



**Program Services Committee  
Meeting Transcript**

**January 07, 2025**

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The Children's Trust  
Tuesday, January 6, 2026  
3250 S.W. 3rd Avenue (Coral Way)  
United Way - Ryder Room  
8:30 a.m. - 8:47 a.m.

Program Services Committee Meeting

Committee Members  
(Present)

Pamela Hollingsworth, Chair  
Dr. Daniel Bagner, Vice Chair  
Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi  
Gilda Ferradaz  
Lourdes Diaz  
Lourdes P. Gimenez

President & CEO

James R. Haj,  
Imran Ali (Covering)

County Attorney's Office

Leigh Kobrinski  
Assistant County Attorney

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- Amanda Gorski
- Bevone Ritchie
- Bryan Pomares
- Danielle Barreras
- Elizabeth Garland Lauren
- Imran Ali
- Jacques Bentolila
- Jennifer Ulysse
- Jorge Ibarra
- Joseph Chillemi
- Juana Leon
- Lisanne Gage
- Lisete Yero
- Natalia Zea
- Nancy Smith
- Patricia Leal
- Rachel Spector
- Tara Lunsford
- Victoria Gandul
- Wendy Duncombe
- William Kirtland
- Yuliet Alfonso

1 (Thereupon, the following  
2 proceedings were had:)

3 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Good  
4 morning, Everyone.

5 Happy 2026. Welcome. Good to see  
6 everyone. I think everybody had a  
7 wonderful mini break or maxi break,  
8 depending on how you look at it and  
9 consider it.

10 Do we have any public comments?

11 MS. LEON: We don't have any public  
12 comments, Madam Chair.

13 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
14 Thank you so much.

15 Committee Members, our first order  
16 of business today, aside from me  
17 searching for my pen, is the approval of  
18 the minutes. Our last meeting was  
19 October 7th, 2025. And by now you would  
20 have had an opportunity to review the  
21 minutes in your packets.

22 May I have a motion to approve the  
23 minutes as laid forth in your Committee  
24 packet?

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: So moved,

1 Bagner.

2 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: And  
3 a second?

4 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Second,  
5 Gimenez.

6 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
7 Thank you.

8 All those in favor?

9 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:  
10 Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: The  
12 minutes are approved.

13 We start this morning with  
14 resolutions. And I'm going to punt to  
15 our Venerable Vice Chair, Dr. Bagner, to  
16 get us going.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Thank  
18 you, Madam Chair.

19 So I'm going to get us started with  
20 Resolution 2026-A.

21 "Authorization to award a total  
22 amount not to exceed \$47,497,000 for the  
23 delivery of integrated childcare quality  
24 improvement services described below, and  
25 to waive the formal competitive

1 procurement process (two-thirds vote).

2 The total amount includes  
3 \$29,007,000 to negotiate and execute  
4 through multiple contracts with  
5 providers, identified herein, and  
6 \$18,497,000 for the Children's Trust to  
7 encumber in purchase orders for educator  
8 scholarship payments, salary supplement  
9 payments, to early learning educators and  
10 high quality tiered payment differentials  
11 to providers.

12 In addition, authorization for the  
13 President and CEO to move funds between  
14 the different QIS system components,  
15 identified within this resolution, for a  
16 term of 12 months commencing October 1,  
17 2026, and ending September 30, 2027."

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: So  
19 moved, Gimenez.

20 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Thank  
21 you.

22 And a second?

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: Second,  
24 Adebisi.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Recusals?

1 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:

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

4 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ: Recuse,  
5 Gilda Ferradaz. I serve on the Bord of  
6 the Early Learning Coalition.

7 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: So  
8 this resolution includes each of the  
9 integrated components of the Thrive by 5  
10 Quality Improvement System, or QIS,  
11 which, I'm sure, most of you are familiar  
12 with.

13 It also allows the CEO to transfer  
14 funds between the different funded  
15 components of the initiatives, and this  
16 Thrive by 5 initiative that we, as the  
17 Trust do, continues to gain national  
18 recognition through this innovative  
19 strategies and components. And the team  
20 actually presented at two national  
21 conferences during the past year to  
22 highlight our unique investment strategy.

23 And I also noted in the packet that  
24 the, I think, with the A\$CEND salary  
25 support, there was zero turnover. Am I

1 correct in that, Rachel? Yes?

2 Zero turnover in our --

3 MS. SPECTOR: Very, very low.

4 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Very low.

5 Okay. So a very low turnover compared to  
6 15 percent. And we know that turnover is  
7 a huge issue in early childcare. So that  
8 was pretty remarkable and notable.

9 Any comments, questions from the  
10 Committee?

11 Hearing none, all those in favor?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

13 Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Any  
15 opposed?

