



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
September 7th; 8:00 am
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees:

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. (Vice Chair); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Modesto E. Abety; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.; Rick Beasley; Connie Chapell; Jacqui B. Colyer; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; David Lawrence, Jr. (attended via conference call); The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; Jane McQueen; Harve Mogul; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; Marisol Arceo on behalf of David Williams, Jr.; Santiago Echemendia (Board Counsel)

Board Absentees:

P. Morgan Hill; The Hon. Natacha Seijas

Staff Attendees:

Evelio Torres, President & CEO; Leeana Pena, Board Liaison; Angelo Parrino; Tabatha Cullen; Blythe Robinson; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Jose Hernandez; Michelle Wenleder; Milton Silvera; Nicole Bardin; Fiorella Altare; Diana Lane; Bethany Sands; Melody Thelwell; Ana Pizano

General Attendees:

Andrea Iturrieta; Gleibys Corinan; Paola Videla; Yamila Dilu; Blanca L. Pinto; Alexandra Aloy; Nubia Velasco; Jessica Morel; Dania Torre; Edy Molina; Barbara Rodriguez; Ernesto Valdes; Susana; Odaisy Viera; Dulce F. Borje; Wendy Queija; Gelin P. Torrez; Alexa E. Valencia; Gina Philippe; Gladys R. Monthers, United Way; Alison Gonzalez, Florida International University; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Edy Leticia Molina; Jesse Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Maria Fely Rodriguez; Isman Martinez; Nilda Robillard; Beatriz Soler, The 2nd House & Preschool; Susan Escudero, The United Way; Wanda Ellis, Kid's Choice Preschool, Mamila Dilu; Mayelin Vazquez; Claudia Reyes; Mayra Suarez; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Janet Alvarado; Michelle Smith; Lazaro Alonso; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Anny Vallejo; Daymi Mata; Jennifer Rogo, The 2nd House Day Care & Learning Center; Lagredelle Nadege; Rosemarie Gila; Marisel Elias Miranda, Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Alina Cuza, Bambi Land Day Care Center; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House; Eddy Sterlin, New Sunrise Daycare; Barbara Paredes; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Armando Perez; Marc David; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Rosario Perez; Beatriz Arias; Karla Canahui; Liudmilla Sanchez; Sahily Preieb; Susana Oliva; Bill De La Sierra, FACCM; Gussie Flynn, YMCA; Seyriag Curbelo, Kid Choice; Charline Raphael; Jessica Morel; Maria Cuadra; Maria Del Rocio Trejo; Domingo Navarro; Ivy Martinez, Miami-Dade County; Dabney G.



Park, Ph.D.; Paul Zamek; Gail Grego, Florida International University; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Priscilla Sulfa

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leean Pena called roll and a quorum was established with 18 voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated Y. Perkins' father had passed away and expressed his condolences. He stated the Strategic Planning Process was started in order to improve the quality of early child care education. He stated D. Parks would be facilitating the retreat. He stated that the ELC would continue to move forward and set goals for quality and outcomes for children, while complying with federal mandates. He stated the day's mission was to establish what the current goals are. How does the ELC take something good and turn it into something better? He designated G. Cortes-Suarez, M. Abety, J. Colyer, D. Williams, and S. Fagundo to serve on the Strategic Planning Process Committee.
- O. Verdeja stated he was appointing E. Torres as ELC representative to The Children's Trust Board.
- E. Torres recognized staff member A. Rodriguez for her hard work at the Coalition.
- A. Rodriguez thanked the Board and stated she loves working at the ELC.
- O. Verdeja recognized Board members G. Schwartz and Y. Johnson. Both are private sector members and have served on the Board and have been very active. He thanked them for all their hard work.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 08/02/10.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

III. Public Comments from Parents

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- D. Lawrence introduced a video clip for The Children's Movement.
- O. Verdeja stated parents had been invited to attend the meeting to express their concerns to the Board.
- Andrea Iturrieta: I've been on the waiting list for 1 and ½ years. I am a single parent of three, work fulltime. My daughter's aftercare is \$35 a week. It's very hard for a single family income to make ends meet plus daycare expenses. The State of Florida should definitely work on a new or improved system.



- Gleibys Corinan: I'm a single mother and have been on the waiting list for more than a year and half. Everyone knows the cost of daycare continues to increase. I have small children and had to stop working to stay home with them because I couldn't afford daycare. Still, I feel they are missing out on a real education. Please help us.
- Paola Videla: I've been on the waiting list for two years for my daughter. I need help, her education is at stake.
- Yamila Dilu: I really need help because my income is not enough to pay rent, electricity, gas, etc. With this as expensive as they are these days my paycheck can't cover all the bills and my husband hasn't been able to find a job. I have been on the waiting list for about a year and half. We have two children, we desperately need help.
- Blanca L. Pinto: I've been on the waiting list for two years. I am a single mother of one son, and sometimes I have to take my child with me to work because I cannot afford daycare. Please help me meet my needs.
- Alexandra Aloy: It's been about a year since I applied for School Readiness and need help. I have a child and cannot do it alone. I want my child to receive the proper education so he can have a better life than I do.
- Nubia Velasco: Thank you for giving parents the opportunity to speak. It's been two years since I applied for School Readiness but haven't received any help. I have two daughters and need help because I cannot afford daycare alone.
- Jessica Morel: I'm a single mother of a two year old son. It's very hard for me. I've been on the waiting list for two years and I am still waiting. I need the help. I don't want to take my child out of school because he is learning so much but I can't afford it.
- Dania Torre: It's been a year since I applied for help. I was working and was recently laid off. I need help please.
- Edy Molina: I have a two year old and have been on the waiting list for over a year. We need help and it's so hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Please help us.
- Barbara Rodriguez: I have two children, a girl of two years old and a boy of five years old. After the birth of my daughter I was left without a job. Currently, I am cleaning homes but what I'm earning isn't enough to cover daycare. I am in need of help, please help me.
- Ernesto Valdes: I'm a single father. I was given full custody of my son after he turned four months old. I don't have enough to cover his daycare. Please help.
- Susana: I have a two year old and a three and half year old. I only make \$370 a week and I pay \$177 for childcare. I struggle for that and don't have enough left to pay the bills. I need help please.
- Odaisy Viera: It's been a year since I applied for help and am still waiting. I don't make enough money to cover the expenses for my daughter's education. Please help.



- Dulce F. Borje: I have two kids and have been on the waiting for a year and a half now. I work twelve hours a day and I don't have another to help me take care of my kids. I can't afford daycare and I have a babysitter that gives me a good discount for both kids, but they are not learning what they need to learn for their age. I earn \$23,000k a year but was told that my income was too high to receive help from the government. All I need is help for daycare.
- B. De La Sierra: I have come before the Board many times before today. I'd like to come to you to talk about how we can work together in helping these children. Unions are making the prices of childcare increase for payments. Keep in mind that there are many organizations that are working for the children. They need the support so that requests that are being put on providers are stopped. Support legislation that makes sense and help the providers.
- Wendy Queija: I have two children. I two year old and an infant of 8 months. It's been very hard. I am a single mother. I applied in February of 2010 for help and haven't heard anything yet. I am paying \$240 a week for childcare and after bills; I am only left with \$200. It's not easy. I need help please.
- Gelin P. Torrez: My daughter's name is Maria Fernanda. I applied for help two years ago and still haven't received any support. I'm a single mother and only receive \$600 a month to cover rent and daycare. I need help please.
- Alexa E. Valencia: I have three children, currently unemployed, and have been on the waiting list for a year and a half. I have a second job just so that my children can go to daycare. Why is it difficult to get help from all the resources that are available to the public? Please help me.
- O. Verdeja thanked everyone for coming to give their input.
- Y. Johnson thanked the parents for putting a face to the "number" of those on the waiting list.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Yesenia Perkins

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 090110-01 to approve the Coalition's First Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2010-2011.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 090110-02 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the QRIS grant/contract with the Children's Trust.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.



- Motion to approve Resolution 090110-03 to authorize the President and CEO to renew the sub-contract agreements for the Quality Counts programs listed within the background section of this resolution.
 - G. Schwartz moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 090110-04 to authorize the President and CEO to receive and execute the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) Refugee Subsidized Childcare Services grant/contract.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 090110-05 to authorize the President and CEO to execute a sub-contract agreement for Refugee childcare services with Miami-Dade County.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial snapshots.

V. Program & Strategy Committee Report	David Williams, Jr. & The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman
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- C. Lederman stated that the Committee had recommended that the three providers that had scored as LPP (Low Performing Providers) who also had violations from DOE (Department of Education) be removed from being able to receive funds.
- C. Lederman stated that a letter was received from the Director of Procurement from the Miami Dade County School Board. 38% of TAPP children are not in accredited daycare. That's an increase in the last few months.
- E. Torres stated C. Lederman requested a meeting with the Superintendent and will be speaking in front of the School Board as well.
- E. Torres stated a vote was necessary for the issue of the three LPP's. The Committee voted on sending these providers a letter of intent that they would no longer be able to receive School Readiness dollars due to the fact that they were LPP's for four consecutive years and had DOE violations.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the Committee's recommendation.
 - Motion was seconded by M. Abety.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- S. Fagundo asked if this action would be cancelling both their VPK and School Readiness contracts.



- E. Torres stated the DOE already notified these providers that they would no longer be receiving VPK funds due to the LPP situations for four consecutive years. The Committee had a voted on specifically the School Readiness dollars.
- S. Fagundo asked what the licensing violations were.
- J. Russell stated there were various but mostly Level 1 and Level 2 violations. She does not have that information but most violations would have to do in the health and safety issues for children.
- L. Piñeiro stated that Level 1 and Level 2 violations would have to be addressed statewide. There is no consistency in how counties handle these violations. A Level 1 violation loses Gold Seal so loses the ability to benefit from the tax relief, they lose accreditation, and the bottom line is that the definitions are decided upon at the county's discretion.
- J. Colyer stated that there have been discrepancies on the difference between Level 1 or Level 2 violations. The three centers that we are referring to have had numerous violations in the last three years. The department and the ELC have worked with them and it has not been corrected.
- Y. Johnson stated a motion and second had already been made. The vote was not made by the Board.
- S. Fagundo asked if the grounds for this was based on them not being able to meet the licensing issues or that they are VPK LPP's.
- E. Torres stated that providers that were LPP's and appealed to the DOE, most of them were granted the appeal. These particular three providers had violations and therefore denied the appeal. A policy should be drafted to clarify these procedures.
- Y. Perkins stated that the word low performing can be misleading for a provider. Can the motion be amended to read that the safety and health of these children is not compromised?
- Y. Perkins asked to reconsider the motion.
 - G. Cortes-Suarez seconded the motion.
- E. Torres stated that these providers can appeal to the Provider Services Committee.
- D. Armstrong asked to restate the motion.
- F. Hicks stated that the initial motion was to stop funding the three LPP providers and it was in fact voted on by the Board.
- H. Mogul stated he will not withdrawal the initial motion and will not vote on a subsequent one.



- Y. Johnson asked for a vote to reconsider the motion.
 - Motion was unanimously opposed.

- Y. Johnson stated the initial motion then stands.

VI. Governance & Bylaws Committee Report

Alan Eckstein, Esq.

- A. Eckstein stated that there were changes that needed to be made to the current bylaws per SB 2014. He stated that the Governance & Bylaws Committee and Board Counsel, S. Echemendia made all the necessary changes to the bylaws. The revised bylaws were sent to the Board 10 business days before the Board meeting and needs an approval for all changes.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by R. Beasley.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

VII. Nominating Committee Report

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.

- Y. Johnson stated the Committee had met several times in the past month to fill the Private Child Care Representative position on the Board. There were a large number of qualified applicants. It was gratifying to see the level of interest from the child care community. She stated that the Committee had selected 9 applicants for interview. It was a very difficult decision by the Committee had selected S. Fagundo as the new Provider Child Care Representative on the Board.
 - M. Abety moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

- S. Fagundo thanked the Board for the process that the Committee went through. It was a challenging interview. She stated she was fortunate to spend time with the other candidates and was pleased to be in their presence. She is excited to be working with the ELC and the provider community. She will be serving on the Program & Strategy Committee and the Provider Services Committee and is looking forward to it.

VIII. Curriculum Learning Communities
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Ana Pizano

- Presentation is available on www.elcmdm.org.

IX. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- Presentation is available on www.elcmdm.org.

X. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

XI. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair
