



Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2009; 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); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (attended via conference call); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley (attended via conference call); Gina Cortes-Suarez; Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq. (attended via conference call); P. Morgan Hill (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas (attended via conference call); Ann Karen Weller, R.N. (attended via conference call); David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Valtena G. Brown; Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Jane McQueen; Ed.D.; Walter Harvey (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees:

Staff Attendees:

Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Leean Pena; Alina Soto; Fiorella Altare; Bethany Sands; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Mercy Castiglione; Yvette Medina; Esther Young

General Attendees:

Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Matty Loret de Mola, La Petite Academy; Linda Carmona, AECE; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Evelyn Borrell, Florida International University; Doreen Moskowitz, OEL/AWI; J. Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Smilling Rodriguez, Florida International University

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman, Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leean Pena called roll and a quorum was established with nine (9) voting members.
- J. Colyer introduced herself as the new regional director of The Department of Children and Families, replacing Alan Abramowitz who previously served on the ELC board.
- O. Verdeja stated that Representative Greg Evers had filed a bill to eliminate early learning coalitions. He stated that Senator Wise had filed a similar bill, which would reduce the number of coalitions in the state of Florida. He stated that some consolidation of coalitions would more than likely take place, however that he didn't see that the ELC was in trouble, being the largest coalition. He stated



that the administration costs were well below what the state allows. He congratulated E. Torres and the finance department of ELC for their work on regulating the budget.

- O. Verdeja stated that the task force met in Orlando the previous week. He stated that several ideas were brought to the table.
- E. Torres stated that the possible merging of smaller coalitions was discussed. He stated it was agreed that it was important to keep local control. He stated that the fear in merging too many of the smaller coalitions, is that local control would be lost. He stated that the task force had not yet come up with what the savings would be in merging the coalitions. He stated that with having one less CEO, one less executive director, etc., it would be assumed that there would be cost reductions.
- O. Verdeja recognized D. Lawrence for an article that he wrote titled "If Florida really cares about kids, here's how to show it," that ran in the *St. Petersburg Times*. He also recognized Evelio for an article that was published on the outreach work ELC is doing.
- E. Torres stated the main focus of the outreach work is to gauge parents' interest and support. He stated part of the work ELC was currently doing is Reading is Fundamental (RIF) which is to gain parents' support of education for children.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 02/02/09.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes of 02/02/09.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements for the month of February.
- Y. Perkins stated the OTUNR, which are the unrestricted funds the staff uses for expenses had dropped significantly this month.
- Y. Perkins stated the cash balance in grants as of January was \$17,906,000.
- Y. Perkins stated that the total budget remaining was 42% which is exactly where ELC should be on their budget.
 - Motion to approve Resolution 022309-01 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Scholastic, Inc. to provide books to children in early care and education centers for an amount not to exceed \$165,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.



- C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022309-02 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Crystal Clear Innovations, Inc. to provide printing services to the Coalition for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022309-03 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the School Board of Miami-Dade County to provide TAPP program services for an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022329-04 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade County to provide TAPP childcare program services for an amount not to exceed \$1,107,750.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - D. Lawrence moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022309-05 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a First Amendment with Florida International University to provide enhancement services to the Quality Counts program by providing staff with education and experience to implement training, mentoring, and individual child supports following the Recognition & Response 3-tiered intervention system for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022309-06 authorizing the president and CEO to negotiate and execute a Second Amendment with United Way of Miami-Dade, Inc., to provide enhancement services to the Quality Counts program by providing staff with education and experience to implement training, mentoring and individual child supports following the



Recognition & Response 3-tiered intervention system for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.

- C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the School Readiness slot utilization snapshots for the month of February in Miami-Dade. She stated that in Miami-Dade there were 28,115 children. She stated that was an increase of 109 children from the previous month. She stated there were 122 children in the ready pool and 288 children on the waitlist.
 - Y. Perkins reviewed the School Readiness slot utilization snapshots for Monroe. She stated there were 724 children, an increase of 24 children from the previous month. She stated there were 41 children on the waitlist in Monroe as of February 19th.
 - M. Alonso explained that there was a period where Miami-Dade had managed enrollment. She stated the attempt was to have School Readiness for school age children. She stated how it relates to children ages 9-12, although parents understand that eventually these children will no longer be served it doesn't stop them from getting on the waitlist. She said this is due to online enrollments that don't have a filter preventing registration of children ages 9-12.
 - E. Torres suggested allowing children ages 9-12 to continue being registered as the ELC will be receiving stimulus dollars, and if we exhaust the waitlist we may have to enroll them anyway.
 - R. Beasley asked if a plan was ready should ELC receive the stimulus dollars.
 - E. Torres stated that the State was trying to figure out the best way to distribute those dollars. He stated there was about \$24 million in the State budget right now. He stated that the State would give back the \$1.9 million reductions taken from the coalitions. He stated there was a possibility that they would apply whatever remains to the funding formula which would give each coalition 1% of the base. He stated this was just a sketchy projection and was subject to change. However, he said that if we do see the stimulus dollars it's expected to be \$7 million for the ELC.
 - L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that going back to the subject of 9-12 school age children, if some revenue is freed up, would it be possible for the Board to reconsider the reimbursement rate increase for providers? She said there were user fees and other expenses that providers were getting hit with. Should revenue free up, her request to the Board is to re-evaluate that reimbursement rate.
 - E. Torres stated that the ELC was bringing an analysis to the Board of different scenarios and that reimbursement rate increases were part of one of those scenarios. He stated rate increases would be brought to the Board for consideration for the next fiscal year.