16 Motion carries unanimously.

17 And moving along to resolution --

18 hold on one second, 2026-B, it's the  
19 "Authorization to negotiate and execute

20 contracts with the Early Learning

21 Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe,

22 Miami-Dade County Community Services

23 Department, and United Way Miami for

24 local match funding for the federal Early

25 Head Start-Child Care Partnership

1 (EHS-CCP) grant, in a total amount not to  
2 exceed \$2,670,000.00, for a term of 12  
3 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and  
4 ending September 30, 2027."

5 Do I hear a motion?

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: So  
7 moved, Adebisi.

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Thank  
9 you.

10 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Second,  
11 Gimenez.

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Thank  
13 you.

14 Any recusals.

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

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:  
19 Recusal, Ferradaz. I serve on the Board  
20 of the Early Learning Coalition.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Great.

22 So this match resolution provides  
23 local match for early Head Start child  
24 care partnership program funded through  
25 the ELC, United Way, and Miami-Dade

1 County. The Trust investment allows us  
2 to draw over \$43 million in federal  
3 funds, and all slots in these programs  
4 are being fully utilized, and many  
5 programs have a wait list.

6 In addition to daily high quality  
7 childcare, this initiative provides  
8 wraparound services to families as well  
9 as significant family involvement  
10 activities.

11 Any questions, comments from the  
12 Committee?

13 Okay, hearing none, all those in  
14 favor?

15 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:  
16 Aye.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Any  
18 opposed?

19 And motion carries unanimously.  
20 Resolution 2026-C.

21 "Authorization to negotiate and  
22 execute a contract with the Early  
23 Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe  
24 (ELC) for local match funding for the  
25 State of Florida School Readiness Program

1 Match grant, in a total amount not to  
2 exceed \$1,230,000.00, for a term of 12  
3 months, commencing October 1, 2026, and  
4 ending September 30, 2027."

5 Do I hear a motion?

6 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: So  
7 moved, Gimenez.

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: And a  
9 second? Do I hear a second?

10 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: Second,  
11 Adebisi.

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Thank  
13 you.

14 Recusals?

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

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ:  
19 Recusal, Ferradaz. I serve on the Board  
20 of the Early Learning Coalition.

21 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Great.

22 This resolution provides local  
23 match funding for the State of Florida  
24 School Readiness Program Match Grant,  
25 which is a state operated federal subsidy

1 program. We draw down a one-to-one match  
2 for this contract, and all funds are  
3 utilized for childcare slots for working  
4 families who are income eligible. I  
5 believe it is, like, 70 percent of the  
6 median income; is that correct?

7 MS. SPECTOR: Fifty-five percent.

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER:

9 Fifty-five percent of the median income.  
10 And all slots are currently fully  
11 utilized in this program.

12 Questions, comments from the  
13 Committee?

14 Okay, hearing none, all those in  
15 favor?

16 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

17 Aye.

18 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Any  
19 opposed?

20 Motion carries unanimously.

21 And I'll punt it back to our Madam  
22 Chair.

23 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:

24 Thank you Mr. Vice Chair.

25 Resolution 2026-D.

1 "Authorization to negotiate and  
2 execute a contract with Redlands  
3 Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) for  
4 local match funding to draw down federal  
5 and state child care subsidy funds, in a  
6 total amount not to exceed \$102,000.00,  
7 for a term of 12 months, commencing  
8 October 1, 2026, and ending September 30,  
9 2027."

10 May I have a motion, please.

11 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: So  
12 moved, Gimenez.

13 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
14 Thank you. And a second?

15 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ: Second,  
16 Ferradaz.

17 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
18 Thank you.

19 Are there any recusals?

20 With no recusals, we move into  
21 discussion. The floor is open for  
22 comments, feedback from the Committee.

23 With no discussion, all those in  
24 favor say, aye.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

1 Aye.

2 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are  
3 there any opposed?

4 The resolution carries.

5 Resolution 2026-E.

6 "Authorization to negotiate and  
7 execute a contract with the University of  
8 Miami-Nova Southeastern University  
9 (UM-NSU) Center for Autism and Related  
10 Disabilities (CARD) to provide  
11 comprehensive diagnostic evaluations for  
12 preschool-age children, in a total amount  
13 not to exceed \$264,000.00, for a term of  
14 12 months, commencing October 1, 2026,  
15 and ending September 30, 2027."

16 May I have a motion, please.

17 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ: So  
18 moved, Ferradaz.

19 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Second,  
20 Bagner.

21 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
22 Thank you.

23 Are there any recusals?

24 With no recusals, the floor is open  
25 for discussion, comments from the

1 Committee.

2 Hearing none, all those in favor?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:

4 Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are  
6 there any opposed?

