



FIU Embrace-External Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes from January 19, 2017

FIU Embrace-External Advisory Council Members Present

Mary Partin, CEO, Dan Marino Foundation
Milton Vescovacci, Shareholder, GrayRobinson, P.A.
Yogi Hernandez Suarez, Vice President and Chief Medical Office, Care Delivery Organization of Humana

Telephonic

Cuong Do, Executive Vice President, Global Strategy Group at Samsung
Evelyn Alvarez, Southern Region Manager, Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)
Ora Prilleltensky, Clinical Assistant Professor (Retired), University of Miami

Also Present

Alberto Fernandez, Principal, SPED Outreach, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Andrew Bernal, Program Assistant, FIU Embrace
Brenda Lampon, Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
Diana Valle-Riestra, Director of Project Panther LIFE
Elizabeth Alvite, Administrative, FIU Embrace
Emily Gresham, Assistant Vice President, Office of Research and Economic Development, FIU
Ernie Martinez, Center for Independent Living South Florida
Henny Cristobol, Principal, Villa Lyan Academy
James "Jim" Mueller, President, James Mueller and Associates, LLC
Janet McDaniel, Adjunct Lecturer, FIU
Linda Tara Flynn, Senior Consultant, James Mueller and Associates, LLC
Maggie Marrero Neville, Transition Specialist, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Mariana Barbara, Student at FIU
Mavara Mirza-Agrawal, Medical Director, FIU Embrace
Nicole Attong, Director of Operations, FIU Embrace
Rosa Maria Barbara, Family Care Council

Telephonic

Michelle Palacio, Vice President of Governmental Relations, FIU

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by the chair Yogi Hernandez Suarez. Everyone was invited to introduce themselves and identify their affiliation.

Review & Acceptance of Minutes

The chair requested a motion to accept the minutes. Mary Partin put forth a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Milton Vescovacci seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, and the minutes were accepted.

FIU Embrace Strategic Plan Framework

James Mueller and Linda Flynn of Mueller and Associates, LLC provided an overview of the strategic plan and requested feedback in each area.

Vision

We envision a future in which neurodiverse individuals and their caregivers are seamlessly integrated into communities that embrace them – communities comprising an interwoven complement of services and educational opportunities supported by research and policy.

Within these environments, neurodiverse individuals live healthy, engaged lives, pursue their dreams, and maximize their potential across their lifespans.

Feedback included:

- Having the paragraphs in reverse order for a more powerful statement.
- Simplify language i.e. “neurodiverse”, emphasize on living normal and/or productive, fulfilling lifestyle versus dreams – fantasy, create a future.
- Shorter in length, research and policy: becomes problematic as long as it is innovative and solution-based, “applicable and/or impactful” research.
- Advocacy.
- Substitute dreams for aspirations.

Mission

FIU Embrace provides leadership and fosters collaboration to ensure that neurodiverse individuals and caregivers receive the services they need and are integrated into their communities

FIU Embrace will:

- *Support and foster a network of service providers in South Florida that offer a range of accessible services*
- *Provide comprehensive, integrated medical care while developing service delivery models that influence national policy*
- *Educate and build skill levels of neurodiverse individuals, caregivers, and providers*
- *Conduct evidence-based research that informs decision making*

Feedback on mission included:

- Embrace does not solely inform – provide advocacy, decision-making solution – active and not passive.
- Make shorter in length and more powerful.

Strategic Imperatives & Capabilities

Each strategic imperative was reviewed and feedback solicited.

- Dr. Gil suggested that imperative number two should be broad to include all of Embrace’s activities.
- Ms. Gresham indicated the patients should always be the center. Embrace is a human-centered design model and the language should reflect that.
- Most community members do not have a clear understanding of interdisciplinary research. Therefore, and substitute the word with applied research or emphasize solution-based research.
- Substitute the word cohesive for impactful.
- Substitute coalition for alliance.

Milestones and Measures

Mr. Mueller reviewed the milestones and measures and requested feedback. A request was made to substitute alliance for coalition and to emphasize educational and employment as a conjoined service.

Committees

A request was made to the council to initiate three committees medical, education and employment. Each committee will be chaired by a council member. However, the co-chair is open to non-council members. Ms. Attong indicated that the medical committee will be chaired by Luis Navas, education chaired by Mary Partin and employment chaired by Milton Vescovacci.

The chair requested a motion to approve both the committees listed and the slate. Cuong Do offered the motion and Evelyn Alvarez seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

The chair indicated that the evolution of the council has reached a point where by-laws and a co-chair are needed and asked council members for assistance in the development of By-Laws. Milton Vescovacci is working in concert with Nicole Attong and Diana Oliva (attorney for ORED) who have agreed to take the lead in developing the by-laws to be presented for approval at the next council meeting.

Ms. Attong indicated that FIU Embrace is participating in the 2017 Dan Marino Foundation WalkAbout Autism & Expo on January 21st. All funds raised at the walk will be returned to FIU Embrace. Everyone was invited to join the FIU Embrace team and make a contribution.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by the chair Yogi Hernandez Suarez.