



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
August 1, 2011; 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); Modesto E. Abety; Roderick Beasley (attended via conference call); Yolanda Borroto; Jacqui B. Colyer; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; Jane McQueen; Harve Mogul; Yesenia Perkins (attended via conference call); Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr.

Board Absentees: Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (Treasurer); Comm. Barbara J. Jordan

Staff Attendees: Evelio C. Torres, CEO (attended via conference call); Leeana Pena; Angelo Parrino; Blythe Robinson; Tabatha Cullen; Jackye Russell; Mary Williams (attended via conference call); Fred Hicks; Milton Silvera; Melody Thelwell; Sandra Gonzalez; Pam Hollingsworth; Mercy Castiglione; Jose Hernandez; Aileen Martinez; Diana Lane

General Attendees: Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney), Tew Cardenas LLP; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Jessica Sanchez, University of Miami; Jessie Leinfelder, The Children's Trust; Ana Sejeck, Early Childhood Initiative Foundation; Rhonda Smith, Fit Kids of America; Leslie Petursson, University of Miami; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Jenine Swain, FCCH; Susan Gold, University of Miami; Collette Parvez; Joanne Palenzuela, University of Miami; Alison Gonzalez, Florida International University; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Rochelle Boreland, Miami-Dade County Commissioners; Dabney G. Park, Jr., Ph.D., Performance Executive Search; Eryn Bizar, United Way; Luis A. Rosas, Miami-Dade County

I. Welcome and Introductions

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Leeana Pena called roll and a quorum was established with 16 voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that the Board packet included a letter to the Governor from B. Jordan urging the Governor to apply for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Funds. In addition, a contribution letter from Publix Super Market Charities was also in the packet. Also included, were the ELC News Alert and the ELC Parent Link Newsletter.



- O. Verdeja stated that Dr. Leslie Salinero, who was previously appointed as the representative for the Monroe County School Superintendent, is now a school principal and will no longer serve on the Board. A letter has been sent to the Superintendent requesting a replacement.
- O. Verdeja stated that Dr. Howard Piper resigned from his position at Miami-Dade County. A letter has been sent to Mayor Gimenez for another representative to be appointed.
- O. Verdeja stated that at the last Board meeting, the Board voted to add a Miami-Dade County Public Schools representative as an ex-officio, non-voting member. A. Eckstein is working on scheduling a Governance & Bylaws Committee meeting to add this to the bylaws. Once the Board approves this, a letter will be sent to the Miami-Dade Public Schools Superintendent to appoint a member.
- O. Verdeja stated that if anyone has a conflict of interest with any of the items being voted on to please request a conflict of interest form from L. Pena.
- E. Torres welcomed the four Miami-Dade Family Childcare Providers that achieved 1st time accreditation in 2011. Significant research has provided that warm, loving and home-like settings are natural environments for children, especially vulnerable children. Accreditation by the National Association for the Family Childcare is a gold standard of quality and signifies that the environment is safe, warm and nurturing with appropriate education activities. Providers such as these who engage in the voluntary accreditation process take quality very seriously. The Coalition is pleased to continue to support providers as they move through the accreditation process.
- E. Torres congratulated Collette Parvez, Maria Avila, Jenine Swain, and Maria C. Fernandez who was not able to attend.
- E. Torres thanked S. Gold for working with family child care homes and assisting in quality counts.
- S. Gold stated that the providers deserve all the recognition. It's not an easy task, but the support is greatly appreciated.
- E. Torres stated that after September, the University of Miami will no longer be working with the ELC in the same capacity. However, he wants to ensure that S. Gold stays in close contact and in assisting family child care homes.
- D. Lawrence thanked S. Gold for all her work and recognized her as one of the most superb professionals in the community.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- O. Verdeja called for a motion to approve the June 6, 2011 meeting minutes.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the minutes.
 - Motion seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion unanimously passed.



III. Look Before You Lock

Tabatha Cullen

- T. Cullen presented the Look Before You Lock campaign. The ELC has created and is leading this campaign. An organization called Kids In Cars have now also launched a campaign mirroring the efforts of the ELC.
- L. Piñeiro suggested that DCF present this to the drivers at childcare centers.
- H. Mogul congratulated ELC staff on developing this campaign. He asked if this could be a potential income item for the ELC.
- A. Parrino stated that the ELC cannot make profit on anything where School Readiness dollars are used.
- T. Cullen stated all items, media, etc would average about \$50–60k.
- S. Echemendia stated he would look into this and report back to the Board.
- T. Cullen stated D. Lane was the mastermind behind the logo and artwork of the campaign.
- D. Lane stated this was presented to other coalitions. We like to work in partnerships and the ELC has offered the artwork for the other coalitions to distribute.

IV. Finance Committee Report

Angelo Parrino

- A. Parrino reviewed the statement of revenue & expenditures.
- Motion to approve Resolution 080111-01
 - J. Colyer moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by H. Mogul.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 080111-02
 - J. Colyer moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by S. Fagundo.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

V. Program & Strategy Committee Report

David Williams, Jr. & The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman

- E. Torres presented the Provider Transfer Policy.
- S. Fagundo asked how a provider would handle a transfer, and asked if they apply for a new license.
- J. Colyer stated that in one case, DCF found out about a provider transferring their center and found that they owned three other centers, but all under the name of their son. This was after losing their license.
- L. Pineiro asked if DCF was planning on doing something about these types of cases.



- J. Colyer stated that Tallahassee has already stated what their policy is and it's what is in the statute. She cannot change the laws. Unfortunately, yes, a provider can open a new corporation if it's technically the same owners.
- E. Torres stated that while this policy won't prevent anyone from opening a new business, it will help in preventing them from receiving school readiness.
- Motion to approve the Provider Transfer Policy.
 - A. Eckstein moved to table the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve the Disenrollment Policy.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Williams.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

VI. Monroe County Advisory Committee	Alan Eckstein, Esq.
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- Motion to approve 10% increase for the Monroe parent fees. This was unanimously approved by the Monroe Advisory Committee.
 - Y. Johnson moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by C. Lederman.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

VII. CEO Report	Evelio C. Torres
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- E. Torres presented his CEO report. Please refer to www.elcmdm.org for the presentation.
- M. Abety requested Head Start information.
- J. McQueen stated that they are currently working on the plan but it will not be ready until it has been approved.

VIII. Public Comments	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
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- L. Carmona-Sanchez congratulated the Coalition on informing the public of the budget cuts. She attended the community forums and was disappointed that parents of the community didn't show but was thankful for the effort from the ELC.
- R. Smith thanked the ELC for all the work done in the community. She feels blessed to be a provider. Her agency, Fit Kids of America, has about 60 children that are thriving. She is working hard contacting all her clients to give them a heads up and prepare them emotionally for the budget cuts.

IX. Adjourn	Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.
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