



Appeals Hearing Committee Minutes

School Readiness Decision

Lisy A. Alegria Milanes

11/09/2023 at 10:00 AM

In person and Virtual Via Teams

Attendance:

Teams: Tara Sherron-Board Member, Sharon Love Board Member, Shay Smith Board Member, Michele King Board Member

In person: Dr. Beth McBride, Dr. Melanie Stefanowicz, Gilda Duran, Wynetta Upshaw, Sesia Dominques, Monica Gaddy.

Appellant Present: Lisy A. Alegria Milanes

Translator: Betina Alvarez (friend of the appellant)

Gilda Duran also provided translation services for the appellant.

Introduction: Dr. McBride allowed each board and staff persons to identify themselves both on Teams and in person by stating first, last and title.

Review of Hearing Procedures: Dr. McBride reviewed hearing procedures 220.6 P1 Appeals and hearing procedures.

Swearing in of witness

Lisy A. Alegria Milanes conducted by Monica Gaddy Florida Notary Public #GG943519
Commission Expires on Jan 01, 2024.

Presentation by Early Learning Coalition (ELC) Chief Administrative Officer: Wynetta Upshaw shared the Coalition's investigation results. Translation provided by both ELC staff Gilda Duran, and Benita Alvarez. The Coalition's case presented that the client did not meet the documentation requirements for household size, income, or employment as dictated by Florida Statute and State Board Rule.

Presentation of Appeal by Appellant, Ms. Alegria Milanes did not provide any supporting documentation for claim. She verbally indicated that the other parent Ricardo Valdes Mendez used her address when filling out immigration paperwork. He did not want to change his address during the process as it may have affected the timeline of the outcome.

Conclusion of Appeal Hearing: Hearing concluded at 10:51 a.m.

Committee Decision: The Coalition's Hearings and Appeals Committee made the unanimous decision to uphold the Early Learning Coalition's decision to terminate SR services in December of 2022 and to seek restitution of the funds in the amount of \$7,971.00 paid by the Coalition on the client's behalf. Additionally, the case will be referred to the Department of Financial Services' Public Fraud Division for further investigation as required by 7 CFR § 273.16.