



Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 2009; 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m..
Key Largo Grande Resort

- Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Rick Beasley (attended via conference call); Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Harve Mogul; 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.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Ann-Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D. ; Brian Burns (Board Attorney)
- Board Absentees:** Modesto E. Abety; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino; Leeana Pena; Alina Soto; Jackye Russell; Eddie Copin; Fiorella Altare; Ana Rodriguez; Fred Hicks; Mary Williams, Mercy Castiglione; ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Bethany Sands
- General Attendees:** Marisel Elias-Miranda; Kim Ellis, St. Justyn the Matyr; Carole Abbot, Community M.D.; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House; Doreen Moskowitz, OEL/AWI; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Jorge Barrios, Dolphin Montessori; Adela Barrios, Dolphin Montessori; Nilda Bernaldez, Barton Memorial; Sue Ellen Bennett, St. James Children's Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with thirteen (13) voting members.
- O. Verdeja thanked the ELC staff for preparing the Board retreat. He also thanked the Coconut Grove Bank for underwriting the meals for the retreat.
- O. Verdeja presented Y. Perkins with an award from the ELC, and thanked her for her dedication to chairing the Finance Committee and managing the budget.
- O. Verdeja thanked N. Seijas for having chaired the Provider Services Committee; however she was now retiring as Chair of that Committee.



- N. Seijas stated she has enjoyed the challenge of being Chair of the Provider Services Committee. However, she knows that G. Cortes-Suarez is capable of taking the Committee to the next level.
- S. La Villa thanked N. Seijas for her conviction and for structuring the Provider Services Committee.
- O. Verdeja appointed G. Cortes-Suarez as the new Chair of the Provider Services Committee.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated she was happy to Chair the Provider Services Committee and was happy to take on the challenge.
- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC has done so much and come so far. He feels the financial disarray the ELC was in when he first came on as Chair has been overcome. The next step should be shifting the focus from financial to quality service. He thanked the ELC staff for all their hard work throughout the years.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 08/03/09.
- A. Eckstein stated a minor correction to the public comments section of the minutes.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- N. Seijas asked that her attendance record be checked for accuracy.

III. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org.
- E. Torres discussed highlights on legislative policy and advocacy. He stated that the ELC needs to ensure that providers have a place at the table. He stated that the Provider Services Committee needs to continue to be involved, and that N. Seijas who previously chaired the Committee did a great job of attending those meetings.
- B. Robinson stated that the ELC does a lot towards direct services to children. Quality Counts is the largest of the programs and is the 5-star voluntary rating system.
- T. Cullen provided annual reports to the Board of Directors. She stated that the next step for the ELC would be establishing relationships within the community to raise awareness. Over the last year, the ELC has brought in an additional 8 million through community relationships.
- E. Torres stated that the ELC would like to continue to bring in additional dollars however are faced with the challenge that we are a non for profit organization and cannot hire an additional person for fund development using State or Federal dollars.



- A. Parrino reviewed the funding/forecast slides. He stated we are losing more money in the base every year. If we continue to see the base reducing, money will not be available next year.
- A. Parrino stated that 70% of the ELC budget was focused on slots. The cost per child per year is approximately \$3400.
- E. Torres stated that if the ELC base is reduced to 7.2 million, approximately 2100 children will not be served.
- N. Seijas suggested that the 3400 per child cost be analyzed.
- H. Mogul asked for a breakdown of what the 3400 per child buys and what the cost is for the teacher, classroom, etc.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- O. Verdeja stated that if the ELC does not go through an RFP process, then Miami-Dade County will not increase their fees by \$770,000 and will continue to provide the services at the agreed upon amount.
- N. Seijas stated she has served on the Board for many years and is proud of the partnership Miami-Dade County has with the ELC.
- I. Taylor-Wooten stated that together, Miami-Dade County and the ELC have done so much and come so far, and that a no bid contract would benefit both parties.
- O. Verdeja asked if there was something the Board needed to make a decision on.
- E. Torres stated that the Board would have to decide on whether or not to award this contract to Miami-Dade County with a no bid contract, or to release a RFP.
- Y. Perkins asked what components this contract would cover.
- E. Torres stated the contract covered VPK and School Readiness.
- G. Schwartz stated that Miami-Dade County has made major improvements throughout the year and are doing well.
- E. Torres stated that the contract would be for one year, with an option to extend for an additional two years, should the Board decide on that.
- C. Abbott stated that because our community has so many untapped resources and unmet needs, there was a unanimous agreement by one of the taskforces that the ELC convene a County wide assessment taskforce. The meeting was convened in August. The group met for two and half hours and was charged with having an open discussion regarding strategies to solicit support from the community and engaging new partners.
- C. Abbott stated the following people were on the taskforce: Jesse Leinfelder from the Children's Trust, Dr. Greenfield from the University of Miami, Dr.



Hanson from the Children's Trust, Dr. Manfra from Florida International University, Sue Hartman from FIU, Lisa Pittman from the Children's Trust, Bethany Sands from the ELC, and Ana Sejeck from the Children's Trust who was unable to attend but has participated in the goal setting.

- N. Seijas stated that C. Abbott and the Committee have done a wonderful job, but that she feels Miami-Dade County is never represented.
- C. Abbott stated that Miami-Dade County was a part of the taskforce and well represented.
- Y. Johnson asked what specifically was not working and when the new system be implemented.
- B. Sands stated that the follow up piece is what most needs to be worked on. She stated that the assessments need to be linked to curriculum. At this point, the only resources were the ELC, Miami-Dade County and Florida International University.
- B. Sands stated that approximately 17,000 children were screened, of which 2000 were found to have some sort of concern.
- J. Colyer stated that a RFP would be a good idea because you can get new ideas on the table. She stated that although the system works, we don't know what else can be offered unless we look.
- O. Verdeja stated that the RFP would be released and that a taskforce could then be created to decide what the assessment pieces would include.
- N. Seijas asked if the ELC would be releasing an RFP or an RFQ.
- E. Torres clarified that an RFP would be released.
- Motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 083109-03 to authorize the President and CEO to release Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the following services listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Hill.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 083109-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract PSA09-134 with Teaching Strategies, Inc. to provide additional curricula and training sessions to early care and education providers participating in the curriculum learning community project in Miami-Dade County.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Hill.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 083109-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract PSA09-130 with Highscope Educational Research Foundation to provide additional curricula and training sessions to early care and education providers participating in the curriculum learning communities project in Miami-Dade County.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by P. Hill.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.

V. Waitlist Presentation	Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County
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- P. Tynes-Saunders stated that in order to register for services for School Readiness, all parents are required to go on the AWI website. However, no where on the site does it tell you when there are no services available. That particular website must be validated by Miami-Dade County within 45 days. Once validated, a postcard for children ages 0-8 years old is sent announcing that the child has been validated and the child has been added to the waitlist and that if they do not hear from Miami-Dade County for over 6 months, to please reapply. For children 9 years of age and above that apply, a postcard is sent announcing that services are not available and to please contact Resource and Referral. Duplicates can occur on the waitlist because parents sometimes enter their child's information more than once in a 6 month period. Miami-Dade County must manually go into the waitlist and screen for duplicates. Currently, there are about 10,090 unduplicated entries on the waitlist.

VI. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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VII. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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