7 The resolution carries.

8 Resolution 2026-F.

9 "Authorization to negotiate and  
10 execute a contract with the University of  
11 Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM) in  
12 an amount not to exceed \$1,590,000.00 for  
13 comprehensive early intervention services  
14 for children with mild developmental  
15 delays who do not meet the eligibility  
16 requirements for the Individuals with  
17 Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Parts B  
18 or Parts C, for a term of 12 months,  
19 commencing October 1, 2026, and ending  
20 September 30, 2027."

21 May I have a motion, please?

22 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: So moved,  
23 Bagner.

24 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:

25 Thank you.

1 And a second?

2 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Second,  
3 Gimenez.

4 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
5 Thank you.

6 Are there any recusals?

7 Then moving to discussion.

8 Feedback from the Committee?

9 Hearing none, all those in favor?

10 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:  
11 Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are  
13 there any opposed?

14 The resolution carries.

15 Resolution 2026-G.

16 "Authorization to negotiate and  
17 execute contract renewals with eight  
18 providers, identified herein, to provide  
19 635 slots for therapeutic health and  
20 early intervention summer camp services  
21 for children aged birth to five years, in  
22 a total amount not to exceed  
23 \$2,517,499.00, each for a term of five  
24 months, commencing April 1, 2026, and  
25 ending August 31, 2026, subject to annual

1 funding and appropriations."

2 May I have a motion please?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER FERRADAZ: So  
4 moved, Ferradaz.

5 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
6 Thank you.

7 And a second?

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: Second,  
9 Adebisi.

10 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are  
11 there any recusals?

12 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Recusal,  
13 Bagner. I'm employed by FIU, which is  
14 one of the funders.

15 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
16 Thank you. Anymore recusals?

17 Moving to discussion.

18 With no discussion, all those in  
19 favor?

20 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:  
21 Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH: Are  
23 there any opposed?

24 This resolution carries.

25 And we will punt to Ms. Gimenez.

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ:

2 Resolution 2026-H.

3 "Authorization to negotiate and  
4 execute contract renewals with 19  
5 providers identified herein to deliver  
6 high quality -- what happened? You  
7 can't hear me? Oh, teacher's voice.

8 Resolution 2026-H.

9 "Authorization to negotiate and  
10 execute contract renewals with 19  
11 providers, identified herein, to deliver  
12 high-quality summer programming for 2,237  
13 elementary, middle, and high school-aged  
14 children and youth, in a total amount not  
15 to exceed \$4,736,000.00.

16 The contract term will be five  
17 months, commencing April 1, 2026, and  
18 ending August 31, 2026, with two  
19 remaining annual renewals, subject to  
20 annual funding appropriations."

21 May I have a motion, please? May I  
22 have a motion?

23 COMMITTEE MEMBER ADEBISI: So  
24 moved, Adebisi.

25 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Second?

1 COMMITTEE MEMBER DIAZ: Second,  
2 Diaz.

3 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Are  
4 there any recusals?

5 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
6 Recuse, Hollingsworth. My daughter is  
7 employed by the Adrienne Arsht Center.

8 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Any  
9 other recusals?

10 COMMITTEE MEMBER BAGNER: Recusal,  
11 Bagner. Employed by FIU, which is also  
12 funded on this resolution.

13 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Noted.  
14 The floor is open for discussion.  
15 Any discussion?

16 Hearing none, all in favor?

17 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COLLECTIVELY:  
18 Aye.

19 COMMITTEE MEMBER GIMENEZ: Any  
20 opposed?

21 The resol passes unanimously.

22 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
23 Thank you, Lourdes.

24 And in Jim's absence, Imran, we've  
25 come to you for the CEO report.

1 MR. ALI: Thank you.

2 Jim sends his apologies for not  
3 being here this morning. He's not too  
4 well, but he sends his best wishes for  
5 a Happy New Year, and wishes everyone the  
6 best.

7 Just wanted to say happy birthday  
8 to Pam also. Today is her birthday. So  
9 happy birthday.

10 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. ALI: Just a reminder about the  
13 Board retreat, February 19th at 8:30 a.m.  
14 I'll let you know the place which we're  
15 going to hold it as soon as we determine  
16 that.

17 And Champions for Children, April  
18 the 16th. Just make sure these are on  
19 your calendar. It should be, but just  
20 in case.

21 That's it.

22 COMMITTEE CHAIR HOLLINGSWORTH:  
23 Okay. Thank you Imran.

24 And with that, Ladies and  
25 Gentlemen, we are adjourned.

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Have a great day.  
(Thereupon, the meeting was  
concluded at 8:47 a.m.)

