



Board of Directors Meeting
February 2, 2009; 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair) (attended via conference call); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; David Lawrence, Jr.; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; Ann Karen Weller, R.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Valtena G. Brown; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Jane McQueen (attended via conference call); Gilda Ferradaz; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders (representing Irene Taylor-Wooten); Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Harve Mogul; Walter Harvey (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees: Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); The Hon. Cindy Lederman; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; Connie Chapel

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Leana Pena; 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; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County

I. Welcome and Introductions	Yesenia Perkins
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- Treasurer, Yesenia Perkins, called the meeting to order in absence of Chair, Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
- Leana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with eighteen (18) voting members.
- Y. Perkins stated that Gilda Ferradaz from the Department of Children & Families was appointed to the ELC Board of Directors. She stated that Ms. Ferradaz was replacing Alan Abramowitz who previously served on the Board of Directors.
- Y. Perkins stated that The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez, who was Chair of the Legislative Committee, resigned from the ELC Board of Directors. She stated that additional members were now needed along with a Chair for the committee. Y. Johnson and G. Cortes-Suarez volunteered to be on the committee. Y. Perkins



stated that she would follow up with O. Verdeja on the appointment of a Chair for the committee.

II. Approval of Minutes

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 12/01/08.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes of 12/01/08.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Hill.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements. She stated that there was nothing on the balance sheet to present to the Board at this time. She stated that on the Unrestricted and Restricted Assets report, parent fees were still under the temporarily restricted funds.

Y. Perkins stated that ELC was currently at a 50 percent variance. She stated that that the only noticeable variance was a 4% variance in VPK. She stated this was due to a higher allocation amount than what was budgeted for, and that this would be adjusted by the end of the year. She stated that there were no irregular expenditures in School Readiness or VPK for the first 6 months.

Y. Perkins stated that ELC was previously facing additional budget cuts. She stated that the week prior to the Board meeting, the Governor vetoed the additional budget cuts which meant ELC would retain the funds that had been allocated for the year. She stated that the only change to the budget would be a reduction of \$192,000.

- Motion to approve Resolution 012609-01 to approve the Coalition's first Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2008-2009.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Weller
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots of Miami-Dade and Monroe. She congratulated Miami-Dade County on doing an excellent job of enrolling children.

E. Torres stated that of all the children on the waitlist, only a certain percentage qualified for enrollment.

P. Tynes-Saunders stated that the waitlist was consistently checked. She explained that any individual could put themselves into the system several times, creating duplicates in the system. She explained that Miami-Dade County is responsible for checking the system for these types of errors.



P. Tynes-Saunders stated that the information in the system was only valid for a 6 month period. However, the system does not drop an individual automatically after the 6 month period. She stated that Miami-Dade County checks the system to validate the information of those individuals that have been on after the 6 month period. She explained that from the time an individual registers themselves on the waitlist; much of the information submitted is likely to change. She stated that Miami-Dade County is now going into the system on a monthly basis to validate information on existing clients.

M. Alonso stated that approximately one third of the 7,500 children registered on the waitlist will make it into a child care facility.

E. Torres stated that ELC's Quality Assurance has been working on the waitlist to ensure the eligibility process is working smoothly. He stated this report should be available to the Board of Directors soon.

Y. Perkins congratulated ELC staff and Miami-Dade County on the progress that has been made bringing the waitlist numbers down.

E. Torres stated that he was in contact with AWI on extending the period a parent has to remain eligible on the waitlist in the event that they lose their job.

IV. VPK Readiness Rates

Shan Goff

- S. Goff reviewed the 2008 Kindergarten Screening Results and the 2007-2008 Preliminary VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates.

S. Goff reviewed the changes in 2009-2010 Kindergarten Screening. She explained the subset of the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS). She explained the two measures of Dynamic Indicators to Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS); letter naming and initial sound fluency.

S. Goff explained the use of the IDEL scores. She stated that VPK legislation does not specify that the language of instruction must be English. She stated that the State Board of Education authorized the use of IDEL for a period of three years and for the use of the scores in calculating the readiness rate. She explained that there are children who answer "yes" to two or more questions on the Home Language Survey administered by IDEL.

S. Goff reviewed the 2007-2008 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rates. She stated that children who participated in the VPK program performed better on the kindergarten screening than children who did not participate. She stated that Florida's 2007-2008 VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate reflected the performance of 91% of all VPK providers. She explained that eighty-five percent of the Florida's VPK providers earned a preliminary readiness rate of 214 or higher out of a possible 300 points.



S. Goff reviewed the Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading, a new program to the Florida Department of Education. She explained this was a program for K-12 students and was available to all districts in 2009-2010. She stated these assessments were administered by the kindergarten teacher and were used for screening, progress monitoring, and diagnostic testing.

