



Board of Directors Meeting
August 3, 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) (attended via conference call); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Gilda Ferradaz on behalf of Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; David Williams, Jr.; Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Jane McQueen (attended via conference call); Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Walter Harvey (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees: Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Ann-Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Leana Pena; Alina Soto; Fred Hicks; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Pam Hollingsworth; Mercy Castiglione; Jose Hernandez; Maria Kuhn Brotton

General Attendees: Paul White, Paul L. Whites & Associates; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; A.R. Guerra, AECE; Doreen Moskowitz, OEL/AWI; Marie Woodson, D.H.S.; Vivian Wright; J. Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Anitere Flores, House of Representatives; Linda Carmona, AECE; Darren Campbell Group; Senator Dan Gelber; Elizabeth Bezos, AECE; Gonzalo Gutabarriz, Hines Property Management

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.
- Leana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with thirteen (13) voting members.
- O. Verdeja introduced House Representative Anitere Flores to the Board. He thanked her for her support with the legislative work of the Coalition.
- D. Lawrence commented that A. Flores is a very significant member of the legislature and member of the House. She is the person to go to in the House about matters of education.

A. Flores stated she has been in the House for the past five years. Times are tough and they are trying to build on the successes of the programs they currently have. More and more research shows that if they invest early on, it saves more in the long term. The most important thing people can do is to



continue to advocate and continue to be involved. They are starting to see the difference that these early education programs make. She thinks that things will get better and hopefully the money will come along with it in a few years. She was thankful for the opportunity and for everyone's support.

- O. Verdeja stated the Executive Committee met with the County Manager and staff and agreed to reduce the local match to \$3.4 million. The compromise was reached because the County needed additional dollars. It will be made up through The Children's Trust QRIS dollars and they would be voting on that later.
- Senator Dan Gelber entered the meeting and stated that what the Coalition does is very impressive. However, this last session was the hardest one. He thinks everyone needs to prepare for the reality and at the end of the day, they need to do things smarter. There is a big hole and they are at the end of a cliff with no money. He stated they have a lot of confidence in what the Coalition does and wishes they could give the group more tools for what they do. He thanked the Coalition for the award.
- D. Lawrence commented we have a republican dominated legislature in the State of Florida. Getting democrats in is very important and he thanked both A. Flores and D. Gelber for all that they do.
- O. Verdeja stated the next issue is the process of hiring a new Board Attorney. The Executive Committee has agreed on the process which includes a request for qualifications and a selection process of interviewing the candidates by a sub-committee. O. Verdeja suggested Gerald Schwartz and Alan Eckstein serve on the sub-committee. He personally thanked Walter for helping him through his first year as Board Chair.
- D. Lawrence commented that he admires Walter's voice of calm and integrity. He always spoke up quietly and when it was necessary.
- D. Armstrong stated that he couldn't think of a better future for our children having Walter serving on the Miami-Dade County School Board.
- Y. Johnson commented that Walter has served with great integrity and wished him all the best.
- E. Torres stated all of the staff will miss him as well for all the reasons that have been stated and presented him with an award.
- W. Harvey stated that over the years he has developed relationships that are extremely important not only to him but to his family. He has learned so much from the Coalition and everyone has also enriched his life. They have taught him the importance of what he does and its significance. He thanked everyone for their support and enriching his life for the past 5 years.
- E. Torres presented an award to the Verdeja & DeArmas firm and staff for holding a seminar at the Coalition and bringing in several thousand dollars worth of donations as well as bringing awareness to others about what the Coalition does.



II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 06/01/09.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements. She stated the financials for June 30, 2009 are preliminary statements because they still have not closed out June. It should be done within the next week for the final fiscal year. She thanked O. Verdeja's firm for bringing in \$3,200 from their seminar. Under School Readiness there was a negative 5% variance which is a surplus but the Coalition will be very close to having a balanced budget.
- E. Torres stated there is a surplus because of the stimulus dollars they had received and the money will be rolling over to the next fiscal year.
- Motion to approve Resolution 072709-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract C09-111 with Bluejean Software, Inc. to provide additional software development for the Web-based Early Learning System (WELS).
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 072709-02 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to re-negotiate the Miami-Dade County School Readiness contract (C09-113) match requirement for the Income Eligible (BG-8) category from \$3,700,000.00 to \$3,400,000.00.
 - D. Williams moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 072709-03 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to receive a grant award in the amount of \$350,000.00 from South Florida Workforce Investment Board, Inc. to provide additional childcare services to the Transitional Child Care (TCC) population for fiscal year 2008-2009.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 072709-04 to authorize the President and CEO to receive a grant award in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the Children's Trust of Miami-Dade to provide the local match requirement for the School Readiness (CCPP) program.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 072709-05 to approve the Coalition's third Budget Amendment for fiscal year 2008-2009.
 - R. Beasley moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Y. Perkins continued with the snapshots of Miami-Dade. The total paid for June was 27,885 which was an increase of 572 children. The ready pool has 890 children as of July and the waitlist as of July had 18,108 children. The school age numbers have 25.88% percent, right on target. In Monroe County, 798 children with a waitlist of 65 children.

IV. Lease Options Presentation

Paul White, Paul L. White & Associates

- E. Torres stated that Paul White is a consultant recruited through Gray Robinson to help the Board decide whether the Coalition should renegotiate the current lease that expires next year or to pursue a request for proposal to start the process of looking for a new space for the Coalition. He noted that Paul is not working on commission and is being paid for through Gray Robinson.

- Motion to renew the lease agreement with Hines Property Management.
 - P. Hill moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org

V. Scorecard Presentation

Jack Steele, Active Strategies

- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org

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

- Motion to approve the recommendation of a long-term enrollment management policy to reduce enrollment as a condition of funding limitations. This policy would be an addition to the board approved dis-enrollment policy, which already exists. Children in billing categories BG-1 (At Risk), and BG-3 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), would receive care to age 11.* Children in billing categories BG-5 Transitional Childcare (TCC) and BG-8 (Income Eligible) would have a maximum allowable time to receive care of seven (7) years as long as they continue to meet all other eligibility requirements.
 - Motion was tabled for next Board meeting.

- Motion to approve the recommendation for implementation of electronic submission of provider attendance rosters for providers receiving VPK and School Readiness funding. The committee also recommends that providers be allowed to maintain daily sign-in/sign-out sheets on site.
 - D. Lawrence moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

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

- S. La Villa stated they are increasing the number of meetings they are having annually to six. Three in Miami-Dade and three in Monroe to continue to increase provider participation. They are recommending carpooling. The next meeting will be September 9, 2009 in Key West.

VIII. CEO Report**Evelio C. Torres, CEO**

- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org

IX. Public Comments**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair**

- A member of the public asked E. Torres to comment on the increase of the waitlist from the last three months. E. Torres stated the Program & Strategy Committee will soon make the decision as to whether or not the Coalition wants to continue with the current trend of the waitlist with no time limits and serving children up to 9 years of age or if they want to make some changes. They have some very specific recommendations. However, the waitlist is probably going to continue to grow and while the Coalition may have funding for the current fiscal year, the following year they may have to make some difficult decisions in terms of children they are serving. They will wait until the next Board meeting to make a presentation on the waitlist.
- L. Carmona stated that some of the providers have not expressed concern about the length of time some are receiving care and that a policy needs to be finalized. She also commented that the AWI has just published its new reimbursement rates that have changed significantly. The new maximum rate is \$2.11/hour and there is not a lot you can do with quality with that amount of money. It is something the Coalition needs to look at again.

X. Adjourn**Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair**