



EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA GWENDOLYN NUNEZ (AKA, CHIKITUS) APPEAL HEARING MINUTES

January 25, 2016

3:30 pm

Purpose: To conduct a hearing on Gwendolyn Nunez' appeal of School Readiness termination.

Executive Committee Members Present: **Gerald Poppe**; **Board Chair**, *Chief Financial Officer, Waterman Broadcasting*;

Joseph Paterno, **Board Secretary**, *Executive Director, Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board*;

Dr. Denis Wright, **Chair, Nominations & By-Laws Committee**, *Charlotte Campus President, VPK of Economic and Community Development, Florida Southwestern State College*

Appellant Present (via phone): **Ms. Gwendolyn Nunez (aka, Chikitus)**

Staff Present: **Susan Block**, *CEO*; **Peter Escayg**, *Director, Risk Management*; **Barbara Peck**, *Director, Family Resources*

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action/Assignments
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Poppe asked all those present to introduce themselves. Ms. Nunez introduced herself, via phone 	
Review of Hearing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Poppe explained the appeal process. 	

Presentation by Early Learning Coalition Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Peter Escayg, discussed the application and redetermination process. Mr. Escayg presented a chronological history of Ms. Nunez’s School Readiness (SR) file. • Ms. Block clarified the Coalition’s state rules for child care subsidy require the client to notify the Coalition of changes within 10 days. Ms. Nunez did not report her marriage on April 11, 2015 nor did she report additional income receive from child support. The earliest available document verifies that child support was received as of July 6, 2015. It may have been received earlier however, records were unavailable to the Coalition to verify the actual start date of child support. • Ms. Block noted that Ms. Nunez did not dispute the original decision to terminate child care services. Request for an appeal hearing was received after the Coalition notified Ms. Nunez that she needed to repay funds owed to the Coalition. • Committee members asked a few clarifying questions of staff. 	
Presentation of Appeal by Ms. Nunez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nunez presented her information. • Committee members asked a few clarifying questions of Ms. Nunez. 	
Conclusion of Appeal Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All in attendance except the committee members were excused. • The committee members deliberated and came to a determination. 	<p>The committee drafted minutes for the appeal hearing and approved them. The original draft was signed by all three members of the committee.</p>

<p>Committee Decision</p> <p>One response is to be circled, for the record</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee agreed with the Coalition and upheld the termination of Ms. Nunez’s School Readiness services however the committee agreed to change repayment for child care to a lessor period of time. Ms. Nunez will be responsible only for child care from July 1 through August 18, 2015. This coincides with the receipt of unreported, additional income (child support). 	<p>The Committee Chair shared the decision with Ms. Block who will notify Ms. Nunez of their findings in writing.</p>
<p>Preparation of Appeals Hearing Committee Record (Minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee completed the draft of the hearing minutes to reflect the discussion. 	<p>The three committee members signed the draft of the minutes to formalize the record of their decision, approving these minutes.</p>