S. Goff stated that a reading score tells the probability of what grade level a student will be at by the end of the year. She explained there were three different zones of success. Green success zone, the student has an 85% or greater chance of being at or above grade level. Yellow success zone, student has a 16-84% chance of being at or above grade level. Red success zone, student has a 0-15% chance of being at or above grade level.

S. Goff stated that the development of VPK assessments were constantly improving. She stated that one of the goals was to provide teachers with an easy-to-use set of assessments to help identify the skill levels of the children in their programs, and to track the development of skills across the year. She stated another goal was to focus on skills that are clear predictors of later school success and that have instructional utility.

S. Goff stated that there is consistent evidence that there are three primary domains of emergent literacy skills that are related to later (conventional) reading and writing; print knowledge, phonological awareness, and oral language/vocabulary. She stated that early math skills are a less well developed area of research. However, there is growing evidence that certain early math skills are predictive of later math performance.

S. Goff explained the VPK assessments timelines. She stated that the focus in 2008-2009 was development of assessments and an online reporting system. She stated that the 2009-2010 goal was actual implementation of the study. Finally, the 2010-2011 goal was statewide availability.

VI. Program & Strategy Committee Report
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David Williams, Jr.

- D. Williams stated that the recommendation the Program & Strategy Committee was presenting to the Board is for a change to the Goal Seal provider reimbursement policy. He stated that any provider could apply to be Gold Seal accredited. He explained that the recommendation was to change the effective date of reimbursement from receipt of the Goal Seal certificate to the date of Gold Seal certification as documented on the Gold Seal certificate issued by the Department of Children and Families. He stated providers would be given a 30-day period to submit their documentation to Miami-Dade County CDS.
- Motion to approve recommendation to change the effective date of reimbursement from receipt of Goal Seal certificate to the date of the Gold Seal certification as documented on the Gold Seal certificate issued by the Department of Children and Families.



- A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Hill.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- D. Williams stated that the Program & Strategy Committee requested that a representative of the Department of Children and Families sit on the committee.

VII. Provider Services Committee Report
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Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.

- S. La Villa thanked Alina Soto on behalf of the Provider Services Committee. She stated that they were very thankful to have her on their team and recognized she was doing a wonderful job.
- S. La Villa stated that the Provider Services Committee remained an open forum for providers to share their concerns and issues.
- S. La Villa stated that the Provider Services Committee has drafted and will be sending out a newsletter that will go out to all Miami-Dade County commissioners.
- S. La Villa stated that the Infant and Toddler Task Force met prior to the Board meeting. She stated that they hope to take the committee to the next level and get more involved.

VIII. Legislative Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins stated that ELC provided talking points to the Board in their binders regarding Bill 501. She stated Board members could take this collateral with them.
- Y. Perkins stated that the Legislative Committee had met prior to the Board meeting.

E. Torres stated that ELC was working very hard on getting the word out on how detrimental Bill 501 would be for the Florida Early Learning system. He stated D. Lawrence had attended numerous meetings with legislators. He stated that the Miami-Dade County Commission was preparing a resolution opposing the bill. He stated that ELC was also working with the Florida Association of Counties, with hopes that other counties would get on board with preparing a resolution.

T. Cullen asked if anyone had questions regarding Bill 501. A board member asked who filed the bill. T. Cullen explained that State Representative Evers filed the bill. She stated that AWI was in support of ELC.

E. Bezos stated that providers would be a great source for support. However, the way the bill was filed makes the impression that providers should be for the bill. She stated that if ELC would assist in community education on Bill 501, they could gain the support of providers.



Y. Perkins stated that the Provider Services Committee would work on providing education of Bill 501 to the providers.

IX. Audit Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins stated that the Audit Committee met with Morrison Brown Argiz & Farra, LLP and that the outcome of the audit was the first time in approximately three years that no findings were made. She commended the employees of ELC and the Finance department under the direction of Angelo Parrino.
- E. Torres stated that this was a huge deal for ELC, being that over \$180 million dollars is being managed.

X. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- E. Torres reviewed the enrollment and wait list charts.
- B. Robinson stated that ELC had received a matching grant from Reading is Fundamental (RIF) for \$123,750 for a book distribution program. She stated that ELC was contributing \$41,250. She stated that the goal of the program was to provide three new, free books to over 25,000 children in Miami-Dade and Monroe counties for them to read. She stated that the goal was to instill a lifelong love of reading in these children. She explained that a requirement of the grant was to generate community support for literacy; therefore ELC would be working hard with their partners to be literacy role models to children, as well as encouraging parents to read with their children.

XI. Public Comments

Yesenia Perkins

XII. Adjourn

Yesenia Perkins
