



# Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting  
April 4, 2011; 8:00 am  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja Jr. (Chair); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. (Vice Chair); Yesenia Perkins (Treasurer); Modesto E. Abety; Marisel Elias Miranda on behalf of Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (attended via conference call); Roderick 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; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (attended via conference call); Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams (attended via conference call)

**Board Absentees:** P. Morgan Hill; Harve Mogul; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq.

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio C. Torres, CEO (attended via conference call); Leeana Pena; Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (attended via conference call); Fred Hicks; Milton Silvera; Melody Thelwell; Sandra Gonzalez

**General Attendees:** Bob De La Fuente (on behalf of Board Attorney, Santiago Echemendia); Marisel Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Linda Carmona Sanchez, AECE; Betty Key, MCI; Ardene Estrada, MDC; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Alison Gonzalez, FIU; Michele S. Kaplan, Derereux; Meagan Heller, United Way; Martiza Alonso, MDC; Suzette Frasier, DCF; Renee Ward, Miami Children's Initiative; Rose Marie, Children's Forum; Gail Gregg, FIU; Edith Humes-Newbold, MDC; Maria Woodson, MDC; Betty Vinson, FIU; Dr. Howard Piper, MDC; Dabney Park, Performance Executive Search; Kimberly Coward, DCF; Phyllis Tynes Saunders, MDC; Rolanda Scott, Head Start

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with 14 voting members.
- O. Verdeja announced he became a grandfather the previous Monday.
- O. Verdeja congratulated Bibi Hack of REM Learning Center for earning the Terri Lynn Lokoff National Child Care Teacher Award. Ms. Hack won the award for her project, "The Listening Center." The Teacher Awards recognize exemplary educational and age-appropriate classroom projects as well as the importance of the early care and education profession.



- O. Verdeja stated the two biggest legislative issues the ELC is dealing with at the time are the budget and the Government Reorganization Bill. E. Torres and D. Lawrence are in Tallahassee this morning working on these issues. On behalf of our entire community and the Board, he thanked D. Lawrence for working so hard on these very important issues.
- D. Lawrence stated they are working hard on the housing of VPK and School Readiness. They need to be together and should be housed under the Department of Education, rather than DCF. They have had to battle to achieve this, and a lot of momentum was going the other way due to Senator Wise. We prevailed in that moment to achieve what we want, but the battle is far from over.
- O. Verdeja stated the Board would be reviewing the Strategic Planning documents and taking a final vote on priorities next month. He thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work on the plan and for the continued involvement in the next steps.
- O. Verdeja stated the ELC received a request from the AECE to review the decision to adopt the new AWI sliding fee scale for parents. He asked the Finance Committee to review the sliding fee scale at their next meeting, and for the Program & Strategy Committee to allow this to be part of their discussion. They can provide a recommendation at the next Board meeting. All decisions having to do with funding and slots are difficult ones and it's important to make sure the ELC is fair to all involved, including parents and providers.
- O. Verdeja stated there would be some turnover to the team of officers and the Board. P. Hill's last Board meeting would be today, as her term expires at the end of April. We would like to have her attend the next Board meeting to properly thank her for all her years of service. Y. Perkins' term as Treasurer on the Board and Finance Chair also ends at the end of April. O. Verdeja stated he would be appointing another member to serve as Treasurer and Finance Chair. Y. Johnson would be meeting with the Nominating Committee to discuss the turnover and the new appointments that will need to be made.
- O. Verdeja stated that L. Pena has Conflict of Interest forms in case that anyone needs to declare a conflict of interest before we vote on any item.

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

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

- O. Verdeja called for a motion to approve the March 7, 2011 meeting minutes.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes.
  - Motion seconded by A. Weller.
  - Motion unanimously passed.

## **III. Finance Committee Report**

**Yesenia Perkins**

- Y. Perkins reviewed the financial statements.



#### IV. Program & Strategy Committee Report

David Williams Jr.  
The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

- C. Lederman stated that the Program & Strategy Committee agreed unanimously on having minimum standards for child care centers. While the Committee is clear on wanting to do this, they are not clear on what the terms should be. The Committee has asked staff to work on a subcommittee to discuss this issue.

#### V. Nominating Committee Report

Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.

- Y. Johnson stated that County Manager, George Burgess sent a letter designating Dr. Howard Piper to the ELC Board to replace Irene Taylor-Wooten, who previously filled the seat. The Nominating Committee interviewed him and found that he's quite committed to the ELC and promoting the ELC mission. The Nominating Committee recommended for Dr. Howard Piper to be accepted into the Board and serve as the designee for the Central Agency Administrator on the Board until the term expires in April 30, 2012.
  - C. Lederman moved to approve the recommendation.
  - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
  - Motion unanimously passed.
- H. Piper thanked the Nominating Committee and the Board for accepting him to serve on the ELC Board. He has a lot to learn but is looking forward to serving.
- Y. Johnson stated that the first terms for C. Lederman, D. Williams and H. Mogul were up. The Nominating Committee confirmed that they all wish to continue to serve on the ELC Board. The Committee recommended that they be reappointed for a 4 year term.
  - A. Eckstein moved to approve the recommendation.
  - Motion was seconded by J. McQueen.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Y. Johnson stated that P. Hill's term would expire at the end of April. She currently fills the Governor Appointed Private Sector representative seat on the Board. This position is being advertised and applications are due April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Y. Johnson stated that C. Chapell's term would expire at the end of June. She currently fills the Faith Based Child Care representative seat on the Board. This position is being advertised and applications are due April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Y. Johnson stated that M. Abrahante's term would expire at the end of April and this position would rotate to Monroe County. The ELC has asked the Superintendent of Monroe County Public Schools to appoint a representative.
- O. Verdeja thanked C. Chapell and P. Hill for serving on the ELC Board.

#### VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres, CEO

- Please refer to [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for presentation.



- E. Torres thanked the Florida Children Services Council for their tremendous work in legislative efforts. He thanked Diana Ragbeer who is also in Tallahassee working hard.
- B. Robinson reviewed the information on the VPK LPP (Low Performing Providers).
- E. Torres stated that the issue is knowing we have a system that is flawed. We are only measuring children as they exit the program.
- J. Colyer requested a list of LPP in Miami-Dade County. She stated it's important to assess the children before they come in, and take a hard look at what's going on.
- A. Eckstein asked if they become housed by the Department of Education, would the LPP designation apply to School Readiness grants as well.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated it would not apply because they come from very different funding sources. If both VPK and School Readiness are both kept together, it allows for a smooth transition and gives it an academic home.
- Y. Perkins asked if any LPP's have had their funding cut.
- B. Robinson confirmed that two have.

#### **VII. Class 1 & Class 2 Violations Training**

**Kimberly Coward, DCF**

- Please refer to [www.elcmdm.org](http://www.elcmdm.org) for presentation.
- K. Coward stated there was a correction to the slide on infant ratios. She stated she would forward a revised copy of the presentation to the Board at a later time.

#### **VIII. Public Comments**

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

- L. Carmona-Sanchez congratulated O. Verdeja on becoming a grandfather. She shared a personal story with the Board. She was about 10 years old and her mother worked for the American Baptist Convention. One day her mother was coordinating a gospel choir that was in the lobby, which she had attended as a child, and later learned that it was Martin Luther King. Hours later, Martin Luther King was murdered. Hours before, he had met with the sanitation department. It just goes to show the significance of any position.
- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that the sliding fee scale was adopted by this Board. The sliding fee scale establishes income criteria and also sets rates for which parents contribute more for the cost of care. The parent co-pay is set by the Coalition. The federal guidelines state that we should keep co-pays under 10% of the average household income. Last year, it was kept to 7% but this year it was dropped to 4%. This represents a \$364,000 liability to the Coalition. ELC will have to make up the difference and that would be equal to 120 children of fulltime childcare.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

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