

**CMB/MBCC Health Care Task Force Meeting**  
**Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce**  
**Halegua Family Building**  
**Third Floor Boardroom**  
**October 24, 2013 9:30 AM**

**Minutes**

Acting Chair: Karen Rivo

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**Attendance:**

Karen Rivo, Acting Chair, Health Task Force  
Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld, City of Miami Beach  
Lori Nieder, North Beach Elementary PTA  
Tiva Leser, President, North Beach Elementary PTA  
Vanessa M. Layne, Recording Secretary, City of Miami Beach  
Wendy Unger, Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Jerry Libbin, President/CEO, Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce  
Bevone Ritchie, The Children's Trust  
Carol Pierre, Borinquen Health Center  
Jerold Blumstein, Miami-Dade County Public Schools  
Almira Thomas-Gayle, Miami-Dade County Health Department  
Rosa Neely, President, Treasure Island Elementary PTA  
Inaudible Attendee also did not sign in, Kiwanis Club of Miami Beach  
Marjorie York, Fienberg-Fisher EESAC, RKBBHK8  
Tamar Oppenheimer, RKBBHK8 (Arrived Late)

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:42 am
- II. Introductions of Attendees
- III. Review of Task Force Mission
  - A. Karen Rivo reviewed the CMB/MBCC Health Care Task Force Timeline.
  - B. Bevone Ritchie explained that the most of the funds committed by the Children's Trust are in-kind, along with one-time funding through the contract with Borinquen Health Center for last year.
  - C. Jerry Libbin emphasized the roles everyone must play to affirm continued success. Parental involvement is essential. He informed the Task Force that the Commission approved a ballot question he proposed regarding the Citizen's Bill of Rights, including an objective to improve the quality and quantity of public educational facilities. It is a policy statement that says, "Government should care and work cooperatively with the school board and any other government for the best interest of our public schools."
  - D. Task Force members asked if they could receive a letter expressing the importance of supporting this ballot initiative. Karen Rivo recommended the members to contact the individual in charge of the PTA feeder pattern to get the message distributed to all the PTAs, because people are already voting.
- IV. Status Report of New Health Suites
  - A. Health Clinics – Bevone Ritchie of the Children's Trust presented a status report on the health clinics. Ms. Ritchie provided information regarding the HealthConnect in Our Schools (HCiOS) and the development of the Miami Beach Nurse Initiative:
    - Current Program: Ratios adjusted to account for school size and need.
    - HCiOS – Miami Beach Nurse Initiative Goal: Bring school health services to all Miami Beach schools, including the three (3) schools that lacked health suites (North Beach Elementary, Ruth K. Broad K-8, and Treasure Island Elementary).

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- Key Factors: Ability to start and the additional match provided by that Borinquen Health Center.
- Future: Six month HealthConnect Strategic Plan
- Will result in enhanced basic school health services staffed by Registered Nurse-only model.
- Social workers will remain part of the initiative, as they are provided by the public school system.
- Consequences: The Children's Trust invests approximately \$14 million annually within the program, however no additional funds have been identified.
- The Children's Trust is currently examining funding opportunities through Medicaid Match Program.
- The Children's Trust will conduct a year of board strategic planning and will then put out funding.
- Future planning: In addition to the nurse-only model, the Children's Trust will develop school-based primary health centers that will be housed at select schools. Some potential locations and high-need sites have been identified within the school system.
- Current programming will be maintained next year, while funding for the following year will be allocated from the middle to the end of the year. Supervision and full-time aide provided to Miami Beach schools will be maintained.
- The total annual operating cost for the three (3) health suites is approximately \$193,000.
- Question: How to pursue dollars in order to fully fund the current scope for another year, and what type of support should Task Force seek given that the model is changing for future years.
- The Children's Trust affirmed their support would continue at least for the next year.
- Dr. Leslie Rosenfeld clarified that the amount contributed by North Bay Village was less than \$13,000, as the cost to that municipality is shared by the City of Miami Beach.
- The Task Force discussed the City's formal mechanism to communicate with neighboring municipalities.
- **ACTION:** Jerry Libbin stated that he would send a report to the municipalities, providing an update on the status of the program. Additionally, he expressed that it is critically important for elected officials to hear from their constituents (e.g. parents, PTA) throughout the year.

**MOTION:** Tiva Leser made a motion to recommend the QEC Committee to have a continuing discussion about financing for FY2014/15. However, this first motion did not receive a second at this time.

- Bevone Ritchie explained that school health services is mainly the responsibility of the Health Department. Even with the \$14 million investment on part of the Children's Trust, the model will not be able to provide services in every school. Consequently, they have carried out selective targeting.
- Karen Rivo stated that the initial goal was to place nurses in every school, but economic conditions changed. This will be a shared program, in which the Children's Trust is evaluating pilot programs.

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**MOTION:** Tiva Leser amended her first motion to request the QEC Committee to continue to look for funding opportunities to sustain current levels of funding and service levels for the nurse initiative in 2014-2015, which was seconded by Lori Nieder. Motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION:** The Task Force requested to receive information from the Children's Trust regarding the current dollar amount from the Miami Beach CRA and details as to how those funds are currently expended.

**ACTION:** Jerry Libbin informed the Task Force that MBCC is submitting the project to a National Chamber Executives Forum with the aim to bring recognition to it. Karen Rivo asked Mr. Libbin to share information regarding the status of that submission with the committee.

**MOTION:** Tamar Oppenheimer motioned to recommend municipalities to identify more grants for the nurse initiative, and that this should be communicated with the City Commissions of Surfside, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Indian Creek, and Treasure Island. However, this first motion did not receive a second..

- Bevone Ritchie discussed the strategic plan and reviewed the "Utilization Summary" handout.
- The Children's Trust rates the performance of their provider organizations based upon certain criteria.
- The purpose of this partnership is to educate and treat children so they are both physically and emotionally ready to learn.
- Carol Pierre, Borinquen Health Center, provided a status report of the new health suites, and reviewed the handout "HCiOS – Miami Beach Nurse Initiative Success Stories."
- Screenings began the week of October 15, which includes BMI and vision screening only.
- There is an upcoming annual Children's Trust audit scheduled for Borinquen Health Center on November 6th and 7th of the eight (8) schools, including three (3) of the Miami Beach schools.
- The Children's Trust will also conduct site visits of the health suites during this audit.

**MOTION:** Tamar Oppenheimer amended the language of her first motion to request that the Health Care Task Force encourage the MBCC Chamber Board to continue to seek funding that will support the current level of healthcare within all schools of the feeder pattern, seconded by Lori Nieder. Motion was approved unanimously.

- Carol Pierre briefly discussed the challenges faced by the health suites in all three (3) schools. She suggested that, if possible, they should consider hiring LPNs for the next school year instead of medical assistants, due to a lack of critical thinking skills.
- The Children's Trust is considering a proposal to supplement funding to upgrade the current medical assistant position to a LPN at Treasure Island. Borinquen Health Center brought this proposal forward, on behalf of Treasure Island, due to high-need at that site.

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- The Task Force discussed the cost differential of hiring full-time LPNs versus medical assistants for the health suites, which was indicated to be approximately \$15,000 more per each new position.

V. Financial Overview

VI. Next Steps

Karen Rivo, Acting Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.