



Special Meeting of the Policy Committee

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Minutes

1. **Welcome:**

At 6:35 pm, the president of the Policy Committee, Jose Carlos Gómez, began the meeting by welcoming those present. A *quorum* was established with 5 members.

2. **Public Comment Period:**

There were no comments.

3. **a) Agenda:**

Mr. Jose Carlos Gómez read the agenda. Added an announcement under #6. With this change, the agenda was unanimously approved by Ms. Brianda Rodríguez giving the motion and being seconded by Ms. Carolina Sierra Blanco.

4. **Supplemental Funding Application 2023 - 2024 for Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Quality Improvement**

Angélica C. Rentería, Director, explained that the opportunity to submit an application for the cost of living adjustment (COLA) was already anticipated, but it is the first time in the last four years that the cost of living percentage is significant. COLA funds and quality funds combined represent 9.33% of the base budget. This amount is not enough to cover administrative expenses. For example, classified staff received a 14.5% raise over a period of two consecutive years.

The Director went over the different categories where the supplemental funds will be applied. She also explained that one of her goals is to increase provider reimbursements for preschoolers since reimbursements for infants increased significantly a few years ago. In addition, preschool children require a lot of attention to support their school readiness. The following increases in provider reimbursements were proposed:

Preschoolers from \$40 to \$44

Small children from \$54 to \$56

Children under one year of age from \$68 to \$70

There was extensive discussion on transitions from breast to bottle.

Ms. Brianda Rodríguez gave the motion to approve the application of supplemental funds, it was seconded by Ms. María Corrales and unanimously approved.

5. **Communications from the Office of Head Start**

The following communication from the Office of Head Start was reviewed:

- The Role of Head Start Programs in Addressing Lead in Water [ACF-IM-HS-23-01].

6. **Questions/Other**

A flyer was shared about an event titled “Launch into Summer” for families with students in elementary school. It will be held on Saturday, May 13 at EA Hall from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm.

7. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting date will be Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the program conference room and via videoconference.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm with Ms. Carolina Sierra Blanco giving the motion, being seconded by Ms. Brianda Rodríguez and unanimously approved .