



Board of Directors Meeting
November 2, 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 (attended via conference call); Jacqui Colyer; Loretta Duval on behalf of Modesto E. Abety; P. Morgan Hill (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Jane McQueen; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas (attended via conference call); Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D. (attended via conference call);
- Board Absentees:** Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Harve Mogul; Connie Chapell; Irene Taylor-Wooten
- Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino; Leana Pena; Jackye Russell; Alina Soto; Trish Alonso; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (attended via conference); Roseline Philippe; Pam Hollingsworth
- General Attendees:** Santiago D. Echemendia, Tew Cardenas LLP (interim Board Attorney); Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Elizabeth Bezos, AECE; Ben Solomon, NKO Development; Armando Guerra, AECE; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Suzette Frazier, DCF; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Sara Morales, Miami-Dade County; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Jane Lindley, AECE; Gladys R. Montes, UWCFE; Gail P. Grego, FIU; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with twelve (12) voting members.
- O. Verdeja introduced Santiago D. Echemendia, interim Board attorney to the Board of Directors.



II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 10/05/09.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Executive Committee Report

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja stated the ELC held a successful Assessment and Inclusion meeting, with many members of the community present. A lot of feedback was provided. Although we are not at our 100% potential, the progress is significant.
- O. Verdeja appointed J. Colyer to the Program & Strategy Committee.
- O. Verdeja addressed the Board regarding the Board of Director's meeting schedule. The Board decided to keep the scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Dec 8th and would not hold a Board meeting in January.
- Y. Johnson stated she attended the Diversity and Inclusion meeting. The Coalition was honored and received a Diversity and Inclusion award recognizing the work of E. Torres and T. Alonso for excellence in service as well as being an exemplifying organization that promotes diversity and inclusion. She stated this is a wonderful award because through the diversity of the ELC Board and staff, the ELC has been successful in meeting challenges in such a diverse community.
- E. Torres thanked T. Alonso, Human Resources Director. She created the Diversity training and has gone out of Miami-Dade County to train other coalitions as well as our local community.

IV. Communications Update

Tabatha Cullen

- T. Cullen stated the RIF distribution has been successful. She stated Ron McGill read in a few centers, bringing animals with him which the children loved.
- T. Cullen stated Maria Celeste Arraras was involved with the RIF distribution as well. She read her very own book to the children in English and Spanish. Ms. Arraras is a prominent Hispanic television personality.
- T. Cullen stated the IBM machines have already been distributed in centers. Children have gone crazy over them, and providers have written to the ELC with very positive feedback.
- T. Cullen discussed the EPIC hotel partnership. Every couple of weeks, the EPIC couples with an author and hosts a wine event. Proceeds go to the ELC. The ELC is their charity of choice. They have books that the ELC supplies to them, which they provide to children if they attend events or stay at hotel.
- T. Cullen stated that the ELC partnered with the Department Of Health to provide H1N1 vaccines.



- E. Torres thanked the AECE for their contribution in the H1N1 vaccinations.
- T. Cullen stated that providers had asked for something to promote VPK at their centers. About 800 outside banners have been ordered so that every provider offering VPK can have them outside their center.
- T. Cullen discussed the Legislative bills for 2010. The ELC website provides a link with continuous updates. The significant bill is one in partnership with DCF which enforces getting fingerprints and results of employees working in centers prior to them being hired. In Broward, several cases were reported where staff worked with children and then when the background checks came in; there were crimes on their file. This is an important bill to protect children.
- T. Cullen discussed the relationship with the EPIC and Continental Airlines. The airline provides a Continental magazine on every flight for passengers. The EPIC is featured in this magazine and will feature the ELC every couple of months.

V. Finance Committee Report	Yesenia Perkins
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- Motion to approve Resolution 102809-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract C09-103 with Goldstein, Schechter, Koch, Price, Lucas, Horwitz & Co., P.A. to provide monitoring services.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- A. Parrino stated that monitoring will begin immediately, but rate alignment will begin in January.
- E. Torres stated that back in January; the Board approved a rate increase for providers. About 50% of providers qualified for the rate increase, because the ELC based this on market increase. All those that qualified will be brought up to the Board approved rate increase after the verification process.
- J. Colyer asked what the qualifications were to receive the increase.
- E. Torres stated the qualification was simply turning in information on their market rate.
- Y. Johnson stated that its also important that providers are putting the true market rate, not just providing random information. Some communities' rates are different than others.
- S. La Villa stated the ELC could do a better job explaining to providers what the market rate can do.
- E. Torres stated that the market rate is what a provider would charge parents in their community.
- J. Colyer stated the flaw to the system is that Miami-Dade County establishes the fair market rate for housing. In Liberty City the rate can be one thing, and in Doral the rate is another.



- E. Torres stated that the ELC follows federal guidelines on what we are allowed to pay providers. There is a flaw to the system in general. If the Board approves \$117 per infant, every provider should be allowed to receive that amount, but federal guidelines don't allow us to do that.
- E. Bezos stated that providers have different ideas of how they are complying. The ELC does not have guidance from AWI on how this monitoring should take place. She stated that if a provider isn't informed to do things the right way, a provider shouldn't be punished.
- E. Torres stated that the monitoring process is not to punish providers. This process is to recognize what the issues are so that the ELC can go out there to train providers. A proper process will be put into place.
- E. Bezos stated that it is no surprise that providers don't know how to establish fair market rate. Providers don't know the difference between cost and price. With lack of Program & Strategy Committee meetings and Provider Services meetings, the Board of Director's meetings are the only venue to vent as a provider.
- E. Torres stated that providers don't get enough credit. They are in a very high compliance rate with market rate surveys. Providers are expected to do more every day, and the market rates have not been completed.
- O. Verdeja will work with A. Parrino to ensure the firm is measuring the right things.
- Motion to approve Resolution 102809-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract PSA09-116 with Kaplan Early Learning Company to provide additional quality materials for the Quality Counts program Year 3.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by J. Colyer.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots.

VI. Quality Counts Presentation	Pam Hollingsworth
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- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org

VII. CEO Report	Evelio C. Torres, CEO
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- Presentation can be found on www.elcmdm.org

VIII. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
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- E. Bezos commented that Board attendance to committees has been declining again. Is there anything we can do to ensure that both the Program & Strategy Committee as well as the Provider Services Committee do not get cancelled since they are the critical venues for public/provider input.



- E. Bezos thanked the ELC for collaboration to make the H1N1 vaccination available to providers for free. Evelio was quick to respond when approached by the AECE.

IX. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair