



Board of Directors Meeting  
February 6, 2012; 8:00 a.m.  
ELC Board Room

**Board Attendees:** Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr. (Chair); Yesenia Perkins; Yvonne T. Johnson, M.D.; Gerald K. Schwartz, Esq. (Secretary); Modesto E. Abety-Gutierrez; Rick Beasley; Gina Cortes-Suarez; Alan Eckstein, Esq.; David Lawrence, Jr.; The Hon. Cindy Lederman, (Vice Chair); Harve Mogul; Lucy C. Piñeiro, Esq.; Ann Karen Weller, (R.N., B.S.N.); David Williams, Jr.; Magaly Abrahante, Ed.D.; Daniel Armstrong, Ph.D. (Treasurer); Theresa Axford; Yolanda Borroto; Shaleen Fagundo; Commissioner Barbara Jordan; Lisa Martinez; Jane McQueen; Santiago Echemendia (Board Attorney)

**Board Absentees:** Esther Jacobo

**Staff Attendees:** Evelio Torres (President/CEO); Blythe Robinson; Angelo Parrino; Ana Rodriguez; Christina Vila; Jackye Russell; Fred Hicks; Mercy Castiglione; Patricia Alonso; Melody Thelwell; Humberto Franquiz; Christina Sabater; Pamela Hollingsworth; Christine Hughes; Carol Brogan; Jose Hernandez; Nicole Lopez-Bardin; Oderay Veliz; Bethany Sands; Eddy Copin; Fiorela Altare; Miranda James; Sandra Gonzalez; Mary Williams, ELC Monroe (via conf. call); Milton Silvera

**General Attendees:** Doug Blomberg, Wesley House; Meagan Heller, United Way Center for Excellence, Alejandra Romero, United Way Center for Excellence; Rochelle V. Borland; Jeff Hurst, DCF; Juliette Bernard, Miami-Dade County; Linda Carmona, AECE; Lisa Pittman, The Children's Trust; Doreen Roberts, ECPAI; Wendy Salomon, Family Central; Gladys Montes, United Way Center for Excellence; Idalgisa Arias, HYCCF; Maritza Alonso, Miami-Dade County; Phyllis Saunders, Miami-Dade County; Jamilet Diaz, YMCA Greater Miami; Rick Signori, Miami-Dade County; Arlene Estrada, Miami-Dade County; Eunide Decayethe, Homestead Hospital ELC; Rolanda Scott, Head Start; Belkis Torres, Head Start

<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- Chairman Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
- Ana Rodriguez called roll and a quorum was established with fourteen (14) voting members.



- O. Verdeja congratulated Dr. Cortes-Suarez on the renaming of the Miami Dade College pre-school lab. The official new name is the Exploration Station: The Pre-School at Miami Dade College. The school is one of the only science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) focused pre-schools in Miami-Dade County. The center houses 100 children from ages one to pre-kinder and serves as a demonstration site for students pursuing degrees in childhood education.
- O. Verdeja mentioned Alan Eckstein who was honored as ELC's Volunteer of the Year at a community foundation of the Florida Keys Annual Unsung Heroes.

<b>II. Approval of Minutes</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- O. Verdeja called for the approval of the meeting minutes from 12/05/12.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

<b>III. Executive Committee Report</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr., Chair</b>
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- Motion to approve Resolution 121511-01 Authorizing for the President and CEO to receive and execute the School Board of Miami-Dade County's Teenage Parent Program (TAP) subsidized childcare services grant/contract. The current grant/contract for the fiscal year 2012 is a not-to exceed the amount of \$1,250,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 121511-02 authorizing the President and CEO to negotiate and execute a subcontract agreement for the Teenage Parent Program (TAP) childcare services with Miami-Dade County. The upcoming contract with the effective date of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 will not exceed \$1,107,750.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- Motion to approve Resolution 121511-03 Authorizing the President and CEO to execute a first amendment to contract C11-115 with the University of Miami's Linda Ray Intervention Center to provide coaching, mentoring and education services to teenage parents enrolled with the TAP program. The amendment requests and additional \$46,000.00 for a new total amount not to exceed \$116,000.00, subject to approval for legal sufficiency and form.
  - Motion was unanimously passed by Board members with Daniel Armstrong's recusal



