

MINUTES

ESE Advisory Panel Family Engagement Subcommittee Meeting 02.11.2025

Attendance

Vanessa Seron – Instructional support Specialist, MDCPS Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

- Committee Chairperson

Rachel Lafrance, Director of Community Outreach, FDLRS- South – Serving KIPP Charter, Mater Academy, Miami-Dade and Monroe

Danielle Leys – Outreach Coordinator - Parent to Parent Miami

Anseing Partridge – ESE Compliance Department, Miami Dade County Public Schools

Nancy Torres – Co-Director Parent Education Network (PEN)

Dr. Diane Adreon – UM CARD University of Miami

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at 11:33 am. Ms. Seron welcomed everyone to the ESE Advisory Panel Family Engagement subcommittee Meeting. All participants in attendance introduced themselves to the panel.

Vanessa Seron introduces the representatives from **University of Miami CARD** and the **Parent Education Network** who are invited to present the resources and services they provide for parents and families.

II. Parent and Family Engagement Organizations

1st presenter: Dr. Diane Adreon

Information is shared about UM CARD. Purpose to help families with children with Autism. Sensory impairment or Dual Sensory Impairment. A CARD specialist is assigned to each family for support. Referrals to practitioners. Home visits, school and community observations provided for people with autism. Training to families and professionals (school districts, private schools, therapy groups etc...). The spectrum is so broad, and a lot of information is out there. It makes it difficult for families to pinpoint the right support. Individualized parent coaching on helping parents address behavior challenges are offered. Available Mom and Dad support groups in person and virtual. Middle and High school teens social groups. Assist parents through the guardianship process, government benefits, Med waiver, vocational rehabilitation. Very flexible on how they engage with families: phone, zoom, email, travel. The staff has experience with working with all age groups.

Nancy Torres: shares a positive experience about UM CARD and Miami Dade County Public Schools working together.

(Group shares how the ESE department promotes family engagement and supports families in navigating the system)

2nd presenter: Nancy Torres

Presenter shares her experience with Parent to Parent of Miami and their shared mission. The presentation provides background on the Family Network on Disabilities. Birth through 26-year-olds can receive services. One on One assistance to parents and professionals on how to navigate the system. They are flexible in supporting individuals and meeting them where they are at. They also build the capacity of parents to become leaders and guides for other parents. They cover the entire state of Florida. The committee is encouraged to share this information with parents in need of support who may be moving out of county.

Contact Information: <https://fndusa.org>

Vanessa Seron shares the brochure we are working on with the team.

All participants provide feedback to improve the brochure to better support parents and families.

- Make the flyer a one pager
- Add QR Code ; Add MDCPS logo
- Add benefits for parents participating in the panel

III. Final Comments

The link to make edits to the flyer has been shared with all committee members for editing purposes. A final product should be ready to present at our final meeting for this academic year.

IV. Future Meeting Dates

April 8, 2025, at 11:30 am (2024-2025 final meeting)

V. Adjournment

Ms. Seron Thanks everyone for participating in the meeting.

End Time: 12:21 PM