,000.00 for a term of
7 12 months commencing October 1, 2024, and
8 ending September 30, 2025.

9 Do I have a motion?

10 BOARD MEMBER DUNN: So moved, Richard
11 Dunn.

12 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: A second?

13 BOARD MEMBER GERSTEIN: (Inaudible).

14 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any recusals?

15 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Recuse,
16 Hollingsworth. I work for the Early
17 Learning Coalition.

18 BOARD MEMBER FERRADAZ: I serve on
19 the Board of the Early Learning Coalition.

20 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any discussion?
21 Questions?

22 Hearing none, all those in favor?

23 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

24 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Any opposed?
25 Resolution passes, and I'll turn it over

1 to Pam.

2 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you,
3 Dan.

4 Resolution 2024-19, authorization to
5 negotiate and execute contract renewals
6 with six providers, identified herein, for
7 early childhood community research
8 demonstration projects within high need
9 communities in a total amount not to
10 exceed \$1,939,358.00, for a term of
11 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and
12 ending September 30, 2025, with one
13 remaining contract renewal.

14 May I have a motion, please?

15 BOARD MEMBER EXCEUS: Aye,
16 Jacqueline.

17 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.
18 And a second?

19 BOARD MEMBER SALVER: Second, Salver.

20 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
21 any recusals?

22 BOARD MEMBER BAGNER: Bagner,
23 employed by FIU and they're one of the
24 research partners on one of these
25 projects.

1 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

2 Other recusals?

3 Hearing no further recusals, the
4 floor is open for discussion, feedback
5 from the Directors.

6 Hearing no comments, all those in
7 favor?

8 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

9 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
10 any opposed? Resolution carries.

11 Resolution 2024-22, authorization to
12 negotiate and execute a contract renewal
13 with -- the screen is jumping around on
14 me. Thank you. I actually have it right
15 here I think. We're on 2022, correct?

16 Resolution 2024-22, authorization to
17 negotiate and execute a contract renewal
18 with the University of Miami Miller School
19 of Medicine U.M., in an amount not to
20 exceed \$1,500,000.00, for a comprehensive
21 early intervention -- for comprehensive
22 early intervention services for children
23 with mild developmental delays, who do not
24 meet eligibility requirements for the
25 Individuals with Disabilities Education

1 Act, IDEA, parts B or C, for a term of
2 12 months, commencing October 1, 2024, and
3 ending September 30, 2025.

4 May I have a motion, please?

5 Board MEMBER GIMENEZ: So moved,
6 Gimenez.

7 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.
8 And a second?

9 BOARD MEMBER PRESCOTT: Second.

10 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

11 Are there any recusals? Hearing no
12 recusals, the floor is open for
13 discussion, feedback, from the Directors.

14 Hearing none, all those in favor?

15 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

16 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
17 any opposed? Resolution carries.

18 Resolution 2024-23, authorization to
19 waive the formal competitive procurement
20 process and to amend Resolution 2023-38,
21 in the current contract with the Blossom
22 Group Florida, LLC, for youth development
23 services, starting from January 23, 2024,
24 to the end of the contract term,
25 August 14, 2024, in order to add a

1 subcontractor, Los Pinos Nuevos Christian
2 Corp, and to provide youth development
3 services to 30 elementary school students
4 rather than high school students.

5 May I have a motion, please?

6 BOARD MEMBER GERSTEIN: So moved.

7 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.
8 And a second.

9 BOARD MEMBER ABRAHAM: Second,
10 Abraham.

11 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Thank you.

12 Are there any recusals? With no
13 recusals, the floor is open for
14 discussion, feedback from the Directors.

15 With no comment, all those in favor?

16 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

17 VICE-CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are there
18 any opposed? Resolution carries.

19 And, Mr. Chair, that concludes it.

20 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you, Pam.

21 I'll turn it over to Jim for your
22 report.

23 MR. HAJ: Mr. Chair, thank you.

24 Quarterly reports on page 23, and you
25 also have the monthly media highlights the

1 great work of communications team, pages
2 24 through 30.

3 Board retreat will be next month,
4 February 22nd, Thursday, from 8:30 to
5 12:30.

6 And our Champions, as Ken mentioned,
7 we have some great honorees this year.
8 Our Champions for Children event will be
9 Thursday, April 11th at the Doubletree, at
10 the Hilton in Miami Airport.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRPERSON HOFFMAN: Thank you.

13 One last comment. As we talked about
14 in prior meetings, board retreats are
15 really important. A lot of the
16 initiatives that we're talking about today
17 came out of a prior Board retreat. So
18 please do make an effort to attend. It's
19 February 22nd, 8:30 a.m. It will
20 substitute for a Board meeting. I don't
21 think we have other agenda items at this
22 point, but please make every effort to
23 attend. Thank you. Meeting is adjourned.

24 (Thereupon, at 5:37 p.m., the meeting
25 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 audio recorded meeting of The Children's Trust, held before the Board of Directors meeting, on the 22nd day of January 2024; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 through 88, is a true TRANSCRIPTION of the videotaped meeting, to the best of my ability.

DATED this 02/06/2024 in the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Lorena Ramos

LORENA RAMOS, COURT REPORTER
Registered Professional Reporter

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