



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
Altagracia Dimanche: Appeal Hearing Minutes
March 9, 2021
3:00 pm

Purpose: Review the Coalition’s decision to terminate the School Readiness childcare subsidy for Altagracia Dimanche’s children Christopher, Abigail and Elijah and fulfilling the client’s right to appeal.

Executive Committee Members Present:

- Joe Paterno, (Chair)** *Executive Director, CareerSource Southwest Florida*
- Michele King,** *Director Child Advocacy Program, Golisano Children’s Hospital of SWFL*
- Brooke Delmotte,** *Provider Liaison/Operations Manager, Early Steps, SWFL Health Planning Council (via phone)*

Appellant (s) Present: Altagracia Dimanche.

Coalition Staff Present: Susan Block, CEO; Gilda Duran, Director, Risk Management, **Djoulie Deronvil** Program Services Specialist (Translator) and **Ginger McHale,** *Executive Coordinator*

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson, Joe Paterno, led introductions at 3:04 pm. 	
Review of Hearing Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson reviewed the appeal hearing procedure, referring to the agenda provided to all participants. • Ms. McHale, Notary Republic, administered the swearing in. • Djoulie Deronvil translated (Haitian Creole) for Altagracia Dimanche. 	

<p>Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilda Duran, Director, Risk Management, ELC, reviewed the background of the Coalition’s decision to terminate the School Readiness (SR) based on the falsified household size presented to the ELC for determination of eligibility. Immigration status has no impact on SR eligibility. • Ms. Block reiterated that Ms. Dimanche attested to not being married when in fact, she is and her husband lives with her. Therefore, his income should have been calculated to determine eligibility to receive SR services. • The Committee asked clarifying questions. 	
<p>Presentation of Appeal by Altagracia Dimanche</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altagracia Dimanche presented her appeal. Djoulie Deronvil translated during the presentation. The key points were: • At the time she enrolled in the School Readiness Program, she did not receive translation assistance. Her friend helped her complete the paperwork. • The ELC did not question Ms. Dimanche about her name change (following her marriage) at the time her eligibility was redetermined. • She gets absolutely no help or financial assistance from her husband. • The Committee asked clarifying questions. 	
<p>Conclusion of Appeal Hearing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee considered the documentation and presentations by both the ELC and Altagracia Dimanche. • They concluded that Ms. Dimanche had falsified her application to receive SR services. 	

<p>Committee Decision</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee decided to support the ELC decision as is to terminate childcare services with a 10-day notice to the childcare provider. • The Committee instituted this decision based on the following rationale The Committee specifically stated these reasons in support of its decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Dimanche did not disclose that she was married and that her husband lived at the same address. 2. Ms. Dimanche signed the SR enrollment papers to certify that the information she provided to receive childcare benefits as “true and complete”. 3. Ms. Dimanche falsified her application. 	<p>Motion to support the ELC decision Brooke Delmotte. Second by Michele King. Motion Approved</p>
<p>Preparation of Appeals Hearing Committee Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee prepared a final draft of the minutes of the appeals hearing and signed, following the motion to accept the minutes, as drafted. 	<p>Motion to accept the minutes by Michele King. Second by Brooke Delmotte. Motion Approved.</p> <p>The Committee charged Ms. Block with typing of the minutes, as written. Ms. Block will post the approved minutes to the Coalition’s website.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 3:59 pm. 	<p>Mr. Paterno will report on the outcome of the Appeals Hearing Committee at the 3/17/21 Board Meeting.</p>