



Board of Directors Meeting  
 April 5, 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); Rick Beasley; Jacqui Colyer; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman; Harve Mogul (attended via conference call); Dabney G. Park, Ph.D.; The Hon. Natacha Seijas (attended via conference call); Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr. (attended via conference call); Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Connie Chapell (attended via conference call); Silvia La Villa, Ed.D; Irene Taylor-Wooten; Jane McQueen; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

**Board Absentees:** Modesto E. Abety; P. Morgan Hill; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Angelo Parrino; Ana Rodriguez; Jackye Russell; 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); Marisel-Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Rosalyn Laney, VMMC; Gladys R. Montes, UWCFE; Elaine Deriso, Devereux; Gail Gregg, FIU; Maria Luaces, UM; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Barbara Wentz, Family Central; Ramiro Moreno, REM Learning Center; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Maria E. Alvarez, Family Central; Susan Gold, UM; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Michele S. Kaplan, Devereux; Lea Stone, UM; Edith Humes-Newbold, Miami-Dade County; Justo Rey, Family Central; Joanne Palenzuela, UM; Blyuada Murray, UM; Rose Marie, Children's Forum; Eryn Bizare, UWMD; Ana Sejeck, ECIF; Armando Guerra, AECE; Daisy Hensley, Miami-Dade County; Anguz Muniz, Miami-Dade County; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Joan Farr, Miami-Dade County; Meagan Drudar, UWCFEEE; Matty Loret de Mola, La Petite Academy; Bolivar Stamp, Stamp FCCH

<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,</b>
<b>Chair</b>	

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Ana Rodriguez called roll and a quorum was established with twelve (12) voting members.



- O. Verdeja introduced the Board of Directors to the paperless system.
- O. Verdeja stated the last ELAC meeting was in Tallahassee which both he and E. Torres attended and met with the governor.
- O. Verdeja recognized the efforts of the AECE in Tallahassee. S. La Villa and D. Williams joined them.
- O. Verdeja stated he would be leaving early and Y. Johnson would take over the rest of the Board meeting.

<b>II. Approval of Minutes</b> <b>Chair</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.,</b>
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- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 03/01/10.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by C. Lederman.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

<b>III. Finance Committee Report</b>	<b>Yesenia Perkins</b>
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- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 033110-01 to approve the Coalition's Second Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2009-2010.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- E. Torres stated that the ELC asks for more dollars than what is actually utilized.
- J. Colyer asked if a strategy was put into place on how to utilize these dollars.
- E. Torres stated that this is an employee benefit, and all the participants in the program are child care providers.
- J. Colyer stated that the ELC should target and talk to a group like MiamiMoms.com. She suggested seeing what groups like these are saying about the program and look into marketing to this group.
- Motion to approve Resolution 022410-04 to authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Family Central, Inc. to provide technical assistance services for center-based early care and education providers in Miami-Dade County, FY 2010-2011.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- S. La Villa stated she had several concerns. She stated FIU received three zeroes in the RFP. She stated she would like to see several things from the



administration; the list of the evaluators, the list of the Committees who met afterwards, and the staff recommendations. She stated that in the past providers have attended these evaluations. Who are the readers and who are the evaluators? Will the ELC at some point share this information?

- O. Verdeja stated he was concerned about the zeroes. He also asked if the ELC would drop the highest and the lowest ratings, but there were no changes in result to that. He stated he's not questioning the process but just asked for his own curiosity.
- S. La Villa asked what happens if those zeroes shouldn't be there.
- J. Colyer stated the Committee was pretty comfortable with the decision that was made. It wasn't as if one person scored it.
- O. Verdeja stated it's worth investigating the process. These are averages and not one-point differentials.
- S. Echemendia stated there is nothing wrong with evaluations that come up with zeroes. That said, he could come up with some ideas on how to improve the process.
- S. La Villa suggested that part of the process should be to have outside readers.
- D. Lawrence asked if there are challenges in having outside readers.
- E. Torres stated the ELC would have to ensure there is no conflict of interest. S. Echemendia was there every step of the way as the ELC wanted to make sure counsel was present for every meeting. He suggested that all Board members and staff be trained on the RFP process and can set up a committee to do that.
- D. Lawrence stated the ELC must commit to looking at this process. As an outsider, someone can easily say that it's the insiders making these decisions beginning with the CEO.
- N. Seijas stated the County faces the same dilemma. They use three or four insiders, and maybe one or two outsiders and that seems to balance things a bit more.
- O. Verdeja stated if that's the case then the ELC should do the same.
- D. Armstrong stated he has a conflict with one of the proposals. He stated the reviewing-scoring system is a tool, but the responsibility for making this decision rests on the committee and the reviewers of the Board.
- D. Lawrence stated he wonders about the perils of writing stuff down.
- S. Echemendia stated that the comment system can be a risk. The bigger the discrepancy, the biggest risk of running into a legal problem.



- Motion to approve Resolution 022410-05 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the University of Miami to provide technical assistance services for the family childcare homes providing early care and education services in Miami-Dade County, FY 2010-2011.
  - D. Park moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by G. Schwartz.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  
- Motion to approve Resolution 022410-06 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with the United Way, Inc. to provide training and accreditation services to support QRIS programs in Miami-Dade County, FY 2010-2011.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
  
- Motion to approve Resolution 022410-07 to authorize the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a contract with Wesley House Family Services, Inc. to provide School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten services for Monroe County, FY 2010-2011.
  
- A. Eckstein stated he has a conflict of interest with Wesley House Family Services, Inc. and would not be voting on this resolution.
  
- S. Echemendia stated A. Eckstein will be required to sign a conflict of interest form.
  - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
  - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

<b>IV. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>
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<b>David Williams, Jr. and the Hon. Cindy S.</b>
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<b>Lederman</b>
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- C. Lederman stated there is still a concern with the TAPP program. There are accredited vacancies in neighborhoods where these children live.
  
- E. Torres provided an update on the TAPP program. He stated it allows teenagers that are parents to place children under accredited child care. He stated in past meetings with Miami-Dade County Public Schools--they agree that children should be placed in a high-quality setting, in accredited centers. However, the ELC will not dictate to the school system. A final decision should be made within the next 30-45 days.
  
- C. Lederman stated a vote was already made in a past Board meeting and doesn't understand why it's not being implemented. A vote like this cannot be ignored and this should have involved implementation discussions. It was expected that staff would follow through.
  
- S. Echemendia stated that while the vote was made with best efforts in mind, staff is diligently trying to address the issue as concerns were raised with the School board.



- D. Lawrence stated the question is if the Board voted. Unless the ELC staff comes back stating there is a problem, the Board will continue to push the issue.

<b>V. Provider Services Committee Report Ed.D.</b>	<b>Gina Cortes-Suarez,</b>
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- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the Provider Services Committee held a great meeting in March. It was very well attended by Miami-Dade County and Monroe providers. They spent a great deal talking about legislative issues. The Committee also discussed the accreditation issue.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated the next Provider Services Committee meeting will be in May in Key West, FL.

<b>VI. Governance &amp; Bylaws Committee Report</b>	<b>Alan Eckstein, Esq.</b>
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- A. Eckstein stated that the bylaws require a 10-day notice to the Board with any proposed changes. He stated a current version of the bylaws along with a marked-up version will be sent prior to the May Board meeting.

<b>VII. CEO Report CEO</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres,</b>
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- Presentation available on [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org).

<b>VIII. Public Comments Jr.</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja,</b>
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- L. Carmona-Sanchez recommended that the ELC organize a committee for RFPs that would include providers.
- E. Torres stated that he and C. Lederman would be meeting with Secretary Sheldon.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez recommended looking into ACCESS, a DCF program.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez asked that before a vote is made, public comments should be taken into consideration. This might help inform Board members on the decisions they are about to make.

<b>IX. Adjourn Jr.</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja,</b>
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