- O. Verdeja stated that he and E. Torres had been meeting with legislators regarding Bill 501. He stated that in doing so, he also addressed the bill on United Way.
- H. Mogul explained State Bill 870 and House Bill 195 that were filed would affect the United Way. He stated they were working on meeting and having conversations with local delegates to oppose the bills.
- O. Verdeja stated that it would jeopardize local monies.
- H. Mogul stated that locally there is only one federation that stands with them, which happens to be United Way. He said the goal was to keep it that way.
- D. Armstrong stated that a good example to illustrate that is St. Jude Children Hospital which is actually a small hospital with 70 beds located in Memphis, TN. He stated that the hospital is the single largest health related organization making over \$7 million dollars beyond South Florida, however only treating about 4 children from South Florida.
- O. Verdeja moved to create a resolution to oppose State Bill 870 and House Bill 195 in support of United Way.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

IV. Program & Strategy Committee Report

David Williams, Jr.

- Motion to approve the recommendation for the Board to establish a community child care task force for the Child Care Executive Partnership program.

J. Russell explained that it was required by Statue 411 for the ELC to have a task force in the community composed by people in the community for the Child Care Executive Partnership program. She stated that this program was in place to allow child care center providers and owners to provide child care to their employees as a benefit. She stated that the reimbursement percentage was 50%. She stated that to continue this program, the recommendation to the Board was to establish this task force. She stated that there are approximately 320 children currently participating in this program.

E. Torres stated that the Program & Strategy committee could compose what this task force would consist of, however following Statute guidelines.

L. Carmona-Sanchez explained the task force on which she served at the State level. She stated that this task force would be created on the local level that would address community issues.

 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



V. Provider Services Committee Report

The Hon. Natacha, Seijas

- N. Seijas stated that The Hon. Isis Garcia-Martinez held legislative advocacy training in Hialeah that was very well attended.
- N. Seijas stated that the next Provider Services meeting should be held in the south, unless that location is too far for DCF to attend. She stated that it was important that they attend the next Provider Services committee meeting due to the issue providers brought up with licensing.
- N. Seijas stated that she herself would address DOH fees to see what she could do for providers.
- N. Seijas stated that another issue was the 20-day payment plan currently in place to provide payments to providers. She stated this was not ideal especially for the smaller centers and that she would be addressing this one with the Miami-Dade County commissioners. She stated that Linda Carmona-Sanchez and E. Bezos of AECE would be involved in getting providers to send letters to the Miami-Dade County commissioners as well.

VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- E. Torres stated that currently there was \$0 variance on the budget with School Readiness. The target was 28,250 children in the program. He stated that it was reduced to 27,250. He stated that if the ELC was able to reach that target by the end of the year they may open it up again. However, right now it was being managed very closely.
- E. Torres stated there were currently 120 children in the ready pool.
- E. Torres stated that Miami-Dade County opened enrollment into VPK the Saturday prior the Board meeting.
- E. Torres discussed the legislative updates. He thanked D. Lawrence for his support in attending the meetings with State representatives. He stated that meetings with representatives have been going very well and has found them to be in support of ELC.
- T. Cullen presented the media spot that ELC is currently running.

VII. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that in the Provider Services committee, the issue with DCF licensing is that the inspectors are not able to come out on a timely basis to inspect the child care centers. She stated that if a license is expired providers then become ineligible to participate in School Readiness or VPK.



- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that the DOH issue was that providers had never been charged before for inspection of their facilities. She stated that providers were now getting hit with \$240 fees, four times a year just for the inspection alone, not including the license fees.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated the final issue was the 20-day payment plan. She stated that although she understood it was in the contract, providers were simply asking for them to re-evaluate the process to see if there was a way to change it.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that in addition to advocacy for House Bill 501, House Bill 1125 was filed by Representative Clark Reed that would allocate Powerball money to enhance VPK. She stated that Senate Bill 602 and House Bill 487 would require degree teachers for VPK for 2009-2010. She asked that everyone keep this on their radar. She stated that the AECE was taking 40 providers to Tallahassee for legislative advocacy purposes.

VIII. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair