



Board of Directors Meeting  
December 8, 2009; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer) (attended via conference call); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D., (Vice Chair); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Gilda Ferradaz representing Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; P. Morgan Hill; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Susan Neimand representing Gina Cortes-Suarez; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Marisel Elias Miranda representing Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Connie Chapell; Jane McQueen; Silvia La Villa, Ed.D.; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr.; Brian Burns (Board Attorney)

**Board Absentees:** David Lawrence, Jr.

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

**General Attendees:** Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Joseph Cordeo, Kingdom Academy; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Debra Knox, Hearing and Speech; Vivian Wright; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Maria E. Delgado, AECE; Gladys R. Montes, United Way; Ramiro Moreno, REM Learning Center; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Matty Loret De Mola, La Petite Academy; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Juanita de la Cruz, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Meagan Drudar, Center for Excellence; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Alexander L. Palenzuela, Weiss Serota Helfman; Michele S. Kaplan, Derereux; J. Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Jane Lindley, AECE; A.R. Guerra, AECE; Eryn Bizar, United Way; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County

<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- O. Verdeja announced the passing of the ELC's dear friend Ana Sejeck's daughter-in-law.
- O. Verdeja announced the birth of F. Hicks's daughter.



- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with fourteen (14) voting members.
- A. Eckstein stated the second round of RFQs went out. Interviews for legal services would take place immediately following the Board meeting. By the next Board meeting, a Board attorney should be ready for selection.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

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

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 11/02/09.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Yesenia Perkins**

- A. Parrino reviewed the financial statements. He reviewed the budget variance report through October 31<sup>st</sup>. First section is total budget, showing actual monthly expenditures. There is a minus 3 percent variance, and there is a slight surplus in the overall budget.
- A. Parrino reviewed the financial snapshots for Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.
- Y. Johnson noted a date error on the financial snapshot dates for Monroe County.
- N. Seijas stated that it's important to zero in on refugee-funded services.
- M. Alonso stated the refugee referrals come from the employment providers. In order to receive refugee-funded services, they must be referred. Initially, they are referred but some are unable to maintain their eligibility.
- Motion to approve Resolution 120209-01 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Second Amendment to contract, C09-111, with Bluejean Software, Inc. to provide annual maintenance and support for WELS, the Quality Counts data system. This payment is for the maintenance and copyright fees for Teachers College Press used by the Quality Counts Program.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 120209-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C09-108, with the Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc. to provide additional hearing, vision and speech screenings to children who are eligible for School Readiness services.
- B. Sands introduced Debra Knox.
- D. Knox stated it was brought to her attention that the Board had many questions on percent of compliance and what happens after the screenings. She stated there are two outcome goals for maximizing dollars from United Way. The first outcome is to make



sure parents receive notification that the child was screened and failed any portion, and make sure parents understand what that means. The second outcome is to ensure the parent knows what the next step is to follow up on the concern. Parents need to have a greater understanding, and make the first appointment with the appropriate professional.

- O. Verdeja asked if 50 percent of children fail the screenings.
- D. Knox stated the speech and language failure percentage is higher because they have less funding in that area.
- O. Verdeja asked if they failed, is it because they don't hear or if they don't understand?
- D. Knox stated a full presentation can be made on this subject if necessary. Often hearing is failed because of an ear infection or middle ear fluid, and they fail at that time. However, untreated hearing can lead to permanent hearing loss.
- G. Schwartz asked how we know if a parent follows up.
- D. Knox stated that at the time of screenings, a result letter is sent. A referral is sent for hearing and vision. Families can take this letter to a doctor; the physician can sign the letter stating progress. She stated that follow-up calls are also made to parents.
- D. Knox stated that from these screenings, in 2009, 51 children received glasses, 306 were found with ear infections, and 97 children were referred to FDLRS' multiple areas of intervention.
- C. Lederman stated that there is a great omission in not screening 2-year-olds.
- D. Armstrong stated the main concern at the Finance Committee was to ensure there was follow-up on the screenings. He stated he's happy to hear there is a system in place for at least vision and hearing. However, it raises the question for the ELC and others in the community to determine if they vote to approve this resolution, less than a quarter of children are hit. There is a huge gap just in terms of vision and hearing. Speech and language do need to be screened, that 2-year point is significant in autism screening.
- D. Armstrong stated there are between 30-35k births in Miami-Dade County per year.
- D. Knox stated that to screen all children in Miami-Dade County would be approximately \$6 Million, a total of \$45 in screening fees per child. She stated that follow-up also has to be factored in.
- G. Schwartz asked when a child is found to have issues, and once the process takes place, is the child then tested again?
- D. Knox stated that since the database does pick up who is screened, it becomes a challenge to ensure they are screened again.
- N. Seijas stated this resolution should be approved so that the 1,500 children don't miss out on being screened.



- H. Mogul stated that the resolution can be amended. Part one of the resolution can be approved. Part two of the resolution can be taken to a task force to improve the process.
- D. Armstrong suggested that other key state funding stakeholders create a task force to address this issue. The issue at hand is much larger than what the ELC can do on its own. The issue is how to come up with the funding so that every School Readiness child gets screened
- O. Verdeja stated that by approving this resolution, 1,500 children will be screened however the screenings will not be conducted by age specific groups.
- N. Seijas stated that the resolution should be approved so that 1,500 can receive screenings. However, the Board should not ignore C. Lederman's request to look at all the other children, particularly in the 2-year-old category.
- L. Pineiro asked if information is tracked by age and if staff would be prepared to conduct these screenings on 2-year-olds.
- D. Knox stated staff is fully capable of conducting trainings. A report can be run to specifically look at how many 2-year-olds were screened this year.
- L. Pinero asked what happens to the category of children who don't receive services because parents fail to comply.
- D. Knox stated that while results are established, referral letters are sent, and phone calls are made, unfortunately that's all they can do.
- O. Verdeja brought the resolution to the table again.
- Motion to approve Resolution 120209-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C09-108, with the Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc. to provide additional hearing, vision and speech screenings to children who are eligible for School Readiness services.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
  - C. Lederman opposed.
  - Motion was passed.
- A. Eckstein asked what process is done in Monroe for children's screenings.
- M. Williams stated child health screenings are conducted with a grant from Monroe County. Over the last several years they have done child health screenings for hearing, speech and vision. They go out to all School Readiness providers, conduct screenings onsite and then make referrals. They also have a small fund for follow-up on these children. Screenings are conducted on children ages birth to five-years-old.
- D. Armstrong stated that a Hearing and Vision Task Force should be set up to discuss these issues.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez asked to be appointed as a provider representative to the Committee.



- O. Verdeja stated it will be considered, however it will be a public meeting so providers are welcome to attend.
- Special holiday presentation from The Biltmore School children took place.
- N. Seijas presented a resolution to the Board of Directors.
- Motion to approve Resolution 120809-01 to approve the motion in support of ELC collaboration with Miami-Dade County Head Start to maximize resources and increase participation in VPK.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
  - Motion was passed unanimously.

<b>IV. Payment-Rate Schedule for SR Program</b>	<b>Matt Guse, AWI</b>
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- Presentation available on [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

<b>V. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>	<b>David Williams, Jr.</b>
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<b>VI. CEO Report</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- Presentation available on [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

<b>VII. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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<b>VIII. Adjourn</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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