



Board of Directors Meeting
December 1, 2008; 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

- Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Alan Abramowitz; Rick Beasley (attended via conference call); Alan Eckstein, Esq.; David Lawrence, Jr.; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; Ann Karen Weller, R.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Valtena G. Brown; Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Jane McQueen; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; P. Morgan Hill; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez (attended via conference call); Walter Harvey (Board Attorney)
- Board Absentees:** Harve Mogul; The Hon. Natacha Seijas
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Leeana Pena; Nadira Ali; Alina Soto; Fiorella Altare; Melody Thelwell; Jose Hernandez; Fred Hicks; Pam Hollingsworth; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Jackye Russell
- General Attendees:** Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Betty Key, Miami-Dade Public Schools, J. Leinfelder, The Children’s Trust; Doug Blomberg, WHFS; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Matty Loret de Mula, La Petite Academy; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Kim Putz, City National Bank; Monica Rodriguez, Coconut Grove Bank; Marie P. Woodson, DHS/CDS; Ivy Martinez, DHS/CDS; Philip Gassman, Coconut Grove Bank; Muriel Wong, MIIC; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, DHS; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County

I. Welcome and Introductions	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- Chairman, Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with twelve (12) voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that one of the outcomes of the October Board Retreat was appointing chairs to the Legislative Policy and Budget Reductions committees, however there were no volunteers for the Fundraising and Development committee. He asked the Board to please notify him if any of them were interested in heading the committee.



E. Torres stated that they were actually looking for a Board member to volunteer to help develop a Fundraising and Development plan, that at this time they were not planning on creating a committee.

- O. Verdeja stated that the Board needed to make a decision on the 2009 Board of Directors Meetings. Currently meetings were scheduled the first Monday of every month. He asked if the Board was interested in making the meetings bi-monthly or if everyone was comfortable leaving the meeting schedule as is. The Board agreed meetings would remain scheduled for the first Monday of every month.
- O. Verdeja stated that he was very proud of the Board's accomplishments, as well as the efforts of the providers and ELC staff. He also gave thanks to the partners of ELC as well as Coconut Grove Bank for co-sponsoring the Partner Appreciation Breakfast.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 11/03/08.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes of 11/03/08.
 - Motion was seconded by A.K. Weller
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Motion to approve Resolution 112408-01 which authorizes the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, PSA08-132, with NonProfit Technologies, Inc. for providing periodic audits of the Coalition's financial statements.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A.K. Weller
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 112408-02 which authorizes the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C08-116, with Creative Staffing, Inc., for temporary staffing needs of the Coalition.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 112408-03 which authorizes the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Active Strategy for providing performance management and software services.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A.K. Weller
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 112408-04 which authorizes the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C08-102, with Wesley House Family Services, Inc., for providing School Readiness services.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A.K. Weller
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements. She stated that on the Unrestricted and Restricted Assets report, there was \$928,000 in parent fees. She stated that \$587,214 of that total was still being discussed with the State and that it would have to be used before the end of the year.

E. Torres stated that he was working with Tallahassee on possibly rolling over that amount to the next year, as we would be facing budget cuts.

Y. Perkins stated that as of October, ELC has a balanced budget.

Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots. She noted the waitlist information on the report. She stated that the county was working on enrolling as many children as possible from that waitlist. She stated that Monroe County had 713 children on the waitlist for the month of October which was an increase of 19 children for that month. She stated that the increase for November was 116 children.

E. Torres reviewed the Miami-Dade waitlist report. He stated that the numbers on the report being reviewed were as of November 17th. He explained that the report had been broken down by age groups. The 0-8 age group was the target group from which ELC is trying to enroll. He stated that we are at approximately 8000 children on the waitlist and the numbers are increasing significantly every month. He stated that children in the age group 9-12 were being removed from enrollment and that number was increasing every month as well. He explained he was highlighting this to note that more children would need to be enrolled into the system to make up for the 9-12 age children leaving the system.

E. Torres stated that ELC has met with Miami-Dade County on several occasions to ensure they were on track with the enrollment numbers. He stated that the hope was that they would reach the 28,100 before the end of the year. However, it didn't look as if they would reach that goal. He stated that Miami-Dade County was preparing to have another enrollment fair. He stated that even if the State reduced the budget by 4% ELC would have to continue to enroll children. The plan is to enroll as many children possible now until March so that there would be three months to make corrections before the end of the fiscal year.

P. Tynes-Saunders explained that Miami-Dade County was trying to be disciplined in their approach, planning for budget cuts. She stated that the hours had been extended on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for last three weeks of December. She stated that this would allow approximately



100 additional enrollments per day, with the goal of 900 additional enrollments per week. She confirmed that they would be scheduling the enrollment fairs as they did the previous year.

E. Torres stated that if the current waitlist was depleted, a marketing plan was already thought out to enroll additional children.

O. Verdeja asked what the difference was between children being dropped and cleaning up the waitlist.

E. Torres explained that the only children being dropped were the age group 9-12.

D. Lawrence asked if a parent is enrolling a child, is the system easy enough so that a parent would not enroll their child duplicate times.

E. Torres stated the State has been trying to rebuild this system. With the efforts of Miami-Dade County doing regular clean ups it has improved; however there are still many issues to be resolved with the system.

A. Eckstein asked what happens to a child when their parents are laid off.

E. Torres explained that if a child's parent is laid off they would lose eligibility to enroll. He stated that this would happen once the parent contacts CDS to notify them that they've lost their job, which in his opinion would not happen, or once the eligibility expires which would be a total of 6 months after the parent loses their job. He stated that the State would not provide childcare to a parent who is not working.

R. Beasley explained that there is a transitional phase. If a parent loses their job and applies for temporary assistance, they would be eligible for childcare. However, they would have to participate in the regulations. One, being that the parent must be actively looking for a job.

Y. Perkins stated that essentially the 8954 children on the waitlist would be moved to the ready pool list. She stated that Miami-Dade County was working on covering the amount of children they need to enroll to make up for the 9-12 year old drop. She stated that the goal was to use all the funds available by the end of the fiscal year.

IV. Nominating Committee Report

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.

- Motion to approve Resolution 120108-01 to Support and Endorse the Re-Appointment of Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. as Chairperson of the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.
 - D. Williams moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Lawrence
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



Y. Johnson stated that in addition to the resolution, the Nominating Committee would send a letter of support to the Governor.

Y. Johnson stated that the following item was not on the agenda but was to be addressed. The Nominating Committee made a recommendation to present to the Board, recommending that David Lawrence, Jr. would be added as a Board member representing the business community as he would be stepping down as Chair of The Children's Trust.

- R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
- Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
- Motion was unanimously passed.

W. Harvey explained that David Lawrence, Jr. would serve as private sector member of the Board.

Y. Johnson stated that the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce had submitted a letter of support for Mr. Lawrence.

Y. Johnson stated that the Nominating Committee had also discussed the term limits of the Board. She stated that once the Board members representing Miami-Dade expired, the positions should change to Monroe County. She explained that the concern was that by this change taking place, the Board would overwhelmingly be represented by Monroe County and out of proportion to the Miami-Dade population. She stated that the Nominating Committee would like to have 2 members that represent Monroe County to join the next meeting to go through the Board positions, to try to reach a compromise.

Y. Johnson explained that there was time, being that this rotation wouldn't take place until 2011. However, she believes that it could be reviewed now on a committee level to plan for the change.

Y. Perkins volunteered to be a representative of Monroe County on the Nominating Committee.

A. Eckstein volunteered to be a representative of Monroe County on the Nominating Committee.

O. Verdeja thanked the Board for the support in his reappointment as Chair.

VI. Legislative Advocacy Training	Tabatha Cullen
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- T. Cullen stated that she had a short presentation on the community outreach that had been done by ELC over the past few weeks. She gave thanks to the Children's Trust for their help in the Legislative Advocacy Training. She stated that it was important to educate providers without going overboard on advocacy and with the help of Diana Ragbeer of The Children's Trust, the event was very successful.

T. Cullen proceeded to show the gallery of pictures of the Legislative Advocacy Training event.



E. Torres stated that the goal was to educate providers early on before the legislative session began.

T. Cullen stated that the National Adoption Day was a success. She stated many parents were present. She explained that ELC had a table at the event and was fortunate enough to get information out to many parents.

C. Lederman stated that this year was a world record for National Adoption Day, having had a total of 89 adoptions.

D. Lawrence congratulated C. Lederman on the crucial decision she made recently regarding gay adoption. The Board congratulated her as well.

T. Cullen stated another partnership had been made with Barnes and Noble. She explained that proceeds of their sales would go to ELC on the day of the event.

T. Cullen stated ELC had an event at Homestead Hospital.

VII. QRIS Presentation	Pamela Hollingsworth
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VIII. CEO Report	Evelio C. Torres, CEO
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- E. Torres thanked the partners of ELC for all their help. He stated that none of the work ELC does would be possible without their support. He stated that in comparison to where ELC was last year and where they are now, the organization has come a long way. He stated that there were many major improvements in all areas and it was the work of the Coalition as well as the work of the partners.

IX. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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X. Adjourn for Partner Appreciation Breakfast	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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