



Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2009; 8:00 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. (Secretary); Rick Beasley; Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq. (attended via conference call); P. Morgan Hill (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (attended via conference call); Connie Chapell; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D. ; Brian Burns (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees: Modesto E. Abety; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; David Williams, Jr.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Jane McQueen

Staff Attendees: Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino; Leeana Pena; Jackye Russell; Fiorella Altare; Kristina Alonso; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Roseline Philippe

General Attendees: Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Maria Elena Delgado, Victoria's Playhouse Pre-K; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Judy Chorlog, AECE; Matty Loret De Mola; La Petite Academy; Lillian Marciano, World of Kids Academy; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Irsela Suarez, Watch Me Grow; Cherise Gause, The Children's Place Child Care Center; J. Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Elizabeth Bezos, AECE; Abby Thorman; Marisel Elias-Miranda, MDCPS; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Elena Guerra, AECE; Armando Guerra, AECE; Doreen Moskowitz, OEL, AWI; Jane Lindley, AECE; Gail Gregg, FIU; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Gladys R. Montes, UWFE; Lissetley Rodriguez-Diaz, World of Kids; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Cecelia C. Gilbert, Skeyes Learning Center; Carmen Franco, Bamby's Day Care Center; Rocio Leiva, ABF Learning Center; Angel Silva, Fantasyland Learning 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 twelve (12) voting members.



- O. Verdeja thanked the Board members for attending the annual Board retreat in Key Largo. He also thanked everyone that attended the Gato Building ribbon cutting ceremony, Program & Strategy and Provider Services Committee meeting that took place in Key West. He was happy to announce that the Mayor of Key West was in attendance.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 09/08/09.
- I. Taylor-Wooten requested that additional information be added to the page six of the Board meeting minutes.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 092809-01 to ratify the Finance Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the QRIS grant/contract with the Children's Trust.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 092809-02 to ratify the Finance Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to renew the sub-contract agreements for the Quality Counts Program listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman asked if the ELC was satisfied with the service of sub contractors.
- E. Torres confirmed that the level of service was satisfactory.
- Motion to approve Resolution 092809-03 to ratify the Finance Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Refugee Subsidized Childcare Services grant/contract.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 092809-04 to ratify the Finance Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to execute a sub-contract agreement for Refugee childcare services with Miami-Dade County.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 092809-05 to approve the Coalition's First Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2009-2010.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots.
- G. Schwartz asked if the waitlist was substantially due to lack of funds.
- E. Torres stated that the waitlist category is closed for the working poor families. He stated that 60 to 90 a day are enrolled for remaining categories.
- Y. Perkins stated the ELC is trying to anticipate what the budget is going to be like 2010. AWI said to plan for the worse, and to be prepared for a reduction on the base budget. This information was per Brittany Birkin.
- G. Schwartz asked if the waitlist is spread throughout the County.
- E. Torres confirmed the waitlist is spread throughout the County.
- Y. Johnson asked how the waitlist compare to last month.
- E. Torres stated that most of the ready pool had gone away due to eligibility expiring after 6 months. Both central agencies, Wesley house & Miami-Dade County are working closely with the ELC.

IV. Program & Strategy Committee Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- E. Torres stated that providers requested to look at reimbursement rates that have not been raised in several years. In order for providers to continue providing quality service, an increase is being asked for higher than it is right now. Providers are not getting paid high enough rates for School Readiness children.
- E. Torres stated that the hard decision for the Board to make is whether they are willing to disenroll children or cut in other areas to provide higher rates for child care providers for them to do all the quality ideas that have been discussed. Providers feel they have been given additional responsibilities but no increase.

V. Child Outcomes

Abby Thorman, Ph.D.

- E. Torres introduced Abby Thorman, an early education consultant who has been doing a lot of work with the quality rating improvement system at the ELC.
- A. Thorman stated that she had been asked to develop outcomes for the Board.
- J. Colyer why 10% is the percentage that for ASQ that we can feel ok with?



- A. Thorman stated that 10% of children have some sort of lag. The question is, once this 10% is recognized, what happens to these children? Most are referred to another community partner where it takes 9 months for them to be seen. If issues such as language delays, etc are corrected early on, it will make a big difference.
- E. Torres stated that the ELC has provided trainings for over 3 years. Certain tools used for assessment sometimes produce false positives and this is due to lack of trainings.
- A. Thorman stated that approximately 12% of the children tested are left in the ditch. These children have a harder time long term. She stated that if we could identify the 12% and ensure getting sufficient support early on and appropriate attention in the classroom, it would make a world of a difference.
- D. Lawrence asked if all the children in Ages and Stages are taking the Lap-D.
- E. Torres stated that there are about 20,000 children in Ages and Stages, and only about 900 take the Lap-D.
- A. Thorman stated she has moderate confidence in Ages and Stages due to lack of training of those evaluating.
- D. Lawrence asked if those evaluating receive proper training, what confidence is there in Ages and Stages.
- A. Thorman stated with proper training she had high confidence in Ages and Stages.
- E. Torres noted that these tests are screenings and not an assessment.
- B. Robinson stated children are selected randomly and Miami-Dade County works with FIU on the screenings.
- P. Tynes-Saunders stated that staff that conducts Lap-D have their bachelor degree. On average staff has over 10 years experience in administering assessments to children. Staff is trained in conjunction with FIU.
- D. Lawrence asked what the process is when issues are identified in Lap-D.
- E. Torres stated that referrals are made and information is provided to both the parent and child care provider.
- D. Lawrence asked what the cost of Lap-D is per child.
- E. Torres stated the ELC was still trying to determine the cost per unit, including pre and post assessments.
- C. Lederman asked if parents follow through after they are provided with referrals.



- E. Torres stated parent follow through is not guaranteed. It's a challenge to follow up on what is the parent's responsibility. He stated there is no case management in this program.
- Y. Johnson stated that it is a profound task and short window to make our efforts count. Pre and post tests probably cost more than a year prison stay. If that information could get out to the general community, maybe they could decide where they want to spend their money.
- J. Colyer stated that is imperative to know who these children are. Outcomes should be based on whether parents are tied to services or not, instead of whether or not a referral was made. She stated there is no sense of urgency.
- Y. Johnson stated that she had a special needs son and in that time assistance was brought to her. She did not have to search for it as parents have to now. The process should be made much easier for parents.
- C. Chappell asked who monitors what children get Ages and Stages.
- E. Torres stated that Miami-Dade County is responsible for monitoring that information.
- J. Colyer asked what the RFP would look like. She stated that the Board should discuss this further and was not ready to chargeback to staff.
- A. Thorman discussed a new piece of legislation, a student aide reform bill. She stated this would allow federal government to oversee student loans.

VI. Provider Services Committee Report

Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.

- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the Provider Services Committee had a wonderful meeting in Key West that D. Williams co-chaired with her. She stated the meeting was well attended and providers appreciated that the meeting took place in Monroe County. One of the topics discussed was a special task force for children in Monroe.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that because of the current economic situation, parents have a hard time paying for child care. The Committee would attempt to work with parents on getting organized with their finances and attempt working with entities within Monroe County that could help parents. Most of the parents having problems with paying for child care are in the service industry.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that VPK attendance is confusing for providers. The Provider Services Committee would look into the VPK attendance policy and assist providers in understanding them.

VII. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

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

- L. Carmona-Sanchez commented that the previous Wednesday, the Alliance was successful in securing the attendance of nearly 100 child care providers at the Program & Strategy Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the AWI process for the identification of the Fair Market Rate and the role of Child Care Resources & Referral services. In addition to learning about these two subjects, providers also learned that some long-held policies regarding the ELC payment schedule were not as providers had thought. It was stated that part of the reason providers were misinformed was that they don't regularly attend ELC meetings. She stated that they feel the ELC is not always aware of the impact of some of their decisions and their meetings are scheduled at times when providers are required to be caring for children.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez commented that on behalf of the Alliance members and colleagues, the Alliance for Early Care and Education respectfully request that within the next 30 days, the ELC convene a special meeting to discuss the implementation of the payment schedule and consider the impact it has on School Readiness providers in the community. The Alliance requests that this meeting be held on a date and time when service providers can actually attend to give their input.

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

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