<b>IV. Finance Committee Report</b>
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<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>
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- D. Armstrong reviewed the financial statements.
- Motion to approve Resolution 02062012-01 to ratify the verbal consent given to the President and CEO to execute an extension to the Coalition's office space lease with Prisa Ponce de Leon, LLC located at 2555 Ponce de Leon Blvd., 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The lease will be extended until October 31, 2018 and with the terms and conditions remaining the same throughout the life of the lease.

G. Schwartz spoke about the negotiations which were made and brought about. The landlord agreed to give the Coalition \$75,000 towards improvements made to the offices of the Coalition and they were also given a 3 year extension to the lease at the same term and conditions so that the Coalition would not have to face any future expenses at the time of moving to another location or any concerns regarding rent increases.

- Motion was unanimously passed.
- G. Schwartz mentioned the lawsuit against the Coalition by a former employee, Claudia Mason. He stated that the litigation was settled a week ago by our insurance company and their attorney. The attorney did a superb job and the case was dismissed. G. Schwartz asked for the Boards approval to approve the settlement.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.

<b>V. Program &amp; Strategy Committee Report</b>
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<b>David Williams, Jr. and the Hon. Cindy S. Lederman</b>
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- J. Russell discussed the VPK Readiness Rate.

<b>VI. Monroe Advisory Committee Report</b>
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<b>Alan Eckstein, Esq.</b>
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- A. Eckstein stated that Evelio gave a review of the Auditor General's report which he covered very well. Blythe K. Robinson was present and she briefed the committee on the planned Quality Counts pilot for Monroe County. Five centers in the Keys were selected to participate. The pilot will be a process of approximately 18 to 24 months, we are starting small to see what will work for Monroe County. The two Coalition Class Room Mentors from Monroe will provide technical assistance and career advising. Assessments will be conducted by Devereux. Mr. Eckstein also stated that once the assessment is completed, a quality improvement plan will be developed. Quality Counts is a community program which will include working with Wesley House and other community centers.



- A. Eckstein stated that on the Monroe Advisory Committee Mr. Torres explained the ELC’s policies on contracting with licensed child care providers. He indicated to the community that the child care providers are required to have a license except those that are faith based or license exempt under the Florida Law. There are registered child care homes in Monroe County that are not licensed. The registered homes need to become licensed or need to be phased out. There is little regulatory oversight for registered homes and DCF is not able to violate them or fine them for health and safety deficiencies. The State allows for registered homes and it is up to the local county

government as to whether this is going to continue in Monroe County. A DCF representative reported the current status with child care homes and we have 30 registered homes in the County; 26 are School Readiness; 7 are licensed homes and 2 are in the process of licensing. Also met with the Health Department and the Community College to determine their interest in becoming ELC Board Members.

- A. Eckstein gave a brief update of the bylaws.

<b>VII. CEO Report</b>	<b>Evelio C. Torres, CEO</b>
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- E. Torres presented a review of the Auditor General’s Report.
- E. Torres gave the Board a legislative update that included the following:  
Wanted to go through the AG report first because that’s what lead us into these 4 bills. These bills are not good bills. They don’t really understand School Readiness. There is a lot of confusion. The requirements between VPK and School Readiness are completely different.
- O. Verdeja personally thanked Evelio for all his work and time spent in Tallahassee.

<b>VIII. Public Comments</b>	<b>Octavio A. Verdeja, Jr.</b>
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- L. Carmona stated that at the end of the month we are taking another busload of providers to Tallahassee. When you look at the kind of environment that we are in, we need to encourage providers to take the time and money to go to Tallahassee and speak with the legislators. This will have a huge impact in our community and Miami-Dade County. We need to find ways to encourage providers to make the trip. It will directly affect early learning.

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