



Board of Directors Meeting
February 1, 2010; 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); Modesto E. Abety; Rick Beasley; Jacqui Colyer; Alan Eckstein, Esq. (attended via conference call); P. Morgan Hill (attended via conference call); David Lawrence, Jr. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Harve Mogul; Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D. (attended via conference call); 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. (attended via conference call); Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

Board Absentees:

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; Pam Hollingsworth; Bethany Sands

General Attendees: Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Alisa Ghazvini, Ph.D., Consultant; Sara Morales, Miami-Dade County; Abby Thorman, Ph.D., Consultant; Gail Gregg, Florida International University; Ivy Martinez, Miami-Dade County; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Maria Alonso, Citrus; Mario Jardon, Citrus; Matty Loret de Mola, La Petite Academy; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Deborah Milan, Kidworks USA; Rene Garcia

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.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with fourteen (14) voting members.
- O. Verdeja welcomed the new Board Attorney, Santiago Echemendia. He stated he's known him for several years and is happy to have him joining the ELC.
- S. Echemendia stated he is honored to be serving with the Board.



- O. Verdeja welcomed guests from Citrus.
- O. Verdeja addressed the Board attendance policy. He stated that missing two meetings would result in a warning letter from him, and a third absence is considered a resignation from the Board.
- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC was currently under renovations; however no taxpayer dollars were used to make these upgrades.
- O. Verdeja stated that the IRS has a new requirement for the 990 form. He asked the Board to review the form and let him know if they had any questions.
- O. Verdeja introduced Rene Garcia. He stated he is a good friend to children in Florida and the early learning industry. He stated R. Garcia is from Hialeah and was very supportive in legislative advocacy while he was in the State house. He left the State house but remains very involved.
- R. Garcia stated he appreciates the work the ELC does. He's a product of early care education and understands the importance of it. He stated he will be up in Tallahassee fighting for dollars in education, especially in Miami-Dade County ensuring that Miami-Dade gets its fair share. He stated N. Seijas has always been there for him and appreciates her friendship and the work she does in the community. He stated he will be running for District 40 for State Senate where Rudy Garcia currently holds the seat.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 12/08/09.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Board Outcomes & State Framework

Abby Thorman, Ph.D. & Alisa Ghazvini, Ph.D.

- Presentation available on www.elcmdm.org.
- A. Ghazvini stated/reviewed the Board Outcomes:
 - Child Development: Are they developing typically for their age?
 - ASQ Language & Literacy Development/Learning: Are they making progress in language and literacy (LAP-D).
 - School Readiness: Are children ready when they enter kindergarten?
 - Quality of Care: Are available programs high quality?
 - School Achievement: Are children performing at grade level in third grade? Measured by the FCAT.
- H. Mogul asked if the results are State-wide true.
- A. Thorman stated the results are County-wide true.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez asked what the School Readiness indicators are for child care providers.



- A. Thorman stated that centers are assessed then given an overall score. If a provider has an overall readiness score of 215, they are considered a low-performing provider. If the provider is low for three years, they are removed from VPK funding.
- H. Mogul moved to approve the Board outcomes.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

IV. Executive Committee Report

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- Motion to approve Resolution 121509-01 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the School Board of Miami-Dade County's Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) subsidized childcare services grant/contract.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 121509-02 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to execute a sub-contract agreement for the Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) 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 121509-03 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision to authorize the President and CEO to execute the First Amendment to contract, C09-107, with the Children's Forum, Inc. to provide WAGES stipends and technical assistance to the early care and education providers enrolled in the Quality Counts Program.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman stated her concern with the resolution for TAPP. She stated that there was previously a requirement to place children in accredited centers. This requirement was removed from the contract with Miami-Dade County. She personally has vested centers and was not very pleased. While the ELC can't control what is done with the contract, they can request that children go into accredited centers.
- E. Torres stated the dollars are from the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system. We subcontract with Miami-Dade County. Miami-Dade County Public Schools did not feel they could add the requirement.
- M. Abrahante stated this was due to the lack of availability of accredited centers in the areas where children were being placed.
- O. Verdeja asked if Miami-Dade County was fine with accepting this requirement.
- E. Torres stated they had no problem.
- G. Schwartz stated the resolution should be approved as is then later work out the details with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade County. Teenage parents need assistance and it can be accomplished.



- Y. Johnson stated that the ELC should identify where these children are, then work with the centers in receiving their accreditation and require that all centers be accredited.
- A. Abrahante asked what will happen to the kids in centers that are not accredited.
- E. Torres current placements will not be disrupted.
- L. Piñeiro stated that accreditation will take a while.
- G. Cortes-Suarez asked who monitors the centers.
- E. Torres stated that licensing conducts routine checks three to four times a year.
- C. Lederman stated these are basic routine checkups and not enough to ensure quality of care.
- E. Torres suggested asking M. Abrahante if Miami-Dade County Public Schools will approve the amendment.
- M. Abrahante stated she will have to look at what centers are available and who is currently accredited.
- S. Echemendia recommended accepting the resolution as is and leave the details to discuss later.
- C. Lederman stated she approves of Y. Johnson's amendment to the resolution.
- Motion to approve Resolution 121509-01 with the condition that TAPP require children to be placed in accredited centers. Implementation to be within the next six months.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

V. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Presentation available on www.elcmdm.org.
- Motion to approve Resolution 012710-01 to ratify the Executive Committee's decision award contract, PSA10-146, with Tew Cardenas, LLC. as the new Board attorney/firm assigned to provide legal services to the Coalition.
 - N. Seijas moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 012710-02 to authorize the President and CEO to execute the Second Amendment to contract PSA09-130 with Highscope Educational Research Foundation and the Second Amendment to contract PSA09-120 with Teaching Strategies, Inc.
 - H, Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by J. Colyer
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 012701-03 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade County to provide Inclusion services for the early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Motion to approve Resolution 012701-04 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Miami-Dade County to provide Child screening and assessment services for the early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- Motion to approve Resolution 012701-05 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Florida International University to provide Data Management services.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- E. Torres thanked M. Abety and The Children’s Trust for their VPK marketing efforts.

- E. Torres stated that VPK dollars will run out by April. The ELC has authorization to use VPK allocation from next year. The contract with Miami-Dade needs to be amended to use the dollars from next year. This will not affect providers or the cash flow.

- Y. Perkins asked if a settle agreement could be an option.

- E. Torres suggested amending the County’s contract using the authorization letter.

- G. Schwartz moved to amend Miami-Dade County’s contract.
 - Motion was seconded by G. Cortes-Suarez.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Audit Committee Report	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
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- O. Verdeja stated that the ELC received another clean audit; this is the third year in a row. He thanked A. Parrino and the ELC finance team for a tremendous accomplishment.

VII. Program & Strategy Committee Report	David Williams, Jr.
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VIII. Provider Services Committee Report	Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.
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IX. Governance & Bylaws Committee Report	Alan Eckstein, Esq.
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X. Legislative Update/Report	Evelio C. Torres, CEO
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XI. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
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- B. De La Sierra thanked the Board on behalf of FACCUM for funding schools to receive accreditation. He stated that FACCUM will soon unveil a program that will allow schools that are accredited to complete the program in 6 months as well as providing basic health insurance for providers.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez thanked the ELC for their hard work. She stated the ELC should be careful in choosing their outcomes to ensure there are growth and learning gains for children. The outcomes should be used as a stepping stone to improve the quality of education.
- E. Torres reminded the Board that a cone of silence remains in effect until 72 hours after the notice of intent is posted.

XII. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
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