



Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
October 3, 2011; 8:00 am
ELC Board Room

Board Attendees: Octavio A. Verdeja Jr. (Chair); Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D. (Vice Chair) (attended via conference call); Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (Treasurer); Theresa Axford; Roderick Beasley; Yolanda Borroto; Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; Shaleen Fagundo; Esther Jacobo; Comm. Barbara J. Jordan; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy S. Lederman; Jane McQueen (attended via conference call); Harve Mogul; Yesenia Perkins; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq. (attended via conference call); Ann Karen Weller, R.N., B.S.N.; David Williams, Jr.

Board Absentees: Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez

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

General Attendees: Bob De La Fuente (on behalf of Santiago Echemendia, Board Attorney), Tew Cardenas LLP; Doug Blomberg, Wesley House (attended via conference call); Susan Neimand, Miami Dade College; Linda Carmona-Sanchez, AECE; Mercedes Hernandez, Mercy Family Child Care Inc; Maria L. Alcazar, Great Discoveries; Gladys R. Montes, UWCFE; Rochelle Boreland, Commissioner Barbara Jordan; Matty Loret de Mola, Learning Care Group; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Milagros Santos, Children Around the World; Meagan Heller, United Way; Ardene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Marie Woodson, Miami-Dade County; Marisol Elias Miranda, MDCPS; Wendy Solomon, Family Central; Evelyn Jordan, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Saunders, 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 17 voting members.
- O. Verdeja stated that included in the Board packet, are the ELC news alert, Parent Link newsletter.
- O. Verdeja announced that if anyone has a conflict of interest, to please ask L. Pena for a conflict of interest form.



- O. Verdeja welcomed T. Axford to her first Board meeting.
- T. Axford introduced herself to the Board. She stated she looks forward to working with the ELC.
- O. Verdeja introduced E. Jacobo to her first Board meeting.
- E. Jacobo introduced herself to the Board. She stated she took over Jacqui Colyer's position as Regional Director at DCF. She's happy to be on the ELC Board.
- O. Verdeja reported that the Quality Counts program made national news. Recently, Quality Counts has been catapulted into the national arena and has been featured prominently in several research articles and webinars, thanks to participation in the QRS Assessment Project (funded by the office of Planning, Research and Evaluation OPRE), the QRS National Learning Network and the NAEYC Pathways to Cultural Competence Project. Through Quality Counts, hundreds of programs have benefited from technical assistance and career advising, received professional development opportunities, stipends and learning mistakes, all to improve the quality of care and education received by thousands of children in Miami-Dade County. Currently, 47% of School Readiness and VPK children are attending Quality Counts.
- O. Verdeja congratulated G. Cortes-Suarez and her staff at Miami Dade College for their new 4 year BS degree program in early childhood education. He introduced S. Neimand.
- S. Neimand stated that the process for the BS degree program started in 1998. This program is something new for the State because it's a birth to grade 3 program. Those who complete it will have a professional teaching certificate. This will raise the level of competence in the classroom and the education standards for children. They received a \$275k grant from the Children's Trust to assist in the development of the coursework. This degree program will begin in the fall and staff is already meeting with students to ensure they are ready for the program.
- E. Torres introduced B. De La Fuente.
- B. De La Fuente introduced himself to the Board.
- B. De La Fuente briefed the Board on Board membership. He reviewed required members, private sector, rotation, and ex-officio Board members. B. De La Fuente reviewed voting rights. B. De La Fuente explained the request of the Governance & Bylaws Committee to add six additional ex-officio Board members.
- D. Lawrence stated that this discussion began with the principle of having representatives from both counties with the ability to speak up on the Board. That's what's important, not necessarily their ability to vote.
- A. Eckstein stated that when Miami-Dade and Monroe counties merged, the initial bylaws stated that all positions would rotate. In Monroe, they don't believe that's necessary. The Committee is now thinking on rotating just three positions. Miami-Dade has the majority of the votes, and will always have the majority;



therefore it wouldn't make a difference if the designated members were voting or non-voting members.

- E. Torres stated that the Superintendent position, Central Agency position, and County Commissioner position were the three positions identified by the Committee that should have representation by both counties.
- D. Armstrong stated that his position was previously a non-voting position and that never refrained him from speaking. He stated it was important to not create boundaries between Miami-Dade and Monroe; the ELC is responsible for children in both counties.
- A. Eckstein stated that the Governance & Bylaws Committee would reconvene on this subject and report back to the Board at a later time.

II. Approval of Minutes

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- O. Verdeja called for a motion to approve the September 6, 2011 meeting minutes.
 - C. Lederman moved to approve the minutes.
 - Motion seconded by G. Schwartz.
 - Motion unanimously passed.

III. Finance Committee Report

Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D.

- D. Armstrong reviewed the financials and snapshots.
- Motion to approve Resolution 092811-01 to approve the Coalition's First Budget Amendment for the fiscal year 2011-2012.
 - A. Eckstein moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by Y. Johnson.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

IV. Provider Services Committee Report

Gina Cortes-Suarez, Ed.D.

- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that four providers presented grievances to the Provider Services Committee regarding payment. The Committee felt there were several gaps in what the providers reported and what actually happened. They decided to bring these to the Board to make a decision case by case.
- E. Torres stated that after the Provider Services Committee meeting, AWI authorized the ELC to pay the four providers.
- G. Cortes-Suarez stated that three providers presented grievances regarding DCF licensure violations they received. The Committee decided that these providers would not be receiving payment.
 - S. Fagundo moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by D. Armstrong.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.

V. Program & Strategy Committee Report

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

- C. Lederman stated that the Board approved the suspension policy two months ago. This resulted in some challenges that the Program & Strategy Committee wanted to correct. She stated that there should be a step before a suspension hearing. A notice should be sent to the provider, inviting them to come in and talk about the violation and what they've done to correct it. If it has been corrected, we can move on. If the violation has not been corrected, then we would proceed with a formal hearing.
 - G. Cortes-Suarez moved to approve the motion.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman presented the Provider Transfer Policy to the Board.
 - H. Mogul moved to approve the policy.
 - Motion was seconded by A. Eckstein.
 - Motion was unanimously passed.
- C. Lederman stated that E. Torres has contracted a consultant to do a feasibility study. She would like to appoint a committee to discuss what the criteria for pre requisites for school readiness funds should be. S. Fagundo, Y. Borroto, and L. Piñeiro, and L. Carmona-Sanchez will be on this workgroup.

VI. CEO Report

Evelio C. Torres

- Please refer to www.elcmdm.org for the presentation.
- P. Hollingsworth and C. Hughes presented the Quality Counts portion of the presentation.
- Y. Johnson asked about geographic distribution and a map of where the programs are located.
- P. Hollingsworth stated that Quality Counts 2.0 will intentionally be working on centers in vulnerable communities.
- R. Beasley asked how many children have been impacted by these centers.
- P. Hollingsworth stated that although she doesn't have an exact number at this time, she can estimate about 50-60 preschoolers. However, she can get the exact number.

VII. Public Comments

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.

- L. Carmona-Sanchez stated that the grievance procedure was a difficult process for everyone involved. She thanked the Provider Services Committee for going through the process.

VIII. Adjourn

Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.